

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 6th April, 2017.

Subject: Sefton and Knowsley Youth Music Hub

Report of: Head of Schools and Families

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To seek Cabinet approval for continuation of the Sefton and Knowsley Music Education Hub.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. That Cabinet approves Option 2, to continue the SKY Music Hub (Sefton and Knowsley Youth Music Hub) as the single Music Hub for the two Local Authority Areas, with Sefton Council acting as the Lead Hub organisation until 31st March 2020; and;
2. That Cabinet approves to authorise officers to enter into a Partnership Agreement for the continued joint Music Hub with Knowsley MBC (April 2017-March 2020) to meet the requirements of Music Hub funding, and;
3. The Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding receives an annual progress report from the SKY Music Hub.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	X		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	X		
3	Environmental Sustainability		X	
4	Health and Well-Being	X		
5	Children and Young People	X		
6	Creating Safe Communities	X		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	X		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local	X		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The continuation of the single Music Education Hub across Sefton and Knowsley will continue to extend the range and improve the quality and impact of music education opportunities for children and young people across the two Local Authority Areas by harnessing complementary strengths.

The single music education hub for Sefton and Knowsley brings an economy of scale and therefore cost efficiencies. For example, the joint commissioning of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers and shared activities for children and young people.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?**(A) Revenue Costs**

The Music Hub is funded entirely by external grant funding and by contributions from schools and income from parents. There are no financial implications to the Council as a result within the period 2017-2020.

(B) Capital Costs

N/A

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal-		
Human Resources-		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

Sefton Music Hub and Knowsley Music Education Hubs were both formed in 2012 in response to the National Plan for Music Education (DfE, 2011), and joined forces to create a single Music Hub in 2016. It is now proposed that Sefton and Knowsley will sustain the joint single Music Hub (Sefton and Knowsley Youth Music Hub) for a further three years (until 31st March, 2020).

Service delivery will continue to be improved through collaborative working towards a joint strategy. For example, sharing expertise from each Local Authority Area (Sefton and Knowsley) increasing the range of opportunities for children and young people and improving the support, training and resources available to teachers in schools.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted (FD4527/17) and comments have been incorporated into the report.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance has been consulted and comments have been incorporated into the report. (LD 3810/17))

Are there any other options available for consideration?

As detailed in the main body of the report

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

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Background Papers/Information:

National Plan for Music Education (NPME)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-importance-of-music-a-national-plan-for-music-education>

Department for Education, 3 Year funding Announcement by DfE 2017-2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-children-to-benefit-from-music-and-arts-investment>

1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 21 July 2016 Cabinet resolved to develop the SKY Music Hub (Sefton and Knowsley Youth Music Hub) as the single Music Hub for the two Local Authority Areas to improve the range, quality and impact of music education opportunities for children and young people across the two Local Authority Areas. The resolution was for this to be for a trial period until 31st March 2017 pending a decision on future grant funding.

2. Music Hubs

2.1 Music Hubs were first formed in 2012 as a direct result of the publication and implementation of the (then) coalition government's National Plan for Music Education or NPME (2011).

2.2 The vision of the NPME is to. *“enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence”*.

2.3 The NPME has four more years to run i.e. up to 2020. At its inception, it sought, amongst other initiatives, to develop a network of music education hubs in England to build on the work of music services. The government have announced funding for Music Education Hubs until 2020.

2.4 The Department for Education (DfE) provides ring-fenced grant funding for hubs on an annual basis to support them in the delivery of specific roles.

2.5 On the 18th of November 2016, the Government announced funding for Music. In all cases, the hub lead organisations are accountable for the grant funding received from the DfE through the Arts Council England (ACE).

3.1 Sefton and Knowsley Music Services

3.1. Sefton Music Service and Knowsley Music and Performing Arts Service are recognised as good quality providers in their areas and will continue to be key partners in delivering the Core Roles as described in the NPME (2011).

3.2. Both Sefton and Knowsley Music Services will continue to operate as separate Music Services under their respective Councils policies, procedures and contractual arrangements and will continue to support schools at a local level.

3.3 Sefton and Knowsley will retain their separate responsibility for the operation and sustainability of their Music Services.

3.4 Supported by the Hub Strategy Group and Advisory Group, Managers from both Music Services will work together on cross cutting themes to enhance and develop the quality and breadth of activity for children, young people and schools.

3.5 The Sefton and Knowsley music hub has developed a detailed operational and delivery plan and Arts Council England recognise the multiple advantages of this collaboration and is fully supportive of the new joint Local Authority Hub.

5. Finance

5.1 The total Grant for the joint hub for the financial year 2017-18 is £585,753. This is comprised of £376,113 (Sefton) and £209,640 (Knowsley).

5.2 The grant will be released to Sefton Council (as the body which is accountable) upon meeting the funding conditions as set out in the ACE Music Education Hubs: Standard Terms and Conditions (Appendix 1). Upon receipt of the payment from ACE, the appropriate funding will then be dispersed to Knowsley MBC.

5.3. Sefton Music Service is self-financed from external funding or school contribution and there are no annual revenue commitments to the Council to support this service.

5.4. However if the funding to deliver the service was to cease at some stage in the future, there is a potential financial liability cost relating to a small core team who are employed by the Council. The staff who monitor and arrange to deliver this activity, are funded through grants and income generated from traded services to schools, however this potential liability would not be affected or increased by the options proposed in this paper.

5.5 As lead authority, Sefton will have no financial burden on it as a result of the proposals within the report.

5.6 If funding conditions change the Cabinet Member will be consulted and a new Report submitted.

6. Options

6.1 Option One – Single Music Hub

Revert to a single area Music Education Hub for Sefton. This would mean that (compared with Option 2) there would be fewer opportunities for children and young people and a less comprehensive offer of CPD (Continual Professional Development) for teachers in schools. This option goes against the direction of travel as set out by ACE.

6.2 Option Two - a sub-regional partnership

Continuation of the SKY Music Hub (Sefton and Knowsley Youth Music Hub) as the single Music hub for the two Local Authority Areas.

This option has the advantages of developing current achievements, towards a broader and more inclusive range of activities for Children and Young People and improved Professional Development opportunities for staff in schools. Costs will be shared and unnecessary duplication of activity avoided.

Shared expertise from Sefton and Knowsley will ensure stronger provision, since best practice and complementary expertise from both areas will be disseminated. This will include joint Quality Assurance protocols and curriculum evaluation tools. There is also the potential to share resources.

This option will be simple to implement as all of the infrastructure, operational procedures and governance arrangements are already in place because of the trial operation over the last 12 months.

6.3 Option Three - a wider regional partnership

A wider regional partnership, such as a North West or Merseyside Hub has been considered. Following the last report to Cabinet (July 21st, 2016) a series of meetings and discussions have been held with Arts Council England and representatives from other Music Hub Areas. There is now an initial agreement to form a Strategic Hub Alliance, with St Helens, Knowsley, Liverpool, Warrington and Halton; with the clear intention to work towards an integrated plan between now and 2020 (2020 is the start of the next government funding period).