

External Evaluator Brief

Fee: up to £7,500 including VAT (to include access support)

Dates: February 2022 – July 2022

About A New Direction

A New Direction is a London-based non-profit, generating opportunities for children and young people to unlock their creativity. Our vision is for a world where all children and young people achieve their creative potential. Our mission is to enhance the capacity of children and young people to own their creativity, shape culture and achieve their creative potential.

We do this by working with a diverse range of partners (including schools, local authorities, and cultural organisations), making connections, sharing practice, influencing change, improving the ecology that surrounds children and young people, and by providing real and transformative opportunities – from childhood, through school years into employment.

Our values are:

- Equity
- Connectivity
- Trust and Respect
- Creative Culture
- Kindness

Evaluator – Cultural Ambassador Work Experience Programme

A New Direction would like to commission an experienced evaluator to develop a logic model and open research questions in relation to our Cultural Ambassador programme for young people with disabilities. The aim of this evaluation is to better understand what is needed to address the individual and structural challenges relating to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) engaging in work-based learning experiences.

We envisage there being three research questions: one central question focussing on young people and two supporting questions – one focussing on the organisation/practitioner perspective, and another on the partnership considerations. We will work with the successful individual to design the questions in full.

We are interested in accessible participatory research and welcome the exploration of creative and innovative methods that provide insight, data, practical development, continuous improvement, and the application of understanding in practice, and reporting. Consideration should be given to this in the proposed budget. We are particularly interested in commissioning an evaluator who identifies as disabled. Part of the fee can be used to support access requirements of the evaluator.

We are also interested in testing an overarching theory of change for the work which captures the values, change narrative, and programme measures that create the conditions for young people's progression. Findings from this evaluation will directly shape our future programmes.

Timeline

Deadline for expression of interest	06 February 2022
Evaluator interviews	09 – 11 February 2022
Evaluator(s) confirmed by	16 February 2022
Initialisation meeting	w/c 21 February 2022
Final deadline	31 July 2022

About the Programme

Over 16 weeks, a group of 10 young adults with disabilities will take part in a Cultural Ambassador work experience programme. During this programme, they will work with A New Direction, cultural organisations, and freelance artists to plan and deliver creative workshops for students in SEND schools.

Throughout the Cultural Ambassadors programme, participants will be supported by Life and Work Coaches from my AFK – a charity providing education, training and work experience programmes for young people with disabilities. During the programme they will:

- Explore how organisations and artists work with SEND schools
- Discuss how the organisation's programmes and spaces can be more accessible to D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people
- Meet teachers and students from SEND schools to inform their planning for workshops
- Take the lead on a creative project, managing all the aspects of the project from start to finish

Participants will work with teachers and students from schools in A New Direction's SEND Network. The SEND Network is a free professional development programme for educators working with D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in London's schools and specialist settings. The Network meets twice a term over the academic year, working together to improve creative and cultural opportunities for children and young people who are D/deaf, disabled, and neurodiverse.

The workshops and projects delivered by the Cultural Ambassadors will form part of I Am Festival 2022. I Am Festival is our yearly celebration empowering D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent young people to explore their creativity. Over the past five years, the festival has provided a platform for hundreds of young people to showcase their talents, leadership, ideas, and opinions.

From 14–18 June 2021 we held a week of interactive celebration, creativity, and learning online. This included the sharing of outcomes of artist workshops in schools, CPD for teachers and live sessions for students. You can watch the highlights film from the 2021 festival here: <https://bit.ly/iam2021highlights>

Throughout this work experience programme, the participants will develop their communication, team working, and problem-solving skills, knowledge of the cultural sector, and confidence in advocating for disabled young people.

Stakeholders involved in the programme:

- 10 young participants on the Cultural Ambassadors programme
- A New Direction and my AFK
- 5 individuals or organisations from the cultural sector
- SEND Network schools and their students
- Attendees at festival events (cultural sector representatives, parents and carers, and the general public)

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

A New Direction is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and welcomes applications that are underpinned by these principles. We would like to see information about how the evaluation methodology and methods proposed are accessible for stakeholders involved.

How to apply

To express interest in this brief, please email an expression of interest document no longer than two sides of A4 to chloe.randall@anewdirection.org.uk by **5pm on Sunday 6 February 2022**

Your expression of interest should include:

- Your understanding of the brief and your relevant experience
- Your approach to the brief, including methodology. This should include methodology for engaging young people in SEND settings
- How you will ensure your methods will be accessible for all stakeholders
- Budget outline including consideration of stakeholder access requirements as well as personal access requirements. We understand this would be provisional depending on the individuals recruited to take part in the programme. As a guide – there will be 10 young people, three freelance artists, three cultural organisations and five SEND schools

Decisions will be based on clarity of approach, alignment with A New Direction's values (Equity, Connectivity, Trust and Respect, Creative Culture, and Kindness), relevant experience, and accessibility. Shortlisted applications will be invited to a short interview to discuss their approach as part of the decision-making process. **Interviews will be held between 09–11 February.**

If you would like to discuss the brief further before submitting an expression of interest, please email chloe.randall@anewdirection.org.uk to arrange a call.