

Case studies: How can the arts and creativity support people who are shielding or vulnerable during Covid-19?

Project: Live Music Now at Home

Organisation: Live Music Now

Region: National (England, Wales, N.I.)

Introduction

The complete Live Music Now at Home offer includes:

- Pre-recorded online concerts from all around the country from a wide variety of genres, available on the LMN at Home video Libraries for care homes and school. The libraries will be updated with new concerts weekly
- Interactive online residencies with care homes [like this one here](#), with LMN musicians facilitating participatory music making with people living and working in care and Disabled CYP;
- Bespoke concerts for care homes for special occasions (holidays, birthdays);
- DVDs for care homes and people in the community who aren't able to access the online video library page;
- Short films that share techniques for making music to help care teams develop their skills and confidence in that [like this one here](#); and
- Arranging, where musicians are local, outdoor/courtyard live music concerts like this one at the [Leeds Recovery Hub](#).



Image credit: Live Music Now

Funders

It has been supported by a wide range of funders from ongoing funding from trusts foundations, such as the Rayne Foundation, the Utlely foundation and Youth Music

Who is it for?

Through this project, *Live Music Now at Home*, we are aiming to bring live music to the people that we would normally reach in person, through online means, as we are unable to deliver face to face work due to Covid-19 restrictions. This includes

- Older people living in adult social care including people living with dementia
- Care professionals working in Adult Social Care with older people
- Older people living independently and their families and carers
- Disabled children and young people in education, and their families and teachers

What outcomes were/are you aiming for?

As well as providing fun, enjoyable entertainment experiences that otherwise would not happen in the current context, we are aiming to

- support mood and engagement in older people in care, including people living with dementia
- Raise morale for people working care homes as well as supporting their skills and confidence in leading music activities
- Support musical personal and social outcomes with Disabled children and young people
- Develop capacity and skills of early career professional musicians to be able to work online with care and education settings and participants

Where is it happening?

England, Wales, N.I.

Are you working in partnership?

We have developed this project in consultation with settings that we know as, care homes and school as well as the National Care Forum. Before developing our programme, we asked them about the needs in the sector and what they would be able to engage with. In addition, we are working with our usual partners and networks to ensure that the resources and opportunities that we have created are distributed and promoted to a wide range of stakeholders around the county. This includes;

- Individual care homes regionally
- Care provider chains such as The Orders of St John Care Trust, MHA, HC-One, The Royal British Legion
- Adult Social Care umbrella bodies such as NAPA, NCF and Care England, as well as CQC
- Other music and music and health organisations including Music for Dementia 2020, Playlists for Life, the ABO
- Music Education Hubs
- Schools
- Hospitals and NHS Trusts around the country- through arts officers

How many people took/are taking part?

As yet we do not know how many people have accessed our online pre-recorded videos.

For how long has it been happening?

Work on LMN at Home started in April 2020 a soon as the Lockdown started and all of our in-person work was cancelled. It is ongoing, developing and growing.

What were/are the main outputs?

The content of LMN at Home includes

- Pre-recorded interactive live music videos create by early career professional musicians targeted at people living and working in care homes including people living with dementia and Disabled CYP in schools and at home. There are 29 films of specially commissioned and created pre-recorded concerts for older people and Disabled CYP on the LMN You Tube channel which can be viewed by anyone. There are about 30 more in production

- Interactive live music sessions with older people in care and Disabled CYP, one-offs and ongoing, both 121 and for groups
- DVDS of the above distributed through care partners to reach people who do not have or do not want to access to online platforms
- *How to* films for care professionals to support developing musical skills and confidence to lead activities with older people in care

Evaluation & Feedback:

We have created a feedback mechanism for care home teams and residents to tell us how that found the experience of engaging with the films, which is linked through the home page, but we are very cautious about asking them to complete them as we want them to feel they can simply enjoy what we are providing without there being any demand made of them.

What have been the challenges and successes for you?

We have distributed the resource widely to the ASC nationally, to umbrella bodies, regulators, arts and health networks, individual care homes, as well as care provider chains. We have received with very positive responses from all and one of the largest care provider in the UK is going to create a flyer to promote the pre-recorded videos to all their settings.

Further information

Online Library of videos for care homes: <https://www.livemusicnow.org.uk/lmnathomecare>

Online library of videos for schools: <https://www.livemusicnow.org.uk/lmnathomeschools>

Live Music Now provides high-quality participatory performances and workshops in community settings, especially for those who are normally excluded from opportunities to experience live music through ill-health, disability, isolation or poverty. We also provide a wide variety of paid performing experiences for exceptionally talented professional musicians in the crucial early years of their careers. We train, develop and support them to carry out the work. We lead strategic national initiatives and programmes to promote and grow the use of music in health and wellbeing settings, with a focus on working with older people and Disabled children and young people, and work in close partnership with organisation in Adult Social Care, and music education to develop deliver our work and to further our advocacy and campaigning work.

LMN is a charity with 16 employees, 2 regular freelance consultants and a musicians' cohort of around 300 early career professional musicians at any one time, who are part of the musicians' development scheme and are paid on a freelance basis.