

Yorkshire Sound Women Network

Annual Review 2019-20





Introduction

YSWN Level Up! in Sound For Media, National Science and Media Museum, Bradford, June 2019.

Cover image: Go Compose: Learn To DJ performance at Small Seeds, Huddersfield, July 2019.

During its second year as a Community Interest Company, Yorkshire Sound Women Network (YSWN) has continued to work towards its mission. We aim to create a flourishing industry which welcomes, encourages and progresses the inclusion of women and people of marginalised genders at all levels from studio floor to board room, and which reflects the diversity of its participating communities.

We've delivered education projects inspiring young people to get hands-on with music technology, set up traineeships offering paid, real-world experience of working in a music organisation and continued to support our community to build their confidence, skills and knowledge in audio through events and artistic projects. We are very grateful for the support of our community, partner organisations, industry supporters and funders for helping make all this valuable work happen.

YSWN was founded in 2015 by women working in the sound technology industry who wanted to use their skills and influence to address gender and racial inequality. We became a Community Interest Company in May 2018.

“**Making our own electronic sound makers and performing a massive composition was really exciting and made me think about music in a different way.**” Go Compose participant

Twitter: @YSWN_
Facebook: yorkshiresoundwomen
Instagram: yorkshire_sound_women_network
Web: yorkshiresoundwomen.com
Email: info@yorkshiresoundwomen.com

Our priorities

YSWN's work is focused around five strategic priorities, set out in our Business Plan:

- Education
- Industry
- Community (Events & Workshops)
- Organisational Development
- Finance & Funding

Yorkshire Sound Women Network CIC is a Community Interest Company Ltd by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales. Company No: 11360765. Yorkshire Sound Women Network, 3M Buckley Innovation Centre, Firth Street, Huddersfield, HD1 3BD.



Our year in numbers

51 workshops delivered as part of YSWN education projects

262 young people engaged through YSWN education projects

61 adult musicians and participants and **285** audience members engaged by SONA, Calderdale Sound Women Network and YSWN Huddersfield Makers through YSWN Amplify

106 people registered for YSWN Level Up! events

66 composer applications for the Sound Pioneers programme

37 women paid to deliver activities through YSWN, including performers, workshop leaders and administrative roles

“I learned very useful tips and advice about breaking into the industry and having confidence within myself and finally got a glimpse into the studio recording environment.” Level Up! delegate

Social media reach:

1,882 Twitter followers (July 2020) & **524,800** tweet impressions (April 2019-March 2020)

1,218 Facebook followers & **414** Instagram followers (July 2020)

Go Compose: Electronic India workshop, University of Huddersfield, July 2019.

Our activities

During 2019-20 YSWN has overseen delivery of a variety of activities including:

YSWN Amplify, funded by an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant. This supported three unique artistic projects to spread the reach of YSWN-affiliated groups across Yorkshire – and even further afield. The projects enabled members of Calderdale Sound Women Network, SONA and YSWN Huddersfield Makers to increase music technology skills and develop artistically, while engaging new local participants and audiences.

Two major music education initiatives supported by Youth Music: the WIRED and Go Compose projects, both offering music and technology workshops for girls in Leeds, Doncaster and Huddersfield, as well as a Yorkshire-wide schools/community group tour of outreach workshops.

Three paid traineeships for women to get hands-on work experience with local music industry organisations BASSment, Vibrations Studios and Greenmount Studios, supported by Kirklees Council via Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool.

“**The club was great, and very friendly. I felt welcome every time I attended. I learned so many new things and am so grateful to have experienced it.**” WIRED participant

WIRED session with Kelly Jayne Jones, Leeds Beckett University, November 2019.



WIRED vegetable orchestra, The Point, Doncaster, March 2020.

Two YSWN Level Up! events for our community to build confidence, skills and knowledge for women interested in audio, held at the National Science and Media Museum and Leeds College of Music.

Working with KC Communications and business coach Natasha Strong to enhance our profile and develop training and support services for the music industry.

Launching Sound Pioneers – a paid professional development opportunity for six women and marginalised gender composers of electronic music.

Hosting webinars and training events exploring strategies for supporting learning in music technology, aimed at arts leaders and feminist sound collectives.

Finally, Associates engaged via YSWN delivered workshops and activities for organisations including York Art Gallery, The Hepworth, National Science and Media Museum and Bradford Literature Festival.

“**This is one of the best events I’ve been to in terms of balance between focus on practical, guest talks and career advice.**” Level Up! delegate

Plans for 2020-21

Over the coming year, YSWN will adapt its activities in light of the coronavirus pandemic. This will include consulting with and responding to our community regarding their needs and delivering an online version of our WIRED music technology club.

We also aim to develop our YSWN Associate offer to include more opportunities for collaboration and professional development amongst the Associate pool and to increase support for YSWN-affiliated groups. Finally, we will pilot training for the music industry to support individuals and organisations to create a more inclusive audio industry.



YSWN Level Up! in Sound For Media, National Science and Media Museum, Bradford, June 2019.

Finance

Income

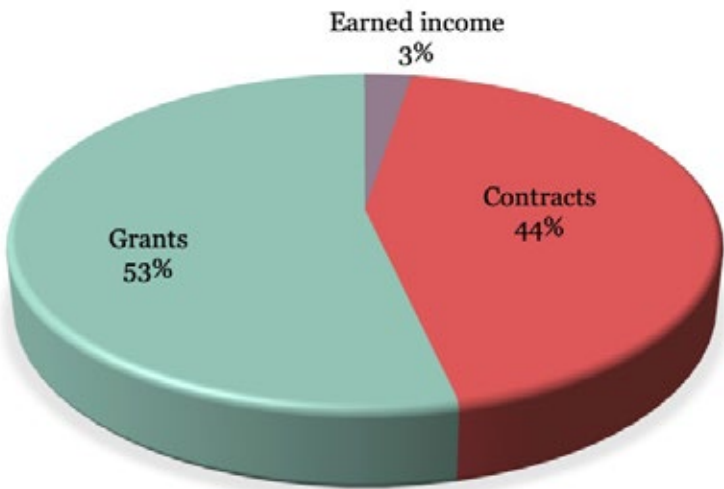
Earned Income
£1,697

Contracts
£29,449

Grants
£35,867

Donations
£9

Total income
£67,022



“I have been able to expand my network in the industry with all the people that I have met through the placement. I’m now equipped with business skills that will make me resilient in the industry.” Trainee

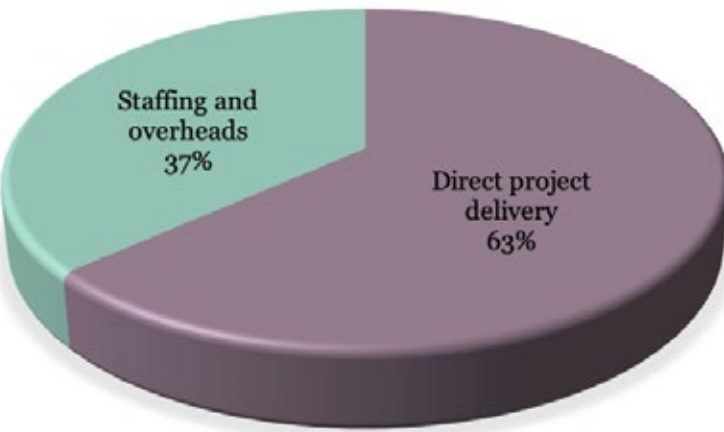
Expenditure

Direct project delivery
£40,275

Staffing and overheads
£23,315

Total expenditure
£63,590

Surplus
£3,432





Our thanks to:

Funders

Arts Council England
 International Society for Music Education (ISME)
 Kirklees Council via Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool
 Music for All
 National Foundation for Youth Music
 PRS Foundation
 University of Huddersfield

Industry Supporters

Ableton
 Spotify
 Dubreq

Higher Education Partners

University of Huddersfield
 University of Hull
 Leeds Beckett University
 University College Doncaster

Cultural Partners

Brighter Sound Both Sides Now programme
 National Science and Media Museum
 Sound and Music
 hcmf//

YSWN working group 2019/20:

Abi Bliss (Director/Coordinator)
 Amy Beeston (Associate)
 Liz Dobson (Director/Chair)
 Jo Kennedy (Director)
 Heidi Johnson (Development Manager)
 Supriya Nagarajan (Director)
 Irine Røsnes (Director)
 Special thanks to former Director Andie Brown



YSWN Annual Review 2019-20 produced by Heidi Johnson and Abi Bliss. All photos by Laura Mateescu except p.7 by Sophie Cooper.