

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department for Education (DfE) and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have jointly published the government's policy statement on **music education in England**. This follows the publication in February 2011 of the Review of music education by Darren Handley, and the government's response to its 36 recommendations, [*see Document Summary Service Summary DSS 10/11 26, February 2011*].

The government's stated vision is **'to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence'**.

The National Plan is projected to extend to 2020, although the funding announced now covers the period to March 2015.

The most important feature of the Plan is the formation of new **music education hubs** to be in place from **September 2012**. The funding planned for these hubs suggests that their formation will impact very significantly on the continuance of existing local authority music services.

Section 2 of this summary draws principally on the publication's own Executive Summary. Section 3 provides more information about **music education hubs** and **applying** to become one.

2. KEY POINTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Children from all backgrounds and every part of England should have the opportunity to **learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing;** and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence if they wish to.
- Teachers to have wide **freedom** in how they teach music in schools, but **all schools should provide high quality music education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum**.
- New **music education hubs** to **'take forward the work of local authority music services'** from September 2012, helping improve the quality and consistency of music education across England, both in and out of school. The focus will be on **assessing and meeting local needs of children**, and drawing on a range of local, national and regional music and arts provision in each area.
- **National Curriculum music** in all maintained schools for all five to fourteen year olds (subject to the outcome of the National Curriculum review).
- **Whole-class ensemble teaching** programmes for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term); opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform; clear progression routes available and affordable; and for a singing strategy to ensure every child sings regularly.
- **Music technology** used to enable, deliver, support and extend the good teaching of music.
- Each school should have a **choir** and **aspire to having an orchestra** or large scale ensemble.
- A new primary **Initial Teacher Training add-on module** is to be developed by the Teaching Agency to boost new teachers' skills and confidence in teaching music.
- Hubs and school-to-school support providing opportunities for **continuing professional development** and strengthening leadership practice, including acting as a gateway to sources of expertise, and local networks to prevent professional isolation.
- **Music educator qualification** under development by 2013 ensuring the wider music workforce is better skilled, and properly recognised for their role in and out of school. This includes the development of qualifications (probably modular) for creative practitioners as music educators *'to ensure the wider music workforce is better skilled and properly recognised for their role in and out of school'*.
- **Partnership** working and **local innovation** within a framework of core and extension roles that ensure consistency of provision and equality of opportunity for all children.
- A Department for Education (DfE) **national funding formula** on a per-pupil basis, with a weighting for free school meals, to ensure parity of government funding across all areas by 2014-15, with protection to guard against large losses in any one area.

- Funding **1 April 2012 – 31 July 2012** to **current providers** (largely **existing local authority music services**) for an interim period.
- Funding **1 August 2012 – 31 March 2015** to **new music education hubs following an open application process**, alongside a range of other resources.
- **Arts Council England** (reporting to Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) / DfE) to act as fund holder, inviting applications for hub leaders; assessing applications; and awarding funds.
- Accountability via the fund holder monitoring performance of hubs; a **revised focus for Ofsted music inspections**; and the views of children, parents/carers and schools taken into account.
- Total **funding** of £202 million has been confirmed for the next three financial years, (1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015), with most (£171m) going to the music education hubs.
- Individual **local authority allocations**, (up to well over £1m p.a. for the largest LAs), have been announced simultaneously, and can be seen in a spreadsheet downloadable at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/subjects/a00200352/national-plan-for-music-education>
- Based on the Venezuelan El Sistema which produced the world famous Simon Bolivar Orchestra, and currently based in Lambeth, Liverpool and Norwich, funding for **In Harmony Sistema England** will increase, and the programme will be expanded to enable children from across the country to benefit.

3. MUSIC EDUCATION HUBS

The establishment of **music education hubs** implements one of the Henley Review recommendations. The Plan says *[paragraph 18]*:

While encouraging local innovation, Government will set **core roles** for hubs to ensure national consistency and equality of opportunity. These core roles are to:

- Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term) of weekly tuition on the same instrument.
- Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

The **application process** to become music education hubs can be found on the Arts Council website at: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/music-education-hubs/> A full **Prospectus** for music education hub applicants can be downloaded from this website.

The assessment of applications will look closely at the following areas:

- leadership and governance
- a track record in high quality music education
- partnership working
- proposed music education hub delivery
- value for money

The deadline for applications is 17 February 2012. Successful applicants will be announced in late April.

Music education hubs will be in place in September 2012.

The complete National Plan for Music Education can be viewed/downloaded at: <http://www.education.gov.uk> > Entering DFE-00086-2011 in the Search field.

The Henley Review of music education and the government's response to it, published in February 2011, can be viewed/downloaded at: <http://www.education.gov.uk> > Entering DFE-00011-2011 or DFE-00012-2011 respectively in the Search field.