

Hands On Demos @ Stiùidio Ostaig,

by Hands On Studios Sample YMI funded project

What happens?

Young people aged 13 – 25 years in the Skye and Lochalsh area are recording their first professionally made demo, using the new studio facility at Stiùidio Ostaig.

Evidence of need?

Access to professional recording opportunities for young people in this area is almost non-existent due to:

- Geographical remoteness and the expenses/practicalities of travel and accommodation
- The continued drain of young people from Skye and Lochalsh to the central belt and the perception that recording and industry opportunities are only, and will only be, available there.

Wide support for the project has been given following discussions with local stakeholders in youth arts provision including Feisean nan Gaidheal, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the local Youth Development Officer, local youth groups and promoters.

There is a lack of organized music opportunities out with licensed establishments.

Rehearsal and performance costs can be disproportionately high compared with urban areas.

How are barriers removed?

- The project will be delivered bilingually, allowing for equal participation in either Gaelic or English.
- part of the budget has been set aside to ensure that no participant is denied this opportunity by the prohibitive cost of transport and/or accommodation due to geographical remoteness.
- the project makes specific efforts to target the local Young Carers group, and will capitalise on an already good working relationship. Young Carers can face additional barriers to participation due to their personal circumstances. Specific efforts and communications are made to these groups to encourage participation.
- Stiùidio Ostaig is a fully accessible facility within a fully accessible complex of buildings and no aspect of the project is expected to be diminished by a physical disability.
- It is a key part of Hands On Studios' strategy for this first year to broaden the directorship and to include a young person as a Youth Director.

What is the impact?

- young people gain confidence, self esteem and positive behaviours through music making activities that enhance creativity skills and employability
- young people gain skills and awareness in music technology, production, arrangement and critical listening as well as music industry processes and procedures
- practical support in the form of creative industry advice and networking opportunities and the creation of a professional standard demo