

Schools Forum

Tuesday 19th September 2017

Application for Continuation of Music Funding 2018/19

1. Purpose of report

To consider the work of Forest Arts Centre & Music Education Hub in supporting Walsall Schools and young people with music provision and opportunities.

- 1.1 To consider continuing Schools Forum financial support for Forest Arts Centre.

2. Recommendations

To approve £38,000 School Forum funding be granted to Forest Arts Centre in 2018/19 in line with previous years.

3. Background

Over 5,000 pupils receive weekly music tuition in Walsall through Forest Arts Service peripatetic programme. Weekly after school opportunities provided at the centre during term time and the provision of holiday and half term arts activities are also firmly established.

The continual impact of financial and time pressures on schools means that Forest Arts is increasingly providing outlets for young people to rehearse, participate and perform outside of traditional school hours. This additionality allows progression by bringing together young people from a variety of schools to work collaboratively on music which may be limited within the constraints of individual schools.

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

Guided by the Music Hub Headteachers & Stakeholders Group, Forest Arts developed a framework, Walsall School Music Education Plan, to support schools in maximising the impact of music, within a broad and balanced curriculum, 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 embedded partnership arrangements that exist and have been in place for many years.

4. Proposal

Schools Forum to continue to work in partnership with Forest Arts Centre to provide additional resources and support to Walsall Schools and young people for their musical education.

5. **Financial implications/Value for Money**

Previous submissions to Schools Forum identified the impact on schools due to the drop in grant for Music education. Incremental reduction in government and local authority funding places pressure on the economy of scale required to sustain core functionality and maintain the diverse portfolio.

The 2018/2019 revenue budget for Music is:

| Forest Arts Music Education Budget | 2018/19 |
|---|----------------|
| Music Education Support Services | 794,165 |
| Gross Music Expenditure | 794,165 |
| Arts Council Grant (tbc) | 465,665 |
| Schools SLA Income (tbc) | 290,500 |
| Total Music Income | 756,165 |
| Net Potential Shortfall | 38,000 |
| Schools Forum - Previous Funding | 38,000 |
| Shortfall (Less Schools Forum support tbc) | 0 |

A £38,000 contribution (5% of music service 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 73p per school age child per annum but collectively unlocks access to all the activities and services listed.

6. **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications.

7. **School Improvement**

Forest Arts Service provides a range of opportunities and initiatives to young people and schools which are only made possible by the provision of resourcing from Schools Forum. These include:

- **Music Centres**

Forest Arts continues to provide after school activities in music 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 thousands of Walsall young people.

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- Open access evening Music Centres every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the school year.
- Half-term and Summer Holiday music projects and workshops.
- Ensemble opportunities for orchestras, bands, percussion ensembles, choirs, music theatre companies, rock & pop academy, world music, music & dance companies, and bespoke projects.
- Use of rehearsal rooms, performance auditoria including the A3 arena and a recording studio.

- **Secondary MusE**

The Secondary music agenda has been greatly enriched by Forest Arts development and progression of *MusE*. This collegiate group of Walsall Secondary Music Teachers work collaboratively with Forest Arts to strengthen the role and provide advocacy for music within school life. MusE's collaborative initiative through Forest Arts has been recognised by Secondary Headteachers as a powerful exemplar of subject specific support, challenge and development.

Forest Arts / MusE's initiatives include:

- Regular CPD,
- Large-scale projects such as Big Sing and the Big Orchestra
- A "buddy" system to partner together music departments
- Improving joint working and mutual peer review
- Development of exemplar assessment frameworks for KS 3/4

- **Primary MusE**

Forest Arts have extended the MusE support mechanisms to Walsall Primary Schools, through the creation of the MusE-Primary network. This collegiate body of Primary and Special School music works the same as the original MusE.

Forest Arts / Primary MusE's initiatives include:

- A forum for CPD
- Charanga training
- Subject advocacy
- Transition events (e.g. Black History Meets Rock School)
- A programme of large-scale projects, workshops and festivals.

- **Charanga**

Forest Arts partners with Charanga (a digital music education resources specialist) on the delivery of a 1 year *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 at Forest 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**

Forest Arts Music Hub has been given the status and remit to award *Music Mark*. *Music Mark* status is a nationally recognised benchmark 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 related to improving music provision for all children and young people. *Music Mark* status will be free to Walsall schools (with all associated costs borne by the Forest Arts Music Hub) and can only be awarded through the Forest Arts Music Hub.

Members eligible to vote

All