

Name of your Organisation:	Soundabout
Name of the project TFN funded:	Inclusive Choir
Date Funded by TFN:	24/11/2020
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	Our choir community led the move to online rehearsals and coming together for virtual performances. The Oxford Inclusive Choir continued to create opportunities for people with profound and severe learning disabilities of all ages to sing and make music regularly, alongside their local choir communities. Virtual sessions worked well to bring everyone together to make music online and remove some barriers to access. We are now moving to face-to-face sessions, rehearsals and performances, with some online sessions as well. Online sessions cannot replace the social connections made when the choir meets in person, but we have adapted well to enable the choir to continue meeting and supporting each other. This has resulted in significant benefits for all the participants at a very difficult time. Many of our families were shielding and disabled children and young people were isolated from support services that usually play a critical role in their daily lives. The virtual choir has enabled more disabled people to get involved whilst isolated at home and expanded our reach. The profile of the Inclusive Choir was also significantly raised through positive media coverage. The shift to the virtual choir has led to numerous unexpected changes, all positive. Choir participants have grown in confidence, families (and Soundabout staff/volunteers) have increased our skills in using technology to enable everyone to sign and perform together, with some performances shared online (www.soundabout.org.uk/virtual-choir). The choir has built a supportive network for families and provided opportunities for profoundly disabled people to access the arts. Inclusivity and accessibility enabled families to join a choir where they have never been able to do so before, all abilities welcome and everyone can participate at their level so each voice can be heard. We have seen these outcomes: - more confident to sing in public as a solo and with the group

	- increased wellbeing and enjoyment in music making - increased leadership skills for young people with learning disabilities - people who have limited musical opportunities have built their abilities and musical skills to sing in a group and take part in performances
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	32%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	89
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	43
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	We have continued to develop our Inclusive Choir network, which now consists of 12 hybrid inclusive choir, running online and in person across the following locations: Birmingham, Bristol, Coventry, Leicestershire, Oxford, Oxford Youth (25 and under), Peterborough, Sandwell, Solihull, Worcestershire, Wiltshire, West Midlands, with new choirs launching in Gloucestershire and West of England over the coming months.

	We also now have a reconfigured Trustee board – see here .
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	It was a pleasure to be involved with and the support around the development of the presentation was particularly valuable. Additional Choir video on YouTube here.
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	Fifteen-year-old Edward who has Prader Willi syndrome and additional needs, wrote: "I was really excited when Soundabout Inclusive Choir first started. I was a bit nervous at first, but I made friends. There were lots of really nice, smiley, happy people there. I felt happy. I felt anxious about lockdown. It was nice to see everyone on Zoom. I like Zoom but I can't wait until everything is back to normal and I can see everyone properly again. I want to be able to hug my friends again. I like to choose songs to sing. I love Soundabout. It's an amazing choir". Elaine, mother of Matthew, aged 31, who has Down's syndrome: "In our choir, we're all equals. Everyone is given a turn; everyone's voice is heard. The group leaders are expert at identifying and developing each member's style of expression, strengths and talents. Our voices may not conform to the perceived aesthetic norms, but we work brilliantly as a team and our voices soar and blend together. Being a part of the choir has left Matt being so fulfilled and happy - very different from the child who would run away from everyone. The choir has changed our lives. We will never stop singing with Soundabout. Our voices will always be heard."