

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: **Education Culture and Sport**  
DATE: **18 November 2010**  
DIRECTOR: **Annette Bruton**  
TITLE OF REPORT: **Update report on the Music Service**  
REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/10/062**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide an update report on the Music Service as requested at Finance and Resources committee of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the members of the committee note the report

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

### 5. REPORT

This report highlights the work of the team of instrumental instructors in schools and specifically notes details of the distribution of staff throughout the City. The team of 39 instrumental instructors, (36.09 Full Time Equivalent), teach a total of over 3000 pupils on a weekly basis. This equates to approximately 14% of the school pupil population, which is believed to be one of the highest in the UK. If the work of the Vocal Animateurs is included, this total rises to over 20%. At present all Secondary schools and all Primary schools receive an input from the Instrumental Music team, however it is not possible to offer all schools the full range of instruments as this would have major staffing implications. All of the City's Academies would have the full range of instruments taught, with the exception of bagpipes, where one instructor offers tuition to the whole of the city on a part time basis.

In addition to the work of the instrumental instructors 3 Vocal Animateurs deliver a singing programme to over 2500 pupils in 30 Primary schools every week. This programme has led to the formation of several area choirs, which previously never existed before the onset of the programme in 2003. Each choir in Kincorth, Torry, Cove, Northfield and Bridge of Don consists of approximately 35 pupils and amalgamates at Christmas and Easter to take part in the Music Centre concerts in the Music Hall. The Vocal Animateur provision is also an addition to the work delivered by visiting music specialists in schools.

The introduction of the Youth Music Initiative, (YMI) in 2003 and its continuation until the present time has enabled all pupils who wish to learn an instrument the opportunity of accessing one year of tuition free of all charges. There are currently 7 instructors employed by the Authority financed by this Initiative, (3 x vocal animateurs and 4 x music instructors). The YMI is administered by Creative Scotland and is scheduled to be reviewed at the end of 2010. It is hoped that, due to the success of the Initiative throughout the country it will continue to be supported, however if this grant is curtailed there would be implications for the Service. Currently the grant received by Aberdeen City Council from Creative Scotland is £213,460 per annum.

The impact and the success of the Music Service can be measured by the large numbers of pupils who attend the weekly sessions at the Music Centre, which moved from Summerhill to Northfield Academy during the summer break. Every week a total of over 700 children attend bands, orchestras, choirs etc. and perform several concerts at the Music Hall and the Lemon Tree in March and in December, attended by large audiences. In addition, many children attend the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland courses at Easter, Christmas and the Summer. More pupils from Aberdeen attend these courses than any other council in Scotland. The Music Service/Centre move to Northfield has proved to be a success with the numbers of pupils attending being maintained. It is hoped that more children from that area of the City will be motivated to attend the various musical activities taking place there.

Each year the Music Service generates an income of approximately £390K from the charging of fees. The running costs of the Service are in the region of £1.2 million. Parents on Income Support or other benefits are not charged for their children's lessons and other reductions apply for siblings accessing tuition.

Over the past two years the service has made savings of approximately 12% each year. This has been achieved by a reduction in staffing, an increase in fees and a reduction in the number of instruments purchased. However, pupil numbers have remained high due to the raising of target numbers for each instructor. The Service is making further savings of 10% for year 2010/11 and a number of strategies are being considered to meet this new challenge.. The table below shows the distribution of instructors throughout the City for the past two sessions.

	FTE (Full Time Equivalent)	
	2008/09	2009/10
Aberdeen Grammar School ASG	6.54	5.78
Bucksburn Academy ASG	2.70	2.03
Bridge of Don Academy ASG	2.40	2.30
Cults Academy ASG	5.30	5.22
Dyce Academy ASG	1.54	1.44
Harlaw Academy ASG	3.94	3.94
Hazlehead Academy ASG	3.10	2.94
Kincorth Academy ASG	2.30	2.10
Northfield Academy ASG	2.20	1.76
Oldmachar Academy ASG	3.08	3.32
St Machar Academy ASG	5.16	3.84
Torry Academy ASG	1.42	1.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.68</b>	<b>36.09</b>

The fall in the FTE allocation for 9 ASG's reflects the reduction in the numbers of Music Instructors employed by the Music Service over the past two years. The equivalents of 3 x FTE music instructors have left the Service, out of a total of 42 instructors during this time. Two ASG's have remained the same and one has slightly increased the provision. The FTE allocation in the Cults and Aberdeen Grammar School ASG's reflects the higher demand for music tuition in these areas, which in turn generates a higher income to the Service.

## 6. IMPACT

The work of the Music Service is encapsulated in the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence ensuring successful learners with a determination to reach high standards of achievement and learning independently and as part of a group; confident individuals who learn the skill of performing individually and with others; building responsible citizens with commitment to participate responsibly in the cultural life of the City, and effective contributors with resilience and self reliance. All of these link to Aberdeen's City Vision as a city which is vibrant, dynamic and forward looking, to ensure pupils leave school with skills essential for living.

## 7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None