

Title of Report: Gateshead Music Service and The Music Hub Investment Programme

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Families OSC on recent changes to Gateshead Music Service including with regards to the recent Music Hub Investment Programme.

Background

2. Gateshead Music Service is the Council's music education service for schools and families in Gateshead and is currently the Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) for Gateshead and South Tyneside Music Education. As HLO we hold the music education hub grant from the Department for Education, administered through Arts Council England, of approximately £480,000, of which we devolve £220,000 to South Tyneside Council to support their music service. As a hub we also work in partnership with several key music education stakeholders based in Gateshead, including: the Glasshouse ICM, Gem Arts, Side by Side Arts, Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company and The Soundroom. The Hub is also an active partner of the Gateshead Cultural Education Partnership and works closely with Gateshead Council's Community Art Development Team. The Music Service delivers approximately 200 hours of music tuition per week during term time, we work with over 90% of schools and over 10,000 children and young people. We deliver 3 out-of-school music ensembles for 50 children and young people. The Music Service generates approximately £400,000 of earned income, predominantly from Gateshead schools buying into the Music Service SLA.

Over the last 2 years the Music Service has undergone several changes including the appointment of a new Service Manager and in response to updated [National Plan for Music Education 2022](#) and the subsequent [Music Hub Investment Programme](#), which sees a new Music Hub area amalgamating the seven local authorities in the Northeast and Darlington.

Heading – Music Service Delivery Update

3. In response to the National Plan for Music Education, the Power of Music to Change Lives 2022, the Music Service has made several adaptations towards delivery, to make our work more inclusive and reach more children

and young people across Gateshead. Alongside maintaining the traditional music service delivery model we have introduced various new strands of work and trialled several new offers.

We have introduced new small group music lessons for children and young people who identify as having a special education need/disability (SEND). These new SEND groups are for children and young people who either struggle to access our whole class lessons, for example volume is too lowed in a large group, or for children and young people who have a passion and/or potential to take their music learning to the next level. In Gibside primary school the 1-1 SEND sessions are showing very positive signs to support children with self-regulation.

We have introduced new Musical Nurture Groups. These are small group sessions for up to 6 children/young people who a school identifies as having social emotional or behavioural challenges. In these groups children use the holistic benefits of music making to support the social and emotional development.

We have introduced a new Gateshead Music Curriculum for KS1 which provides schemes of work videos and lesson ideas for Gateshead teachers to build confidence in teaching the music curriculum.

We have repurposed one of our existing out of school music ensembles to be an open access music group supporting families who have musical aspirations for their children, but who can't afford lessons. All of our music ensembles remain free to attend.

All music staff receive annual training around inclusive music making with a focus on engagement and youth voice.

Heading – Music Hub Investment Programme

4. In June 2023 new Music Hub areas were published which saw the amalgamation of all local authority areas in the Northeast including Darlington. The existing local authority-based Hub Lead Organisations and music services made the decision to bid as a consortium, with the view that the new Hub Lead Organisation would be part of the Combined Authority. This bid was submitted in October 2023, and we await the outcome of decisions on new HLO's happening in April 2024. We do not believe anyone else in the region or nationally has bid to be the new HLO and local authorities should have been contacted if any bids were going to be submitted involving their locality.

The newly formed consortium will see Gateshead Music Service as an equal strategic partner with the other local authority music services, taking on shared responsibility for the leadership of the hub and allowing Gateshead Council to have decision making powers that affect music education for children and young people living in Gateshead. North Tyneside will act as the Hub Lead Organisation until it is appropriate to transition into the new Combined Authority set up. North Tyneside will be the legal entity that receives the Music Hub Grant from Arts Council England and will subsequently devolve grant allocations to each LA. There will be a new advisory board formed to support ratification of funding conditions set by Arts Council England and the DFE.

Being part of this consortium allows Gateshead Council to draw down £260,000 in grant funding and an additional £90,000 capital grant for new instruments, for academic year Sept 24/25. The newly formed Music Hub should reduce time resource allocation placed on our financial services as they will no longer need to provide Arts Council England with quarterly amalgamated management accounts for Gateshead and South Tyneside. We also hope the new Hub will bring new shared ways of working and central resources reducing costs. The new hub does have financial implications as we will lose our current £9,000, we receive from South Tyneside to manage the current HLO. We will also be expected to contribute a 3% grant top slice to the new HLO to support operational costs. Annual savings of approximately £18,000 will need to be made to support the new Hub Format.

Recommendations

5. OSC Families are recommended to:

- (a) Note and consider the inclusive offer to all from the Gateshead Music Service.

REPORT OF: **Rob Kitchen, Music Service Manager**

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