

Schools Forum

September 2021

Application for Continuation of Music Funding £38,000 in 2022/23

Purpose of report

- To consider the work of Walsall Music Education Hub & Service in supporting Walsall schools and young people with music provision and opportunities.
- To consider continuing Schools Forum financial support for the Music Education Hub's activities at Walsall Arena and Arts Centre.

Recommendations

To approve £38,000 School Forum funding be granted to Walsall Music Education Hub & Service in 2022/23 in line with previous years.

Background

Over 5,000 pupils take part in weekly music tuition and ensemble activities in Walsall through Walsall Music Education Hub & Service's delivery programmes. Weekly after school opportunities provided at Music Centres for Choral, Vocal, Instrumental and Rock and Pop are firmly established.

The continued impact of financial and time pressures on schools, in combination with the shift in the musical, cultural and educational environments post-pandemic, mean that Walsall Music Education Hub & Service is well positioned to continue to provide outlets for young people to rehearse, participate and perform outside of traditional school hours and settings.

This additionality enriches and enhances the musical opportunities for Walsall's children and young people and enables further progression by bringing together young people from a variety of schools and other educational settings, to work collaboratively on music which may be limited within the constraints of individual schools.

Open-access programmes for music beyond the school setting enable Walsall's young people to engage in activities for extended periods of time, to fully develop their potential and, if appropriate, embark on vocational and continuation pathways into the creative industries and Higher Education.

Guided by Department for Education (DfE), Arts Council England (ACE), Headteachers, Hub advisory group and other stakeholders, Walsall Music Education Hub & Service has

developed a framework to support Walsall schools in maximising the impact of music, within a broad and balanced curriculum and the National Plan for Music Education, both in and outside the school. This plan helps schools identify and provide essential additional support for their children's musical needs.

Walsall schools have traditionally been recognised for high levels of musical engagement. This is testament to the cohesive bonds of the deeply embedded partnership arrangements that have existed for many years and have enabled the Hub to continue to offer, stabilise and enhance the musical opportunities for Walsall's children and young people during the unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Proposal

Schools Forum to continue to work in partnership with Walsall Music Education Hub & Service to provide essential resources and support to Walsall schools and young people for their musical education.

Financial Implications/Value for Money

The continued below-inflation increments of DfE/ACE grant funding combined with increases in essential costs and very limited direct streams of local government funding, place increasing year-on-year pressure on the economy of scale required to sustain the core functionality and maintain a diverse portfolio.

In 2022/23 the music grant level will remain approximately the same in real terms. However, the National Plan for Music Education brief continues to expand to include pre-school, early years, health & wellbeing agendas and post 18. This puts increased pressure on the Hub to find funding to maintain the additionality that is currently provided. Individually, schools are under great economic pressure to provide the full breadth of educational provision. The School Forum funding ensures Walsall's children and young people to have enhanced & enriched access to music education.

The proposed 2022/2023 revenue budget for Music is:

Walsall Music Education Hub & Service	
Budget 2022/23	
Income	
<i>Schools Forum support?</i>	38,000
Income from schools	276,000
Income Concerts & Performances	10,000
ACE DfE Grant	481,418
Other earned /Generated Income	20,000
Other income	10,000
Total Income	835,418

A £38,000 contribution (~4.5% of Music Hub's budget) levers access to the broad spectrum of opportunities and schemes which normally would not be available within core portfolio due to financial constraints. All Walsall schools and young people have access to this service. The contribution of £38,000 equates to just ~73.5p¹ per child per annum but collectively unlocks access to all the activities and services listed.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

School Improvement

Walsall Music Education Hub & Service provides a range of opportunities and initiatives for Walsall children, young people and schools which are made possible by the provision of resourcing from Schools Forum.

These include:

- **Music Centres**

Walsall Music Education Hub & Service continues to provide after school activities at the Walsall Arena and Arts Centre to facilitate opportunities for ensembles, bands, choirs and orchestras which might otherwise be unavailable in schools. The provision of borough wide after school Music Centres enable young people to develop group skills and play alongside their peers. Increased pressure within schools for time and resources means this outlet for musical development is becoming increasingly important for Walsall's young people.

- Open-access evening Music Centres throughout the school year for Choral, Vocal, Instrumental and Rock and Pop.
- Specialist provision for SEND, LAC, Virtual School students to include large-scale events and workshops.
- Continuation pathways for Vocal, Instrumental and Rock & Pop.
- Ensemble opportunities for orchestras, bands, percussion ensembles, choirs, music theatre, rock and pop academy, world music, music and dance companies, and bespoke projects.
- Use of a variety of rehearsal spaces, three auditoria as performance spaces, to include the Walsall Arena and a digital recording studio at Walsall Arena and Arts Centre.
- Opportunities to perform in different venues in the local community and the West Midlands region.

¹ Based on school census data (May 2017)

- **Large Scale Ensemble Events**

Walsall Arena and Arts Centre provide use of all three of its large performance spaces for the Music Hub to organise and stage large-scale music events including:

- Primary schools massed Choir, a seasonal themed run of show style performances in the Walsall A3 Arena and online streamed presentations
- Junior and Infant Singing Festivals
- Orchestra of the Swan (OTTS), a 'big orchestra' event for upper KS2, KS3, 4 and 5
- Big Sing, a secondary focused vocal event in partnership with MusE
- Music Centre Concerts - 15 annual concerts spread through the year for Choral, Vocal, Instrumental & Rock n Pop Music Centres
- Aspiring Musicians of Walsall (AMOW), a competition event for individual vocalists and instrumentalists
- Music Mash Up, a transition and leadership event for primary and secondary students
- Summer Fest, the SEND school's annual music festival

- **Virtual/ Digital/ remote learning (COVID-19)**

The Walsall Music Education Hub & Service continues to develop, incorporate and enhance the following digital learning mechanisms and resources first introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Virtual centralised Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles
- Digital resource gateway
- Asynchronous digital learning
- Music Centre-based remote synchronous learning
- School-based remote synchronous learning, adopting individual school's preferred delivery platform
- Online instrument focused tutorials
- Generic virtual music education resources via the Hub's website
- Targeted tutorials/ lessons via the Hub's YouTube channel
- Virtual *Live Music*, a remote alternative to the summer term *Live Music* programme for schools performed by professional musicians

- **Projects**

Walsall Music Education Hub & Service organises and arranges the following projects:

- Live Music, a school-based project performed by professional musicians
- World Music, class projects to discover & explore South American Samba, Caribbean Steel Pans, African djembe drumming and Indonesian Gamelan
- Welsh National Opera, collaborative projects with *Welsh National Opera* to create and perform opera
- Orchestra of the Swan (OOTS), professionally supported large ensemble using *BBC 10 Pieces*

- Royal Opera House, a scholarship and bursary opportunities for students across Walsall in partnership with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Early Hurly Burly, a regional pre-school and early years project
- Collaborative projects in partnership with the other West Midlands Music Education Hubs, such as *Sing!* a regional project performed at Symphony Hall
- Access to Music, a new Virtual School Project to commence in September 2021 to offer every Y4 LAC a direct musical learning opportunity on an instrument of their choice
- NAG Composition project, a new initiative to engage KS2, 3, 4 & 5 students with Musical composition using visual art stimuli, in association with Walsall's New Art Gallery

- **Partnerships**

The Music Education Hub has active and collaborative working arrangements with the following:

- University of Wolverhampton
- Black Country Music Education Hubs
- West Midlands Music Education Hubs
- Walsall Council
- Walsall Virtual School
- Black Country Dance Hub
- Charanga, online learning resource and ongoing CPD for schools
- Rainbow Rhyme, early years music education specialists
- BC Music, SEND music education specialist
- Orchestra of the Swan (OOTS)
- Welsh National Opera
- Exam boards – ABRSM, Trinity, London College of Music, Rock School
- Flexus Dance Company
- Early Hurly Burly
- Summers Song Ltd

- **Music Educator Networks (*MusE* and *Mini MusE*)**

Walsall Music Education Hub, continues to develop the MusE network groups for Walsall music teachers from primary and secondary schools. We collaborate on an increasing number of events and CPD opportunities for staff linking Key Stages, aiding transition and development work across the sector. Some examples include:

- regular CPD within termly twilight meetings from resource sharing to specific strategies for Deep Dive assessment and Model Music Curriculum
- large-scale projects such as *Big Sing* and Orchestra of the Swan
- an ongoing "buddy" system to partner together music departments/schools/teachers
- improving joint working and mutual peer review
- moderation work for KS4
- annual curriculum conference opportunities
- termly Charanga training

- transition and pupil leadership events like “Music Mash Up”
- creation of partnership events like World Music Days
- collegiate support and open forum discussions
- networking

- **Charanga**

Walsall Music Education Hub & Service partners with Charanga, a digital music Education resources specialist, by subsidising the annual subscription for the *Musical School* support programme for Primary Schools.

This exciting Primary music scheme for the National Curriculum provides easy access to contemporary digital resources for music teachers and schools. It provides online music learning resources for young people at all year levels and at all stages of development.

The package includes planning, and whiteboard resources, plus free training and CPD based in schools and centrally at Walsall Arena and Arts Centre. The scheme is non-specialist friendly, completely inspection framework compliant and enables primary schools to have superb and easy-to-use music curriculum resources.

- **Music Mark**

WMEHS is a pro-active member of *Music Mark*, a nationally recognised organisation, advocating and lobbying on a national level to promote music and music education.

Walsall Music Education Hub & Service mediates and facilitates access to *Music Mark* school membership which is free to all Walsall schools (with all associated costs borne by the Walsall Music Education Hub & Service) and can only be accessed through engagement with the Music Hub.

Music Mark Award is available to schools which appreciate the value of music education as part of a broad, balanced and relevant school curriculum and demonstrates a willingness to engage in the development conversations at a national level related to improving music provision for all children and young people.

Members eligible to vote

All