EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
5th July 2018

MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE: JULY 2018

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To receive, and comment upon, the contents of this report, pertaining to Carmarthenshire Music Service.

Reasons:

The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee have requested a briefing paper in relation to Carmarthenshire Music Service, its prospects and sustainability for the future. In addition, further developments for this area of provision are suggested for Members' consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: tbc

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	**Designations:**	**Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:**
Name of Head of Service: J. Aeron Rees	Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing	01267 246 532 JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 5th JULY 2018

MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE: JULY 2018

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The Education and Scrutiny Committee have requested an update report / briefing paper on the Music Service. This is timely, in lieu of current National discussions and introspection with respect to Music Services in Wales.

Carmarthenshire Music Service (CMS) is currently enjoying a very pleasing run of successes, with a growing profile – both nationally and internationally. CMS also has firm plans for future developments, which build upon recent achievements.

This ambition is in sharp contrast to certain funding and sustainability challenges – which CMS is proactively addressing. That said, additional policy decisions may be required to ensure that the Service's sustainability is categorically attainable towards the future.

The reports sets out:

- The National picture
- Recent and ongoing achievements of CMS
- A proactive approach by CMS to surmount challenges in pursuit of its vision
- The financial situation
- Next steps and concluding comments

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED	**YES**

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **J. Aeron Rees** **Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	**NONE**	**YES**	**NONE**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**

POLICY, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES

The Music Service is non-statutory. That said, its mission and educational objectives are dearly held within Carmarthenshire and National life.

Musical education, its niche in Expressive Arts and its cross curriculum links feature strongly in the New Curriculum for Wales, which is currently under development following the publication of the Successful Futures report (2015). The new curriculum will be available for comment by April 2019 and commence statutory implementation from September 2022 onwards.

Furthermore, there is some debate currently regarding a re-configuration of Music services throughout Wales. Various options are under consideration including:

- an option, being considered by the WG Music Services Consultation Group, to make it statutory for all local authorities in Wales to have a Music Service providing instrumental, vocal and curriculum music, made available for all schools.
- An arms-length National Body, with a distinct regional footprint has been recommended by the '*Taro'r Tant / Hitting the Right Note*' Report (launched 14.6.18) – authored by the National Assembly for Wales's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
- In evidence, and in contrast to this, the Cabinet Secretary stated 'on a number of occasions that she would not impose structures on local authority music services'.

FINANCE

The Music Service is almost wholly reliant on income harvested from school Service Level Agreements (SLAs). With school budgets under increasing pressure, there has been a decline in buy-back, which has undermined income generation. Steps have been taken to address the situation (see main report).

Pending further discussions, Elected Members may have a view on how CMS could be further supported and sustained.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a risk to the future of service delivery – both in terms of volume of learners, in terms of standards and the range of musical tuition offered. Certain cost-cutting decisions taken recently have challenged both volume and standards – a situation that CMS is keen not to repeat or perpetuate.

CMS has a strong brand, built upon elements of sector leading practice and high standards. Being LA–based, proposals to regionalise and nationalise provision risks standards being subject to the lowest common denominator, thus diluting quality of provision.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS
Cost cutting is a component of the evolving business model. Natural turnover to date has curbed the need to contemplate compulsory redundancies. The service needs to take account of service objectives and any potential changes to staffing should consider whether there is sufficient curriculum coverage and staff expertise to maintain breadth of provision. CMS peripatetic staff are currently on teachers' pay and conditions. Some authorities have moved to tutoring rates, but this has been resisted so far in Carmarthenshire, due to considerations pertaining to recruitment and a risk to standards.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:		
Signed:	**J. Aeron Rees**	**Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	**File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection**
Taro'r Tant / Hitting the right Note	http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s76454/Hitting%20the%20Right%20Note.pdf#search=Hitting%20the%20right%20note http://www.senedd.cynulliad.cymru/documents/s76454/Taror%20Tant.pdf#search=Taro%27r%20tant