

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

**REPORT OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**WIRRAL SCHOOLS' MUSIC SERVICE – WIRRAL MUSIC HUB**

---

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Wirral Schools' Music Service is currently funded in part by the DfE Music Education Grant. From August 2012, this grant will be managed by Arts Council England and any organisation interested in running a music education hub will be required to bid for the funding. This is an open competitive bidding process and funding for Local Authorities will not be guaranteed.

### **BACKGROUND**

Local authority music services have previously been funded via the DfE Music Education Grant, alongside contributions from Council and charges for instrumental tuition. As both the value of the grant and the contribution from Council have decreased, it has been necessary to look at new ways of working.

Following the review of music education conducted by Darren Henley, the DfE published *The Importance of Music: A National Plan for Music Education*. A key recommendation of this plan was the establishment of a network of music education hubs. Each hub will have a lead organisation who will receive funding from Arts Council England – this will replace the Music Education Grant.

### **MUSIC EDUCATION HUBS**

Music education hubs will consist of partnerships of organisations working together in a local area to create joined up, high quality music education provision for children and young people both in and out of school. Core and extension roles have been identified for each music hub, including the delivery of whole-class teaching programmes, access to ensembles, progression routes and opportunities for singing.

Following the recommendations of the Wirral Task Force, Wirral Schools' Music Service was restructured last year and already carries out a significant number of these roles. As part of the hub it will be working more closely with private providers, amateur ensembles, local businesses and nationally funded organisations to deliver co-ordinated, high quality music education services to our children and young people.

### **IMPACT ON WIRRAL SCHOOLS**

Schools will be key partners in the hub and will be invited to sit on the strategy board to direct the activity and priorities of the hub.

We fully expect that Wirral LA will run the Wirral Music Hub. However, schools should be aware that if the LA is not the lead organisation they may be required to work with a private organisation, and may see changes to the way services are delivered and to charges for music education services.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Forum notes the report.

**David Armstrong**  
**Acting Director of Children's Services**