

Music Education Hub Funding Consortium Agreement

To: Children and Young People

Meeting Date: 8 October 2024

From: Martin Purbrick, Executive Director, Children Education and Families

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2024/085

Executive Summary: The new national Music Education Hub Funding Process set out by the Department for Education covers both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority areas as a single Hub.

An application to lead the new Hub was made, by agreement between the local authorities, through a consortium bid in the Autumn of 2023.

The successful award made in April 2024 can only be drawn down with a formal Consortium agreement in place between the two authorities.

This has been drafted and agreed with the involvement of legal teams.

- The report outlines the nature of the work the investment supports and the impact on existing provision were this not to be continued.
- The Committee is asked to approve the Consortium Agreement prepared by legal teams so that it can be sealed and the awarded funding can be drawn down.
- The Consortium agreement will enable the lead teams for music education to support existing provision and providers without disruption for children and young people and identify and facilitate new opportunities and development across the County. It will enable the further development of the infrastructure that supports access to musical instrument learning, ensemble participation, experiential projects and support for school music provision development.

Recommendation: The Children and Young People Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the Consortium Agreement between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authorities to enable Cambridgeshire County Council to access and distribute the funding awarded by the Department of Education via the Arts Council of England.

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1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 The report proposal has been evaluated in regards to alignment with the following seven ambitions [Strategic Framework 2023-2028 \(refreshed\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- 1.2 This report relates to the following ambitions:
 - Ambition 7 – Children and Young People have opportunities to thrive

2. Background

- 2.1 The purpose of Music Education Hub Funding since 2012 has been to support the objectives of the National Plan for Music Education in the area covered by the investment. The funding is from the Department for Education (DfE) and is administrated by the Arts Council of England.

From 1st September 2024, the DfE awards the funding on an area basis covering both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and requires a single Music Education Hub to operate across the whole area. On 9 October 2023, CCC Corporate Leadership Team approved a consortium bid to be made so that the existing provision for children and young people could be sustained and new opportunities identified, whilst meeting the national requirements. The application for funding, led by agreement by Cambridgeshire County Council, was successful and a formal Consortium agreement needs to be confirmed and sealed by committee to enable the funding to be accessed.

- 2.2 The outcomes of this process will be the investment in the current academic year (24-25) of £1.2 million into music education provision across the combined area. This will be used to support the provision of music education support for schools, progression routes for children and young people and collaborations that broaden access to music opportunities, as set out in the National Plan for Music Education.
- 2.3 The investment will help support the provision of guidance on music education development to all schools in the County in relation to the expectations of national policy and good practice, indirectly supporting all young people in education. It will directly impact over 7000 children and young people, supporting their progression and engagement with the music curriculum, skills and knowledge including playing and performance, singing skills access to resources to support this. It also supports workforce development through the provision of Continuing Professional Development and the generation of new opportunities for careers within the music education sector and formation of collaborations with other music organisations and individuals that brings further investment in activities and financial support.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The managers in each area responsible for music education have worked with respective legal teams to create the Consortium Agreement and ensure it meets the expectations and criteria for the investment funding. The Consortium Agreement delegates functions to Cambridgeshire County Council to act as the Lead for the new Music Education Hub Investment Process. Management and Operational structures have been put in place to ensure accountability within individual Consortium Member areas and the overall

accountability for the Music Education Hub itself.

- 3.2 These proposals for structure, operation and governance for the new Music Education Hub Boards and roles of consortium members have been consulted upon with the previous Music Education Hub Boards, senior officers and representative members. They have been discussed and agreed with the Arts Council of England. The terms of reference and management arrangements are in line with expected practice and national guidance and the drafting of the consortium agreement has been looked at in detail by all parties involved.

4. Alternative Options Considered

The alternative options considered by Corporate Leadership Team prior to approving application as a consortium for funding were to apply individually for the investment funding solely for Cambridgeshire or to not make an application.

- 4.1 The option to apply solely for Cambridgeshire was not permitted by the Arts Council of England and Department for Education. Such an application would have been disregarded and unsuccessful.
- 4.2 The option to not apply would have meant the investment funding would be managed by another organisation or Music Education Hub. The work of the current Music Education Hub with providers would have been at risk of ceasing or considerable disruption. This would have impacted children and young people engaged currently, their music education progression and opportunities to continue development of their skills and knowledge. This would also have impacted the viability of providers that carry out this work and could reduce the availability of new opportunities and planned projects and collaborations across the County.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 It was concluded that the Consortium Approach was the best option for securing investment towards the Music Education Work in each Local Authority Area and appropriate structure could be put in place to manage the operation of this with relevant teams. The Consortium Agreement now requires approval and sealing in order to access the funding and support the work with children and young people.

6. Significant Implications

6.1 Finance Implications

Without the investment funding available, viability of provider teams would be at significant risk as annual support forms a significant part of operational budget for work delivered. Appropriate restricted budget processes have been designed and agreed to manage and account for the investment funding, including distribution to Peterborough City Council for work in its area.

6.2 Legal Implications

A formal Legal Agreement is required locally and nationally to support the Consortium Arrangement. There would be a significant risk to Consortium Members given the funding amount (£1.2 million) without this in place.

6.3 Risk Implications

There would be significant impact on music education service provision and reputational risk without this agreement and investment in place which would have a detrimental impact on children and young people and schools in both areas. The management of such investment funding has been successfully achieved since 2012 and no risks are anticipated in supporting the new financial arrangements.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Approving this agreement does not raise any equality and diversity implications.

- a) A completed Equality, Impact Assessment (EqIA) form ([Equality Impact Assessment Hub](#)) must be attached as an appendix to this report, if appropriate. CCC643540674

6.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications (Key decisions only)

Approving this agreement supports ongoing work by providers to improve sustainability as projects and operational changes already ongoing would continue. The national investment approach has an expectation of sustainable environmental provision and the funding available will help broaden access through mechanisms not requiring travel and other use of technology as well as the recycling and reuse of physical resources such as instruments.

7. Source Documents

- 7.1 None