

24 September 2012**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES****REMISSION SCHEME FOR ACTIVITIES DELIVERED BY ARTS AND SPORTS
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TEAM****Purpose of the Report**

1. To approve the remission scheme for activities delivered by the Arts and Sports for Children and Young People team.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council charges schools and parents/carers for some activities delivered through the Arts and Sports for Children and Young People team.
3. In accordance with the charging regulations for music tuition during the school day (The Charges for Music Tuition [England] Regulations 2007), Nottinghamshire County Council has a remission scheme in place to ensure equality of access and affordable instrumental music tuition for all pupils. The remission scheme for Instrumental Music Teaching was last updated in 2006 and is summarised below:

The remission scheme supports a child or young person by remitting the cost of teaching [based on a shared 20-minute lesson] and by providing free instrument loan. The scheme is available for the following children and young people:

- *Looked after children for whom Nottinghamshire County Council acts as the corporate parent.*
- *Children and young people who are eligible for free school meals or whose parent/carer is in receipt of working tax credit – NHS exemption.*

A child or young person will be deemed eligible when s/he has received 7 lessons and the instrumental music teacher has confirmed that s/he is making satisfactory progress. The school will be expected to pay for the first 7 lessons.

A discretionary award is available for children and young people who have a statement of special educational needs and are in need of additional resources e.g. 1-1 lessons, longer lessons, adaptive equipment. This award covers only the cost of additional resources not the full cost of tuition or instrument loan.

4. In September 2010, the County Youth Arts team moved from the then Youth Service into the then Arts Support Service (now Arts and Sports for Children and Young People team). For some of the regular arts activities run by County Youth Arts, a nominal charge of £1.50 per session is made in line with charging for activities at Young People's Centres.
5. In September 2011, a charge for membership of Notts Performing Arts (formerly known as '11th Session' and 'County Performance') was introduced, which is based on a registration fee plus a contribution towards the cost of the activity. The current charge for membership is £30 per term or £60 per academic year for children and young people who live in Nottinghamshire or who attend a maintained school, free school or academy in Nottinghamshire. This provision is not currently covered by the remission scheme that covers music tuition during the school day, although the Arts and Sports for Children and Young People team does offer assistance to financially disadvantaged families, children with special educational needs and looked after children wishing to take part in Notts Performing Arts. This is to ensure equality of access and to comply with direction from Arts Council England and Department for Education to ensure that progression routes in music are clear and affordable to all young people (as detailed in the National Plan for Music Education which is available as a background paper).
6. Therefore, in order to bring the charging arrangements for Notts Performing Arts and County Youth Arts into line with the scheme covering Instrumental Music Teaching, it is proposed that the remission scheme is amended to include the following additional wording:

The following children and young people who take part in activities delivered as part of Notts Performing Arts and County Youth Arts are exempt from membership or other charges:

- *Looked After Children for whom Nottinghamshire County Council acts as the corporate parent.*
- *Children and young people who live in Nottinghamshire or who attend a Nottinghamshire maintained school, free school or academy and who are eligible for free school meals*
- *In addition, a discretionary award is available for children and young people with special educational needs who live in Nottinghamshire or who attend a Nottinghamshire maintained school, free school or academy and who require additional resources including specialist support, adaptive equipment etc to cover the cost of additional resources.*

Other Options Considered

7. Not providing any remission of charges for children and young people wishing to take part in Notts Performing Arts or County Youth Arts' activities would be another option. If this option was seriously considered, then Nottinghamshire County Council could be challenged about providing equal and fair access to these services.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. The recommendation will provide a more comprehensive policy than the previous Arts Support Service remission scheme which covered only remission of charges for

Instrumental Music Teaching. By confirming the scheme as described, it will formalise arrangements and provide a more consistent approach to remission covering all arts activities delivered by the Arts and Sports for Children and Young People team without significant changes to existing policy or procedures for service users.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

10. There will be minimal change for service users. By approving the amendment to the remission scheme, there will be greater clarity about the financial assistance available to support families facing financial disadvantage who wish to access arts activities delivered by Notts Performing Arts and County Youth Arts.

Financial Implications

11. The cost of the remission scheme for all music activities will be supported by Music Education Hub funding from Arts Council England amounting to approximately £165,000 per year. Additional costs for remission of other non-music activities may lead to a reduction in income generated through charges to parents/ carers. On the basis that between 10 and 20% of NPA members are in receipt of free school meals, the loss of income from remission for these membership charges would be between £4,000 and £8,000 per year. This will be contained within the overall budget for Cultural and Enrichment Services.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the remission scheme for Arts and Sports for Children and Young People, including the amendment detailed in paragraph 6 above, be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 30/08/12)

12. The Early Years and Young Peoples Sub-committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 10/09/12)

13. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

Background Papers

The Charges for Music Tuition [England] Regulations 2007 (guidance on charging regulations for music tuition – July 2007)

National Plan for Music Education, see paragraph 40 (DFE-00086-2011 [1])

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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