

## SCHOOL FORUM REPORT 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2013

### FOREST ARTS MUSIC SERVICE (Walsall Music Hub)

- 1) Please reference, as necessary, the two previous reports submitted to Schools Forum.
- 2) Walsall Primary schools continue to have mutuality with Forest Arts Music Hub through the “Wider Opportunities” agendas, which all Primary schools can access. The Secondary music agenda has been greatly enriched by Forest Arts facilitating *MusE*, the collegiate group of all Walsall Secondary Music Teachers working in collaboration with the Music Hub. This initiative has been recognised by Headteachers as a powerful exemplar of subject specific support, challenge and development; both anticipating and addressing recommendations in the recent Ofsted report for Music.

The retention of Music Hub status for Walsall is predicated on regular statistical report back to DfE regarding the levels of music education achievement for all schools. Forest Arts Service has been praised for the management of the data trawl system, and Walsall schools have been recognised for their high levels of musical engagement. This is testament to the embedded partnership arrangements that presently exist and have been in place for many years. These positive arrangements will be further *road-tested* by the implications of the Ofsted report “Music in Schools: What Hubs Must Do”.

Statistical Headliners include:

- 8,874 pupils receive weekly music tuition through Forest Arts Service
  - There are 296 regular ensembles across Walsall providing choral and instrumental rehearsal and performance opportunities for at least 5,100 young people.
  - 3,105 primary pupils receive first access whole-class teaching support, of which 1,647 elect to continue in *pathway* groups. This represents a continuation of 53%, which is in the highest quartile nationally.
  - Forest Arts provides evening Music Centres on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the school year, with additional opportunities during the Summer Holiday.
  - 2,161 pupils achieved exam success in grades 1-8 (NQF Levels 1-3) during 2012/13
  - Inclusion for all young people who wish to participate in music remains a key driver and significant numbers of pupils with socio economic challenges, SEN and vulnerable pupils receive support to include bespoke provision.
- 3) The previous submissions to Schools Forum have identified the drop in the Arts Council (ACE) grant, with the final step reduction being effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

ACE Grant 2012/2013 £687,123

ACE Grant 2013/2014 £549,698

ACE Grant 2014/2015 £364,508

<b>Forest Arts - Budget Reductions</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>Total</b>
Reductions in Council Budget	152,914	101,273	191,363	1,845	0	0	<b>447,395</b>
Reductions in External Grant	0	2,765	84,865	76,347	137,425	185,190	<b>486,592</b>
<b>Total Budget Reductions</b>	<b>152,914</b>	<b>104,038</b>	<b>276,228</b>	<b>78,192</b>	<b>137,425</b>	<b>185,190</b>	<b>933,987</b>

The incremental reduction in government funding places further pressure on the required economy of scale which enables the Music Team to sustain core functionality and maintain the diverse portfolio of school delivery services. The ramification for not securing support funding from Schools Forum adds additional strain to the potential budget shortfall arising from these external grant reductions.

4) The 2014/2015 revenue budget sheet for Music is:

<b>Forest Arts Music Education Budget</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Pay	733,000
NI	58,000
Pension	101,000
Travel	37,000
Instruments/Materials/I.T.	11,000
<b>Gross Music Expenditure</b>	<b>940,000</b>
<b>Service Reduction (Resulting from ACE)</b>	<b>-185,190</b>
<b>Revised Music Expenditure</b>	<b>754,810</b>
Arts Council Grant	364,508
Schools SLA Income (tbc)	350,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>714,508</b>
<b>Net Expenditure (Shortfall)</b>	<b>40,302</b>
<b>Schools Forum (tbc) - Previous Funding</b>	<b>38,000</b>

5) Forest Arts Service requests a continuation of support funding from Schools Forum, this would lessen the impact of the reduced government grant. There will be the need for ongoing remodelling of the music delivery to come within budget and still safeguard the broad curriculum portfolio and access to music for young people in Walsall. The mechanisms for additional efficiencies are still under assessment and planning.

If approved, School Forum funding would be utilised to support quality music provision and ensure adequate instrumentation is available in diverse forms for the benefit of young people in Walsall.