

13 July 2015**Agenda Item: 05****REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES
AND CULTURE****REVISED OFFER FOR ARTS AND MUSIC SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks approval to cease current out of school arts provision as of 31 March 2016 and to agree a new model of provision, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, which will enable the service to increase the number of young people participating in the arts through a more local targeted offer and to meet its budget savings.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has a long history of developing and delivering opportunities for young people to engage with music and the wider arts. This out of school provision has traditionally taken the form of multi art form activities, on Saturday mornings in selected settings across the County (Nottinghamshire Performing Arts sessions - NPA). Currently there are around 500 young people attending 4 Saturday centres at:

Minster School (Newark and Sherwood)
Bruns Academy (Mansfield)
Redhill Academy (Gedling)
Outwood Academy – Portland (Bassetlaw).

3. In addition the County Council has supported a range of performance groups aimed at young people who want to progress their skills further. Groups, with the number of members in brackets, are:

The County Choir (12)
The Nottinghamshire Theatre Group (12)
The Red Hot Band (20)
Steel Pans Group (9)
The Intermediate Concert Band (23)
The County Concert Band (22).

4. The options for change recommendations for Arts and Sports for Children and Young People were presented at Policy Committee on 12 November 2014 and approved at Full Council on the 26 February 2015 as part of the budget report. The two recommendations agreed were:

- a budget reduction of £350,000 (£200,000 in 2016/17 and a further £150,000 in 2017/18)
 - that consideration is given to the arts and music services moving to an arm's length organisation delivered in partnership with the Council. This aspect has been resolved with a decision at the Children and Young People's Committee on 18 May 2015 that the music and arts service would be linked to the new libraries arm's length body currently being established by the Local Authority.
5. Whilst it is widely acknowledged by users of the service that the quality of the offer is excellent, numbers attending have been in steady decline over the past five years. At its peak more than 1,000 young people attended the NPA sessions and the County performance groups but this number has reduced by 40%, to approximately 600 attendees. Reasons for the decline in numbers include:
- increased competition for time
 - increased provision in school and the wider community
 - competing offers more locally accessible
 - introduction of charging (in academic year 2011/12)
 - reduction in service offer
 - geographical accessibility.
6. An audit of arts provision across the County highlighted numerous existing dance, drama and music activities for young people not supported or funded by the County Council.

NPA / Performance Groups - income and expenditure 2014/15

7. Income and expenditure for 2014/15 was as follows:

Staffing	£ 243,198
Venue hire	£ 30,000
General running costs	£ 27,900
Total Expenditure	£301,098
Income from participants (£3.50 per week)	£ 45,521
Overall Subsidy	£ 255,577

8. The subsidy per person therefore is £19.37 per week. The scheme could break even (under its current system of operation) if 800 members paid £15 per week for 22 weeks rather than the current £3.50. The challenge is further exacerbated in that there is no guarantee of Adult Social Care short breaks funding or Music Education Hub funding post March 2016.
9. There is a significant challenge to the sustainability of the current provision both financially and in attracting attendance. To address this, it is recommended that the current provision of the weekly Saturday Centres and Performance Groups cease from 31 March 2016 and be replaced with a new model centred on growing and developing current programmes

offered by Instrumental and Music Teaching and County Youth Arts, developing links with existing local provision, targeted workshops, events and opportunities for children from challenging circumstances.

10. Progression routes for talented young people have and will continue to be developed locally, regionally and nationally, ensuring a higher quality of provision and opportunities for Nottinghamshire young people. Examples of this approach include the development of a regional talent programme with two other East Midlands Music Education Hubs and a three year partnership agreement with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain.
11. Links are being developed with locally based dance and drama organisations in order to actively place current NPA members. Both the current Able Orchestra and Unity projects are being expanded to give disabled young people from all seven districts of the County opportunities currently unavailable to them.
12. The current provision is funded until 31 March 2016 and therefore will continue until that date. This will enable the new model of operation outlined in **Appendix 1** to be established, as well as other current provision to be grown and extended further. The 22 weekly sessions offered over the usual academic year will be compressed into the autumn and spring terms to ensure the young people still have access to the full number of sessions.
13. In addition, discussion with pre-existing providers, community groups and schools will be undertaken to establish regular opportunities for young people in all seven districts and for groups of young people currently underserved by pre-existing provision, for example disability arts.
14. Staff were briefed and consulted in May 2015, alongside the wider NCC budget consultation between November 2014 and February 2015. Further consultation with staff, service users and stakeholders is planned for the autumn.

Other Options Considered

15. To run a break even model charges to parents/carers would need to increase from £75 per annum to £330 per annum. This represents a 440% increase. Previous consultation when a charged was introduced deemed this to be unacceptable to parents and carers.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. The recommendations meet the Options for Change decision including the financial challenge faced by the Council and implementation of a planned approach will enable the service to ensure young people's participation in music is maintained.
17. The recommended model aims to increase overall take up by young people due to better geographical spread and targeted work. Initial attendance of young people in the newly formed Area Continuation Bands (see **Appendix 1**) suggests that the uptake is likely to match and possibly exceed the current membership in Nottinghamshire Performing Arts. With the extension of the Able Orchestra and Unity projects, there is likely to be increased participation in the arts for young disabled people.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), 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

19. The recommendations enable the service to meet the agreed £200,000 budget savings for 2016/17 as outlined in the Options for Change document. Further recommendations on the planned budget reductions for 2017-18 will be put before Committee at a future date.

Human Resources Implications

20. With the recommendation to cease the existing model of operation, a total of 11.02 FTE posts will be subject to S188 notification. Those staff affected will be managed through the Council's current procedures for staff at risk of redundancy.
21. Staff were briefed and consulted in May 2015. Further consultation with staff is planned for the autumn.

Implications for Service Users

22. Fewer than 600 young people, around 500 in Saturday centres and less than 100 in Performance Groups will be affected with the ceasing of current provision in March 2016. Work has already started on identifying new and existing opportunities for these young people and it is anticipated that the new model will increase participation through a more widely available offer.
23. Young people attending current provision will be provided with information about the new offer and other opportunities in their locality. They will also receive the full 22 weekly sessions between September 2015 to March 2016.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That a revised new model of out of school arts provision, enabling the service to meet its budget savings and increase local access for young people, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, is implemented from 1 April 2016.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 25/06/15)

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

Financial Comments (SS 26/06/15)

25. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 19 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

Redefining Your Council: Transformation and Spending Proposals 2015/16 - 2017/18 (Option for Change Document B08) – report to Policy Committee on 12 November 2014

Annual Budget Report 2015/16 – report to Full Council on 26 February 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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