

**ITEM No ...7.....**

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2023**

**REPORT ON: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE - UPDATE AND OVERVIEW**

**REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE**

**REPORT NO: 29-2023**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Services Committee with an overview of the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) provision across all school sectors.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Children and Families Services Committee note the contents of the report

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The total cost of the Council's Instrumental Music Service (IMS) for the academic session for 22/23 is £999,300.

3.2 External funding is received to support the delivery of specific workstreams such as Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative programmes.

3.3 Scottish Government has provided £209k in 22/23 to assist in the development of instrumental tuition within the Children and Families Service, funding is to support recruitment of additional instructors, purchase of additional instruments and resources along with practical and experiential expressive arts activities, such as ensembles, orchestras and choirs.

3.4 Dundee City Council abolished all instrumental tuition fees (2013/14) and instrument hire costs (2017/18).

**4 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 The Instrumental Music Service in Dundee is an inclusive, modern, forward thinking music service providing instrumental lessons to as many school pupils from Primary 1 to S6 as possible across all school settings in Dundee including primary schools, secondary schools, special education at Kingspark School, and Offsite Education Service.

4.2 The Instrumental Music Service has a staff of 29 music instructors (22.2FTE) including a Senior Instructor. The service is managed centrally by the Education Support Officer for Music, Performing Arts and Culture. Currently the Instrumental Music Service works with 3398 children from a total school population of 18,502 children. This equates to 18.3% of the children in schools currently receiving a musical input from the Instrumental Music Service. The national average across the country of pupils participating in instrumental music service activities is 9.9%.

4.3 The service is delivered in schools by professional instrumental music teachers who provide a structured and progressive music curriculum which is encapsulated in the 4 capacities of Curriculum for Excellence to enable each child or young person to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor.

4.4 Weekly lessons are delivered across 7 disciplines including brass, guitar, piano, strings, woodwind, bagpipes and pipes band drumming. Lessons are delivered in either individual or small groups. In addition to the more traditional offer of individual or small group lessons, the Instrumental Music Service offers whole class activities in many primary schools across the city (more details are included later in the report).

4.5 Individual or small group, instrumental instruction is provided on the following instruments starting at these stages, although it does vary by instructor:

- P3- Piano
- P4- Strings
- P5- Brass
- P6-Woodwind
- P7-Drumkit, Orchestral Percussion
- S1- Guitar

Whole Class Activity delivered by the Instrumental Music Service includes:

- P1-Whole Class Kodaly (including P1 ESA)
- P2-Whole Class Kodaly
- P5-Whole Class Doods 'n' Toots
- P6-Whole Class Wind Band
- P6-Whole Class African Drumming
- P7-Rock School

4.6 There is a comprehensive offer of extra-curricular activities both at school level, and within our Central Bands and Orchestras programme (further details are available in the next section). Many schools are starting to develop closer links with their associated primary schools in offering pupils the opportunity to come up to the secondary school to take part in regular weekly rehearsals.

4.7 Instrumental staff have unique relationships with the children they teach, as it often spans across many years of a child's education which helps to ensure that the service Gets it Right for Every Child. The Instrumental Music Service is specifically designed along cluster lines to ensure that pupils have the best possible chance of achieving success. In consultation with schools, the Service alters the curriculum should the need arise. Once such example of this is the Rock School at Ballumbie Primary School and Braeview Academy (details of this project are provided later in this report). Attendance at school on the days that musical activities take place has improved and the Music Department is thriving, results in recent SQA exams have also seen an improvement.

4.8 During the COVID-19 pandemic, parents became far more involved in their children's music lessons as teaching took place online from home. For safety reasons, a parent/carer was present when the lesson was taking place. The Service learned quickly from this and now involve parents/carers in their child's learning more than they did pre-pandemic. Having parents/carers email address and phone number has allowed music instructors to keep their pupil's parents/carers involved in the learning of their children on a more regular basis.

4.9 In 2021, the Instrumental Music Service started working with Dundee City Council's IT Section to develop a bespoke pupil registration system for the Service. Previously, registration was done through a series of paper forms involving school administration officers and Principal Teachers of Music, this system was inefficient and inaccurate. The new registration system is all done online via the Dundee City Council website. Information is held securely, and parents are kept informed as to the progress of the application by a series of automatically generated emails. Part of the information asked for from parents when registering their children for music lessons is their email address and telephone numbers. This has helped build relationships with the families of the pupils the service works with.

4.10 In session 2022/23, the Instrumental Music Service started working with Ukrainian children recently exiled from their own country. In most cases, the children weren't allowed to bring an instrument with them so had no opportunity to continue with their musical education. In all cases, an instrument has been provided and pupils receive weekly lessons.

4.11 This was evidenced at Baldragon Academy where assistance is being given to continue lessons from teachers in Ukraine. Support with online resources and a weekly lesson help improve the work that has been set. Videos submitted online to Ukrainian teachers act as a mid-term exam. An ensemble has been set up at Baldragon Academy to help Ukrainian pupils integrate with other pupils within the Music Department. The results of this were displayed at the recent Christmas concert where the group performed. Ukrainian pupils led the vocal group in performing 'Carol of the Bells' in Ukrainian teaching the group a new section every week with commitment and confidence.

#### 4.12 **Central Bands and Orchestras Programme**

- a In addition to the in-school extra-curricular work that takes place across our schools, pupils within the Instrumental Music Service also have the option of joining our Central Bands and Orchestras programme.
- b The programme primarily takes place at the new Coldsides Campus on Alexander Street but due to the recent expansion of the programme the service has had to start using various centres across Dundee. The programme caters for musicians of all ages and abilities with groups for players that have been playing for a few months, to those that are significantly more advanced. The programme also includes residential trips to Scottish Outdoor Education Centres camps. Traditionally, our residential courses have taken place at Belmont Camp in Meigle, but due to an increase in numbers this year it has been moved to the larger Dounan's Camp near Aberfoyle. The residential courses ahead of our concerts provide opportunities for our pupils to put the finishing touches to their performances but more importantly it gives them an opportunity to bond and create friendships that last way beyond their school lives.
- c Our Central Bands and Orchestras play at events across the city including our own Christmas at the Music Centre concert, our annual Spring Concert Series in the Caird Hall. The groups also play at Dundee City Council's OSCAs ceremony, West Fest, Dundee Jazz Festival.
- d Members of our central groups have taken part in national groups such as the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, National Youth Brass Band of Scotland, Scottish Youth Jazz Orchestra, the Royal MOD – Gordon Duncan Experience.
- e As of session 2022-23, the central Bands and Orchestras programme consists of:
  - Junior (Junior) Strings Orchestra
  - Junior Strings Orchestra
  - Junior Wind Ensemble
  - Dundee Schools' Concert Band
  - Ceol Dun Deagh Trad. Music Group
  - Dundee Schools' Pipes and Drums
  - Dundee Schools' Senior Wind Ensemble
  - Dundee Senior Schools' Orchestra
  - Dundee Schools' Senior Singers
  - Dundee Schools' Rock Band
  - Dundee Schools' Percussion Ensemble
  - Dundee Soul Jazz Collective
  - Dundee Schools' Junior and Senior Guitar Ensembles
- f In March 2023, Dundee Schools' Pipes Band will take part in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championship for the first time. The band, made up of 16 pipers and 5 drummers, will travel to Kilmarnock to take part in the event.
- g In September 2023, three of our bands are embarking on the first major tour to our twin city of Wurzburg since 1998. Pupils from Ceol Dun Deagh, Dundee Schools' Pipe Band and Dundee Schools' Rock Band will travel to Wurzburg to take part in the StraMu festival.

Around 50 young musicians will take part in one of Europe's largest street music festivals. For one weekend of the year, Wurzburg is transformed into one huge theatre. An area of the city has designated the 'Dundee' space where our groups will perform to up to 100,00 visitors to the city. The IMS has teamed up with the local Music School to provide us with equipment and rehearsal spaces. In return pupils from the school will join our young musicians to perform.

#### 4.13 **Scottish Qualifications Authority Exams and Dundee Instrumental Service Grade Exams**

- a Instrumental pupils receiving weekly lessons from the IMS continue to attain high marks in SQA exams. In the 2022 SQA exam diet the service had 169 pupils undertaking performance exams with a pass rate of 100%.
- b February 2022 saw the first diet of our in-house grade exams offered as part of the Dundee IMS Grade Exams system. In line with Dundee City Council's commitment into keeping the Cost of the School Day as close to £Zero as possible, all Dundee IMS Exams are free (the cost of external exams can start from c.£44). Parents/Carers register their children online and they are responsible for all travel to and from exams, it is ensured that transport is not a barrier by offering transport to those pupils that need it. Exams take place at the Exam Centre at Rowantree Primary School.
- c Invitations to take the Exams are sent through Microsoft Outlook and results are shared with pupils within a week of the exam. An examiner comments form is also shared with the pupils and parents/ carers and a high-quality certificate is issued; participants are examined by specialist examiners from within the Instrumental Music Service. The first Grade Exams took place on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> February 2022, when 19 secondary school pupils, and 1 primary school pupil entered Grades 1-3. The main focus for the pilot was woodwind, brass and strings. After the successful pilot, the May diet of exams were expanded to include guitar and bagpipes and total of 36 pupils took part. The service also introduced an Initial Grade to allow our younger musicians to take part, 15 wind/brass and strings players entered.
- d Future developments include Initial Grade for Guitar delivered through our YMI Guitar programme, and the inclusion of pipe-band drumming, percussion.

#### 4.14 **Primary School Whole Class Kodaly Programme**

- a In 2014, the Dundee Instrumental Music Service's innovative Aspire Dundee Music programme began. It's aim was to provide an inclusive and immersive music based programme across 4 of our most deprived schools. Part of the programme developed for Aspire, was the P1 and P2 'Active Learning through Music' course developed by Lucinda Geoghan, and the National Youth Choir of Scotland. The programme was based on the teachings of Hungarian composer and educator Zoltan Kodaly. His belief was that young people should be taught the building blocks of music before they are given an instrument. Concepts such as teamwork, beat, rhythm, tempo and dynamics are taught to children at a very young age to develop social skills and musicianship.
- b Such was the success of this part of the Aspire Dundee Music project, in 2018 the Dundee Primary School Kodaly programme with launched with specialist Kodaly Instructors employed to develop the programme further and to deliver the programme to those schools not involved in the Aspire programme. The aim is to develop resources that would enable mainstream classroom primary school teachers to develop their skills and to be able to deliver the programme to their classes.
- c The project was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, however to Kodaly team continued to develop resources not only for online teaching by teachers but resources that could be used by parents/carers too.
- d In 2022/23, the programme has continued to develop with new innovations such as our new inclusive P1 ESA provision and the further development of the programme to include

pupils at Kingspark School with profound learning difficulties. The classes at Kingspark take place in the Sensory Room to a class of non-verbal children. Measuring success has been difficult but their teachers say the pupils are happy and engaged in their sessions.

#### 4.15 **Whole Class Band Activity**

Where appropriate, the Instrumental Music Service offers whole class activity in primary schools to encourage as many pupils as possible to take part in music making in their school. Whole Class Activity has been part of the Instrumental Music Service delivery since 2014, initially as part of the Aspire Dundee Music project. Although the Aspire Dundee Music project came to an end in 2020, the Whole Class Activity model has been developed to build on the skills and include the same principles as the Kodaly Class programme but adapted to suit the needs of each individual school.

##### a **Ballumbie Primary Rock School**

The hugely successful rock school programme has been running at Ballumbie Primary School and Braeview Academy for 7 years. In that time, attendance, attainment, and engagement has improved, and the music department is thriving. The programme is an inclusive, performance-based model which develops confidence, teamwork, peer to peer learning, social skills and musical and cultural history - alongside musical tuition. Pupils are offered group tuition in standard "Rock & Pop" instruments, including drum kit, guitar, bass, keyboard and vocals. The pupils are encouraged to form small bands, and work towards performance dates throughout the year.

At first, the sessions are focussed on developing core instrumental and musical skills. Pupils are encouraged to try various instruments, before choosing one (or two) to specialise in. Once instruments are selected, the pupils form bands and work on material as a group, the music learned is chosen from the back catalogue of rock & pop history, from the 1950's to the present day – pupils are encouraged to come up with their own suggestions too.

Since the programme started 7 years ago, all Ballumbie P7 pupils (c.500 pupils) have received a full year of tuition, with the vast majority continuing with instrumental lessons at Braeview Academy. In August 2022, 41 P7 pupils decided to continue with the programme, and are now part of over 90 pupils coming every week this year, now spread across the entire school.

In session 2021/2022, the first pupils from the Ballumbie Rock School programme undertook SQA exams at Braeview Academy, In all, 6 Rock School pupils achieved an 'A' in their music performance exams and 2 achieved a B, at National 5 and Higher (early presentation) levels.

##### b **Primary 6 Class Wind Band Classes at St Clement's/Camperdown/Rowantree and Claypotts Castle Primary Schools**

In each school setting, instruments such as trumpet, trombone, clarinet and saxophone are taught to Primary 6 classes. The pupils are not only taught the techniques of playing these instruments but also about how work collaboratively. Encouraging young people to be part of a team of musicians has a huge impact on the mental health and well-being of those involved. Irrespective of need, all pupils are catered for. At Claypotts Castle, the IMS team work with 3 deaf children in collaboration with the Accessibility and Inclusion Service to ensure that their educational needs are met.

Many pupils that have been involved with the Whole Class Wind Band programme continue into secondary school and are involved in school band and our central bands and orchestras programme.

c Doods and Toots at Fintry Primary School

Now in its second year of running Doods and Toots was started in 2021 at Fintry Primary School. The aim of the project is to develop pupils musical abilities with wind instruments through the use of Nuvo Dood, Toot and jSax instruments and to continue on musicianship skills learned in Kodaly music lesson in primary 1 and 2. Through weekly lessons Primary 6 pupils develop these skills with the instruments and work towards various performances to the whole school throughout the year, building pupil confidence and creating a link within the school community. The benefits of this project continue after primary 6 with all pupils being offered the chance to continue tuition on to woodwind instruments with a specialist instructor in primary 7. Links have also created with the Braeview Academy music department which will benefit the pupils in their transition to secondary school.

4.16 **Instrumental Music Service at Anxiety in Motion (AIM)**

- a Anxiety in Motion (AIM) is a community-based programme for young people identified with chronic non-attendance at school associated with emotion and or health and well-being concerns which impact significantly on their development.
- b The Instrumental Music Service has supported AIM since 2019. A music instructor visits AIM every week to provide musical support to young people who otherwise would not have access to music due to their inability to attend at their mainstream school.
- c Instruments such as keyboard, guitar, bass guitar and drumkit are taught in the hope of building up confidence and self-esteem. Careful consideration was given when choosing the instructor to support the work that AIM do. The musical skillset had to be very particular, but of equal importance were the listening and empathetic skills required. IMS at AIM works with approximately 6 pupils to build up confidence not only in music but with their interaction with peers and older people. Often the work is of an extra-curricular nature rather than subject-based learning. It is the hope and vision of the IMS that it will continue to provide learning and support for all children and young people, including those with significant needs.

4.17 **Community Choir**

- a The 'Sing Together Community Choir' started in 2022 and was developed to aid in post pandemic social recovery. The project aimed to bring pupils and their parents/carers and families together in singing through choral music and musicianship activities as an extension to the pupils work in Kodaly musicianship. The aim of this project was not only to promote singing, which has a multitude of health and well-being benefits, but to also extend the element of family supported learning as well as offering a place for the adults to meet and socialise over a cup of tea too, with thought brought to creating a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for the pupils and their families.
- b External funding was secured for healthy food and snacks for the pupils before choir, providing the children an exposure to fruit and other nutritional items. The children were encouraged to have a say in what they wanted for their snacks which led to very positive discussions around healthy eating and health & well-being in general.
- c After a first successful run, Sing Together has relocated to Menzieshill Community Centre and includes pupils from Ancrum Road, St Ninians, Tayview, St Mary's, St Clements and Camperdown Primary Schools. In 2023 Sing Together Menzieshill have been invited to take part in the Face the Music festival in Dundee, a festival that promotes the work of community music making across Dundee.

4.18 **Youth Music Initiative Guitar**

The IMS is currently running eight classes across 4 different venues. Harris Academy and Coldside Campus on a Tuesday evening, and St Paul's Academy and Rowantree Primary on a Thursday evening. A class for twenty-five new P5 pupils, and a P6 class for all members

continuing from last year in each. A new innovation this year is all tutors are teaching the same course so all the pupils across Dundee are learning using the same method and will be at the same stage when they move on to P7 and transition to secondary school. As Dundee's Instrumental Music Service now offers a new grade exam system, the service has designed the course to work towards the Initial Grade, and Grade One exam which will be offered to our pupils during the last week of the Spring Term. It is the vision of the service that this will lead to an increase in children wishing to carry on with their lessons.

#### 4.19 **Partnerships**

It is an important part of our Service provision to provide opportunities for our young musicians to work with world class external organisations. In the 2 years since the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts have been made to bring organisations and musicians to Dundee to work with our young people. Included below are three organisations that the service have worked with.

##### a **Benedetti Foundation**

In November 2021, in partnership with the Benedetti Foundation, 120 young string players from across the city joined together at Eastern Primary school for a day of workshops and performances. This was the first city wide workshop day that the Foundation has put on since the pandemic hit us. Children from all of our primary schools, Big Noise Douglas and the High School of Dundee worked in collaboration and friendship on three brand new pieces of music composed for the day. The day was featured in an article on STV News.

##### b **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS)**

In June 2022, 15 B Ed. students from RCS travelled to Dundee to work with pupils from Craigie High School and Grove Academy and their associated primary schools. The day was in two parts split across Grove Academy and Eastern Primary School buildings. The instrumental music part of the day included workshops on two pieces of music and included around 110 musicians of all ages and stages. Students worked with the young musicians to provide inspiration and support. As part of the day, a Q&A session was built in to provide insight into how our young players might be able to follow a career in music and to study at RCS.

The second part of the day at Eastern Primary School was a workshop on musical theatre. In advance of the day, workshops were held in each of the schools in drama, dance and music. All Primary 7 pupils from the schools learned two songs, two separate dance routines and acting skills.

##### c **High School of Dundee – Music Department**

After the success of working with our colleagues from the High School of Dundee at the Benedetti Foundation day, in September 2022, the IMS held a wind/brass and percussion Play-Day at the High School of Dundee's Trinity Hall. Staff and pupils from both establishments worked together to provide workshops and final performance. It is hoped that this will be the start of many more such events. Plans are underway to have a Play-Day for Strings and Pipes and Drums in 2023.

#### 4.20 **Future Partnerships and Developments**

As part of Every Dundee Learner Matters (EDLM) school/service improvement strategy, the Instrumental Music Service has embarked upon further partnerships with world renowned organisations to broaden the offer of activities to the children instructors work with in all of our schools and to increase the skillset of our instrumental instructors to ensure that this work can continue.

EDLM is driven by the principle of equity as defined as: "a process of improving the presence, participation and progress of all children and young people in early years settings and schools by identifying and addressing contextual barriers".

a Dundee Schools Music Theatre (DSMT)

Dundee Schools Music Theatre and the Instrumental Music Service work closely together to provide performance opportunities for as many secondary school pupils across Dundee, the High School of Dundee and secondary schools in Angus. In August 2022, 72 DSMT young performers took part in 2 productions, Our House-The Madness Musical (S5&S6) and Disney's High School Musical (S1-S4), at the Gardyne Theatre, Dundee. In 2023, DSMT will perform 3 shows due to an expansion in numbers to 156 young performers. Pupils from within the instrumental music service will play alongside their teachers for the productions of Buggy Malone and Little Shop of Horrors, where they will gain valuable playing and work experience.

b Drake Music Scotland and Kingspark School – Digital Orchestra: Youth

Starting in January 2023, Kingspark School will be one of 4 schools in Scotland to have a Digital Orchestra: Youth. In collaboration with Drake Music Scotland, Digital Orchestra: Youth instructors will work with anyone who is considered to have Additional Support Needs, and cover the whole range of both ages and needs, working with any pupil regardless of whether they have had any musical experience or not.

The project will focus on participation and access to music making, both in terms of hands on live music and through use of technology. The pupils will develop their skills through access to instruments that are appropriate to their needs. This project also offers professional learning opportunities for staff to work with practitioners with national expertise.

c National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) – Signed Singing and Musicianship.

Starting in January 2023, the Signed Singing and Musicianship project, developed by Lucinda Geoghan and Dr Paul Whittaker, will focus on delivering activity that supports signed singing with deaf and hearing-impaired children and their teachers and school staff, and to further explore how the service could develop resources that bring BSL and Kodaly methodologies together. There is a lack of music-making with deaf and hearing-impaired children and the IMS has an ambition to promote signed-singing as a way of internalising music-making and actively making music. The proposal is to develop this new activity in Claypotts Castle, Kingspark School and Craigie High School.

NYCoS will work alongside the Instrumental Music Service Kodaly Team, Barbara Burns from the Accessibility and Inclusion Service to provide training for classroom teachers and support staff.

d Creation of 'Safe Spaces' within schools.

As well as providing a safe and positive environment for learning music, Instrumental Staff are also building on the relationships built on from Primary to help children with school attendance issues when they transition to secondary school. Staff are creating 'Safe Spaces' where children can come not just to play together but also have a Hot Chocolate and to know that they will be supported. The pilot of this programme is currently happening at Craigie High School.

e We Make Music – Dundee 'Gie's a Sang'

In June 2023, around 1800 primary school children from Dundee, NE Fife, Angus and Dundee will join together in the Caird Hall for a day of singing and fun. The day has been organised in conjunction with the Music Education Partnership Group, NYCoS, Fischy Music and the instrumental music services from Perth and Kinross, Fife and Angus. DC



Thomson have given permission for Oor Wullie to be the face of the day and will provide packs for the participants to take home.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team, Children and Families Services SLT and Instrumental Music Service SLT were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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5 January 2023

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