

16 June 2014

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB - PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information on the progress of the Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub and the challenges related to meeting the outcomes required by the Department of Education in return for Music Hub funding.

Information and Advice

2. On behalf of the Department for Education, Arts Council England awarded funding to Nottinghamshire County Council in 2012 to lead the Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub in the period to March 2015. The award followed the submission of an application for Music Education Hub status from the County Council and its partners in 2012.
3. Music education hubs were established by the Government to augment and support music teaching in schools so that more children experience a combination of classroom teaching, instrumental and vocal tuition and input from professional musicians. Hubs deliver an offer to children, reaching beyond school boundaries and draw in the expertise of a range of education and arts partners, such as local orchestras, ensembles, charities and other music groups. The County Council chairs the existing Hub Programme Board, which brings together a range of partners and stakeholders including representatives from The Royal Concert Hall, Thoresby Estates, secondary and primary phase school representatives and Nottingham Trent University.
4. The vision for Nottinghamshire's Music Education Hub is that:

We want all children and young people in Nottinghamshire to access high quality learning opportunities in music which are relevant to their own musical interests. We want all children and young people to join in a wide range of music groups and progress to their own level of musical excellence.
5. The key features of the Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub business plan for 2012-15 include:

- the delivery of a whole-class instrumental teaching programme in every primary school in Nottinghamshire with 7-11 year old pupils
- encouraging children and young people to take part in music groups and performances in and out of school
- providing music-making opportunities for teenagers in school holidays
- providing a subsidised instrumental teaching service for small groups and 1-1 tuition
- providing access to online learning for different instruments
- helping all schools to get children and young people to participate in, enjoy and develop their singing
- setting up projects to help specific groups of children and young people engage in music-making
- supporting a continuing professional development (CPD) training network for teachers and other professionals who work with children and young people in music
- providing more opportunities for children and young people to work with professional musicians and attend musical performances.

6. Key notable achievements of the Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub include:

- over 5,000 primary children “learning to play an instrument” free of charge for at least one term through Whole Class Instrumental Tuition projects in schools;
- significantly increased participation and engagement of school music teachers in CPD networks;
- partnership working with The Royal Concert Hall, Orchestras Live, Sinfonia Viva and Live Music Now to provide children and young people from all backgrounds and abilities with opportunities to perform, experience and work with professional venues and musicians;
- active school engagement with the Hub increasing to 80%;
- secondary consolidation projects for Whole Class Instrumental Teaching surpassing expected interest levels and influencing schools music curriculum delivery;
- Working, in conjunction with other East Midlands Hubs, on a number of regional projects as part of MEHEM, a consortium of East Midlands Music Hubs. These include a regional talent project and training programme for the new Certificate for Music Educators.

7. Alongside the core functions related to school based teaching, a range of projects and events are planned for the current year. They include:

- a new county wide urban music project for targeted young people
- the continuation of Tolfest, Showcase and Sonar festivals and the strengthening of the existing relationship with the BBC on “BBC Introducing”
- A BBC Concert Orchestra collaboration with the IPAD-Orchestra - a disability project using music technology
- Becoming a partner organisation for the BBC’s Ten Pieces

- Dark Clouds, a performance art project with Sinfonia Viva centred on the anniversary of World War 1.
8. **Appendix 1** shows the progress to date of Music Hub activity against targets set.
 9. Music hub progress on a national scale was reviewed during 2013 to capture information that would be used to influence future national strategy. This work resulted in the publication, in November 2013 by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), of a new strategic document "*Music in Schools: what hubs must do*". In the document, hubs are challenged with implementing the recommendations of the report in the absence of additional funding to support them. The report recommends that hubs will:
 - promote themselves with schools as confident, expert leaders of music education in their areas, not simply as providers of services;
 - ensure that all schools engage with them and the National Plan for Music Education;
 - have regular supportive, challenging conversations with each of their schools about the quality of music education for all pupils in that school;
 - support all schools in improving the music education they provide, especially in class lessons, ensuring that evaluation is robust;
 - offer expert training and consultancy to schools, which supports school leaders and staff in understanding what musical learning, and good progress by pupils in music, are like;
 - ensure that their own staff and partners are well trained and ready to do this work;
 - spend a suitable proportion of staff time on working with school leaders strategically, alongside their work in teaching pupils directly;
 - publicise their work effectively to schools and explain how it can contribute to school improvement;
 - facilitate school-to-school support as appropriate;
 - promote high quality curriculum progression in schools and ensure that hubs' work in schools is integral to this;
 - robustly evaluate the impact of their own work on pupils' music education.
 10. The challenge for the Nottinghamshire Hub, therefore, is to evaluate and implement these additional requirements in relation to the core and extension roles that were agreed as part of the original Music Education Hub agreement. This remains a key issue, especially in view of the funding limitations of all partners and stakeholders.
 11. The original funding for the Nottinghamshire Music Hub totalled £2.4 million (over 3 years), with a current allocation for 2014/15 of £832,732. The current funding award was due to run until March 2015, however Arts Council England has recently announced that funding will be extended to March 2016 without the need for a new application. The amount of funding is unknown at present but it is likely to be in line with previous annual awards. The County Council's 2014/15 contribution to Music Hub activity is £280,000 and is used to support

a wide range of programmes in three areas; Instrument and Music Teaching (IMT), County Youth Arts (CYA) and Nottinghamshire Performing Arts (NPA).

12. It is expected that the Hub will need to re-apply for funding post March 2016 and guidance from central Government and Arts Council England as to the bidding criteria is awaited.

Conclusion

13. Nottinghamshire receives very positive feedback from the Arts Council on the management and delivery of the music hub objectives and work programme. The County Council has a long tradition of support to music development, particularly with young people. The introduction of music hubs has facilitated the opportunity to work with new partners that share a common interest in music education and creative learning. There are undoubtedly a range of challenges for the Hub Programme Board to resolve in relation to maintaining levels of provision and standards against a backdrop of reducing overall resources.

Other Options Considered

14. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the progress of the Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub and the challenges related to meeting the outcomes required by the Department of Education in return for Music Hub funding be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

17. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 28/05/14)

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Music in Schools: what music hubs must do – HMI, November 2013

Outline Business Case B14 Cultural & Enrichment Services – Full Council on 27 February 2014

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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