

Transitions Project

Jennie Henley

The target audience of this programme is a specific cohort of young people aged 16 to 20 years old who have been identified as requiring additional, targeted support with pursuing music studies at Higher Education level and/or professional level.

We believe that intensive, timely intervention can prevent many 16 to 18 years olds from giving up on pursuing their musical ambitions altogether. At this make-or-break point, we know that bespoke, focused provision gives an important boost to this demographic's skills and confidence. Advocating for marginalised communities in particular will ensure diverse voices are allowed to be heard and will ensure greater diversity in the music sector going forward. The RNCM's Engage (Access and Participation) strategy addresses activities to enable young people who have not had access to traditional routes into music education to access our programmes, and who may be facing specific barriers to progression. These may include: unstable home environments; Lack of financial support; Lack of access to transport; Interpersonal barriers; e.g. social anxiety, low self-esteem, no feeling of belonging; Caring responsibilities and/or having a parent with a disability; Underlying physical or mental health conditions. The research and advocacy element of this project surrounds perceptions of the routes into music. Anecdotally, there is a perception that unless a young person has started learning at a particular age, they will not be in a position at the critical age of 18 years old to progress into advanced music learning.