

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6th June 2019

MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE: MAY/JUNE 2019

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.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: No

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**

6th JUNE 2019

MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE: MAY/JUNE 2019

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) has been 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 has been in sharp contrast to certain funding and sustainability challenges – which CMS is proactively addressing.

The reports sets out:

- The National picture and Carmarthenshire's approach to developments
- Recent and ongoing achievements of CMS
- Future Plans
- Financial Situation and measures to ensure better financial stability
- 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 out for consultation following the publication of the Successful Futures report (2015). The new curriculum commences statutory implementation from September 2022 onwards.

Furthermore, there is some debate currently regarding a re-configuration of Music services throughout Wales.

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. 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.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signe d: J. Aeron Rees Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

- 1. Local Member(s)** – Last year's corporate process
- 2. Community / Town Council** – N/A
- 3. Relevant Partners** – N/A
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – staff and unions in terms of restructure proposals

**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
2018 Music Service Report to Scrutiny	\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education & Skills\Learner Programmes\Music Service\MusicServiceScrutiny5.7.18.docx