



MEDIA RELEASE: 13 June 2012

## PLYMOUTH'S AWARD WINNING MUSIC CHARITY WINS THE BIG LOTTERY!

A local charity that uses music to transform the lives of disadvantaged children and vulnerable adults is celebrating after receiving a major grant from the Big Lottery fund. Devonport based Plymouth Music Zone has been awarded nearly £300,000 over 4 years to use music and cutting edge technology to engage with disabled, isolated and vulnerable groups across the city and beyond. PMZ's Development Director, Debbie Geraghty, says the news was a long time coming:

**"The Big Lottery's Reaching Communities programme is such a highly competitive fund with so many good charities being rejected. We've already been turned down twice over the years so it's third time lucky for us. Funnily enough two local councillors happened to be visiting PMZ just as the phonecall came from the Big Lottery then one by one the PMZ team burst into tears of relief and joy. I'll never forget the councillors' faces. I think they were a bit taken aback at first but soon realised what fantastic news it is for so many vulnerable groups in the city who are set to benefit."**

The funding for 'Project Crossovers' especially targets those groups who may be experiencing difficult or challenging times in their lives. It will use music and specialised technology to allow people to express themselves and gain a sense of confidence and achievement to help them move through difficult changes. The Big Lottery news follows only days after Plymouth Music Zone was awarded £150,000 over 3 years as part of the Arts Council's Catalyst fund that encourages arts organisations to explore new ways of bringing in private donations. PMZ also recently received £30,000 from the national charity, Youth Music, to work with the under 5s in children's centres and nurseries in some of the most deprived parts of Plymouth. PMZ's Music Programme Manager, Karl Meyer, says it's great that funders continue to recognise the power of the work the charity is doing and the changes that are happening:

**"I think people often think Plymouth Music Zone is just about teenagers rocking out on electric guitars. Well, we certainly have a few of them but actually the majority of our work is about using music with people of all ages who, for whatever reason, need that extra support to make a difference in their lives. Whether it's a blind elderly woman in a residential home who gets the chance to play piano and sing for the first time in years or a disabled child who needs special technology to access music for the first time. That's what we're really about."**

The PMZ team will be using the successful funding as a vital foundation and springboard for further fundraising efforts to ensure PMZ's work continues to make a crucial difference across the city.

For more information please contact Debbie Geraghty or Karl Meyer on 01752 213690.

**-ENDS.**

**Notes to Editors, see below**

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Company Number - 4653409    Registered Charity Number - 1100878



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plymouth music zone  
MUSIC MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Notes to Editors

### Information about Plymouth Music Zone

Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ) is an award winning community music organisation that provides high quality tailored music workshops for those considered most in need as well as delivering bespoke training for musicians, teachers and community leaders etc. PMZ works with some of the most disadvantaged people in Plymouth, reaching nearly 1000 children, young people and vulnerable adults every week through the delivery of up to 70 music activities across the city and at their state-of-the-art education centre located in Devonport. 95% of PMZ's music provision targets children, young people and adults defined as being 'at risk' with more than a third of that delivery involving children and young people with disabilities, helped by the fact the charity houses one of the only specialist multi-sensory music studios of its kind in the country.

PMZ's slogan 'music making a difference' describes a passionate mission that focuses on transforming lives through music. As a charity, Plymouth Music Zone works with over 100 partner organisations annually using music as a tool to develop the emotional wellbeing and personal and social skills of the participants. It employs highly skilled Music Leaders who deliver a diverse range of interactive music-making workshops and high profile progression projects that engage people in their own musical and social development. PMZ has won awards recognising the innovative nature of its work and in its last 12 years, Independent Evaluations have provided powerful evidence of the deep impact of what it does in developing and improving a broad range of areas such as self-confidence/self-esteem, self-expression, communication and interpersonal skills.

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