

Music Service Consultation Exercise 9 February 2016 - 10 March 2016

Number of consultation responses received: 966

Support Proposal/Happy	0
Against Proposal/Unhappy	965
Undecided	1
<i>Responses from:</i>	
Learner	90
Parent/Carer	57
Member of Staff	12
School	2
Elected Member/AM/MP/MEP/Trade Union	5
Other	802

	Point Raised	Local Authority (LA) Response	Number of Written Responses Raising Point	% of Responses Raising Point
1	The respondent makes the point that they do not want the Council to withdraw the subsidy. Some respondents make it clear that they do not want the service to split and some say it may end up costing more.	This proposal is to create new sustainable services for each local authority.	407	42.1%
2	The respondent thinks that the funding subsidy should be phased out over a number of years, giving more time for cost saving strategies.	This proposal is to create new sustainable services for each local authority.	30	3.1%
3	The respondent says that opportunities for learners will be lost (eg making friends, acquiring skills, creativity, travel, concerts and extra-curricular activities). Some respondents have concerns because learners enjoy different subjects.	This was not part of the consultation. The proposal to create new services for each local authority should not affect opportunities for learners. The orchestras and ensembles will continue to operate jointly.	136	14.1%
4	The respondent says that music can support the learner with development including communication, confidence, literacy, numeracy, mental health etc.	This is recognised. This was not part of the consultation. The proposal to create new services for each local authority should not affect opportunities for learners.	724	74.9%
5	The respondent says that the West Glamorgan Music Service (WGMS) is able to provide a bigger orchestra and range of instruments and is afraid that this will be lost if both Council's stop working together.	This was not part of the consultation. The proposal to create new services for each local authority should not affect opportunities for learners. The orchestras and ensembles will continue to operate jointly.	79	8.2%
6	The respondent has concerns regarding staff jobs, future employment and potential redundancies.	If all schools buy back in to the service level agreement there should be minimal impact on staffing. This is a decision for individual governing bodies.	27	2.8%
7	The respondent says that the service is ending and that this means future generations will not be able to access music provision. Sometimes the respondent says that this is because of stretched school budgets and schools being unable to buy back into the Service Level Agreement (SLA).	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have a clearly defined service in each authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	130	13.5%
8	The respondent has concerns that learners from low-income families will be disadvantaged as they will be unable to afford to pay for music tuition. Some respondents say that music plays a part in fighting poverty.	The local authority is not proposing a charge for learners. Schools that buy into the music service level agreement (or from external providers) decide individually if they wish to charge parents a fee. Schools and governing bodies will, through the flexibility delegated budgets allow, and, in particular, the pupil deprivation grant, can make a decision to prioritise disadvantaged learners.	699	72.4%

9	The respondent says that the staff within the West Glamorgan Music Service are committed, go the extra mile and sometimes work without pay at music centres.	Staff commitment is recognised. This proposal should not affect staffing greatly if schools continue to buy back into the service level agreement. Music centres should always have been self-funding from parental contributions.	32	3.3%
10	The respondent has a concern that disaggregating the West Glamorgan Music Service is taking place before local government reorganisation and is going against Welsh government guidance.	At present there is no clarity about the timing or detail of local government reorganisation. We need a clearly defined service in each authority with strong, unambiguous, transparent staffing and financial accounting. The current arrangement is unsustainable as it is not feasible to correctly cost the service or risks for either local authority and therefore schools.	643	66.6%
11	The respondent is concerned that Swansea is falling behind or will fall behind Neath Port Talbot as they are continuing to support the service short-term.	Local authorities, due to financial pressures, have to make very difficult financial decisions. Swansea has agreed to continue with financial support into the financial year 2016-2017 to allow the service to become more sustainable.	119	12.3%
12	The respondent fears that Welsh culture, heritage and community partnerships through music will be lost	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	650	67.3%
13	The respondent fears that the future careers of learners involved with the West Glamorgan Music Service will be harmed as GCSE or music grades may be affected. Some respondents say that they benefitted from music themselves when in education, others are parents/carers who are concerned about their children.	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each local authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	43	4.5%
14	The respondent is concerned that there will be a period of disruption whilst both services separate and two new services are formed. Some respondents are concerned about the logistics of splitting eg sharing instruments, skilled staff in specific fields of music, cover for maternity and sickness.	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	529	54.8%
15	The respondent makes the point that the West Glamorgan Music Service has already faced severe cuts and cannot sustain any more.	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	595	61.6%
16	The respondent says that the current proposals conflict with the Council commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	629	65.1%
17	The respondent says that a private provider could not deliver the same high standard of tuition as the WGMS. Some respondents make the point that the pay and terms and conditions of staff would also be reduced if forced to work for a private provider.	There is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	127	13.1%
18	The respondent suggests that the Council could use income to provide a subsidy to the West Glamorgan Music Service (eg the sale of the Civic Centre, charging for events/concerts, exploring sponsorship, discussing early retirement/voluntary redundancy with staff and reducing working hours to keep costs low).	These suggestions are helpful though it is should be noted that there is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each local authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	13	1.3%
20	The respondent makes the point that they would like the West Glamorgan Music Service to be enhanced.	Schools are the users of the service and identify the level of support that they require.	17	1.8%
21	The respondent says that consultation and communication on the proposals has been poor. Some respondents say that they wish to see the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), but have been unable to do so. Some respondents say that the consultation has been different in the both authorities.	Both local authorities have their own guidance on consultation and communication and these have been adhered to.	10	1.0%
22	The respondent makes the point that they are supportive of the opportunity to review, monitor and reform the service so it can become more efficient.	These suggestions are helpful though it is should be noted that there is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each local authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	2	0.2%

23	The respondent makes the point that the Council is not being supportive of the Donaldson Report (Successful Futures) and is not trying to improve results (eg PISA).	These points are recognised though it is should be noted that there is no proposal to end the service, only to have clearly defined services in each local authority with clear financial accounting and staffing.	5	0.5%
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Conclusion -

Responses include letters from:

National Union of Teachers (NUT)
 NASUWT
 Penclawdd Junior Band
 West Wales Brass Band Association
 Ospreys Supporters Choir
 Neath and District Trades Union Council.
 Suzy Davies AM (Assembly Member, South Wales West)

Petitions

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Llogyn Fach (167 signatures).
 Friends of West Glamorgan Music Service (WGMS) (6090 signatures).

Late responses

A petition was received from the parish of Llansamlet (received 11 March 2016 - after closing date). (68 signatures).
 Five email responses as at 17/03/2016.
 Two hard copy responses as at 17/03/2016.

For information

Nine letters were received with no name. These have not been included.
 A letter asking questions was received from Byron Davies MP. Leader of City and County of Swansea responded.
 A letter was received from Swansea headteachers. Chief Education Officer responded.