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PRESS RELEASE

DEVONPORT CHARITY, PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE REACHES OUT TO LONELY CARERS WITH £75,000 GRANT FROM LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION

Plymouth Music Zone is running a musical respite programme for carers facing isolation from their communities with the help of a £75,000 grant over three years from Lloyds Bank Foundation. The Devonport based charity uses music to help people overcome a range of issues and develop skills that help them get back on track in their lives. Plymouth Music Zone will use their grant to fund 'Voices for the Unsung', a special programme of music activities to help lonely carers connect with others around them.

The charity provides much-needed support for people who might otherwise be cut off from their local community. Through their programmes, they tackle a broad range of issues including communication and interpersonal skills, confidence, behavioural issues and enhancing overall wellbeing.

Through 'Voices for the Unsung', Plymouth Music Zone will be able to support up to 375 people over three years at their weekly, creative music making sessions. Through the programme, many of the participants are likely to see an improvement in their mental health, lower stress and anxiety, or improvements in levels of self-esteem. The 'Voices for the Unsung' programme is due to start in June and will run with a number of partner organisations for three years.

Debbie Geraghty, Executive Director of Plymouth Music Zone says:

"The charity is delighted to finally be able to give a voice to so many carers. Plymouth Music Zone is all about pushing boundaries and trying to do extraordinary things. We use music to reach out to some of the most vulnerable and isolated people facing critical points in their lives. Lloyds Bank Foundation helped us first pioneer our work in residential homes and dementia care units and that was a resounding success. We're thrilled to be able to continue that strong partnership to develop this three year larger scale programme of 'musical respite' for carers across Plymouth. We've wanted to do this for years but especially now when the evidence clearly shows how much it is needed. Carers make the world go round and we're so excited to be able to offer more supportive musical experiences that give them a voice and the respite they so deserve."

Paul Streets, CEO of Lloyds Bank Foundation, said:

"As highlighted in our recent [research](#), small and medium-sized charities have been hit hardest by changes to public funding yet at the same time, demand for their services has

risen. We are more committed than ever to providing vital funding to charities like Plymouth Music Zone, allowing them to grow and thrive, and to reach and help the people that really rely on them.”

The £75,000 grant made to Plymouth Music Zone was one of 90 grants totalling £4,014,903 made to small and medium-sized charities across England and Wales in the first of three annual grant rounds, including 12 grants totalling £507,065 awarded across the South West of England.

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales is the largest corporate foundation in the UK and an independent charity funded by Lloyds Banking Group as part of the [Helping Britain Prosper](#) Plan.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales is one of the UK’s leading community grant makers. An independent registered charity funded by the profits of Lloyds Banking Group as part of the Group’s commitment to [Helping Britain Prosper](#). The Foundation invests in charities supporting people to break out of disadvantage at critical points in their lives, and promotes practical approaches to lasting change. In 2015 the Foundation distributed a total of £22.1m in funding.

For further information, including criteria and guidelines on the Foundation’s two funding programmes – Invest and Enable –visit www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk