

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19th April 2012

Lead Officer: Head of School Improvement and Inclusion

Report Author: Head of School Improvement and Inclusion

Title: Provision of Music within Schools (Education)

1. What is the report about?

To consider the progress of the collaborative Task and Finish Group in developing proposals in respect of the provision of music education within schools, or alternatively Denbighshire's proposals for the provision of music education

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update Members on the progress against the review of music provision in Denbighshire including the work of the North Wales Music 'Task and Finish' Group.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers the contents of the report and continues to support the on-going work with respect to music development in the County.

That Members provide observations and support the proposals for the wider review of the funding of music provision in Denbighshire.

4. Report details

The Music Service is provided to schools as part of the Curriculum Enrichment and Well Being Department of the School Improvement and Inclusion Service. Currently, the William Mathias Music Service is contracted on an annual basis to provide peripatetic tuition in schools and to help run County ensembles.

During 2011-12 the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW) established a North Wales' Task and Finish Group to review current Arts and Music provision. It was hoped that this would present opportunities to explore local provision, work regionally through collaboration and develop a regional perspective on national youth arts provision.

The North Wales Music Task and Finish Group has met three times to date however no tangible progress has been made in terms of a collaborative approach. Denbighshire made the decision to continue with their review in order to prevent the funding issues continuing into another financial year.

In December 2011 a report was presented to schools that outlined proposals for delegating funding purely on take up as opposed to the previous formula of 50% Free School Meals and 50% Pupil Numbers. This report is attached in Appendix 1 (this appendix is excluded from public disclosure by virtue of Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972). It is important to note that this proposal related solely to the current earmarked funding for Peripatetic Music support of £251k. In addition to this the service pays the William Matthias Trust £61k for the provision of supply teachers and support for county ensembles.

The School Budget Forum raised concerns as to why historically there is a specific formula for Music when it forms a small part of the curriculum. Following further discussion and consultation it was determined that the preference was not to create a new formula for Peripatetic Music for 2012-13 but instead to consider it in the wider Denbighshire Formula Review set to be implemented in 2013-14.

It was agreed that in view of this the current allocation method would continue for 2012-13 (50% Free School Meals and 50% Pupil Numbers) and then from 2013-14 peripatetic music funding would just form part of the total quantum for schools with schools choosing how they prioritise/allocate their own individual school funding at a local level.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The provision of music in schools contributes to the commitment to ensure that all children and young people have the entitlement to experience a range of opportunities and develop specific talents in order to enable them to realise their potential and achieve their aspirations.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The level of provision is currently financed through the money delegated to schools to provide peripatetic music tuition. In addition, a sum of money is held centrally to pay the cost of the contract with the William Mathias Music Service, the Co-ordinators' salaries and the cost of musical instrument purchase. Schools can choose whether to pass on part of the cost of the service to parents.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

School Budget Forum and Headteachers

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The capacity to deliver a high performing service which is affordable to schools and the potential impact on the level of charges that schools have to pass onto parents within their schools.

9. Power to make the Decision

N/A.

Contact Officers:

Head of Improvement & Inclusion
Education Finance Manager

Tel: 01824 708055
Tel: 01824 712633