



MAVERICK
SOUNDS

BREAKING THE CYCLE THROUGH MUSIC

2020/21

“ When Maverick introduced us to the programme, straight away everyone was invested because we never had a programme like this before ”

WHAT IS MAVERICK SOUNDS

Maverick Sounds is an organisation that works in prisons and in the community with young people and adults. The aim is to positively engage those who participate with our company through music. We do this by providing a safe space for the participants to grow in skills such as lyric writing, beat producing, recording, mixing and mastering songs as well as empowering them to make positive choices in their lives. Learners get the creative space and relevant stimuli that is needed to grow, both in confidence and ability.

The program gives learners ownership over their own education and the opportunity to participate in the process. In the case of Maverick Sounds, learners bring their own creative gifts and urban preference to the course: they also voice the issues and pressures that are relevant to them in their current environment.

Rather than sitting passively in a classroom, participants undertake highly practical activities interspersed with games and discussions, helping them to reflect creatively on their own strengths, weaknesses and preconceptions. The desired outcome is for participants to gain the knowledge, maturity and skills necessary to impact the culture of prison in a positive way by leading by example. Upon completion of the music programme each participant will have the opportunity to keep a copy of the songs they have created on a CD or perform the songs in front of staff and peers under prison permission.

Learners will also gain the ability to learn a skill that is a flexible and easy way of earning money in the community. Sign posting support is offered to offenders approaching release and links are made in the community if appropriate.



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MAVERICK SOUNDS IMPACT

Maverick Sounds has been working in prisons as a company for 2 years. Prior to that Samuel McPherson the director worked with a number of organisations to provide music in Prisons and in the community.

The statistics given have informed the work and belief that what Maverick Sounds provides as a company will have a lasting impact on those that find themselves in trouble with the law.

Maverick Sounds has had a huge impact on the BME population in the establishments they have worked in. Often the men and young people have felt misunderstood and under represented in the justice system.

As we can see from the statistics there is an over representation in the prisons and the re-offending rate is higher for those from a BME background. Music has a way of engaging and supporting both the confidence, belief and mental health of those in the justice system and those at risk of going in. It is not about creating the next music star but about giving skills and techniques to manage themselves.

Maverick sounds seeks to use music to enable people from all walks of life to help reflect, observe and discuss their life stories and plans to move forward. We have supported participants once released from prison to use music as a way to use their time in a meaningful way, help other people and continue their journey of reflection on their lives.

STATISTICS

WITHIN THE WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM UP TO AGE 21

Over **40%**
are from Black, Asian and
minority ethnic backgrounds

64%
Who are given community orders
re-offend within a year

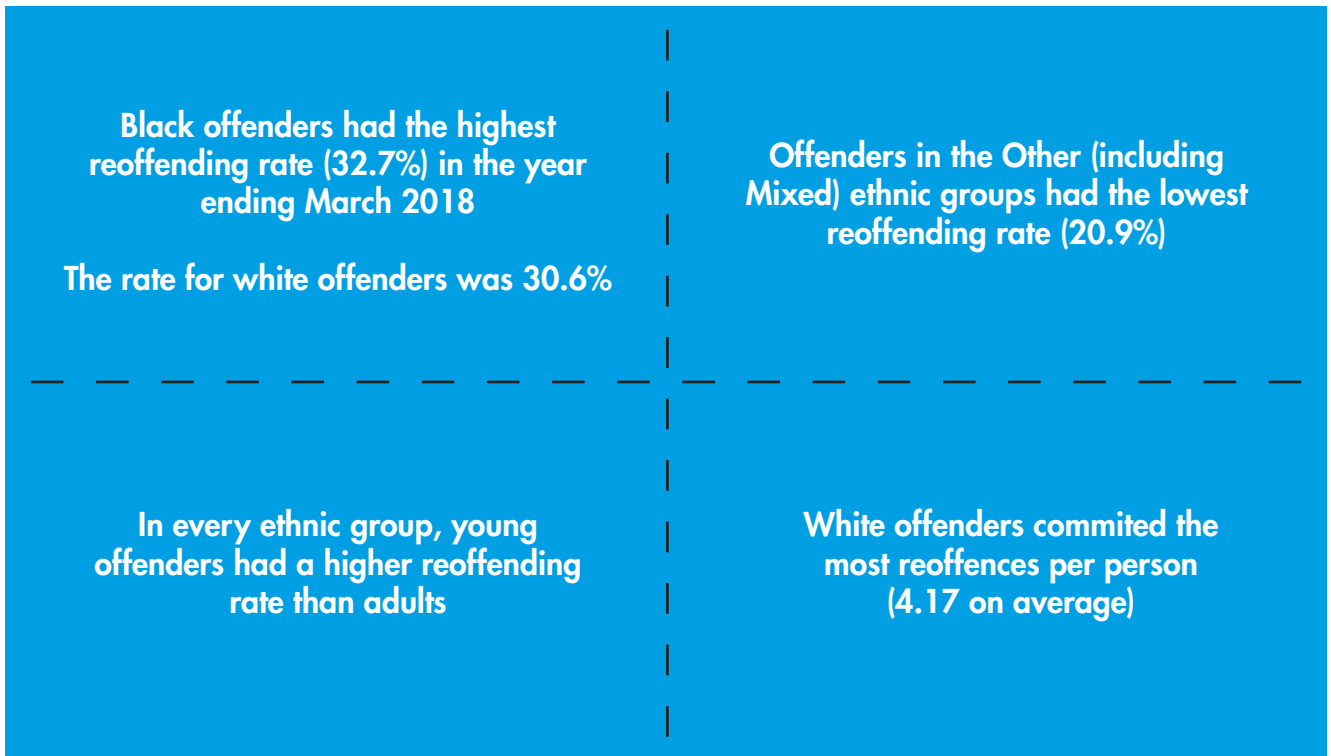
Over **1/3**
Have a diagnosed
mental health disorder

Many of the young people come
from unstable house holds

89%
Have been excluded from
school

69%
of those given custodial sentences
re-offend within a year
* Charlie Taylor Review, Dec2016

A large percentage have been in care
(38% young offenders, 52% secure training centres)



Percentage and number of offenders who reoffended, and average number of reoffences, by ethnicity

| Ethnicity | % | Number of reoffenders | Average number of reoffences per reoffender |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| All | 29.2 | 125,829 | 4.04 |
| Asian | 24.3 | 6,010 | 3.40 |
| Black | 32.7 | 13,818 | 3.50 |
| White | 30.6 | 103,866 | 4.17 |
| Other including Mixed | 20.9 | 962 | 3.32 |
| Unknown | 5.7 | 1,173 | 2.91 |

What Maverick Sounds has achieved

3 Projects with
National
Prison Radio

95%
of participants have
completed courses

75%
of participants went
onto further education

250
SONGS
completed by learners

10 Performances
in prison
including Black History event,
Veterans day choir & Family day

85%
have gone on to do
music in the community

15 are supported in the community
in the last year. Of which none have
gone on to reoffend

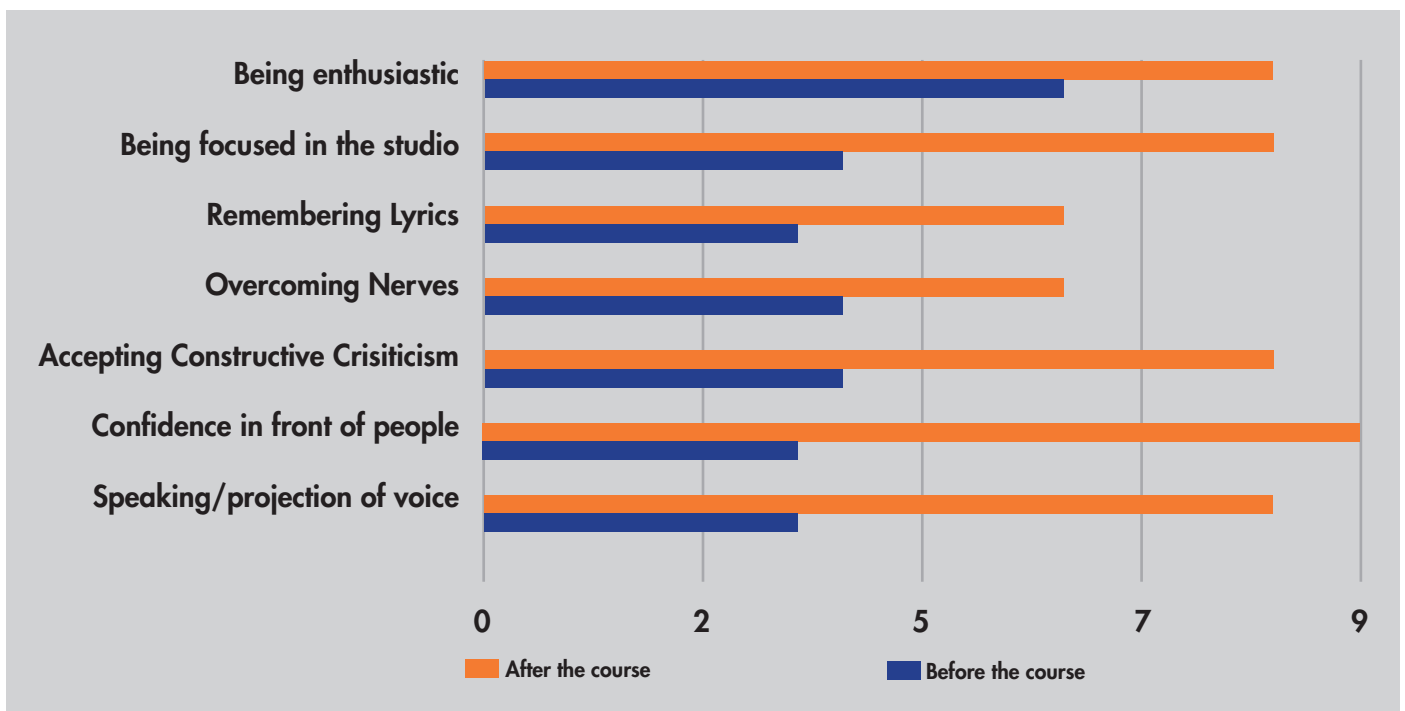
LEARNER ASSESSMENTS

At the beginning of the course

- Speaking and projecting my voice
- Confidence in front of people
- Accepting constructive criticism
- Overcoming my nerves
- Using body language
- Remembering lyrics
- Being focused in the studio
- Being enthusiastic

After the course

- Speaking and projecting my voice
- Confidence in front of people
- Accepting constructive criticism
- Overcoming my nerves
- Using body language
- Remembering lyrics
- Being focused in the studio
- Being enthusiastic



QUOTES

FROM PARTICIPANTS

"The best thing was the networking and the unity. Bringing all cultures together communities and religions."



"I was a loner, I keep my self to my self, I came out my shell started working with people. You need help off others its a fact."

"Go and see what it's about. every one loves music. It's a spiritual thing everyone can connect to music, no matter where you're from what colour you are it don't matter. Music is just the spirit. Its better than anything else on the curriculum. There is nothing in jail I would rather do."

"My producing skills improved... because the first time I made a beat was with you... and I learnt how to make bridges... and I learnt about choruses... yeah a lot has changed since I met you you know. For real."

"I enjoyed looking forward to it. I enjoyed watching other peoples progress as well. Because even though was doing music before prison. Like there was a lot of people in the class that.. they were interested in music but they were never confident enough to try it out before, so watching them learn a lot, that's inspirational."



"The course helped with my parole because it showed that I can make positive moves."

"The course opened my mind, and increased confidence in myself and confidence in my ability. I know now if I put my mind to something I can do it."

WHAT WE OFFER

We understand that all prisons have different goals and regimes, however we believe the impact we have achieved in other establishments/services can be delivered on a case by case basis. The following outcomes have aided the establishments priorities.

MUSIC OUTCOMES

- Performance
- All songs on a CD
- Prison radio submissions
- Podcasts
- Accredited qualification

MUSIC CONTENT COVERED

- **Lyric writing**
Positive and negative lyrics, Life Map, Song structure, Rhyming schemes, Lyrical devices, improving literacy skills.
- **Music Production skills Creating**
Creating instrumentals using electronic software.
- **Audio Engineering**
Gaining the ability to mix audio using complex software & plug-ins.

ONE-OFF PROJECTS

- Koestler Awards Submissions
- Family day events/performances
- Black history month events/performances
- Veterans day choir/performance

Samuel McPherson

Set up Mavericks Sounds to equip people in custody and the community with the skills to process better life choices through music which is accessible and familiar to them. 10 years experience as a recording artist and 13 years working with people in prisons, schools, Pupil referral units and youth offending teams across the country.

Josh Depass

With over 13 years experience in the Up North music scene, Josh has catalogue of creative talents. Having first emerged as an MC and recording artist, Jae then established himself as a prominent DJ and Music Producer in the music scene, before branching out into teaching music to Young and Adult offenders in the Prison service.

R.A

With over 10 million views, R.A is one of the UK's biggest rap artist who has worked with artists such as Giggs, Rapman, Krept & Conan, Ghetts, Fredo and much more. Working alongside Maverick Sounds, he uses his influence to encourage and inspire others that change is possible.

Pippa Carter

Over 18 years experience managing difficult behaviour with extensive background working in the community and in custody with young people. Superb ability to adapt, plan, recruit and organise projects suitable for the hardest to reach young people with additional experience Delivering Faith based activities. (Alpha courses)

Bonafyde

DJ / Music Producer / Sound Engineer

With 11 years of experience as a DJ/Producer and 8 years experience as a sound engineer, Bon has a wealth of knowledge which he loves to share with others.

MEET THE TEAM





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At Maverick sounds we believe
in meeting people ground level.

We pride ourselves on
contributing to a more
positive prison culture.

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