

ECS Scrutiny Committee Memo: Towards a Sustainable and Thriving Future for the Music Service

Update – May 2019

1.1. National Picture

- On the 30th April 2019, the Welsh Government launched the **Draft Curriculum for Wales 2022**. One of the key areas of learning and experience is the Expressive Arts. In this new curriculum area, there are five key disciplines which consist of art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music. When introducing this new area of learning and experience, it is made clear that, “While these disciplines have a common creative process and share transferable skills, each has its own discrete body of knowledge and set of discernible skills. This area of learning and experience will ensure that learners are entitled to access all five disciplines”. Carmarthenshire Music Service is poised to be an integral part of this new curriculum delivery and is in a unique position to be able to support all schools throughout the county in delivering this new and balanced curriculum. Our ‘curriculum support’ and ‘whole class’ teachers are already providing opportunities for pupils to develop their creative talents and their artistic and performance skills. This is in addition to our bread-and-butter activity, namely: providing peripatetic tuition to individuals and small groups in Carmarthenshire schools and arranging a full programme of extra-curricular activity.
- In December 2018, the Welsh Government confirmed that grant funding support to further enhance music provision would be made available to local authorities. The allocation for Carmarthenshire was £86,289. Local authorities were advised to use the funding in accordance with local needs to deliver **any one, or a combination of** the following **nine options**: **FSM Support, Ensemble Access, Instruments, Access and Inclusion, Progression and Achievement, GCSE and A Level Music Support, Rock and Pop Ensemble, Master Classes and Co-operative Arrangements**.

In response to the support grant, Carmarthenshire Music Service has taken the following steps since January 2019:

1.2. FSM Support

The Music Service has been able to provide free access to all FSM pupils (those in receipt of free school meals) wishing to take part in extra-curricular music activities during the 2018-2019 academic year. The service has been developing initiatives under a banner of **‘Music for All’** with whole class and curriculum support initiatives being piloted at Bynea School and Halfway School. These initiatives have been very successful and will be expanded during the 2019-2020 academic year.

1.3. Ensemble Access

In the 2017-2018 academic year, Carmarthenshire Music Service (CMS) took the decision to greatly reduce the number of Key Stage 2, 3, 4 and 5 extra-curricular ensembles. In addition to this, the Music Service reduced the frequency of rehearsals across all Key Stages. This had a detrimental effect on standards and learner numbers. However, as a result of this grant, weekly music rehearsals were re-instated for secondary school pupils. A new ensemble was launched (the Carmarthenshire Intermediate Orchestra) and pupils that took part were given the opportunity to perform at Christmas and Easter in two concerts held at Queen Elizabeth High School. It was anticipated that approximately 50 – 60 pupils would take part, however, the number rose to a staggering 147 participants across the eighteen sessions.

1.4. Instruments

A significant amount of instruments owned by Carmarthenshire Music Service are in need of serious attention and therefore a rolling programme of instrument repair was established in January 2019. As a direct result of this, nearly all 'pupil use' saxophones have been serviced and repaired and are now able to be placed back in circulation. The service has also purchased instruments and sundries as required to further assist pupils.

1.5. Access and Inclusion

In order to reinvigorate numbers at Key Stage 2, Samba workshops were established to be delivered on a six week 'unit of work' model. These workshops are currently being delivered and have been very successful where piloted. The schools that have already taken part in this pilot are: Bynea, Myrddin, Coedcae and Q.E. High. Four Samba Kits have now been purchased and we intend to increase the number of participating schools for September 2019.

1.6. Rock and Pop Ensemble

Due to the timing of the grant, it has not been possible to establish an ensemble of this nature during the 2018-2019 academic year. New ensembles of this nature will be established from September 2019 across Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

1.7. Master Classes

Due to the timing of the grant it has not been possible to establish masterclasses during the 2018-2019 academic year. Proposed Master Classes for the 2019-2020 academic year to include:

- Trombone Master Class – this will be led by Rupert Whitehead of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra who is a former pupil of Ysgol Tre-Gib.
- Harp Master Class – this will be led by Anne Denholm who is the current Official Harpist to the Prince of Wales.
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama Access Master Class – this will be coordinated by John Cranmer / Kevin Price.

These Master Classes will target pupils at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

The WLGA have confirmed that there will be an additional year of grant funding for local authorities (2019-2020) in respect of music tuition. The details of this additional year's funding have not been released.

2. Recent and Ongoing Successes and Highlights

Recent performance highlights 2016-2019

2016

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symphony Hall, Birmingham (July 2016) – Music for Youth Regional Finals – Secondary Schools Girls' Choir and Senior Orchestra• Royal Albert Hall, London (November 2016) – Music for Youth Proms - Secondary Schools Girls' Choir• BBC Radio Wales outside Broadcast (December 2016) – Carmarthenshire Music Service Brass Ensemble. |
|--|

2017

- Côr Cymru (February 2017) – Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools Girls' Choir.
- Côr Cymru Finals (April 2017) Welsh youth choir of the year and overall Welsh choir of the year (all choir categories).
- Eurovision Choir of the Year (July 2017) - Côr Merched Sir Gâr – Awarded Second Place.
- Senior Orchestra Tour to New York (September 2017) – World Premier performance at the United Nations International School.
- National Assembly For Wales Carol Concert, Cardiff (December 2017) – Music co-ordination of the event which included performances by Côr Merched Sir Gâr and the County Senior Brass Ensemble.
- S4C's Carols from Llandudno (December 2017) - Côr Merched Sir Gâr
- Very laudable Junior, Intermediate and Senior Proms festivals, playing every evening to sell-out crowds.

2018

- Symphony Hall, Birmingham (July 2018) – Music for Youth Regional Finals – Côr Merched Sir Gâr, County Wind Band and Carmarthenshire Youth Jazz Orchestra
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod (July 2018) – Côr Merched Sir Gâr
- From 12th September to 14th September 2018 the Music Service staff performed a 'Peripatetic Music Tour' to Key Stage 2 pupils across the county. A total of six concerts were held and over 2,000 Carmarthenshire pupils were in attendance.

2019

- Sell-out Intermediate and Senior Proms festivals during March / April.
- Symphony Hall, Birmingham (July 2019) – Music for Youth Regional Finals – Carmarthenshire Youth Orchestra.
- Royal Performance for HRH The Duchess of Cornwall (July 2019) – Carmarthenshire Youth Jazz Orchestra.
- Trombone Workshop with Rupert Whitehead of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London (October / November 2019).
- Harp Workshop with Anne Denholm, Official Harpist to the Prince of Wales (October, November 2019).

2020

- Senior Orchestra Tour to New York (September 2020) to include performances at the United Nations International School and Carnegie Hall.
- Afternoon concert performance at the Royal Festival Hall London (April 2020 TBC) – Carmarthenshire Youth Jazz Orchestra.

2021

- Urdd Eisteddfod 2021 – The Music Service will be heavily involved in the support and planning of key strategic musical requirements for the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2021.

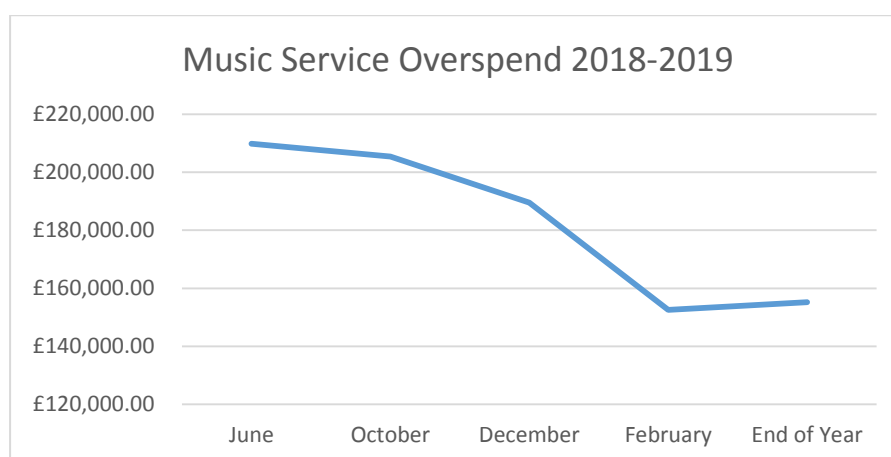
3. Future Plans

- Develop and extend the **Therapeutic Music** Initiative (e.g. workshops at Ysgol Heol Goffa and Canolfan Elfed).
- **Music for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Learners** will be finalised on confirmation of the grant funding for 2019-2020. A number of initiatives have started in Scotland with significant improvements in the engagement, behaviour, concentration and teamwork of learners e.g. in the disadvantaged areas of East Glasgow.

- The Music Service is also keen to develop new service delivery options based on the **links between language acquisition and music**. The service would like to develop a pilot initiative for Carmarthenshire and link it to the work that is being undertaken by the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- The service is also in the process of **developing links with Urdd Eisteddfod and Coleg Sir Gâr** for a performing arts project to be launch during the build-up to the 2021 Urdd Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire. This is a very exciting initiative and potentially will involve a very large number of pupils across all Key Stages.

4. Financial Situation

4.1. The Music Service has worked hard to reduce its overspend during the 2018-2019 financial year:



The situation will be challenging for the 2019-2020 financial year as a number of schools have reduced provision due to the strain on school budgets.

Conversely, it is also noted that a number of schools, of late, are in negotiation to re-instate tuition from the Music Service in response to a number of factors including the Expressive Arts curriculum documentation released last month including St Mary's Catholic School (Carmarthen) and Ysgol Bro Brynach. The service will investigate remodelling the SLA (Service Level Agreement) offer to schools following the launch of the new curriculum documentation. This will enhance the curriculum and whole class support for PPA time (teacher non-contact time) as schools prepare for the implementation of the new curriculum.

4.2. Measures to secure better financial stability

- The Music Service is working through its proposals to 'restructure to save' and is currently consulting with two of its teams. The service is in the final stages of reducing the Woodwind Team by 1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent member of staff) and the service is in the final stages of reducing the vocal team by 0.8 FTE. It is anticipated that a management restructure will commence from July 2019 with a view of further reducing staffing by 1 FT.
- The Service continues to work closely with neighbouring authorities to deliver tuition. However, this has become more difficult over recent months due to an ongoing restructure within Ceredigion Music Service.
- The Music Service will continue to evaluate the SLAs on an annual basis and restructure the staff according to ongoing needs.

5. Next Steps

A suite of options were considered last year to tackle budgetary pressures (*Note: Last year's report to scrutiny is hyperlinked in the top copy papers*). Following the receipt of grant funding from Welsh Government this year, the service has proceeded with **Maintaining the Status Quo, to also develop the service with grant funding**).

The advantages of this approach are:

- This creates time for current recovery plan to have full year effect (a strategy of maximising income and minimising costs whenever possible)
- Permits an eighteen month to two year window for national funding and delivery model to become clearer.
- Permits further opportunities to consider further innovative approaches, including a collaboration with the TIC team to look at alternative ways of working including a management re-structure.
- This allows the service to continue to integrate its operation with the schools MIS team which will achieve greater efficiency through automation across a number of areas including staffing and charging for tuition e.g. Parent Pay.

Continued funding from Welsh Government and continuing to restructure the service based on SLA purchase will allow the Music Service time to continue to maximise income available and reduce costs over the next twelve months. All staffing reductions will be complete by December 2019 and further consultation and reductions will commence from April 2020.