



## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 21ST MAY 2019

**SUBJECT: MUSIC SERVICE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview of Caerphilly Music Service and to provide a summary of key strengths and priorities for improvement that are identified as a result of the self-evaluation process.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 There is a range of evidence to indicate that the music service provides an effective contribution to the attainment and achievement of all pupils and provides value for money.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Members note the contents of the report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To ensure members are informed of the improvement and priorities identified by Caerphilly Music service through self-evaluation processes.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The music service undertakes the following duties:

- Provides subsidised music tuition for individuals, small groups and whole classes to all schools across the Local Authority.
- Provides free instrument loans to all pupils.
- Offers free access to county ensemble groups in collaboration with Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Local Authorities.
- Provides weekly instrumental and vocal ensembles at no cost to pupils.
- Where capacity in schools is limited, the music service provides additional support to pupils with both the practical and theory elements of GCSE and A-Level music examinations.

- Offers a programme of whole class vocal and instrument tuition across a range of disciplines including brass, percussion, woodwind and strings. This allows pupils in participating primary schools to have the opportunity to learn one discipline for at least one term and in some schools for an academic year.
- Provides performance opportunities in a range of venues including Llandaff Cathedral, St Woolos Cathedral, St David's Hall and the Royal Albert Hall.
- Provides continuing professional development opportunities for teachers across Caerphilly.
- Provide bursaries for more able and talented pupils to attend the Junior Conservatoire at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

## 5.2 How has the music service improved over the last twelve months?

- Increased leadership capacity has improved the quality of service. The LA Strategic Lead for School Improvement remains the Head of Service. However, two management positions have been created that provide better models of distributed leadership.
- All staff undertook a programme of continuing professional development to further enhance their skills. Shadowing opportunities were provided to enable all staff to reflect on their practice and consider opportunities to further improve.
- Planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA) was reorganised to increase the opportunities to share best practice amongst staff.
- All staff have received training on the revised 'Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership' (2017) to ensure that all are aware of expectations within the role and the ambition and aspiration within Caerphilly Music Service.
- A programme of induction was implemented for new members of staff to ensure that there is robust and consistent guidance and support.

## 5.3 How good is provision provided by the music service?

- Caerphilly Music service currently teaches approximately 1350 pupils in individual and group lessons each week. In addition, approximately 885 pupils currently participate in whole class delivery of lessons. This equates to a total of 2235 pupils currently accessing music tuition from Caerphilly Music Service on a weekly basis.
- In 2018/19, schools were provided with £215680.06 of free tuition for the academic year via a subsidised service level agreement. There has been an increase in the number of hours requested by schools in the last financial year, indicating satisfaction with the service.
- Verbal feedback from Head teachers has been very positive.
- There has been an increase in the number of Caerphilly pupils attending the 4 Counties ensembles.
- Lesson observations, undertaken recently, indicates that the quality of teaching is identified overall as 'good'.

## 5.4 How does Caerphilly Music Service impact on pupil attainment?

- Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall examinations organised by Caerphilly Music Service in 2017-18 had a 98.5% pass rate. Appendix 1 identifies the range of grades achieved by pupils.
- Although the music service does not deliver GCSE and A Level across the Local Authority, many tutors provide additional support for a range of practical and theory lessons. In 2018:
  - There was a 4.76pp increase in the number of pupils achieving A-E in music GCSE. Trends over three years indicate an increase in the percentage of pupils, entered for music GCSE, achieving A-E. 93.55% for 2016, 95.24% for 2017 and 100% for 2018.
  - There was a 22.95pp increase in the number of pupils achieving A-C in music GCSE. Trends over three years indicate an increase in the percentage of pupils, entered for music GCSE, achieving A-C. 80.65% for 2016, 61.90% for 2017 and 84.85% for 2018.

- There was no increase or decrease in the number of pupils achieving A\*-A in music GCSE.
- Trends over three years indicate an increase in the percentage of FSM pupils, entered for music GCSE, achieving A-E. 50% in 2016, 100% in 2017 and 100% in 2018. Trends over three years indicate an increase in the percentage of FSM pupils, entered for music GCSE, achieving A-C. 50% in 2016, 66.67% in 2017 and 2018.

#### 5.5 Current actions to improve the quality of service provided by Caerphilly Music Service.

The operational plan is reviewed on a termly basis and updated annually. It is an accurate evaluation of progress and required actions for improvement for the service. Current targets are as follows:

- Improve tracking and monitoring of data with reference to FSM pupils. Make effective use of the data to improve performance of this vulnerable group.
- Support self-evaluation processes by undertaking extensive stakeholder survey. Use the outcome of stakeholder engagement activities to ascertain strengths and areas for development within Caerphilly Music service.
- Improve the quality of teaching and learning with specific focus on the teaching of skills.

### 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No related assumptions have been felt to be necessary in relation to this report.

### 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 Sharing Ambitions document 2019.

7.2 Education Service Improvement Plan 2019.

7.3 LA Self Evaluation 2019.

### 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. Caerphilly Music Service provides opportunity to improve the educational attainment for all pupils across a range of creative skills. Subsidised provision and free access to additional activities endeavours to reduce the impact of poverty on communities. Opportunities to perform alongside others across the Local Authority and the wider region enables pupils to feel as if they are making a positive contribution to society.

### 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

### 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications with respect to this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All responses from the consultations have been incorporated in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 'Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', and in particular SPSF 3 – Annex B, which is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and applies to local authorities in respect of local well-being plans and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Summary of Attainment

