

# TRANSITION TO MUSIC EDUCATION HUB AT FOREST ARTS: 2012-2015

## Contextual Information for Schools Forum – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012

- The government published the National Plan for Music Education (The Importance of Music) on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011, setting out its vision for music education until 2020.
- The government is committed to supporting music making through a new delivery structure: *Music Education Hubs*. These hold a unique coordinating role within the education and arts sectors, bringing together and working through a wider range of delivery partners and providers.
- The core aims, delivered through Hubs are for **all** young people to have first access to music through whole class instrumental learning opportunities together with progressive ensemble opportunities and accessible pathways in all genres.
- Direct funding to Music Services ceases on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.
- Music Education Hubs will be commissioned nationally from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to build delivery models founded upon the existing core provision of music support established by the current traditional networks of instrumental services.
- The government has announced the national level of medium term funding for the new Music Hubs: £75M 2012/13, £63M 2013/14, £58M 2014/15.
- *Hubs* will be based upon geographical areas (local authorities) and grant allocations will be pupil-formula funded.
- **Walsall area allocated Hub grant funding levels are:**

SF Grant	2010/11	£848,335
MEG	2011/12	£763,470*
Hub	2012/13	£687,123*
Hub	2013/14	£549,698*
Hub	2014/15	£364,508

\*There has been 'stepped' protection applied from 2011/12 to enable the transition to the formula provision as at 2014/15.

- Music Education Hub status and funding will be awarded following a competitive bidding process supervised by Arts Council England (ACE). Submissions were made for a deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 with announcement of successful bids expected in May 2012.
- Forest Arts is in a strong position within Walsall to make a successful bid to ACE as the Lead Organisation for Hub status and has already submitted a formal application which includes established strategic working arrangements with some high profile regional partners.
- In order to reflect the dynamic objectives of the National Plan for Music Education, it is important that the Walsall Hub delivery model should enable :
  - 1) the individual needs of schools to be engineered into the Hub portfolio/delivery and music support service profile

2) specialist/music educators to respond to change and diversity of cultural agendas and curriculum initiatives

3) schools' music support needs to be commissioned through Service Level Agreements that facilitate ease and equality of access to an enriching music environment and best value

The intended model gives flexibility to fully assess the emergent needs and agendas of schools, with the ability to respond successfully in a cost-efficient way. Such individual school commissioned provision is perceived as being a core strategy within the National Plan to facilitate broadest access for young people, including those who have different needs to current mainstream specialisms. This adaptable structure also puts us in a strong position for future bids to a wide range of arts funding organisations.

- The initial core Music Hub delivery structure proposal to take effect September 2012 is for 4 *commissioning music co-ordinators* to take responsibility for addressing/accessing the music delivery needs of allocated schools, following briefing from Headteachers; and a delivery support team of *music educators* on variable hours contracts. The full operational methodology for the proposed music commissioning process may require a transitional period of approximately 12 months.
- Under the government's published schedule the new Hub arrangements should be implemented in September 2012 and it must remain our aim to minimise dislocation to Walsall schools and their annual academic year timetable arrangements.
- Walsall Schools Forum has played an important role in supporting the music service. This direct support was first made after Walsall Council Special Cabinet of 16 July 2010 put forward a saving to Education by reduction in music services to schools (£44,213 in 2011/12 onwards).
- In 2011/12 Schools Forum provided £38,000 which went into support for a high quality music teaching team to support Walsall schools and sustain access for young people to a quality music environment.
- It is acknowledged that the Music Team within Forest Arts is a valuable and highly specialist music education resource that seeks to reflect Walsall Schools diverse curriculum needs and is a collective asset to the schools' community; however, to remain viable and maintain a critical mass of expertise this service will require income streams that enable a sustainable economy of scale.
- It has not, as yet, been established if Schools Forum would be able to continue to support music through the proposed new Music Hub. Support could be a single year, to assist transition, or medium term in line with confirmed government funding.
- Continuing support by the Forum would help reduce the impact of government cuts on the music service and maintain accessibility to the quality and breadth of music education support.
- Financial support from Schools Forum goes directly to frontline delivery and is not top-sliced for any back-office costs.
- The following budget has been prepared without the inclusion of any Forum support to demonstrate the full impact of changes in government funding to music :

## Hub staffing budget including calculation of required reduction in music payroll :

### Walsall Music Hub Staffing Budget

	2012/13	2013/2014	2014/2015
Music Education Team	773,123	644,983	471,320
Outreach Travel	41,000	33,620	24,026
<b>Staff Costs (A)</b>	<b>814,123</b>	<b>678,603</b>	<b>495,346</b>
Hub Partners Commissioning	133,000	134,995	137,020
<b>Total Forecast Expenditure</b>	<b>947,123</b>	<b>813,598</b>	<b>632,366</b>
ACE Music Hub Grant	687,123	549,698	364,508
Partnerships	260,000	263,900	267,858
<b>Total Forecast Income*</b>	<b>947,123</b>	<b>813,598</b>	<b>632,366</b>

Music Education Team Payroll 2011/12 (B) = £991,193

2012/13 Payroll Saving Required (B - A)	177,070
2013/14 Payroll Saving*	128,140
2014/15 Payroll Saving*	173,663
<b>Potential Reduction in Music over 3 Years</b>	<b>478,873</b>

*\*Please note we anticipate that by developing new income/grant streams our aggregate income line may be higher than the totals indicated above and this could be reflected in teaching staffing and contract levels.*

### It is envisaged that the Hub will be tasked with the following objectives:

Core roles:

1. Ensure that every young person (5-18) has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument through a first access ensemble teaching programme based on weekly tuition.
2. Provide a range of opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early age.
3. Ensure that clear elective pathways/progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
4. Develop a singing strategy so that every pupil who wishes can sing regularly in choirs, and that other vocal ensembles are readily available in the area.

Extension roles:

1. Offer Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to school staff and partner organisations, with particular support for schools to deliver curriculum music.
2. Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes.
3. Provide information and access to large scale and/or high quality music experiences for pupils to include "sharing the stage" with professional musicians at high profile venues.

Mike Parrott 22nd March 2012