

ITEM No ...4.....

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 NOVEMBER 2016

REPORT ON: SISTEMA SCOTLAND - THE 'BIG NOISE' IN DOUGLAS

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 377-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Services Committee with a further update on the progress being made to introduce the SISTEMA Scotland 'Big Noise' programme in Dundee following the signing of the formal Partnership Agreement. This report sets out the revised operational timeline between the City Council, Optimistic Sound and Sistema Scotland, the organisation responsible for the Big Noise programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Committee members are asked to:

- i. note the contents of this report;
- ii. note the revised timeline for implementation at school level; and
- iii. instruct the Executive Director to produce an annual report on the implementation of the programme.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 A report was taken to committee in May 2016 to outline the progress being made in bringing the Sistema Big Noise programme to the city. Article III of the Minute of the Children and Families Services Committee of 23 May 2016, report 183-2016 refers. The report set out the background to the development of the programme as well as the funding arrangement between Sistema Scotland and Optimistic Sound. It explained that the Douglas community had been identified as being ideally suited as the Dundee 'Big Noise' site and that Claypotts Castle Primary School and St Pius Primary School had been identified as the schools to take part in the programme. The 'Big Noise' programme is intended to transform the local community over a period of time using access to musical tuition as a community engagement tool. It will be jointly funded over the first five year period by Optimistic Sound (75%) and Sistema Scotland (25%).

4.2 The choice of the Douglas community had been carefully made as a result of discussions between council officers, Sistema Scotland and Optimistic Sound. The key selection criteria included community identity; population demographics; the number of children in the area from 0 to 15 years; pre-school and primary school provision; local geography and logistics; ongoing community interventions;

community assets; community willingness to partner with Sistema Scotland; statistical data derived from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and data held by Dundee City Council.

4.3 For the programme to result in the desired change in the Douglas area, it was essential that there was a shared vision and a commitment to the programme. A strategy group was formed and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was prepared and circulated to Group Leaders, Bailie Borthwick, Bailie Scott and Councillor Macpherson. The MOU was the starting point for the creation of a formal Partnership Agreement and this was developed in the period between May and October 2016 with the active involvement of the key stakeholders. The formal agreement was subsequently signed on 28th October 2016 and the initial launch phase of the programme can now begin with the aim of full implementation at school level from August 2017. Copies of the partnership agreement have been passed to the group leaders and the conservative, liberal democrat and independent members.

4.4 Following the signing of the formal Partnership Agreement, Sistema Scotland will now begin more detailed work with the schools and community partners to develop the operational model. The initial timeline for developments will include:

- The final choice of a community office location for the Big Noise team. One of the options currently being considered includes locating the team within Douglas Community Centre given the central location and proximity to both schools. It is anticipated a decision will be made on this by December 2016
- A schedule of meetings with the head teachers from Claypotts Primary School and St Pius Primary School will be agreed. This will result in the development of detailed delivery plans for the programme in each school with effect from August 2017. The focus of the initial programme will involve all Primary 1 – 3 school children in the schools.
- A local planning and communications group will be formed and members of the local community planning partnership, learning partnership group, school representatives and community members will be invited to join this group. The group will aim to meet on a six-weekly basis between January 2017 and the planned programme launch of August 2017.
- The recruitment of a Big Noise Douglas team. The post of Team Leader (Musician) will be advertised in January 2017 and will be followed by an advertisement for an Operations Manager. A team of musicians will be recruited in March / April 2017. It is hoped that the schools and community representatives will be invited to be part of the recruitment and selection process for the team.
- Visits for council elected members, officers and community members to Big Noise centres to experience the Big Noise programme will be planned for the first six months of 2017.
- Discussions are in place regarding an evaluation framework for the programme.
- Links are being made between the Head of Instrumental Service for Dundee City Council and the Director of Music for Sistema Scotland to explore any potential collaboration and shared learning.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Michael Wood
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

November 2016

