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Stand up for SEND

A call to action

from and to special schools,
Arts organisations, Music
Hubs and funders



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

1

Accept the cost

Projects with SEND children and young people will be more expensive

- ★ **Funding should be long-term** to ensure Arts providers and special schools can continue to learn from their experiences and build on their successes
- ★ **Project budgets should include** resources for training, planning and evaluation for all stakeholders throughout the project
- ★ **SEND focussed work** needs to incorporate costs such as transport, additional staffing and practical adjustments to make the activity fully accessible
- ★ **To have added value**, projects could also include costs for travel-training to provide participants with additional skills
- ★ **To ensure value for money** the sector should make use of available networks and share best practice

2

A whole family approach

Families need to understand the value of and be included in Arts activities for children and young people with SEND

- ★ **Involving parents** in the work allows them to see the benefits for their children
- ★ **Involving siblings in projects**, particularly at weekends and during school holidays, make activities more inclusive and easier for families to attend
- ★ **The value of the Arts** needs to be communicated to families, so they are considered as more than just 'a nice thing'
- ★ **It should be made evident to families** that the Arts could offer a realistic pathway for their children to achieve qualifications, a career or to have fun

3

Build career pathways

More progression and career opportunities for young people with SEND need to be created

- ★ **Tangible progression routes** reinforce the importance of Arts engagement for young people and their families
- ★ **Projects should always consider** 'what next' for participants, to provide them the opportunity and choice to pursue their passions and talents, whether that is further qualifications, a career within the Arts or for fun
- ★ **The Arts can offer** career pathways that give young people the opportunity to thrive and work towards independence
- ★ **Employers should consider** the Disability Confident Employer Scheme:
<https://disabilityconfident.campaign.gov.uk>

4

Inclusivity starts with you

Young people with SEND need to see people like them working in the organisations and projects they engage with

- ★ **There should be greater visibility** of positive, aspirational role models
- ★ **Organisations should prioritise** diversifying their workforce at all levels to create a more inclusive environment and organisational culture
- ★ **Inclusivity requires an organisational ethos**, strategy and implementation to make the workplace accessible in every sense
- ★ **Every person with SEND is different** and organisations need to offer a variety of ways to support the needs of individuals

5

Find it, do it, share it

Opportunities for SEND young people need more visibility from point of access to celebrating work and achievements

- ★ **Increasing visibility** and valuing the work of young people with SEND helps to build more inclusive communities and help young people with SEND feel more accepted
- ★ **The work of young people** with SEND should be celebrated and shared alongside the work of their mainstream peers
- ★ **A dedicated database**, advertising opportunities for young people with SEND, would increase awareness and make it easier for families to find activities
- ★ **Platforms should be created** to demonstrate the work and achievements of young people with SEND to help make it become the 'norm'

John Lyon's Charity is the leading independent funder for children and young people in North and West London.

The Charity awards more than £12 million a year to organisations that seek to promote the life chances of children and young people through education.

The boroughs which make up its Beneficial Area are: Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and the Cities of London and Westminster. To date, it has granted more than £130 million to diverse projects, including youth clubs, supplementary schools, emotional wellbeing initiatives, sports schemes, arts programmes and academic bursaries.



Cultural Inclusion Manifesto

Children and young people with disabilities do not have equal access to cultural and arts opportunities. The Cultural Inclusion Manifesto wants to change this. It calls for schools, cultural and arts venues and disability organisations to co-produce better and more opportunities for children and young people with SEND.

The Cultural Inclusion Manifesto is a statement of intent to work to address this and is fully supported by John Lyon's Charity. The Manifesto asks you to make a commitment towards greater, cohesive partnerships. It needs your support!

<https://culturalinclusion.uk/manifesto/>



John Lyon's Charity has been a long-term supporter of Arts activities for young people with special needs and disabilities (SEND).

Over the years, the Charity has seen huge variances in both the quantity and quality of activities on offer for young people with SEND and how vital the support of both parents and schools can be. Using its networks across the Arts, SEND schools, Music Hubs and funding sectors, John Lyon's Charity has challenged these groups to think about how they work together to benefit young people with SEND. *Perspectives* (2016) and *Change of Perspectives* (2019) provided a medium for the viewpoints of these stakeholders to be drawn together for the first time.

Taking this one step further, Stand Up for SEND challenges the sector to do more collaboratively to ensure that all opportunities are the best they can be.

To view the *Perspectives* publications visit www.jlc.london