

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

MUSIC SERVICE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the current Instrumental Music Service provision, together with an overview of funding and the latest financial position, as requested at Overview and Scrutiny on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

**1. Music Service Provision**

- 1.1 The pattern of music tuition has changed over the last 5 years. In March 2005, most of the provision was undertaken in the traditional style, that is, one peripatetic teacher teaching an individual or small group. At this time, the number of pupils taught in the traditional sense was 3,270. The Music Service sold very little provision directly to schools and Wider Opportunities had not begun.

There are three key ways in which the Music Service acts as provider:

- i. Traditional provision: Direct individual or group tuition funded by parents/carers.
- ii. Pupils who attend ensembles and pay separately but who do not have Music Service tuition in their schools.
- iii. Wider Opportunities tuition: There are 1,500+ pupils undertaking tuition either under this national initiative or where the school pays the Music Service directly for regular instrumental tuition or the delivery of curriculum music in the school.

As of February 2010, the total number of pupils benefiting from the Music Service is approximately 3,900. This is an increase of 350 pupils on the previous year.

**2.0 Music Service Funding**

**2.1 Traditional provision: Direct individual or group tuition funded by parents.**

There are currently 2,357 pupils who undertake music tuition in this way. This is an increase from 2008-09 when 2,319 were taught in the traditional way. The fees, based upon 32 lessons a year are £252 pa (£7.88 per lesson).

The Council operates a policy of financial remissions for those pupils whose parents/ carers are on income support or family credit. For the academic year 2009-2010, 581 pupils qualify for free lessons. This is an increase of 51 pupils.

In addition 340 pupils qualify for half fees. This is an increase of just 1 on last year.

An extra charge of £31 is made to parents/carers who loan an instrument from the service. There are currently 1,163 instruments being loaned

- 2.2 **Pupils who attend ensembles and pay separately** but who do not have Music Service tuition in their schools. These pupils pay £118 per annum. Currently, there are 125 pupils who are in this category. Free attendance to music making activities is offered to those pupils who have tuition from music service teachers in schools

- 2.3 The service operates 3 music centres for children at the beginner stage and 7 ensembles at a more advanced stage. There is a 4<sup>th</sup> music centre, which is not run by the Music Service. (BeMu). This was set up in 2008 and is partly funded through the Music Service budget.

## Music Centres

- Deeside Music Centre (Pensby Boys School) – Saturday morning
- Wallasey Music Centre (Oldershaw School) – Saturday morning
- Sounds Central (Joseph Paxton) – Thursday evening
- BeMu (Wirral Grammar for Girls) – Saturday morning

## Senior and Intermediate ensembles

- Wirral Schools Brass Band
- Wirral Schools Big Band
- Wirral Schools Concert Band
- Wirral Schools Orchestra
- Wirral Schools String Orchestra
- Wirral Schools Intermediate Orchestra
- Wirral Schools Intermediate Wind Band

2.4 **Wider Opportunities tuition:** There are a further 1,500+ pupils undertaking tuition either under this national initiative or where the school pays the Music Service directly for regular instrumental tuition or the delivery of curriculum music in the school. This is an increase from 1,250 pupils in the previous year. The Music Service currently provides tuition in 109 of the boroughs primary, secondary and special schools. 47 schools at KS2 benefit from Wider Opportunity programmes. The programme is partly funded from Standards Fund Grant

2.5 **Capital Grant:** This year the service has benefited from a government capital grant of £64,800 for the purchase of instruments to support the KS2 initiative.

2.6 **Standards Fund Grant** £709,900

A ring-fenced Standards Fund Grant supports the music service. The grant aims are to increase participation and raise standards of pupil achievement in music. This is through opportunities at Key Stage 2 to learn a musical instrument and by maintaining and extending a broad access to music education provision.

2.7 **Staffing levels:** The service has a current staffing establishment of 43 full and part-time teachers paid on Teachers Conditions of Pay on the either the qualified or unqualified rate. The full-time equivalent is 28.83. Currently the service is employing 5 part-time teachers on supply, to cover three posts. These teachers are paid on a sessional hourly rate.

## 3 Financial Summary

The music service has an expenditure budget of £1.3m. This is funded from a combination of Standards Fund Grant, parental charges and other income described above. The budget for 2010-11 is shown below:

### Music Service Budget 2010-11

	£
Staff costs	1,134,100
Rents	32,200
Support costs	40,800
Other	95,200
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,302,300</b>
Standards Fund Grant	-709,900
Contribution from parents	-400,000
Other income including schools	-192,400
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-1,302,300</b>

In 2009-10 there is a projected budget overspend of £100,000. Although parental income will meet the budget target, there is a shortfall in income from schools. In addition staff costs will exceed the agreed budget, a result of current tuition requirements and sickness supply cover. The department continues to work to identify budget solutions that are sustainable in the longer term.

#### **4. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment**

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **5. Community Safety Implications**

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **6. Local Agenda 21 Implications**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **7. Planning Implications**

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **8. Anti-poverty Implications**

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **9. Social Inclusion Implications**

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **10. Local Member Support Implications**

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **11. Background Papers**

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That members note the report

**Howard Cooper**  
**Director of Children's Services**