

**14 July 2014****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****REMISSION SCHEME FOR ACTIVITIES DELIVERED BY ARTS AND SPORTS  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TEAM****Purpose of the Report**

1. To approve the re-wording of the Arts and Sports Remission policy in response to national changes to Free School Meal entitlement from September 2014.

**Information and Advice**

2. Nottinghamshire County Council charges schools and parents/careers 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), and one of the conditions of a Music Education Hub grant, 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 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
4. A child or young person will be deemed eligible when s/he has received seven 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 seven lessons. This currently costs a school £41.30 per child.
  5. 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.

6. The scheme currently supports between 800 - 900 children and young people at a cost of approximately £170,000. This is funded through the Arts Council's Music Education Hub grant. There is currently a 50/50 split between those in receipt of free school meals and Working Family Tax Credits – NHS Exemption accessing the remission scheme.
7. In the Chancellor's autumn statement, it was announced that all pupils at state schools in England in reception, Year 1 and 2 would receive free school lunches from September 2014. Under the current remission wording therefore, from September 2014 the Remission Scheme will be open to all Key Stage 1 pupils, regardless of financial disadvantage. There are currently over 18,000 children and young people at Key Stage 1 in Nottinghamshire, raising the potential remission cost to £4 million per year. This cost does not include any cost associated with any increased instruments purchase.
8. Changing the current wording would maintain the level of support in light of the changes to free school meal eligibility from September 2014. The revised wording is 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 entitled to free school meals due to their parent/carer being in receipt of one of the following support payments;***

- ***Income support***
- ***Income-based jobseekers allowance***
- ***Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999***
- ***The guarantee element of state pension credit***
- ***Child tax credit (provided not entitled to working tax credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)***

***As well as those eligible for***

- ***Working Family Tax Credit (NHS exemption)***

#### **Other Options Considered**

9. None.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. To prevent a significant and unaffordable increase in the remission scheme budget.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

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

## **Financial Implications**

12. If the eligibility criteria are not re-worded, the service would be liable for remission costs of over £4 million per annum from September 2014.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee agrees the re-wording of the Arts and Sports Remission policy in response to national changes to Free School Meal entitlement from September 2014.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Elaine Atkinson  
Team Manager, Arts and Sports for Children and Young People  
T: 0115 977 3603  
E: elaine.atkinson@nottsc.gov.uk

## **Constitutional Comments (LM 02/07/14)**

13. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

## **Financial Comments (KLA 01/07/14)**

14. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 12 above.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0466