

# Arts Award Case Study: Helix Arts

14 September 2022

## Helix Arts and Arts Award



Helix Arts has been committed to the delivery of Arts Award for many years, building on our knowledge and experience every time.

We embed Arts Award criteria across our projects in multiple creative ways, depending on the types and length of projects. We ensure adviser training is available (and paid for) our artists, partners and producers.

Our Director is Chair for the North Tyneside Cultural Education Partnership and the organisation hosts a dedicated coordinator to drive forward performance indicators relating to Arts Award.

We will continue our work as an Arts Award Champion Centre during 2022-2023 with a fully trained staff team. Our business plan outcomes reflect our own ambition around this too.

Delivery models are typically formed and honed at the start of a journey; by the young people, artists and producers involved. They flex throughout - as the project develops and based around abilities. Tweaking ambitions up and down to ensure the challenge is appropriate. We have various approaches to portfolios, including templates, workbooks, tools...which we are happy to share!

Our Arts Award work is varied, so we can respond well to the children and young people who are living in a wide range of circumstances, often facing inequalities. Working across all Arts Award levels means we can offer opportunities, responsively, to individual needs, progressing on their terms.

Most recently our long-term music programme [Real Voice](https://www.helixarts.com/work/real-voice/) (<https://www.helixarts.com/work/real-voice/>) has allowed us to review what Arts Award means for Children and Young People from often disadvantaged backgrounds and in rurally isolated places. It has allowed us to consider the changes needed post-pandemic, amalgamating and revising the various versions delivered over recent years.

# Real Voice



Real Voice is an inclusive music programme across Northumberland for young people aged 11-18. Arts Award allows the young people to enjoy the opportunity to gain a larger insight into alternative career options and gain a sense of achievement and self-worth.

*"By creating music together it's encouraged more of a community ethos and a greater understanding of their peers and as an outlet for individual emotional health.*

*"I tailor Arts Award plans around each group, working with them to shape it to their interests and project schedules. Importantly, options to present their work is made available every session (often using the art form they are working on). This can be really diverse due to the wide range of workshops offered - everything from DJing, found sound and drumming."*

**Katie Jayne Appleyard, Real Voice Coordinator & Arts Award Adviser**

Taking part in both Discover and Explore awards, has helped young people gain confidence in their skills as they document their individual journeys.

*"I think it's been a fun idea to do because sometimes singing helps you get all your feelings out."*

**Real Voice participant**

Outcomes have included a more focused and free creative participation. Sometimes with dedicated Arts Award sessions, other times organic to allow young people express their thoughts of how they'd like to record within music-making session. There is plenty of emphasis on choice and musical decision making processes.

*"Increasing the diversity of offers through tasters and building on this work is a great way to encourage choice from the scary 'unknowns' and has helped to reduce pressure on young people post pandemic. Warming communities back into taking part in the arts."*

**Cheryl Gavin, Director, Helix Arts**

Participants who previously showed behavioural issues in sessions are now young leaders thank you some Arts Award structures and implementation. The knowledge that they have recognised talent and can gain qualifications separate to school they find encouraging.

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## Feedback from young people and youth workers

*"I have learned to work really positively with other people, instead of working on my own, I can now do it quite happily. Now I can work with other people as well."*

*"I have enjoyed the Real Voice music project so far and this has helped increase my confidence and creativity."*

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## New advisors incoming and upcoming Arts Award

One of our artists recently became a Bronze and Silver Advisor and is looking forward to facilitating their first group in the coming weeks. We are also supporting other Real Voice partners to become advisors extending their offer.

Excitement is building for year two of Real Voice with young people continuing onto Bronze. In the next few months we look forward to the new [North Tyneside Cultural Education Partnership](https://www.helixarts.com/work/north-tyneside-cultural-education-partnership/) project [Cultural Futures](https://www.helixarts.com/get-involved/get-involved-cultural-futures/) which Arts Award will feature. Young people will be uncovering and improving the cultural offer in North Tyneside cultural venues.

**Learn more:**

[helixarts.com/arts-award/](https://www.helixarts.com/arts-award/)

[helixarts.com/work/real-voice/](https://www.helixarts.com/work/real-voice/)

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## Discover Arts Award

Arts Award inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents: it's creative, valuable and accessible.

Find out more at [artsaward.org.uk](https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=64)

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