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MUSIC SERVICE CONSULTATION REPORT

A Report prepared for:

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Children and Young People's Directorate, London Borough of Lewisham

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BACKGROUND

In the autumn of 2008, the School Improvement Team of the London Borough of Lewisham commissioned an independent review of Lewisham Music Service. The purpose of the Review was:

- to consider the reach, quality, impact and costs of the then current operations
- to consult with stakeholders and staff
- to set out a vision and business case for the Music service for 2009 to 2011

It should be noted that the Terms of Reference were to look at the then present situation and to provide an Action Plan which would enable the Music Service to progress to where it needed to be.

The main recommendation of the Review was as follows:

The Music Service should be restructured to enable the Service to fulfil its Key Stage 2 Wider Opportunities obligations, together with meeting its targets for access and inclusion, whilst remaining within budget. Further sub-recommendations were made to facilitate this restructuring.

The reasons behind this recommendation relate to Government guidance that the Music Standards Fund, which forms the major part of the income of Lewisham Music Service, should be used to fund '*opportunities for all Key Stage 2 pupils to learn a musical instrument and / or to receive specialist vocal tuition*'. However, a large proportion of the Standards Fund grant was being used to subsidise music tuition for a relatively small number of students in the Saturday Centres and to pay costly annual hire fees for accommodation at The Albany the bulk of which is only used during evenings and Saturdays for thirty weeks of the year.

Further considerations included the facts that the target date for achieving the full Key Stage 2 requirement (known as Wider Opportunities) was 2011 and that the success of Music Services in their ability to meet this target, together with their being able to demonstrate levels of access and inclusion across the community, could well be taken into account when deciding upon Standards Fund grant levels post 2011. Thus it was necessary to create and implement an Action Plan which would enable Lewisham Music Service to move towards meeting the targets by the quoted timeline and to move to an improved business model which would provide a Wider Opportunities programme for Schools with Key Stage 2 pupils across the Borough as well as increased opportunities to facilitate progression for those students wishing to continue with their music education following Wider Opportunities.

The need for Lewisham Music Service to develop in this way was underlined by the self evaluation and peer moderation process carried out in April 2009 under the auspices of the Federation of Music Services. These processes were put in place when OFSTED¹ decided to no longer 'inspect' music services.

Since completion of the original Review report, the Head of Lewisham Music Service has presented the findings, plus his proposals for restructuring the service to meet the needs of the period until 2011, to a number of bodies:

- Senior Management at the Town Hall
- Schools Forum
- Primary Consultative Committee

¹ Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

The proposals were endorsed by the above bodies and it was decided that there was a need to consult further with stakeholders. This consultation commenced in late May 2009, with a closing date for comments at the end of June 2009. The purpose of this report is to set out the consultation process, to examine and analyse the responses and to draw conclusions from that process for the benefit of the Music Service and the students to whom services are provided.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

As noted above, this consultation commenced in late May 2009, with a closing date for comments being at the end of June 2009.

The consultation process document centred on the recommendations of the review and made a number of specific proposals for the development of Lewisham Music Service, in particular:

- **Location** – The proposals were to reduce services provided at The Albany and increase the geographical spread of Lewisham Music Service provision, thus improving access and inclusion for students located in all parts of the Borough.
- **Charges** – It was noted that current charges were low compared to similar services provided by other providers and required significant subsidy from the Music Service. A more realistic scale of charges was proposed, with some subsidies still in place, in particular for those pupils resident in Lewisham attending Lewisham maintained schools, and those who qualified for Free School Meals. These proposed charges would release funding to facilitate the delivery of Wider Opportunities Programmes at Key Stage 2, as required by Government guidelines on the use of the Music Standards Fund.
- **Saturday Centres** – It was proposed to improve provision for ensembles by combining the two existing centres (Deptford Music Centre and Lewisham Centre for Young Musicians) in one school location away from The Albany.
- **Entry Criteria** – In view of the restricted availability of funding, a number of proposals were raised for consultation about who should be able to access the Music Service provision, relating to residency and school attendance.
- **Phasing of changes** – In view of the number of changes it was proposed that changes to the weekday evening provision would be introduced from September 2009, but the proposed changes to the Saturday provision, both combining the two centres and increasing charges, would not be implemented until January 2010.

The following groups of Music Service users/stakeholders were invited to take part in the consultation process:

- Schools
- Parents
- Students
- Staff

This was achieved by sending letters to all parents/carers of students in Music Service ensembles, evening tuition classes and Saturday Centres. These letters set out the issues involved and invited stakeholders to e-mail their comments. Further information was provided on the Music Service website including details of discussion meetings.

Letters were also sent to all Head Teachers of schools in the Borough. In addition, a meeting was held for members of staff. Each member of staff received a copy of the letter sent to parents to enable them to answer any questions which might be raised by parents/carers and to invite them to express their own comments.

A separate questionnaire was issued to parents/carers in a sample of five primary schools and one special school.

A document was produced and placed on the website which set out the Music Service proposals for improvements to services in the future along with charts showing comparisons of charges with other local suppliers, the principles underpinning the proposed changes and example tuition timetables. The purpose of this document was to assist with the consultative thought process and to provide a structure for the process.

A number of questions were published on the website to help guide responses if necessary as follows:

Entry Criteria

- What do you think about our proposal to give precedence to children who live in Lewisham and who attend maintained schools?
- What do you think about our proposal to introduce different charges determined by residency and type of school attended?

After school classes and ensembles

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of classes and ensembles being located at The Albany?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of classes and ensembles being located in local schools around the Borough?

Charges

- What do you think about the proposals – do the activities represent good value for money compared with other Local Authorities and other providers?

Saturday Centre

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of combining the two existing Centres?
- How will the rises in charges affect you?
- What do you think about the proposal to expand the ensemble provision at the Centre?
- What do you think about the proposal to offer tuition to students after school rather than on Saturdays?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Centre being located in a Lewisham school?

Overall Strategy

- What does the Music Service do well?
- In what ways can we improve the service we offer to Lewisham's schools and young musicians?
- What do you think should be the Music Service's main priorities for the next few years?

To facilitate this consultative process, a special area was set up on the Music Service website and stakeholders were encouraged to respond to the above series of questions by e-mail. A series of public meetings was also held; initially just two were planned but, in response to requests from stakeholders, a third meeting was arranged.

RESPONSES

The volumes of responses received against the total number of invitations to respond that were sent are set out in the following chart:

INVITATIONS TO RESPOND	TOTAL NUMBERS OF LETTERS SENT	TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES	%
SCHOOLS	84	1 school	1.2
SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRES	6 SCHOOLS (180 parents/carers)	1 school: 17 parents/carers, plus 1 school: 5 parents/carers	9.4
PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS	400	14 parents/carers, 2 students	4.0
STAFF	65	1	1.5
TOTALS	90 schools (180 parents/carers), 400 parents/carers, 65 members of staff	1 school, 36 parents/carers, 2 students, 1 member of staff	

Although letters and e-mails were sent to all Head Teachers of schools maintained by the Borough of Lewisham (totalling 90), just one school responded with comments to the consultative process and with completed questionnaires from the parents/carers of 17 of its students.

Of the 400 parents/carers and students

- 5 parents/carers responded to the questions as asked
- 10 parents/carers responded in more general terms
- 15 parents/carers attended the public meetings
- 2 students responded

This makes a total of 32, but 3 of the parents/carers who attended a public meeting also sent a written response so the total number of individual responses from parents/carers and students was 29. It should be noted, however, that not all respondents provided comments on each question raised and the responses detailed below relate to the comments received against each issue.

Some criticisms of the consultative process were received, ranging from non-receipt of the letter to parents, through not being aware of the public meetings or the whole process, to the fact that the process was mainly web based and each parent had not been sent a copy of the full consultation document pack in printed format. The Music Service made efforts to respond to these criticisms by arranging a third public meeting for those people who missed the first two. No calls or correspondence were received at the Music Service Office relating to difficulties with accessing the online information or requests for alternative ways for responding to the consultation. One response was submitted in the form of a letter.

Responses relating to the specific questions raised in the Consultation Process:

Entry Criteria

Q. What do you think about our proposal to give precedence to children who live in Lewisham and who attend maintained schools?

Five parents/carers, the school and the member of staff, agreed that this proposal was correct and reasonable. However a note of caution was sounded by the member of the Music Service staff about the need to provide some transition arrangements for those children currently learning who did not meet the criteria.

Two respondents voiced the opinion that the proposals were unfair and that all children residing in the Borough of Lewisham should be treated equally. One respondent went as far as voicing the opinion that the Borough of Lewisham should provide additional services for children whose parents/carers qualify for FSM even if they are not resident in the Borough.

Q. What do you think about our proposal to introduce different charges determined by residency and type of school attended?

Again 5 parents/carers, the school and the member of staff agreed with the proposals, however, notes of caution were sounded concerning the potentially complicated nature of the future charging structure and the effect on those parents/carers who, whilst not qualifying for FSM, would still find payment difficult. 3 parents/carers noted concern at the ability of the administrative systems within Lewisham Music Service to cope with the potential complications of the pricing structure. The view that all children resident in the Borough should be treated equally was reiterated.

After school classes and ensembles

Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of classes and ensembles being located at The Albany?

The School expressed the view that concentrating provision at The Albany put their students at a disadvantage and that they believed that provision should be made available at various locations around the Borough. Parents/carers, in the main, liked The Albany, in view of the incidental facilities which it provides e.g.: transport links, ease of parking and the availability of the cafe. Indeed, one complained that, on occasions, other events taking place at The Albany meant that these facilities were not always available.

Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of classes and ensembles being located in local schools around the Borough?

Whilst, as noted above, the school was in favour of spreading provision around the Borough, parents/carers expressed the view that whilst this was a good idea as additional provision, it should not be instead of provision at The Albany. The belief was expressed that the proposal would cause confusion and would be detrimental to the maintenance and growth of ensembles. Further parent/carer views centred on the possible lack of other facilities at schools, like those at The Albany e.g.: transport links, ease of parking and the cafe.

Charges

Q. What do you think about the proposals – do the activities represent good value for money compared with other Local Authorities and other providers?

Whilst the school agreed with the proposals and a small minority of parents/carers accepted the need for rates to rise to a level on a par with other local authorities, the majority of parents/carers thought that the proposed rates represented too much of an increase and were in some cases inconsistent especially in respect of the ratios between the rate for those who qualify for FSM and those who do not and the proposed rate for siblings. There was some concern that after years of paying a minimal fee for music provision, the increases were disproportionate and would not reflect value for money. Some respondents considered that the changes would lead to the loss of some students to other providers, thus diminishing the quality and breadth of the ensembles.

Saturday Centre

Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of combining the two existing Centres?

7 parents/carers, 2 students and the member of staff agreed that combining the two Saturday Centres should lead to operational efficiencies and enable the creation of more bigger, better ensembles. However, a note of caution was raised by the member of staff that space constraints might reduce the number of places within some bands and this could lead to some band members being unable to find a place. Similarly, whilst the possible future creation of more Saturday Centres would facilitate progression for students who start to learn under the Wider Opportunities programme, this would inevitably lead to competition for access to some equipment and larger instruments.

Q. How will the rises in charges affect you?

Whilst the response of one parent was that the proposal would not make much difference to them and the school noted that schools would benefit by money becoming available to provide Wider Opportunities programmes, 8 parent/carer respondents noted that their costs would increase and that it was inevitable that some would have to cut back on the provision enjoyed by their children. 2 respondents suggested that a capped fee could be introduced for users of multiple activities on Saturdays, or a flat fee could be charged for all activities on a Saturday with breaks for half a session or a full session.

Q. What do you think about the proposal to expand the ensemble provision at the Centre?

This proposal was universally welcomed by the respondents as it would provide more students with the opportunity of participating in an ensemble. One note of caution was raised in that expansion of the ensemble provision should not be at the expense of the instrumental lessons which until now have formed an integral part of the Saturday provision.

Q. What do you think about the proposal to offer tuition to students after school rather than on Saturdays?

This proved to be a very contentious proposal with all respondents saying that this would either take time to achieve or that it would not work at all. The issues raised related to the ability of working parents/carers to handle the transport demands during the period immediately after school, the possibility that the students might not be able to stay with the

same tutor if lessons were moved to the evening, the need for teaching of instruments to be related to the ensemble experience on Saturday and the difficulty for students, especially for those at secondary schools, to juggle this with other commitments e.g. homework etc.

Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Centre being located in a Lewisham school?

This proposal met with general acceptance, especially if it would lead to significant budget savings, in the belief that this would provide encouragement for more students to make use of the facilities. However, there was some concern relating to perceived difficulties in relationships between Music Service staff and school staff over the joint use of resources and the acknowledged lack of storage space in many schools.

One parent/carer responded that they were not aware that Lewisham Music Service had any Saturday Centres.

Overall Strategy

Q. What does the Music Service do well?

Responses here were very complimentary about the quality of teaching provided by Lewisham Music Service staff as well as the interaction between the staff and the students. The school responded that the existing Wider Opportunities programmes were very good but needed to be extended to ensure all Lewisham children have access to music provision.

Q. In what ways can we improve the service we offer to Lewisham's schools and young musicians?

Here a varied range of responses was received. Respondents wanted, in varying numbers:

- an extension to the Wider Opportunities programme
- extensions to the levels of access and provision for progression of more talented students
- more opportunities for students to perform in public
- more encouragement by the schools to promote the services provided by the Music Service

Q. What do you think should be the Music Service's main priorities for the next few years?

Not unnaturally, virtually every respondent had a different idea of what the main priority of the Music Service should be over the next few years. These ranged as follows:

- Extending music opportunities beyond Primary Schools to enable students to pursue music to a higher level
- Wider Opportunities programmes
- Fulfilling Government targets but not at the expense of existing provision
- Funding needing to be found to provide Saturday Centres in their own right
- Better advertising of existing provision
- Taster sessions for school children to enable them to hear and feel all types of instruments and musical genre
- School visits to see professional musicians of all genre

Comments from parents/carers who completed the school questionnaire

Two groups of parents/carers completed the questionnaire (Copy in Appendices):

The first group of 17 parents/carers were those whose children currently enjoyed a Wider Opportunities programme within their school.

All 17 children had been learning guitar as a whole class for one year at no cost to the parents/carers through a Wider Opportunities programme, of these parents/carers of 11 children (65%), expressed the view that they would like their child to continue to learn a musical instrument. Whilst only one child was currently in a band or choir, a similar 65% said that they would like their child to have the opportunity to join a band or choir.

All parents/carers believed that music lessons should be provided locally within the school rather than at a central place such as The Albany. When asked where the Music Service should be focusing its funding for musical activities, 65% (11 parents/carers) expressed the view that the focus should be in schools, 23% (4 parents/carers) expressed the view that the focus should be both in schools and outside. 6% (1 parent/carer) expressed the view that all funding should be focussed outside schools and the remaining parent did not express a preference.

The final question asked what additional musical activities they would like to see provided by the Music Service. Although 23% (4 parents/carers) did not express a preference, the remainder voiced a wide range of views. Most would like a wide range of instruments to be offered with piano being the most popular. However the greatest call was for bands of various types to be formed leading to an annual concert in the school. One parent/carer suggested taster sessions with a range of instruments supported by visits either to the school by professional musicians or to workshops/concerts run by professional musicians.

The children of the second group of 5 parents/carers received small group instrumental tuition in school from instrumental tutors provided by the Music Service.

Of these 5 children; 3 already played or sang in ensembles with the remainder wanting to join an ensemble. Four of the 5 parents/carers expressed a preference for local provision. Whilst three wanted funding focused on school programmes, one stated a preference that funding should be focused on both schools and The Albany.

Comments from parents, carers and students - evening classes and Saturday Centres

The following concerns were expressed:

- Seven parents/carers, 2 students and the member of staff were concerned about the concept of moving instrumental tuition from the Saturday sessions to evening sessions during the week. The specific concerns here related to:
 - problems with transport for working parents/carers,
 - conflicts with homework and other commitments on weekday evenings
 - and the possibility that the lessons would become isolated from the ensembles with different tutors and material.
- There was a general acknowledgement that the space available at The Albany was insufficient for the needs of the Saturday provision and that relocation to a school would facilitate the growth of the existing ensembles and the creation of new ones but 5 parents/carers, 2 students and the member of staff considered that to move out of The Albany would be detrimental to the service, especially for the Saturday provision.

- Two parents/carers wondered whether the future Lewisham Music Service would only provide services in Primary Schools and, if this was the case, whether the service would be able to retain the best tutors.
- Ten parents/carers, 2 students and the member of staff were concerned about:
 - The increases in cost; 8 parents/carers said that these increases would force them to make choices as to what activities their children could undertake or whether their children could continue with their music education.
 - Four respondents expressed the view that not only would their children lose out but, the Borough of Lewisham would in addition lose its bands and ensembles.

Comments raised at a Staff Meeting

Comments from Staff were generally very supportive of the proposed changes to the operations of Lewisham Music Service.

Charges and Subsidies

The view was expressed that it would be good to have fees which were comparable with other providers so that Wider Opportunities programmes could reach more students, although there was some concern that students might drop out of small groups.

Premises

There was general agreement that moving to school premises would provide more space at less cost as well as enabling the service to forge stronger links with the schools, providing the concerns over the joint use of resources and the acknowledged lack of storage space in many schools can be managed.

After School Provision

Staff expressed excitement at the prospect of being able to offer after school activities to students at a number of locations across the Borough.

Ensembles

The proposals to increase the range of ensembles were received with much approval, as it was considered that this would give the students more opportunities to demonstrate their musical prowess. The concept of involving groups of schools in a collaborative way was particularly exciting. These positives were tempered with the view that changes to staff working arrangements might result in some staff losing work, despite the proposals to increase the number and breadth of the ensembles.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Lewisham Music Service is under severe pressure to restructure its finances as soon as possible for two key reasons.

Wider Opportunities

Government guidance on the use of Standards Fund has been set out in two documents published by DCSF² entitled: "**Grant 1.11: Music**" and "**MUSIC EDUCATION AND THE MUSIC GRANT (Standards Fund 1.11) Aspirations, Support and Delivery**". These documents, which can be viewed on the DCSF website (Details in the Bibliography), provide clear guidance that the Standards Fund Grant 1.11 should be used to fund '*opportunities for Key Stage 2 pupils to learn a musical instrument and / or to receive specialist vocal tuition*'.

The current annual Standards Fund Grant runs until April 2011 and, at the time of writing, no decisions have been announced as to the future structure of this grant. However the FMS³, which oversees the use of the grant on behalf of the Government, has intimated that any future grant would be apportioned between music services on the basis of their achievements in using the existing grant to fund the priority Wider Opportunities programmes and the levels of social deprivation within each music service area.

It is, therefore, essential that Lewisham Music Service is able to demonstrate that it is using a significant part of the current Standards Fund Grant to fund Wider Opportunities programmes for Key Stage 2 students, if it is to be able to achieve the best possible grant settlement in the next round from April 2011.

Budgetary Control

The London Borough of Lewisham has, in the past, been willing and able to 'write off' budget overspends within the finances of Lewisham Music Service. However, in these times of tight public finances, Lewisham Music Service has been told that this can no longer happen and that it must operate within its existing finances of the Standards Fund Grant together with the income which it raises from schools and parents/carers.

There is thus acute budgetary pressure on Lewisham Music Service, not only to balance its books within this financial year but, in doing so, to demonstrate that it is using the majority of the current Standards Fund Grant to fund Wider Opportunities programmes for Key Stage 2 students.

² Department for Children, Schools and Families

³ Federation of Music Services

CONCLUSIONS

Lewisham Music Service has made a number of proposals to increase the breadth and spread of high quality musical experiences available to students across the Borough. These proposals were made in response to the recent Review Report and the self evaluation and peer moderation process carried out in April 2009 under the auspices of the Federation of Music Services. These proposals were endorsed by the management structure of the CYPD⁴ within the Borough where it was considered that they should be put to a public consultation process.

The Music Service made every reasonable effort to engage with as many stakeholders as possible during the consultative process despite receiving a few criticisms of the consultative process. It is, therefore, perhaps disappointing, that so few stakeholders became involved in the consultation process. It is perhaps inevitable that the majority of those stakeholders, who did take the time to respond, represented the core group of stakeholders for whom the proposals would involve increased costs or changes in provision.

The conclusions of this Report have been prepared on the basis of the responses received.

Entry Criteria

The comments concerning the principles for change suggest that the general thrust of the principles was found to be acceptable but the proposals themselves needed some adjustments. Reworking the proposals such that services would be provided to all students resident in the Borough, but with priority given to those attending Lewisham schools would seem to meet the majority of the respondents' views and would be easy to administer. Similarly, FSM concessionary rates for out of school provision should be applied to qualifying students resident in the Borough only. The Borough of Lewisham cannot be expected to provide subsidies to students who are not resident in the Borough.

After school classes and ensembles

Whilst it is accepted that it is from a very small sample base, the school view was that concentrating provision at The Albany put parents/carers and students located in areas across the Borough at a disadvantage and that any provision, which could be provided, should be spread across all areas of the Borough as evenly as possible.

Parents/carers were generally in favour of such sessions being provided at various locations across the Borough, although the view was expressed that this should be in addition to, rather than instead of, provision at The Albany. Parents/carers obviously appreciate the ancillary benefits which The Albany provides such as space for siblings to play and the cafe. However, it is difficult to see any justification why the Music Service should be required to provide such facilities whilst students are receiving lessons.

Charges

Whilst there was some agreement and acceptance that rates for services provided by Lewisham Music Service during evening sessions should rise to reflect the rates being charged in neighbouring Boroughs, this question became inseparable from the next question which related purely to the Saturday provision.

⁴ Children and Young People's Directorate

Saturday Centre

This was always going to be the most contentious issue since the users of the Saturday provision have been enjoying first class music services at little or no cost for a number of years. Indeed, previous management regimes within the Lewisham Music Service have failed to make any significant inroads into reducing the level of subsidy being enjoyed by a relatively small proportion of the music service's clients at a time when government guidance on the use of Standards Fund monies was very clear.

With such a history, it is inevitable that there will be considerable resistance to any proposals to redress the balance and implement changes both to the services being offered during the Saturday sessions and the way that such services should be paid for, to bring the finances nearer to balancing and to enable additional students to access the services across the Borough. It is perhaps disappointing that many of the respondents expressed the view that whilst the Music Service should be seen to meet the Government's requirements for Wider Opportunities programmes at Key Stage 2, this should not be achieved by making changes to what they see as their entitlement to good quality but inexpensive provision on Saturdays. Indeed there was a view that the Borough, or some other body, should in some way provide the funds to continue to subsidise these activities thus releasing the Standards Fund grant to provide Wider Opportunities programmes at Key Stage 2.

It is, however, inevitable that some parents/carers will find it difficult in the current climate to meet the increased charges and the proposed changes seem likely to result in some students becoming unable to access music tuition above the basic level and/or to be a member of an ensemble.

Since it was generally accepted that the available space at The Albany has become too small to accommodate the growing ensembles, the concept of moving the Saturday provision to a school premises met with some approval, especially if this would involve lower accommodation costs, which would feed through to lower charges. However, there was a perception from a member of staff that this could lead to problems with the school resources and storage space. Again some parents/carers thought the loss of the incidental facilities, which they enjoyed at The Albany, would be a problem. As noted earlier, it is difficult to see any justification why the Music Service should be required to provide such facilities whilst students are receiving lessons and/or attending ensembles.

Overall Strategy

It is obvious from the responses that users of the services provided by Lewisham Music Service were very happy about the quality of the instrumental tuition provided, be it in schools as Wider Opportunities programmes or, outside school during the evenings or on Saturdays. Particular mention was made of the benefits of the interaction between the tutors and their students.

Most respondents would like more services to be provided, but no suggestions were made as to how such additional services should/could be funded.

One area where there was a considerable level of agreement was that the Music Service should publicise its services more widely to encourage more students to take advantage of the high quality tuition available.

APPENDICES

- I. Letter to all parents and carers of students attending evening classes, Ensembles, Lewisham Youth Choir, DMC and LCYM
- II. Letter to schools with questionnaire

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To all parents and carers of students attending evening classes, ensembles, Lewisham Youth Choir, DMC and LCYM

Thursday 28 May 2009

Dear Parent, Carer and Student,

We wish to let you know about some important proposals for changes and developments in the work of Lewisham Music Service. Earlier this year, the London Borough of Lewisham commissioned an independent review of the Music Service. Following the review, the Music Service and the Borough wish to propose changes to some of the programmes currently on offer.

The core purpose of the Service is to develop music learning programmes for children and young people in Lewisham. We want to provide greater access, inclusion and improved pathways for progression. We need to meet the objectives of the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) Standards Fund guidance and the Lewisham CYP Plan, in particular developing our Wider Opportunities programme *Tune Up* that will, over time, give every child in Key Stage 2 in Lewisham schools the chance to experience vocal and instrumental tuition. By streamlining and re-locating our evening and Saturday provision, Music Service funding can be re-directed towards developing further the reach and impact of music learning in Lewisham's schools, building on the Wider Opportunities programme.

We wish to consult with all Music Service stakeholders and users on the following proposals:

1. to introduce a new and fairer charging system for all our programmes which will match more closely charges levied by other London Local Authority Music Services whilst keeping charges for children in receipt of Free School Meals as low as possible;
2. to establish clear entry criteria for out of school provision that prioritises routes for progression for children in Lewisham schools;
3. to move some of our evening classes and ensembles to school premises in the Borough and reduce the space the Music Service hires from The Albany;
4. to combine our two Saturday Centres (Deptford Music Centre and Lewisham Centre for Young Musicians) on a single school site.

Some of the advantages of these proposals are:

- more musical opportunities for children and young people in Lewisham schools to access music and develop their musical skills, particularly in new ensembles;
- a re-vitalised Saturday Music Centre with a greater focus on ensemble work in which new and existing groups bring together some of our most advanced young people as well as extending opportunities for younger and less experienced musicians;
- better links between school and out of school provision to ensure children and young people's progression is sustained and connected, particularly between primary and secondary phases of education;
- a more streamlined, modernised Music Service which will allow us to focus on enhancing the quality of the Service we provide, building on our strengths and traditions;
- a greater spread of musical opportunities across the Borough in localised centres;
- an extension of the reach and impact of our work in the Borough and better value for money.

Some of the disadvantages of these proposals are:

- re-structuring of services will mean some classes will need to be combined and re-located;
- changes in timetables and travel arrangements for some students currently attending classes at The Albany and Sedgehill School;
- increased costs for some families.

We wish to complete both the changes to evening provision and the opening of the combined Saturday Music Centre in January 2010. In the Autumn Term 2009 transition charging and timetable arrangements will need to be in place in order to prepare for the changes in 2010.

Please visit our website www.lewishammusicservice.org and follow the link to the Consultation pages for more details on these proposals including information about discussion opportunities for after school and Saturday users.

We believe our proposals will improve the services we offer to families in Lewisham. They will also facilitate many more children and young people having the chance to experience a greater diversity of high quality music making. We believe these changes will contribute to ensuring a secure and stable future for the Music Service for years to come.

If you wish to comment on these proposals please email musicserviceconsultation@lewisham.gov.uk.

The closing date for this consultation is Friday 26 June 2009.

Thank you for your comments. They will help us plan for the future and develop our ideas in more detail. We will publish our plans in July 2009 following the consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hayward
Head of Lewisham Music Service

Carolyn Unsted
Head of Standards and Achievement



LEWISHAM MUSIC SERVICE

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Lewisham Music Service Consultation

Questionnaire for parents in schools

We want to improve the service we provide to children and young people in Lewisham and develop greater access to music for more children in the borough. By making changes to our evening and Saturday provision, Music Service funding can be re-directed towards developing and supporting music learning in Lewisham's schools, including meeting the Government target that, over time, every child in Key Stage 2 in Lewisham schools will have the chance to learn a musical instrument.

We are consulting with schools and with our after school and Saturday users on these ideas, and you can see more at www.lewishammusicservice.org including details on how you can register your comments should you wish to do so.

However, as part of the Consultation, we are also asking a group of focus schools to assist us in finding out more about what parents and carers think of our proposals. We'd be very grateful if you could help us by completing the following short questionnaire.

Yours,



Peter Hayward
Head of Lewisham Music Service

Your name _____

Name of your child _____ Year group _____

School _____

Please circle all answers that apply

1. Does your child learn a musical instrument at school? **YES / NO**
(If NO, please go to question 5)
2. Which instrument? _____ For how long? _____
3. Is the instrumental lesson **A SMALL GROUP LESSON / A WHOLE CLASS LESSON?**
4. Is there a charge for lessons? **YES / NO**
(please go to question 6)
5. Would you like your child to learn a musical instrument? **YES / NO**
6. Is your child part of a band or choir? **YES / NO**
(If YES, please go to question 8)
7. Would you like your child to join a band or choir? **YES / NO**
8. Should Music Service after school music activities be available
LOCALLY / AT THE ALBANY, DEPTFORD
9. Should the Music Service be focusing its funding on musical opportunities for
children in schools, or out of school? **IN SCHOOLS / OUT OF SCHOOL**
10. What kinds of music making activities would you like to see the Music Service provide?

11. Please use the space below if you would like to make any other comments about the work of the Music Service.

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire.

Please return it to your child's School Office by **Wednesday 24 June 2009.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following documents were used in the writing of the Background to this report. Where these documents are publicly available a website address has been added.

- I. Report of the Review of Lewisham Music Service dated January 2009
- II. Report for Mayor & Cabinet
- III. Report to Schools forum
- IV. Summary of results of the FMS Self Evaluation and Peer Moderation of Lewisham Music Service
- V. DCSF document entitled: "**Grant 1.11: Music**" - www.dcsf.gov.uk
- VI. DCSF document entitled: "**MUSIC EDUCATION AND THE MUSIC GRANT (Standards Fund 1.11): Aspirations, Support and Delivery**" - www.dcsf.gov.uk
- VII. The Music Manifesto - www.musicmanifesto.co.uk