

The DAISI & Youth Music SoundWaves Music Project - End of Project Write Up From SPACE

Back in September 2018, SPACE started working closely with one of our partnering organisations Daisi, to help grow music inclusion opportunities for young people across the Devon area as part of the 'SoundWaves' Music Project. SPACE was able to get involved with this project from day one and really offer a different level of experience and development for each music leader by being based within a youth club setting. Something a little different to other partnering organisations in Devon who are part of this project.

The aim of the project was to train a new trainee music leader each year to obtain the knowledge and skill set they would need to run their own music based activities either as freelancers or paid employees. By training and building a higher skilled workforce across Devon and by creating a programme of Devon based music leaders, the aim is for music inclusion opportunities to increase and for young people to have the access to music lessons no matter where they are or the restrictions they face.

Additionally to this, SPACE was also able to offer something a little different within the SoundWaves Project in the form of Music Peer Educator Roles. These roles would allow SPACE to bring the voice of young people into the heart of the project's delivery, ensuring the voice of young people is being captured whilst going on to help change and shape the wider core aims and objectives within the project across Devon. Being the only organisation in this project with Peer Educators and in fact, the UK, their voices became an essential part of the delivery year on year with each of their respective voices being listened to and having their ideas implemented within the core delivery of the project.

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

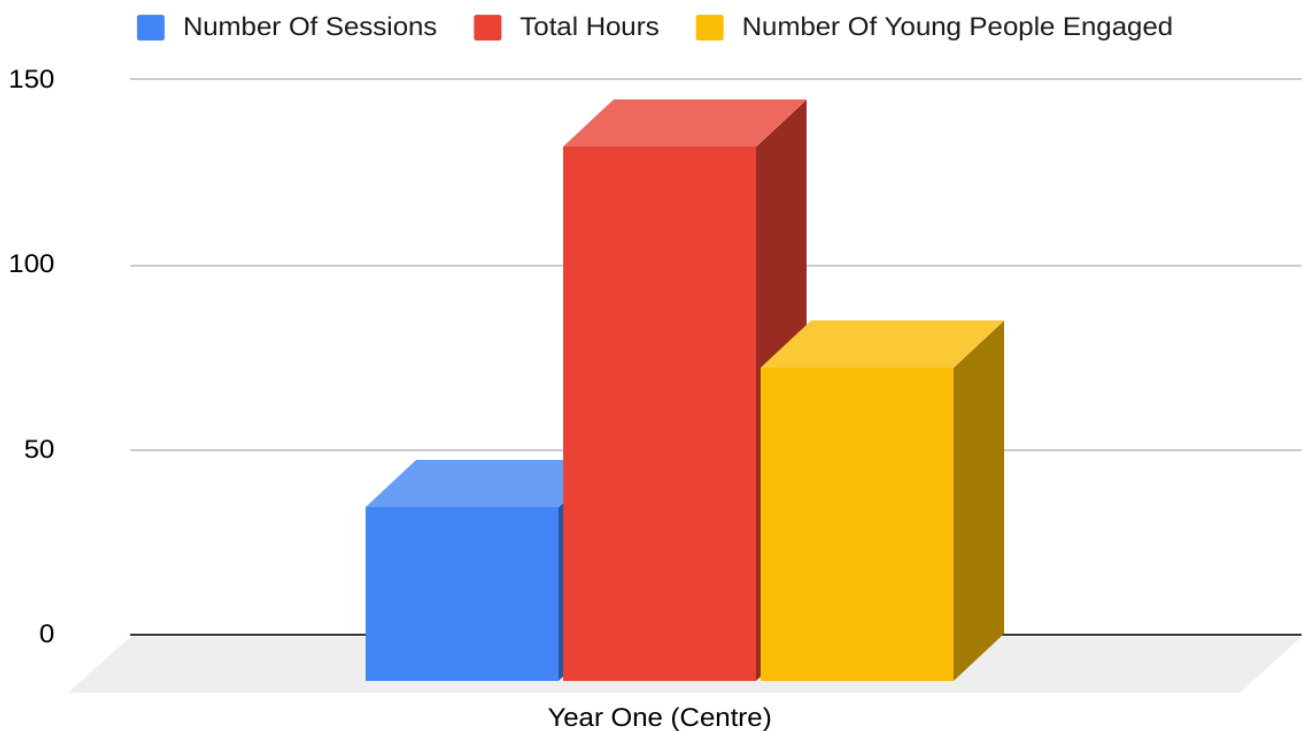
www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Year One / 2018-2019

First year of the project saw the creation of new targeted music sessions at The Hive Youth Centre. Already having a captive audience across our sessions and looking for more musical opportunities, this seemed the best place to hold a targeted music session. And so, Music Mondays was born. The first year of this project was filled with lots of ideas being presented, lots of sessions and a great number of returning young people each week trying new things, asking for help and finding a direction that suited their own interests. We were also able to host many gig nights within the centre, attend Exeter Respect Festival, Exmouth Festival and grow our own Hive Live event even more. Bringing lots of different opportunities for young people to find their interests and passions with music and live events.



Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

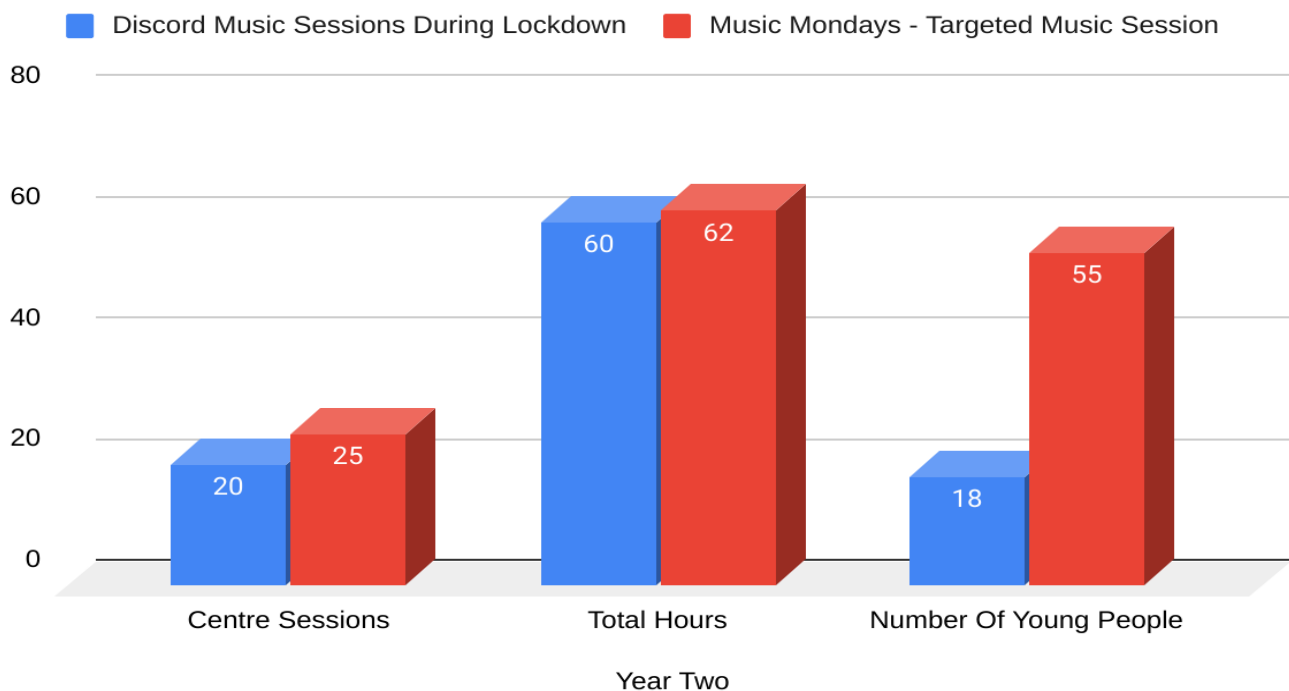
www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Year Two / 2019 - 2020

Moving into year two saw the challenge of a changing workforce stepping into pre-existing sessions as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. Centre delivery was great, so much that we were able to pick up from where we left off whilst also presenting different musical opportunities around music-tech and recording. This meant we could also use the recording studios a little more and then respond to the needs and changing music offer due to Covid-19. In March 2020, like most, we had to try and move our provision to an online setting. Traditionally being an in person delivery, making the switch to provide music lessons and opportunities online came with a whole wealth of challenges, but also exciting learning opportunities for everyone involved. Spending a little time working out Discord, we were able to begin offering 121 music lessons whilst creating suitable resources.



Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

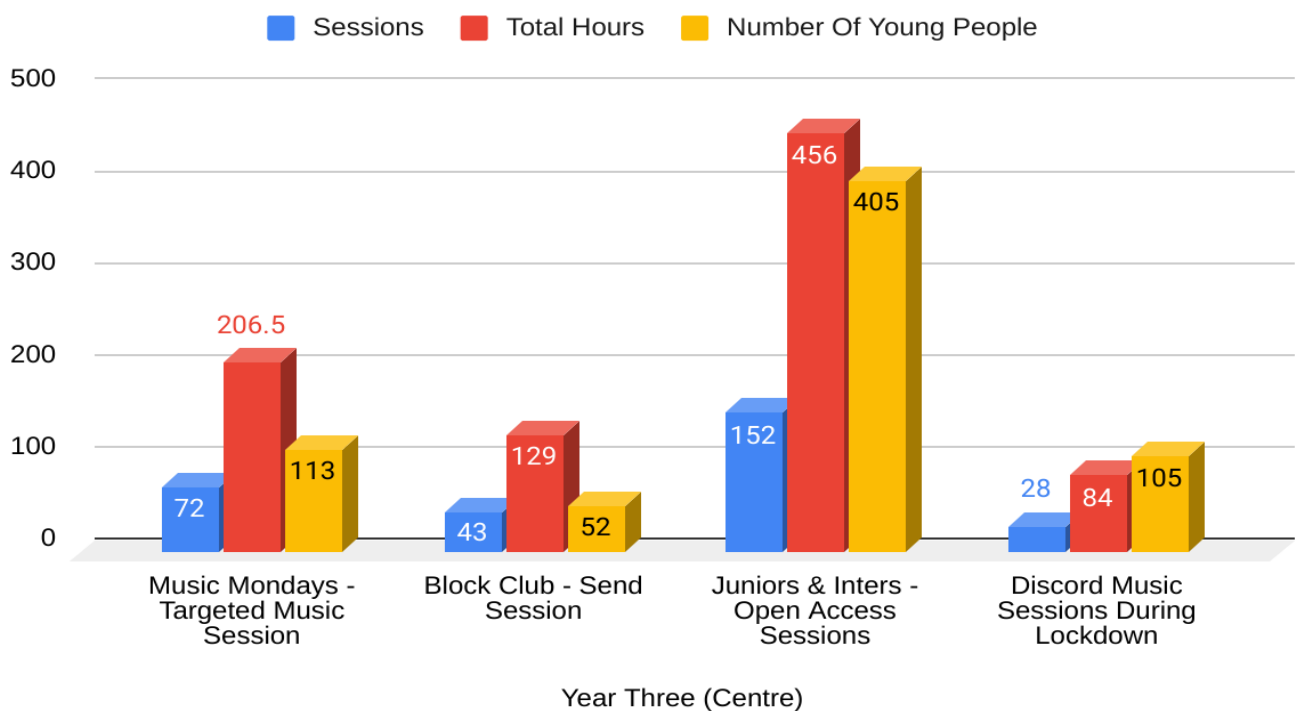
www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Year Three / 2020 - 2021

Year three came around really quickly as a result of the lockdown. The first few months of a new staffing team only saw that we would be working online in Discord for just a few months before the lockdown restrictions eased and centres reopened with limited numbers. This didn't stop us from running real-time music sessions in Discord though. Seeing young people collaborating on a single project, at the same time from Bideford, Totnes and Exmouth, making songs and even completing Space Awards alongside their efforts. A true testament and positive outcome from the online provision. Reopening the centre to an in person provision saw an explosion of young people eager to take part in music opportunities and as a result, saw the staffing team respond to these needs and accommodated where possible to fulfil the gaps they could. Juggling all of these expectations, sessions and individual needs only helped strengthen the learning and development for the young people accessing the provision but also for the staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure the message of inclusive music opportunities is throughout the heart of their delivery.



Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Young Person Outcomes

Young people who have engaged with this project have all had the opportunity to try something new, learn and take away everything they've wanted at that time. It's been a real joy to see young people succeeding in their ambitions with music each week and finding both their voice and confidence as a result. Forming new relationships, finding new passions and for some, stepping away from other negative pressures and generating their own positive pathways in life.

- This project has seen young people who have never touched a guitar or anything musical, to then stand up on stage at Exeter Respect Festival and Hive Live months later, in front of hundreds of people, their friends and their families for the first time.
- We've seen 3 of the young people who came to The Hive Youth Centre, move into paid roles as Music Peer Educators. Two of whom went on to then study music at university. As well as several more young people also achieve the same stepping stone from accessing music support and learning across our sessions.
- We've seen a number of young people work alongside our music leaders each week to record music for the first time and to get played on local radio stations across Devon, one of which is BBC Introducing! As well as countless young people feeling confident in both skill and self belief to perform on stage at every opportunity.
- We've been able to help those most vulnerable in our communities, by being that 'safe space' week on week, knowing that young people can disconnect from their problems and worries from the outside world and find solace in something they enjoy and love. For some, Music Mondays was a real opportunity to feel more connected and safe.

As well as so, so many more individual achievements throughout the course of this project.

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

SPACE Outcomes

Throughout this partnership project, SPACE itself has grown from strength to strength in reestablishing relationships within Exeter & East Devon. By leading from the front in terms of youth voice within the core of our delivery, we've been able to provide multiple opportunities for young people to have a stage, a voice and a platform to engage, to learn and to give back in their communities by finding their passions and interests along the way. SPACE itself has reconnected and connected with both old and new organisations, allowing for even wider delivery opportunities and cross partnership working to come forth during the length of this project and beyond. We've also been able to show support and guidance in creating a supportive network for local music leaders for those who need it during their freelancing music leader journeys.

Now the Soundwaves project in Exmouth has come to its end, we're able to really see the impact and longevity this project has now presented, with the take up of a new music project in the south of Devon, with another Music Peer Educator being employed with additional hours on top of that, with the same aims and outcomes as above.

A Few Words From Our Mentees In This Project

Emily Howard, 2018 - 2019

"Being part of the Daisi sound waves project enabled me to gain valuable experience working in youth centres with young people. Having the support of my mentor, the other music leaders in the project and the other youth workers was brilliant, as we were able to reflect on our work and improve our music sessions and practice constantly. I learned a great deal about how to engage with young people and to build relationships, to bring them to a stage where they felt confident to make music. I was very pleased to get to work at Block club with our SEND group and gain more experience of this type of music leading as well, which I am so thankful for."

"Not only was I able to improve my skills I was also able to meet the other music leaders across Devon and learn from their experiences too, as well as sharing my own findings. This proved to be an excellent opportunity for my professional development. I still find being part of the daisi music leaders group valuable, I feel like I have support for my other projects like the Mobile Music Hub, I am able to network, and I am informed of music related job opportunities when they appear. For example I am now working with evolve music on their soundlab project thanks to Emily Nash sending the information on the daisi network. Also when I was developing my Mobile Music Hub business plan DAISI provided me with support financially and both my mentor and DAISI gave me great feedback and guidance with my application."

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Becky Grinham, 2020-2021

"My time as a trainee music leader with Space for the Daisi Soundwaves Project has been, to summarise, life-changing! I have been a freelance musician for the best part of 6/7 years now, but having time to reflect during the first lockdown, I wanted to strengthen my ties in the arts community and give young people the opportunity to learn and enjoy music through my skills and knowledge - except I wasn't sure how exactly...That's when I saw the Soundwaves Project advertised.

I was delighted to have been offered the position of music mentee, joining forces with the incredible Adam Copeman at The Hive youth club (Exmouth). Of course, the uncertainty of Covid-19 challenged everyone and I was left feeling doubtful of how I could deliver music-based sessions for young people, but SPACE did an amazing job and we were able to run remote sessions on Discord as a result. As restrictions eased, I was eager to run face-to-face sessions and that's when the lightbulb sparked in my head! I had no idea how much young people rely on the arts and, for once, I felt I could be of service to people through music.

During the last year, I have successfully learned how to deliver online and face-to-face sessions, hugely enhanced my musicianship and interpersonal skills, I have qualified as an Arts Award practitioner, strengthened my music technology skills, facilitated many music activities, converted into a problem-solver (the show must go on!) and - this was a challenging one for me - learned how to "go with the flow", something which I've never been good at in music as I am typically a perfectionist/plan until you're blue in the face, kind of person.

Taking all of the above forward, I hope to continue working in this sector alongside my freelance music work and feel extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to share my passion with young people, as well as work on myself and shape a better future for young creatives. Thank you so much Adam, you have helped my development in this area so much and I'm incredibly grateful!"

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

SPACE Staff Feedback

Dan Barton - Partnerships & Projects Lead For SPACE

"The past 4 years, partnering with Daisi on the Soundwaves project has enabled Space to develop in many different areas. We have been able to pilot a music curriculum in our school, Chances, for example. We developed specific sessions and sound packs that engage the young people just enough to get them hooked but are challenging enough to ensure they are within the 'learning zone' of comfort! We have also grown in confidence in our ability to pass on our expertise in working with young people in community settings, especially those young people who are on the edge of engagement - who sometimes need more support to engage. We are especially proud of the network of young music leaders we have built over the past 4 years, we have been able to secure additional funding and place them in various settings across their county, making use of their skills, with the peace of mind to trust in their ability to engage with our membership.

Music has always featured in Space's approach to engagement and the past 4 years have cemented this in our delivery model across our service. It's wasn't all easy, especially having to quickly move work on line during the pandemic but it's testament to the great team that were delivering this project that we responded well and the young people remained engaged and continued their music learning with us on new platforms and in new ways - some would say overdue ways!"

Matt Bakall - Senior Youth Worker - Discord Lead

"In addition to Space's face to face music offer we have been able to welcome in music leaders in order to run virtual music sessions. These have included everything from online guitar and singing lessons to ongoing collaborations using Bandlab and similar products. The work has allowed Becky to develop delivery skills and adapt to the needs of young people in a different way than traditional methods. During the project we were able to put young people through Space Awards which demonstrated growth in skills and the building of confidence. Young people who have met online have been able to then join in person events such as Hive Live where they can meet other young people and perform music in person. Becky was able to lead from the front and provide other DAISI mentees the experience and opportunity of Discord and its benefits when engaging young people online helping to expand on their offer and present new ideas of working environments."

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Ben Goodman - Youth Work Manager & Centre Lead

“Partnering with Daisi through the soundwaves project over the last years, has been a really positive process for Space, and particularly for the young people and staff at The Hive in Exmouth. The centre has a history of promoting positive engagement in music, and a strong music culture, the focus and additional skills and knowledge that has come with the SoundWaves Project has allowed us to reaffirm this culture. The three music leaders have all brought different experiences, skills and knowledge to the table and we have gained confidence in delivery along with them. The project has allowed us to give 6 young people the opportunity to be peer educators with us, growing in skills and confidence, inspiring other young people (the adults too) learning together, with many going on to pursue qualification in music and arts at university. We have been able to go beyond what we were doing, embedding music in all our youth club sessions, and helping us link with our community, re-introducing regular gig nights at the centre, engaging in community events, and creating one of our own that goes from strength to strength. For young people, the SoundWaves Project has given them the opportunity to access music in a way that works for them, from picking up an instrument in a youth club session and collaborating in a virtual space. It’s allowed us to provide that first opportunity to pick up a guitar, through playing at various local events and festivals in front of a large crowd.”

Simon Roberts - Youth Work Manager & Centre Lead South Devon

“The peer educator project in the South was a real benefit to the young people in that area and provided a real addition to the current offer. We have seen a growth in the interest in music by young people over the time the peer educators have worked with us - having the knowledge and skills to be able to respond to young people’s interests has been extremely valuable to the centre. Alongside working with young people regularly in our youth clubs, some of the projects/sessions the peer educators supported were;

- No Limits Neurodiverse session - working with young people who experience barriers and adapting activities to suit a range of needs - i.e. simple loop pedals with drums available to play along with.
- Providing a music zone for our COVID recovery sessions in the Autumn - running small accessible workshops for young people and families across teignbridge.
- Organising, promoting and putting on gigs in The Station and Rushbrook Youth Centres - giving young musicians and bands the chance to gain performance experience.

“During the project one peer educator moved on to a different employer and with the leftover funding we have been able to give our remaining peer educator a role in promoting and developing young musicians/bands, specifically with a view to enabling them to play at a variety of community festivals during the spring/summer months. This is both a really valuable experience for the peer educator as they have aspirations to work in the music industry later in life and for the young people across Devon to grow their experience and confidence in live performances.”

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430

Mentor Feedback:

Adam Copeman - Senior Youth Worker In Music

“Well, what a journey! Not sure how to wrap this up in a few words but here goes! Having the opportunity to lead on the soundwaves music project for Space Youth Service has been an absolute pleasure and an experience I will always remember as one full of laughter and good times. I’ve loved every second of this project, meeting everyone involved along the way, the challenges each year it has presented (C19!). But most importantly, seeing all the young people who have engaged in this project for their own reasons, each mentee and every peer educator grow in strength, with their individual journeys in the pursuit of their musical interests and pathways. I feel incredibly fortunate and lucky to have been asked to lead on this project and would love to do it again if I could! I have a wealth of memories from this project and wish everyone the best in their future pathways.”

“To Vicci, Emily and everyone else at Daisi, thank you so much for your support, guidance and placing your trust in me to deliver this project on your behalf, (as well as others) I’ve had the best time! ”

Project Lead & Report By: Adam Copeman



**YOUTH
MUSIC**



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Unlocking potential with young people and their communities

www.spaceyouthservices.org

Registered company address: DYS Space Ltd, 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 7EH

Company registration number: 10229618 Charity number: 1173430