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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
28 AUGUST 2019**

**SUBJECT: MUSIC INSTRUCTION**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Committee on the Music Instruction Service.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section III (D) 1 of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A request was made at Committee on 22 June 2018 (para 18 of the minute refers) for an update on the Music Instruction Service.
- 3.2 The service currently consists of an Acting Head of Music Instruction Service with responsibility for 9 full time Instrumental Instructors and 2 part-time. In addition to this an annual bid to the Youth Music Initiative (YMI), funded by Creative Scotland, provides Moray with 2 full-time and 3 part-time instructors who offer recorder, guitar and ukulele.
- 3.3 Music instruction is offered across each Associated Schools Group (ASG) in Moray. There are currently seven primary schools where there is no music instruction ie Cullen, Dallas, Logie, Rothiemay, Craigellachie, Glenlivet and Tomintoul. This is due to
- some schools have little demand and where budget has had to be a consideration, difficult decisions have been made regarding low demand balanced against cost.
  - travel time to outlying schools impact on the number of pupils an instructor can take eg timetabling all schools can be difficult to fit in where travel time is greater than teaching time. This also impacts on the number of pupils an instructor is able to fit in across the school week.

- increased pressure to generate additional income has forced instructors to cut travel time and increase teaching time by only teaching in schools that require less travel time

3.4 Instrumental instruction is offered to P3 pupils and upwards in Brass, Percussion, Strings and Woodwind. There are currently 455 pupils receiving instrumental instruction. The total number of pupils who are not charged (either due to senior phase examinations or free school meals) is 97. There are 308 pupils who receive group lessons and 147 who receive individual lessons. This does not include the pupil numbers for the 2 instructors who are currently off work. Pupil numbers fluctuate annually and fall when S5/6 pupils leave school.

3.5 The full range on offer is as follows (number of instruments on loan is shown in brackets):

- Strings – violin (190), viola, cello (13) and double bass
- Brass – trumpet (19), cornet (15), trombone (12), baritone (6), euphonium (2), tuba (3), French horn (3) and tenor horn (1)
- Woodwind – flute (46), clarinet (39), saxophone (12), oboe (5) and bassoon
- Percussion – a range of ‘tuned’ and ‘untuned’ percussion instruments

This gives a total of 366 instruments on loan across Moray. There are no percussion instruments on loan to pupils, however there are Authority instruments in all secondary schools which pupils get priority to use if they wish to practice.

3.6 In addition to this there are 2 instructors who are currently delivering whole class instrumental instruction to 57 pupils in 2 primary schools free of charge. This is at Millbank Primary where 35 Primary 3 pupils are learning to play the violin. This is the second year of this project with an additional 12 pupils joining the instrumental instruction service from the class at the end of the year. At Mosstodloch Primary school there are 22 Primary 7 pupils learning trumpet and trombone.

3.7 At the end of term, instructors were demonstrating to and recruiting new starts for the beginning of the new school year. Pupil numbers will increase at that time.

3.8 In 2019/20 fees will increase to £291.00 for group instruction (£9.70 each) and £415.80 for individual (£13.86 each) based on a minimum of 30 lessons.

3.9 In addition to group and individual lessons there is Moray Music Centre on a Saturday morning with a junior and senior orchestra. Five ensembles offered overall - 2 junior orchestras: junior strings and junior wind band, 2 senior orchestras: senior strings and senior wind band. In addition Moray Concert Brass meet during the week.

3.10 There is limited demand for some orchestral instruments and increasing demand for non orchestral instruction eg voice, guitar, drum kit and piano which are currently not offered by the service. There are a number of ‘private’

instructors in a small number of schools who offer these in competition with the service. The charges are less than the Moray service.

- 3.11 A report by COSLA in February 2019 provided guidance to support local authorities in their decision making in relation to instrumental music tuition policies. In **Appendix 1**, the Acting Head of Music Instruction Service has detailed the recommendations of this report along with the Moray response.

#### **4. Future Consideration**

- 4.1 Consideration is being given to increase the number of lessons in a school year from 30 to 32 for session 2020-21.
- 4.2 Consideration is also to be given to reducing the number of Saturdays for Moray Music Centre without reducing the practice time ie making the sessions longer. This will be considered in a bid to reduce travel costs for buses.
- 4.3 Moray Music Centre does not currently cater for all young people in Moray. There is scope to expand the groups on offer by establishing a Ukulele Orchester, Ceilidh Group and a Rock Band which would increase the number of pupils attending/paying to attend the Centre.
- 4.4 The Acting Head of Music Instruction Service will consider offering workshops/masterclasses through maintaining and forming relationships and connections with various agencies eg BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Forte Productions etc.
- 4.5 Review of ticket prices for concerts and introduce a charge for programmes. Also consider expanding the concerts to include the young people participating in YMI to attract a larger audience. May have to consider alternative venue in future.
- 4.6 The Acting Head of Music Instruction Service will continue to see opportunities to cut costs or to increase income. This will include the purchase of new music as well as instrument repairs.
- 4.7 Connections to be made with other instrumental services across Scotland to share ideas and learn from best practice.
- 4.8 A Friends of Moray Music parent focus group to be established next term to work with parents/service users.

#### **5. Summary of Implications**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

This report relates the priority 'Provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence' from the Corporate Plan and to 'Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray' from the LOIP.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

**(c) Financial implications**

Any further increases in charges could have an impact on income. When instructors are off long term sick, it is not always possible to get cover and so income is lost.

**(d) Risk implications**

These are highlighted as staffing and financial.

**(e) Staffing implications**

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property issues arising directly from this report.

**(g) Equalities**

Consideration should be given to cost of music instruction related to in-work poverty. Although children who are eligible for free school meals would still receive music tuition without charge there may be an impact on those families who are just above the eligibility threshold and who are facing a raft of increased charges. This may affect particularly families with children.

The unintended consequence of music tuition not being offered in all areas of Moray could mean that availability of music tuition is dependent on where pupils live. Although location of residence is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act, it can be an issue under human rights legislation. Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) establishes the right not to be discriminated in relation to any of the UNCRC rights. Music tuition will need to consider articles 3 (best interest of the child), 29 (goals of education) and 31 (leisure, play and culture) to look at any issues, consider possible mitigation as well as objective justification.

**(h) Consultations**

Chief Executive, Education and Social Care SMT, Quality Improvement Officers, the HR Manager, Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT) Union side joint chair and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

**6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1 Committee to note the current provision for Music Instruction Service in Moray and future plans to maintain and grow the service.**

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Background Papers: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-bill-policy-ambition-joint-agreement/>  
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/HeadteachersCharterFinal.pdf>  
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/EmpoweringSchoolLeadersFinal.pdf>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/devolved-school-management-guidelines-draft/pages/4/>  
<https://www.cosla.gov.uk/music-instrumental-music-tuition-guidance-2019pdf>