

Decision Maker: Children and Young People Portfolio Holder

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children and Young People PDS Committee on 21 February 2012

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **CHANGES TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR MUSIC EDUCATION**

Contact Officer: Paul King, Head of Bromley Youth Support Programme
Tel: 020 8461 7572 E-mail: paul.king@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At their meeting of 3 May 2011, in the context of their annual review of the Bromley Youth Music Trust contract, Members were asked to note the introduction of a new DfE Music Grant and were advised of the DfE's intention to publish a National Plan for Music and to announce new arrangements for funding Music Education in future years (DCYP11062).
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the publication of the DfE's National Plan for Music and the introduction of new arrangements for funding Music Education. The report also provides an update on changes in the level of Council funding to be made available for the contract with the Bromley Youth Music Trust following the Executive's consideration of draft budget savings at their meeting on 1 February 2012.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny (CYP PDS) Committee are asked to consider the report and to:**
- (a) **note publication of the DfE's national Plan for Music and the introduction of new funding arrangements to support Music Education (para 3.3-3.8);**
 - (b) **note and endorse steps taken by the Council and BYMT to secure funding under the new arrangements (para 3.9-3.13);**
 - (c) **note the reduction in the BYMT contract fee for 2012/13 and 2013/14 as a contribution towards overall savings that the Council is required to make in the light of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review of November 2010 (para 3.14-3.15);**
 - (d) **note the activity being undertaken by BYMT to secure funding to offset the impact of reductions in the level of funding that the Trust receives from the Council (para 3.17).**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Standards and Achievement
 4. Total current budget for this head: £756,732
 5. Source of funding: Council (£394,490): DfE Music Grant (£362,242)
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): NA
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 9,000 children and young people
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

Changes to Central Government Funding for Music Education

- 3.1 At their meeting of 25 May 2011, the CYP PDS Committee was advised that for the financial year commencing 1 April 2012, Standards Funding for Music Services was to be replaced with a DfE Music Grant administered by the Federation of Music Services. The purpose of the funding is to continue to enable Local Authorities to provide or commission Music Education Services (DCYP11062). On the recommendation of the Director of CYP Services, Members approved that the DfE Music Grant allocation of £362,242 be passported to BYMT in addition to the Council Grant for 2011/12 of £394,470.
- 3.2 At the same meeting, Members were also advised that the DfE would be making an announcement later in the year regarding the publication of a National Plan for Music Education and new funding arrangements for future years.
- 3.3 On 25 November 2011, the DfE published the National Plan entitled “*The Importance of Music*”. The Plan’s ambition is to enable every child to have the chance to learn to play a musical instrument for at least a term and ideally for a year by transforming the way music is delivered to schools. This is part of the Government’s aim to ensure that all pupils have rich cultural opportunities alongside their academic and vocational studies. A copy of the National Plan will be available in the Members’ Room or can be found at <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-00086-2011.pdf> .
- 3.4 Features of the new national plan for music education include:
- A new national funding formula to make sure all parts of the country get fair funding for music on a per pupil basis, with a weighting for deprivation. There will be protection for areas that would otherwise have seen reductions of more than 10 per cent funding in 2012-13 and more than 20 per cent in 2013-14.
 - Funding of £77 million, £65 million and £60 million confirmed for the next three years. Most of this will go to music education hubs, which from 2012 will deliver music education in partnership, building on the work of existing local authority music services.
 - A new music teaching module will be developed for trainee primary teachers, to give them extra skills to teach music.
 - Continued funding of £500,000 per year to the National Youth Music Organisations fund, matched by the Arts Council England currently via Youth Music.
 - Continued support for the internationally recognised Music and Dance Scheme – which provides money for exceptionally gifted young people to attend the highly specialist music and dance schools.
- 3.5 From August 2012, music education hubs will be funded to bring together local authorities and local music organisations, like orchestras, choirs and other music groups. They will work in partnership to make sure every child has a high-quality music education, including the opportunity to learn to sing, to play an instrument and to play music with others. The hubs will be fully operational from September 2012.

3.6 Funding allocations, set out at Local Authority area level and covering the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015 have been announced alongside the National Plan. Allocations have been based on a national funding formula which will distribute funds by local authority area on a per-pupil basis, with a weighting for deprivation (based on free school meals). By 2014-15 the historical imbalance in funding between areas will have been turned around, with protection preventing large losses in any one area in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Bromley's allocation for the period is:

2012/13	£417,359
2013/14	£360,094
2014/15	£366,321

3.7 From 1 August 2012 funding will be routed to the new music education hubs following an open application process. Funding starts from 1 August 2012 rather than 1 September 2012 to enable set up to take place. Funds covering 1 August 2012-31 March 2013 will represent two-thirds of funds available in the 2012-13 financial year. Subsequent funding will be on a financial year basis, and grants to hubs will extend to 31 March 2015. DfE funding to hubs is to be used primarily on the core hub roles (see paragraph 3.10) in the context of delivery to children aged 5-18 in all state funded schools, including academies and free schools. Provided that the core roles are being met, DfE funding can also be used on extension roles and other innovations that respond to local need. Funding to hubs does not replace funds allocated to schools to deliver the music curriculum, although hubs may provide services/teachers to schools on a chargeable basis.

3.8 Funding for 1 April 2012 – 31 July 2012, representing one-third of funds available in financial year 2012-13, will be made to current providers (largely existing local authority music services) for an interim period, before hubs are in place. The Federation of Music Services will allocate this funding and will publish details separately.

3.9 The Department has asked the Arts Council for England to run the application and approval process for the new music education hubs. Applications will need to demonstrate how they will deliver at least the core roles, which are to:

- ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term) of weekly tuition on the same instrument;
- provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage;
- ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people;
- develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

It is also expected that many hubs will be able to carry out extension roles, alongside the core roles. These extension roles will include some or all of the following:

- (a) Offer Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- (b) Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes.
- (c) Provide access to large scale and/or high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues. This may include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.

- 3.10 Guidance from the DfE is clear that the Department's expectation is that the new Music Education Hubs will be based on the work of existing local authority music education service. As the provider of Bromley's music education service, Bromley Youth Music Trust has agreed to act as the lead partner in the Bromley Music Hub. This role fulfils the expectation within the current specification for the Bromley Music Education Service that the Trust will provide strategic leadership for the development of music education in Bromley.
- 3.11 With the support of CYP officers, the Trust has formed a Music Education Partnership Group to provide multi-agency expertise and challenge to the development and subsequent operation of the Hub. The Music Education Partnership Group now also forms one of the sub-committees of the BYMT Governing Board.
- 3.12 BYMT, with the support of the Music Education Partnership Group and with practical support from the Council's BYMT liaison officer (Head of Bromley Youth Support Programme), has agreed to act as lead partner in the application to the Arts Council for Music Hub Funding.
- 3.13 The application process opened on 25 November 2011 and will close on 17 February 2012. The outcome of the process will be advised by late April 2012.

Changes to the Level of Council Funding

- 3.14 Although music is part of the National Curriculum, the provision of a Music Education Service is discretionary and subject to review as necessary. When approving the continuation of the contract with BYMT in May 2010, the Executive did so on the basis that it would review the level of funding available to the contract should there be significant change in Local Government funding. At the Council's meeting of 28 February 2011, the Council took the decision to make a reduction to the contract fee of £40k to be achieved by 2012/13 as a contribution towards overall savings that the Council is required to make in the light of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review of November 2010.
- 3.15 At their meeting of 1 February 2012, the Executive recommended to the Council a further reduction to contract with BYMT to be achieved as follows:

2012/13	£20k
2013/14	£40k

At the same meeting, the Executive also recommended that further work be undertaken to achieve savings in the BYMT Grant over the next two years.

The reduction is to be ratified by the next meeting of the Council.

- 3.16 In view of these changes in the level of Council funding, a review of the level of service provided under the current service specification will be initiated. Progress with the review will be reported in the context of the next annual review of the BYMT contract which is scheduled for the Spring 2012 meeting of CYP PDS Committee.

The Future Plans of BYMT Reflecting the Economic Constraints

- 3.17 With the support of CYP officers, the BYMT is implementing the following funding strategy to mitigate against the impact of changes in the level of Council funding.
- Individual lesson fees (currently £28.20 per hour) will be increased above inflation. Increases to fees for first year of tuition are to be kept at a lower 'introductory' level.
 - Fees for Saturday morning (bands and orchestras) activities, fees have been raised by 33% in preparation for next year and are subject to further review.

- Evening group fees are to increase above inflation. Fees for beginner groups will remain at a lower introductory level.
- For lesson frees and group membership fees, consideration is being given to a scale of prices where a family has more than one child learning.
- Consideration is being given to increasing prices for out-of-borough customers, but with regard to ensuring that increased fees relative to in-borough do not act as a disincentive to take up from a potentially expanding market.
- Concert hire costs will reduce as a result of the relocation of concert events to Langley Park School for Boys.
- Equipment transport costs to and from concerts will be lower as all equipment will be available at the new concert hall.
- Concert ticket prices will be increased above inflation, justified by the high quality of the new concert hall with its much better facilities and sightlines. Consideration is being given to introducing a family ticket to provide a discount for families with more than one child.
- The Trust is working to develop its paying audiences, especially for the most advanced groups such as BYSO, BYCO and BYCB.
- The Trust has an active Fundraising Committee, which includes Jacqui Lait in its membership and is introducing an Alumni Group called The Network.
- Fees paid by schools for BYMT's Primary Schools Adviser have been increased this year above inflation and will be increased again similarly.
- Fees charged to schools will increase again above inflation.
- New income-generating group activities (including an adult orchestra) are being devised and implemented.
- Connections are being developed with out-of-borough schools currently including Coloma Convent School (Croydon), Crockenhill Primary (Kent) and Somerhill Preparatory Schools (near Tonbridge). The key objective is to recruit new pupils to BYMT groups.
- The Trust is working with the newly-established Music Education Partnership Group to identify additional sources of funding.
- In the longer term, the opportunity to sell into and share services with other boroughs will be developed to enhance the Trust's capacity to generate additional income to offset reductions in funding from the Council and from Central Government.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 BYMT contributes to the 'Building a Better Bromley' strategy for children and young people in that it helps to widen the curriculum and raise achievement of children and young people and, in conjunction with the Bromley Youth Support Programme, provides positive activities for young people.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In 2011/12 the Council's Grant to BYMT of £756,732 is made up of two elements: Council funding of £394,490 and DfE Music Grant of £362,242.
- 5.2 DfE has introduced new arrangements for funding Music Education (para 3.4-3.13) and has announced funding allocations set out at Local authority area level covering the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015.

2012/13	£417,359
2013/14	£360,094
2014/15	£366,321

The funding will be allocated to Local Authority areas through a process of application. With support from the Local Authority, the BYMT has agreed to act as lead partner in the application.

- 5.3 At the Council's meeting of 28 February 2011, the Council took the decision to make a reduction in the level of Council funding to BYMT of £40k to be achieved by 2012/13 as a contribution towards overall savings that the Council is required to make in the light of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review of November 2010.
- 5.4 At its meeting of 1 February 2012, the Executive recommended to the Council a further reduction in the level of Council funding to BYMT to be achieved as follows:

2012/13	£20k
2013/14	£40k

At the same meeting, the Executive recommended that further work be undertaken to achieve further savings over the next two years. The reduction is to be ratified by the next meeting of Council.

- 5.5 In view of these changes in the level of Council funding, a review of the level of service provided under the current service specification will be initiated.
- 5.6 Approximately 40% of the Trust's income is generated from parental fees and less than 10% from other sources including specific grants from other funding bodies.
- 5.7 As outlined in para 3.17, the Trust is implementing a strategy to mitigate against the impact of changes in the level of Council funding.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A music service, such as BYMT, is discretionary. As an educational service, when recontracted in 2007 there was no requirement on the Council to put the music service out to tender under EU Regulations, although the outcome was advertised as required in the appropriate journals. In addition, the relationship with Bromley Youth Music Trust is in the nature of a partnership rather than a commercial contract, although the latter does include necessary safeguards to ensure that the Council's interests are protected, and these will be reviewed as appropriate. Similarly, reductions in the funding from the Council or the DfE Music Grant arrangements will prompt a review of the service level provided under the current service specification.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	DCYP11062 Bromley Youth Music Trust Contract Review – 3 May 2011 DfE The Importance of Music – A National Plan for Music Education – Available in the Members' Room.