

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE –  
27 NOVEMBER 2017

**REPORT ON:** BIG NOISE DOUGLAS – PROGRESS UPDATE

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

**REPORT NO:** 402-2017

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Services Committee with an update on the implementation of the Sistema Scotland Big Noise programme in Douglas

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Committee members are asked to:

- i. note the contents of this report;
- ii. instruct the Executive Director to produce an annual report on the implementation of the programme.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications for Children and Families Service arising from the project. Fundraising by both Optimistic Sound and Sistema Scotland is on target to cover the projected costs of the project for 2017/18.

**4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 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 was made as a result of discussions between council officers, Sistema Scotland and Optimistic Sound. The key selection criteria included community identity; population demographics; number of children in the area from 0-15 years; pre-school and primary provision; local geography and logistics; ongoing community interventions; community assets; community willingness to partner with Sistema Scotland; statistical data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and data held by Dundee City Council.

4.3 The Big Noise Programme forms part of a range of work across the expressive arts that are supporting young people's learning and development. This includes ASPIRE, the wider Instrumental Service and other projects with specific partners. All of these programmes are working together through the expressive arts medium to improve outcomes for young people and target the attainment gap by ensuring a greater equality of opportunity for children and families across the city. The organisation of these various projects is co-ordinated to ensure that learning and good practice is shared across the projects and subsequently with all the schools in the city to maximise the benefits of the programmes.

#### 4.4 **Big Noise Staffing appointments**

Big Noise Douglas Team have been appointed and currently consists of 7 staff FTE including a Team Leader.

#### 4.5 **Office Refurbishment**

The refurbishment of the office space upstairs at the Douglas Community Centre is now complete providing good high quality work space for staff. As well as a management/administration office, there is a small community room for meeting with families and community groups.

#### 4.6 **Launch Concert**

The launch of the in-school programme was marked with a concert on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at St Pius primary school. Children from Nursery, P1, P2 and P3 from St Pius and P2 and P3 from Claypotts Castle PS attended the short concert, along with representatives from our stakeholders and funders. The musicians performed to the children, introduced the instruments that the children will be learning (violin, viola, 'cello and double bass) and taught everyone a song.

A special logo for Big Noise Douglas was unveiled featuring the Bash Street Kids, thanks to The Beano and DC Thomson. The event received extensive media coverage. In addition to this The Big Noise Douglas Programme has received substantial positive press coverage in local and national publications and news during the final stages of the agreement being reached with Dundee City Council and Optimistic Sound and the launch of the programme.

#### 4.7 **Programme Update**

In-school delivery began early in September. St Pius P1, P2 and P3 children have Big Noise sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (45 minutes) and Claypotts P1, P2 and P3 children have sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (30 minutes for P1. 45 minutes for P2 and 3).

The numbers in each year are as follows:

	Claypotts	St Pius	Total
P1	56	25	81
P2	62	37	99
P3	66	20	86
Total	184	82	<b>266</b>

The programme has had an excellent start and has been widely welcomed by staff and pupils.

Training has been taking place with Principal Teacher at Claypotts PS on working with children with hearing impairment and strategies have been explored to include the children fully in Big Noise sessions.

#### 4.8 **Nursery**

Delivery started at Claypotts Castle and St Pius nurseries after the October break. The sessions have been arranged flexibly to maximise the attendance of the children. The 3-5 year olds will have a 15 minute session once a week in groups of 8-10. The 2 year-olds will have one 20 minute session each week in a group of around 15. Around 150 children each week will participate across both nurseries.

#### 4.9 **After-School Programme**

The after-school programme will begin after the Easter holidays and will be open to all the P3s from both schools. This will take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Claypotts PS. A snack will be provided before each session begins.

#### 4.10 **Community Engagement**

The community engagement programme has been launched with playground concerts at both schools as well as attending several local groups and meetings. These include Dundee volunteering forum, East End Learning Partnership, Rock Solid (a youth club based at Douglas and Mid Craigie Church).

Future plans include arranging a community ceilidh, regular sharing sessions for parents, playing at community lunches and TAMHFTs (Take a musician home for tea). Discussions are currently taking place around involvement in the Douglas Community Panto.

#### 4.11 **Wider Engagement**

Meetings are ongoing with the Education Support Officer (Arts and Culture) and Senior Instrumental Instructors to discuss additional partnership working opportunities in the future to ensure that The Big Noise Programme is closely aligned with the overall expressive arts strategy in the city.

#### 4.12 **Future Key Milestones**

October – December 2017: Start paper orchestra with P2 and 3  
January 2018: Start real instruments with P2 and 3.  
April 2018: Launch Baby Noise  
April 2018: After-school club starts for P3s  
May/June 2018: Launch concert  
July 2018: Start of Summer Club (Open to this year's P2 and 3 students)

#### 4.13 **Sistema Scotland - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Sistema Scotland is 10 years old in 2018 and a plan of activities across the year is currently being designed to celebrate this. The large community concert (scheduled for June 2018) will be included in these celebrations, and the Douglas children will also have additional opportunities to be involved with children from other Big Noise centres.

### **5 EVALUATION – UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE**

5.1 A six month part-time (0.6) Research Assistant funded by University of Dundee has been appointed. The Research Assistant was appointed in August and has undertaken induction and orientation visits to Big Noise, Raploch and Douglas as well as meeting with and accompanying them on school visits. The research supervision is provided by senior staff

at the University of Dundee. The Sistema Research and Evaluation Specialist is meeting regularly with staff at the University of Dundee to help define the research objectives. The actual research activity is still emerging but it is hoped that this piece of work will give a baseline from which to develop and shape future evaluation of Big Noise Douglas.

- 5.3 The Big Noise Programme has also agreed to receiving an intern from the University of Dundee who will carry out a piece of research as part of their final year thesis. The research project this year will feed into our baseline evaluation for the programme.
- 5.4 Meetings will also be held with the head teachers in Douglas soon to discuss how attainment can be best included within the evaluation process.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 6.2 There are no major issues.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Council's Management Team and Sistema Scotland have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

PAUL CLANCY  
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November 2017