

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	23rd October 2020	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	B&NES Music Service Hub	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 B&NES Music Service is part of the Education, Inclusion and Children's Safeguarding directorate. It employs approx. 54 staff the majority of whom are part time Peripatetic Instrument & Vocal Tutors. The Service works with approx. 2200 pupils and 66 of B&NES's 82 Secondary, Primary, Junior, Infant and Special Schools each year.

1.2 The Music Education Hub (MEH) in B&NES is a group of interested representatives from schools and musical organisation in B&NES. They are responsible for ensuring that the National Plan for Music Education (NPME) is delivered across the BANES area. The following link describes what a music education hub is expected to achieve.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/music-education/music-education-hubs#section-1>

1.3 The Music Service is the Lead Organisation for the (MEH) which attracts funding from Arts Council England (ACE) to deliver musical activities to ensure that every child has an opportunity to engage with music between the ages of 5 and 18.

1.4 In May 2019, ACE commissioned a review of the B&NES Music Service. This review was undertaken by A P Benson consultancy firm. The review made several recommendations on how the Arts Council grant is currently being used to deliver the MEH in B&NES and how the Music Service was being operated.

- 1.5 ACE has made it clear that the recommendations identified need to be addressed and the Service is required to produce an Improvement Plan (incl. timescales for implementation) that meets ACE requirements by the end of August 2020. This timescale has been impacted by COVID 19 and a new deadline is being agreed with ACE.
- 1.6 COVID 19 has had an impact on the progress of this work, as officer time has been diverted to ensure that the Service has been able to diversify and sustain service delivery during the lockdown. However, progress has been made.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the panel is made aware of the progress being made in delivering improvements to the Music Service and the MEH.
- 2.2 The panel is notified that ACE has commissioned a second report by AP Benson, to examine the progress the Music Service and the MEH is making to deliver the improvements identified in the first A P Benson report in May 2019.
- 2.3 The panel is also advised of the impact of COVID 19 on the Music Service and its response to ensure that music education was still available to children and young people during the lockdown.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Music Service employs 2 interim Co-Managers, a Business Manager and Administrative Officer and 48 peripatetic instrumental tutors who deliver a variety of music sessions throughout schools and in 4 music centres. Delivery includes 1 to 1 instrumental and vocal lessons, whole class instrumental and curriculum lessons, String Ensembles, Philharmonic Orchestra, Wind Bands, Guitar, Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet Ensembles, Percussion Groups, Big Band and Samba Ensemble as well as a County Choir. In the academic year 19-20, the Music Service delivered to 1300 students per week.
- 3.2 The core issues identified by the ACE review fundamentally concluded that the ARTS council grant was not being used effectively to deliver the outcomes expected for a MEH. That too much of the grant was being used to support the Music Service and that the service delivery model was not financially sustainable in the long term. It also concluded that the MEH itself needed to be empowered with more of the ACE grant to achieve the expectations of the NPME and have wider strategic impact and increased avenues of delivery.
- 3.3 Since October 2019, the Music Service and the MEH have been supported by Nick Howdle, Head of Wiltshire Music Connect. Nick has worked alongside the two Co-Managers to carry out a detailed analysis of the delivery of the MEH and the Music Service.
- 3.4 With support from Wiltshire MEH the Service has developed plans to free up time and funding to address some of the issues identified in the AP Benson report. These plans include attracting new stakeholders and delivery partners to broaden the music offer for the young people in the area. Examples of this include, Bath Philharmonic, Bath Festivals (and their inclusive music programme), A range of freelance businesses specialising in various forms of tuition, music styles, settings and inclusive approaches including Early Years

- 3.5 A redesign of the music service delivery model and a review of its processes have been completed to ensure that it will be more efficient in accounting for its use of finance. This activity is designed to free up a significant percentage of the ACE grant, both (time and finance) to enable the MEH's to expand scope for delivery and capacity to deliver the NPME and ensure that the music service is viable.
- 3.6 Working alongside Nick Howdle the Music Service has produced 4 reports (Dec '19, Jan '20, Apr '20 and Jun'20) with remodelled costings that demonstrate that a new Service model that can deliver financial and time efficiencies that will support the improvements needed to deliver an effective MEH.
- 3.7 The original objective was to pilot these new ways of working from September 2020 to demonstrate to ACE that the B&NES music service and the MEH were on a journey of improvement. These timescales have been impacted by COVID 19 and the A P Benson report is not yet completed. However, the current interim managers of the Music Service and Nick Howdle must be commended on the work they have achieved in a short amount of time.
- 3.8 As advised, ACE has now commissioned a new report by A P Benson to scrutinise these plans to see if they can work towards the improvements identified in their original report
- 3.9 When the report is completed, it is expected that it will make recommendations on the next steps for the MEH and Music Service in B&NES. These recommendations will require some consultation locally to agree on a future model that both satisfies local stakeholders and ACE.

COVID 19

- 3.10 COVID 19 initially had a significant impact on the music service's delivery. However, the managers of the Service quickly adapted and introduced a model of online music lessons to ensure that children and young people could continue to benefit from music education during the lockdown.
- 3.11 During the summer term, over 400 students registered for online tuition. Feedback from tutors and students has been overwhelmingly positive to the extent that online tuition has become part of the Music Service offer moving forwards.
- 3.12 The online platform not only enabled continuity of lessons (musical progression) but was seen to have a significant impact on the mental wellbeing of those students involved. New and impacting relationships between parents/carers and tutors have been unforeseen, but a very welcome benefit to the online portal.
- 3.13 The Music Service is now, like many music services across the country, working hard to try to restore full delivery of services safely in schools and communities. The Managers of the Service are working closely with their Health & Safety colleagues in B&NES to ensure that all activity is fully risk assessed, both for the safety of communities, pupils and Music Service staff.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 MEH's were set up in 2012 as part of the National Plan for Music Education. MEH's were designed to augment and support music teaching in schools (a guaranteed statutory requirement to the end of Key Stage 3) so that more children could experience a combination of classroom teaching, instrumental and vocal tuition and input from professional musicians, as set out by the Plan

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 This report is not requesting any resources or advising of any resourcing changes

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An EIA has not been completed for this report. However, a key focus for MEH's is to address equality and inclusion – extending opportunities to children and young people regardless of background or circumstance. Developing and improving the BANES MEH will require engagement with a wider range of providers, models and skills which can assist with achieving this. When decisions are made on the next steps for the MEH/Music Service, it will be necessary for an EIA to be completed to inform any future direction/decision.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 Due to COVID 19, the Service has had to find different ways of delivering music tuition. Some of this has resulted in lessons taking part online These have proved popular and effective for some families and young people. Whilst this will not replace face to face tuition, it will become part of the Service offer. As a result, the Service in some circumstances will be able to reduce its carbon footprint.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 No additional consultation outside of the Service area has been completed for this information report. However, additional consultation will be needed when the Service and the MEH start to implement any proposed future models of delivery.

Contact person	Chris Wilford – Director Education, Inclusion & Children’s Safeguarding
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	