

Play and Learn Together- Longsight

Project Brief

Participatory arts project that enables families in Longsight to tell their stories and call decision makers to action.

Submission deadline: Monday 5th August 2024

Overview of Save the Children

Save the Children exists to help every child reach their full potential. In the UK and around the world, we make sure children stay safe, healthy and keep learning, so that they become who they want to be.

Across the UK, our vision is to make sure families have the money, services and power to end child poverty. It's our mission to help build communities of people who care about children, listen to what's important to them, and work together to make things better. Save the Children works with families and communities to narrow the gap between children living in poverty and their better off peers.

Our Work in Longsight – “If it matters to families, it matters to us”

Since 2022, we've partnered with local organisations and parents/carers in Longsight to listen to families and build on the community's strengths. This led to the creation of the Longsight Early Years Partnership, bringing together the knowledge of local families and early years practitioners. We support families by providing opportunities to play and learn together with their children. Through co-design, we work with families to identify local issues and create solutions together. We offer training, research, and co-design opportunities for families and practitioners. In 2022, we formed a working group of practitioners and parent champions to encourage playful parent-child interactions and strengthen the early years system for local families.

Key themes have been coming through as important to both families and partners and we are keen to explore one or more of these in this piece of work:

- Childcare
- Me time and wellbeing
- SEND Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Play

Project requirements

We know that art and creative activities can help with wellbeing and support people to share their feelings and communicate what they feel strongly about. Families in Longsight have told us they don't have many opportunities to do creative activities either as a whole family or as individuals.

We want to use a creative method/s to gather stories from Longsight to be able to communicate what families are telling us is important to decision makers building up to an exhibition or a moment around their work in 2025.

We are looking for an organisation that can work in collaboration with us to design a process and run fun, accessible, creative sessions to gather stories and creative outputs that could be used for an "exhibition" or "moment" that helps to communicate messages from the community. At this stage we are not wedded to what the outputs or the moment around them might look like but would like this to be co-created with the community.

We are seeking an organisation or artist who has a strong understanding of the Longsight community or experience working within it. It is essential to understand the community's needs and culture and to work with them in a positive and empowering way. We would be interested to see proposals that show the development of skills within the local community in both facilitation and curation.

We would like to hear views on ways that we can widen the audience that hear from families in Longsight whether this be an "exhibition" that could be shown both locally and within another venue in Manchester or another idea. We would be able to contribute expertise in co-design with parents, measuring impact and influencing.

We envisage that a partner would need to support us with the following:

- Developing a process for delivering art sessions within different parts of Longsight community including with children and dads
- Engaging local artists to facilitate sessions
- Capturing stories through a creative method
- Supporting our participatory research focus groups with creative activities
- Curating a moment around the end output

At this stage we do not know exactly what the outputs might be, but anticipate that they could include, something creative alongside narratives and clear calls to action.

These outputs will be used for:

- An exhibition or moment (potentially moving between 2 venues)
- Building a case for support for the community
- Raising understanding of local strengths
- Available for use on our website, if applicable

The timeframe for this work is ideally between October 2024 – October 2025.

The budget for this work is up to £10K including the output

Submission

Please submit proposals to Sarah Fayette s.fayette@savethechildren.org.uk and Gráinne Nechvatál, g.farrell@savethechildren.org.uk by **Monday 5th August 2024**

savethechildren.org.uk

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