



Walsall Council

Walsall Children's Services

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 6th November 2012

Subject: Music Service

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Purpose of the report: This report updates Schools Forum after further information has been received from Department for Education (DfE) and Education Funding Agency (EFA)

Recommendations: See final section of report

1. Background

- 1.1 Schools Forum has received information around the de-delegation process. Walsall Schools Forum has followed the de-delegation process as described in the DfE guidance.
- 1.2 For the past 3 years an amount of money has been allowed by Schools Forum to be paid to the Music Service. From DfE guidance this would have been outside the de-delegation process.
- 1.3 After further discussion with DfE then due to the nature of the funding provided to Music Service then this could still be de-delegated. This report outlines a process where this could be considered and ensures that schools have appropriate time to make a decision.

2. Music Service

- 2.1 **Appendix 1** is a note which supplies the financial background to the Music Service, what the funds are used for and further detail.

3. Process

- 3.1 Maintained secondary schools need to make a decision whether they would like to de-delegate the proportion of funding back to the Music Service or keep it. It is proposed that secondary schools can make a decision on this on 4 December with other de-delegation items.
- 3.2 Maintained primary schools can either make a decision tonight (6 November) or can take this item back to Primary Forum and consider on 4 December.
- 3.3 There is also the opportunity to ask for further information.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Schools Forum to note it is possible to de-delegate the Music Service
- 4.2 Maintained secondary schools to note a further de-delegation decision will be required for 4 December 2012
- 4.3 Maintained primary schools to note a further de-delegation decision will be required and made as required.

Report to Schools Forum Funding of Music Support Services provided by Forest Arts Music Hub

Walsall Council's Special Cabinet of 16 July 2010 put forward a saving to Education by a reduction in music services to schools of £22,107 in 2010/11 and £44,213 in 2011/12.

Council recognised that

- Implication for schools and young people was either a potential significant increase in charge and/or a potential significant reduction in service.
- Potential impact (redundancy) on music support teachers in 2011/12 if alternate funding could not be found.

Schools Forum recognised the seriousness of this situation within the context of Walsall's socio-economic profile and provided £38,000 for 2011/12 and the same for 2012/13.

This report sets out the case for this funding continuing.

The resource provided by Schools Forum is a vital element to sustain music support service provision in the context of ongoing local authority cuts and diminishing grant from central government. It is not, as yet, possible to quantify the scale and scope of budget reductions from 2014 onwards, although there are strong indications of continuing budget pressures from Walsall Council.

Forest Arts – Historical Budget Reductions	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Reductions in Council Budget (inc Educ.)	152,914	101,273	191,363	1,845	447,395
Reductions in External Grant	0	2,765	84,865	76,347	163,977
Total Cuts	152,914	104,038	276,228	78,192	611,372

Forest Arts - Potential Budget Reductions	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
Proposed reductions in Council budget	22,248	TBC	TBC	TBC	22,248
Reductions in External Grant	137,425	185,190	TBC	TBC	322,615
Total Savings (known to date)	159,673	185,190	TBC	TBC	344,863

The provision of central music services to schools from Forest Arts is dependent upon four component sources of funding: Schools partnerships, Walsall Council, Arts Council England, Schools Forum.

The support provided by Schools Forum is not used for any back-office, premises or non-teaching staff costs. All financial support from Schools Forum goes directly into frontline music education activities for schools and Walsall young people.

The support from Schools Forum is used for teaching delivery of large scale extension music activities beyond the classroom, along with evening and weekend learning opportunities. This enables large numbers of Walsall young people to engage in festivals, workshops, large rehearsal / performance groups (instrumental, choral, music theatre, etc) and special projects which reinforce creativity and aspiration in the learning process. The extensive programme stems from the excellent work in schools and provides additional activities and specialist learning opportunities to enrich music education pathways. In many cases schools would be unable to individually provide the operational delivery, diversity and specialism of many genres.

The additional Schools Forum provision is a lifeline for all young people who wish to pursue their interest in music and the arts, particularly those from disadvantaged or challenging circumstances.

As can be seen from the above forecast of savings against Forest Arts, the next few years are going to be extremely challenging for the sustainability of accessible and inclusive support mechanisms for music making.

We would request that Schools Forum continues to provide resource to support a wide spectrum of extension opportunities to engage and reflect the needs of young people in Walsall schools.

Medium term planning stability for the music delivery would follow if the Forum was able to support the service until 2016/17.

It is already recognised by Arts Council England and Youth Music that certain areas of the country will become “cold spots” for music and arts activities owing to local socio-economic environs. The support from Schools Forum makes a significant contribution to the economy of scale for music-making that is vital to high quality extra-curriculum engagement in Walsall.

For information the 2012/13 budget is as follows:

Forest Arts	
Forest Arts provides a programme of music education & arts services in partnership with schools	
	2012/13
	£
Music Team Pay	785,777
Music Team Sup.	116,387
Music Team NI	63,969
Music Team Travel	39,671
Music Team Payroll	1,005,804
Arts Team Pay	311,239
Arts Team Sup.	55,625
Arts Team NI	23,734
Arts Team Payroll	390,598
Total Staff Cost	1,396,402
Professional Musicians, Artists Fees & Services	52,086
Premises	51,330
Equipment, Materials, Instruments	7,313
Licences, Communications, Print	4,942
Total Operational Costs	115,671
Total Expenditure	1,512,073
Funded by :	
Arts Council Music Grant	-687,123
Walsall Council	-434,272
Schools Partnership Income	-352,678
Schools Forum Support	-38,000
Total Income	-1,512,073