

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 16TH MAY 2005

REPORT ON: YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 318-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To bring to the attention of the Education Committee the success and development of the Youth Music Initiative in Dundee and to advise the Committee of the proposed related partnership between the Education Department and Dundee College.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The committee is recommended to instruct the Director of Education to formally agree the proposed partnership development with Dundee College thus taking forward the further development of the Youth Music Initiative programme.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications for Dundee City Council in this report. Funding for the Youth Music Initiative is provided by the Scottish Executive through the Scottish Arts Council.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Youth Music Initiative is inclusive and is free at the point of delivery.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 In March 2005 at the end of year one of the project, more that 300 young people are involved in singing or guitar lessons. They are spread over three separate nights each week.

6.2 An evaluation of year one was carried out which included consultation with pupils, staff and parents. This evaluation recognised the remarkable success of the programme and was largely positive. Some areas of concern were identified however. These were:

- Problems encountered whilst dropping off/picking up children caused by a high level of traffic congestion as a result of the large number of pupils involved.
- Car parking is restricted at two of the three schools and exacerbated the traffic congestion problem.
- There is no available storage space in any of the schools for administration materials eg. registers, records, music and spare instruments.
- School buildings are often required for other events causing cancellation of rehearsals eg. school concerts, parents nights, elections.

6.3 The project is now in year two and the number of pupils taking part has doubled. It is projected that year three, which commences in September, will see at least another

300 additional pupils join the programme. We will then have a minimum of 900 pupils taking part.

6.4 In ongoing discussions with Dundee College, the opportunity has arisen which will allow the Education Department to move the delivery of the Youth Music Initiative project to the Graham Street Campus. This would allow us to address the concerns raised by parents and staff.

6.5 The benefits to the project will be:

- There is easy access for traffic and ample room for parking, thereby easing congestion and solving the problem of drop off/pick up described above.
- Dundee College will give us a dedicated office in addition to storage space within the Graham Street building.
- The number of times the building will be required for other purposes will be minimal.

6.6 Additional benefits will also come with this move:

- We will have access to the college's music and recording studios.
- We have been offered the assistance of the college's music students.
- The facilities in the college are better suited to the project.
- There will be opportunities for staff development within the college for Youth Music Initiative staff.
- There will be the opportunity to further develop the partnership with Dundee College.
- Dundee College have offered to prepare a series of "taster" courses for parents who may wish to attend whilst waiting for their children.

6.7 The Youth Music Initiative has been given funding for a further three years. It is therefore essential that we are best placed to sustain the growth of the project. Having a base in Dundee College in the Graham Street building with the further potential to expand when the College takes over the Gardyne Road site ensures the physical capacity for us to expand as required.

6.8 The Youth Music Initiative project management team will continue to monitor and evaluate the success and effectiveness of all aspects of the project, in particular, we will continue to seek and respond to the views and concerns of parents, staff and pupils.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Depute Chief Executive (Finance).

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

29 April 2005

AW/LW/DD