




music as therapy
international

COVID-19 Activities Statement

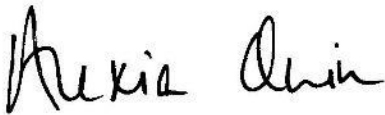
Since the COVID-19 outbreak started reaching the areas in which we work, we have been taking responsible decisions relating to how we work given the vulnerability of many with whom we work. These decisions have been shared through Activities Statements published in March, May and July. This statement is the intended October 2020 update to these.

It remains apparent that as well as following international and national guidance, our ability to deliver our activities will be affected by extremely localised factors which will vary between authorities, between care settings and even between volunteers or project contributors. However, lessons learned from the past 6 months are enabling us to build into our activities measures to mitigate the risk of disruption to our work resulting from COVID-19, giving us greater confidence for the 6 months ahead.

Project updates will continue to be discussed with those directly involved in our projects, and shared via our social media channels and our website. Unless significant changes are required earlier, this statement will next be updated on 1st March 2021.

Information on how our work has been affected can be found in our COVID-19 Disruption: Activities in Detail, pp.2-4, with symbols indicating the status of each project. 




In the meantime any questions or concerns should be addressed to alexiaquin@musicastherapy.org.




Alexia Quin
Director

COVID-19 Disruption: Activities in Detail


KEY:

-  Cancelled
-  Disrupted
-  Vulnerable
-  Progressing
-  Other information

STAGE 1 Project Identification

 Conversations about future project collaborations in the UK and Internationally have restarted, exploring new opportunities to provide training to potential partners so that they might use music to support the emotional and social well-being of the children and adults in their care. Infection control and physical safety remain of paramount importance the care sector worldwide which will continue to have implications for future projects, alongside local restrictions.

STAGE 2 Project Development

 Whilst it remains difficult for our partners to guarantee the progress of staff training at the moment, we have been able to re-start internal and external project development, with COVID-19 contingencies built in.

These contingencies are informed by training needs, participant preferences and circumstances, local COVID-19 risks and national/international guidance. They include:

- Generous and flexible timeframes
- Strategies for pausing project delivery if required
- Consideration of access to space and technology for online training or support
- Consideration of language requirements, digital literacy and preferred learning style to determine the most appropriate mechanisms for training and sharing resources
- Developing digital solutions to strengthen our training projects and to support participants unable to attend in-person
- Re-structuring projects to delay any face-to-face teaching and/or international travel for as long as possible.

The following projects are currently in development:


UK PROGRAMME

- **Interactive Music-Making 2021** [in consultation with Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and drawing on expertise and experience of our wider network of Music Therapists and organisations with relevant focus]
- **Motivation Programme 2021** [in consultation with 83 UK Partners working with Under 5s, adults with learning disabilities and people living with dementia]

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

- **Music as Therapy for Young Children with Learning Disabilities 2021 (Romania & Myanmar)** [In consultation with our course moderators and drawing on expertise and experience of our wider network of Music Therapists and organisations with relevant focus]
- **Locally-led Training 2020-21 (Rwanda)** [In consultation with 3 local trainers]
- **Introductory Training 2021 (Georgia)** [In partnership with Open House Rehabilitation Centre, Kutaisi]
- **Music in Dementia Care Online Training Course 2020-2021 (India)**
- **Local Partner Support 2021** [In consultation with 200+ International Partners, worldwide]

STAGE 3 Project Planning

 With greater understanding of the ways we must and can adapt to work alongside COVID-19 for the medium-term, we are able to focus wholly once more on Stage 3 (Project Planning). We are currently planning the delivery of the following projects however, with the best contingency planning the world, they all remain vulnerable to COVID disruptions beyond our control:

UK PROGRAMME

- **Interactive Music-Making 2021:** Our structured training programme for Early Years Practitioners in the UK is scheduled to start early in the new year.
- **Introductory Training (Tadworth Children's Trust School):** An 8-week introductory training project for identified school staff, to be delivered *in situ*, is scheduled to start when the participating staff and young people are ready.
- **Motivation Programme 2020-21:** Continuing to offer a support to our UK Partners who have completed training with us (including a Musical Instrument Fund, regular email bulletins, sharing videos and resources to inspire new ways of working, group and individual meetings with music therapists to share successes and seek guidance).


INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

- **Music as Therapy for Young Children with Learning Disabilities 2021:** Our structured Distance Learning training for practitioners in Romania and Myanmar
- **Local Partner Support 2021:** Using findings from our International Partner Survey to inform ways we offer support to our Partners in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Romania, Myanmar, Rwanda, Georgia, Ethiopia and India who have previously completed training with us (including a Musical Instrument Fund, sharing videos and resources to inspire new ways of working, group and individual meetings with music therapists to share successes and seek guidance).
- **Strengthening Locally-led Training 2020-21:** Nurturing local leadership of training delivered by International Partners in Rwanda, Romania, Georgia and India, sharing expertise and resources where relevant and as opportunities arise.
- **Music in Dementia Care Online Training Course 2020-21:** Finalising the course and preparing for its pilot among carers of people living with dementia in India.
- **Introductory Training 2021 (Ethiopia):** Re-scheduled from 2020, we are working towards the delivery of a 6-week introductory training project at a psychiatric clinic in Addis Ababa.


STAGE 4 Project Delivery


Since our last COVID update, we have successfully completed or continue to progress the delivery of the projects shown below:


UK PROGRAMME


 **Motivation Programme 2020:** Offered to 83 partners across the UK this year, we are maintaining the support we are offering and evaluating its impact. The final online CPD event for our Early Years partners will take place in November.


INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

 **Music as Therapy for Young Children with Learning Disabilities 2020 [Distance Learning] (Romania):** With the re-opening of schools in September, our 9 students are starting the final part of their participation in this course: Practical Assignments. Each will deliver weekly music sessions to small groups of children with additional needs. We are ready to adjust the timeframe for completion of the Practical Assignments, subject to local disruptions, which we believe is all that will be needed to secure the successful completion of this project.

 **Music as Therapy for Young Children with Learning Disabilities 2020 [Distance Learning] (Occupied Palestinian Territories):** A second local lockdown has further disrupted 4 out of 5 of our students' learning on this course. Given the extent of the disruption, the likelihood this will continue for a while yet, and the competence evidenced by our students to date, we took the decision to moderate our students' achievements prior to lockdown. Together with our partners Musicians Without Borders we are awarding final grades and diplomas to our students, fully validating their evidenced learning and practice.

 **International Partner Survey (Worldwide):** We are coming to the end of a 12-month project, consulting our International Partners worldwide on their experiences of using music following training with *Music as Therapy International*. This has evidenced the significant sustainable impact of our training, with some respondents having received training from us as far back as 1998, its relevance across the lifespan and its potential regardless of the country or care setting. We will be reporting on our findings later in the year and drawing on them to inform our Local Partner Support activities in 2021.

 **Music in Dementia Care Online Training Course (India):** In response to the disruption of COVID-19, we are deferring the pilot delivery of this course to 2021. We have navigated ways to avoid the reliance on travelling to India to create the required video content, broader content development continues to progress, and we believe an adjusted timeframe is all that will be required to secure its delivery in due course.

 **Music as Therapy for Young Children with Learning Disabilities 2020 [Distance Learning] (Myanmar):** In response to ongoing local disruption of COVID-19, we are deferring the pilot delivery of this course from October 2020, to 2021. The course content is now ready, with some residual translation in progress. We may need to make further adjustments to the course structure to enable us to delay the face-to-face teaching of the integral Intensive Study Training until local restrictions permit, and to review how it is ultimately delivered subject to international travel viability.

STAGE 5 Reporting and Evaluation

We will continue to monitor national guidance from the British government and our UK partners, and international guidance from the Foreign and Commonwealth office and our Local Partners worldwide to inform all stages of our Project Co-ordination Cycle.

Meanwhile, we will be giving time in Q4 – as we always do – to consolidating our learning, evaluating our impact, consulting our Partners and evaluating our progress against our 3-year strategy in order to be able to report on our work in our Annual Report (due for publication December 2020).

Unless significant changes are required earlier, this statement will next be updated on 1st March 2021.

In the meantime any questions or concerns should be addressed to alexiaquin@musicasterapy.org

Related Blogs:

[*Staying calm on shifting sands: Our response to the global COVID-19 crisis \(May 2020\)*](#)

[*The time to 'keep going' \(July 2020\)*](#)

[*What I've learnt while trying to support our UK Partners during the pandemic \(September 2020\)*](#)