

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday 15 January 2020**

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAFORD**

**Re: Cultural Education Schemes – Music, Museums and Film**

The new Government has committed **£5 million** to extend cultural education schemes aimed at getting school pupils to play instruments, learn about film making, and also visit museums.

The majority of this, **£4 million**, will fund programmes focused on getting pupils involved in film, dance, theatre and design for the 2020-21 year.

The remaining **£1 million** will pay for charities to help youngsters learn about different styles of music for another year.

The funding comes alongside the **£80 million** injection to extend the music education hubs scheme into 2020-21.

- How and where will pupils in the Devon County Council area, benefit from this additional £5 million to extend cultural education schemes aimed at getting school pupils to play instruments, learn about film making and visit museums?
- How will we be working with local charities to make the most of this funding boost?
- Are there any music hubs in the DCC area?
- If so where are they based?
- If not, what work can be done, with others, to establish them locally so that we can benefit from this additional £80 million funding opportunity?
- Can the Cabinet Member please briefly outline some of the work that DCC is already doing to promote pupils to play and perform musical instruments?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR MCINNES**

**Background**

On 3rd of January 2020, the government committed £5 million to extend cultural education schemes aimed at getting school pupils to play instruments, learn about film making and visit museums. Organisations such as Music Mark and the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) have been lobbying the DfE for a decision on the continued funding of Music Education Hubs (MEHs) for some time. This funding which supports music hubs in nearly every Local Authority (120 including Devon) has remained at £75M per year for several years. £2M of this new funding has been set aside to support Music Education Hubs with a workforce facing increases to Teachers Pensions Contributions; something that does not apply to Devon. A further £1 million has been allocated by DfE to support national music education charities and organisations such as the National Youth Orchestra, Music for Youth and specialist music schools.

At this time, we have no information on additional cultural opportunities in relation to film making or museums or any remaining funding that may be associated with it.

**1. How and where will pupils in the Devon County Council area, benefit from this additional £5 million to extend cultural education schemes aimed at getting school pupils to play instruments, learn about film making and visit museums?**

While an uplift in the continued funding of Music Education Hubs is welcome news, the reality is that this announcement represents only a small increase in funding. Devon's allocation is yet to be confirmed, but this is likely to increase from £914K to around £928K. This increase will further support the work of Devon Music Education Hub across the County. This work is outlined in detail in question 6 below.

**2. How will we be working with local charities to make the most of this funding boost?**

Devon Music Education Hub already works with a range of local charities and non-profit organisations to enable children and young people to sing and play musical instruments. This work includes supporting progression opportunities for young musicians through direct funding for a network of music centres and ensembles, spanning a wide range of genres and specialisms the length and breadth of the County, delivered by hub funded partner organisations.

Nationally, £1 million has also been confirmed for organisations such as Youth Music, Music For Youth and the National Youth Orchestra, as well as specialist music schools.

**3. Are there any music hubs in the DCC area?**

Devon's Music Education Hub works with schools, music educators and a range of local, regional and national partner organisations to create all kinds of opportunities for children and young people in Devon to have an excellent, high quality music education. Supported using public funding from DfE and Arts Council England, Devon Music Education Hub is tasked with delivering the core and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education and ensuring that all schools engage with the Schools Music Education Plan (SMEP). Devon Music Education Hub is led by Babcock LDP as part of the joint venture with DCC. Detail of this work is provided in question 6.

**4. If so where are they based?**

Whilst the Devon Music Education Hub is based at the Babcock LDP site in Willand, where it houses offices and a musical instrument storage & maintenance facility, the work they carry out covers the whole of the County. Dedicated Music Development Leads, advise and support the schools in their area, as well as leading on wider music education projects and events, as detailed in question 6 below.

**5. If not what work can be done, with others, to establish them locally so that we can benefit from this additional £80 million funding opportunity?**

It has been widely reported as an "£80M increase in schools music funding", however as explained above it is actually a 5 million increase on the current funding of £75 million). Devon already has a music hub.

**6. Can the Cabinet Member please briefly outline some of the work that DCC is already doing to promote pupils to play and perform musical instruments?**

- All schools in Devon are eligible for delegated Music Education Grant (MEG) funding to support delivery of the core and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education and additional funding will support a new Special Projects Fund over the coming months.
- 80% of schools engaged in Devon Music Education Hub's new Schools Music Education Plan self-evaluation process.
- Over 14,000 instruments were loaned to schools to support First Access/Whole Class Ensemble Tuition.
- 63% of schools delivered First Access/Whole Class Ensemble Tuition, involving 29,431 children and young people.

- Significant investment provided every primary and special school access to award winning Charanga digital resources to support curriculum music provision.
- Ongoing training and support for teachers was provided through specialist Music Development Leads and a range of CPD events.
- Over 3,500 children and young people have participated in large scale singing festivals facilitated by Devon Music Education Hub, including our Chorister Outreach Programme with Exeter Cathedral.
- A week-long residency with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra reached 2,323 children and young people through a series of live performances and music-making opportunities.
- As part of the BBC Ten Pieces initiative, over 1,600 children from local schools and home educated groups attended sold out concerts with the BBC Concert Orchestra.
- Over 700 children and young people performed as part of Devon Music Education Hub's live music showcase at Devon County Show.
- Additional funding from Youth Music, has facilitated a music programme led by hub partners Daisy to work directly with children and young people from hard to reach groups to access music through an intensive test site in the Newton Abbot area.
- Over 10,000 children and young people in total engaged in a Devon Music Education Hub event.
- Direct funding of over £170,000 has been provided for bands, orchestras and groups spanning a wide range of genres and specialisms provided by schools and through a network of music centre and ensemble opportunities.
- Inclusive music ensembles supported through Open Orchestras have been successfully delivered in four schools.
- Devon Music Education Hub has established new strategic partnerships with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and Live Music Now and continues to work with other Arts Council England NPOs and funded organisations, including the National Youth Orchestra, Royal Opera House, Friday Afternoons, Youth Music and HM Royal Marines Band Service.
- Children and young people from low income backgrounds have been supported through subsidised membership of youth music activities and instrument loans.