

# Play On, by Paragon Music

## Sample YMI funded project

**What happens?** Young people (5 -18 yrs) with additional support needs in Greater Glasgow learn to play musical instruments, make up their own music in a group and perform.

Training is also delivered to instrumental instructors to develop their skills in inclusive teaching methods for young people with additional support needs.

**Evidence of need?** Disabled young people, as a matter of course, are rarely included when it comes to musical instrument provision in Scotland. This was highlighted in a study by Lio Moscardini, David S. Barron and Alastair Wilson from the University of Strathclyde, *Who gets to play? Investigating equity in musical instrument instruction in Scottish Primary Schools*. The study also highlights the need for training instrumental instructors in techniques of teaching disabled people.

Paragon has received requests from parents and carers of young people with additional support needs to provide instrumental tuition and music opportunities.

## How are barriers removed?

- BSL and language interpreters are provided
- Support workers are provided for young people that require additional support such as personal care, language or behaviour
- Paragon actively recruits young people that are isolated or 'hard to reach' by consulting with Education, Social Work and Health Departments at Glasgow City Council
- taster sessions for disabled young people in their local communities, working with prospective students on a case by case basis to assess their individual requirements in terms of transportation and personal care support
- bursaries to assist with travel where necessary
- when a student's attendance is unreliable, direct contact is made with the families/carers to find the reason for non attendance and to assist in whatever way possible, including consulting with Social Workers to ensure that the child is able to attend.
- Partnership working with ENABLE Scotland, Quarriers, Barnardos, National Deaf Children's Society and Glasgow Social Work Children & Families to identify and remove barriers to participation
- Students can try out different instruments and are helped financially to purchase their own instruments.

## What is the impact?

- Tailor made music making opportunities which meet the needs and wants of each individual, their parents and siblings
- Tutors observe considerable gains not just musically but also in pupils' communication and self esteem
- Students gain instrumental proficiency in addition to group music making, and ensemble work, in every session
- Performance opportunities

<http://vimeo.com/76733250>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01lhxg8>