



Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel 15 December 2022

Swansea Music Team Update

Purpose:	To update the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel Music Provision for/in Swansea Schools
Content	A briefing on: - Swansea Music, Service Level Agreement (SLA) - The National Music Service Wales
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided and give views
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Robert Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Karin Jenkins, Head of Swansea Music E-mail karin.jenkins@swansea.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 Swansea Music was established in September 2016 following the disaggregation of the former West Glamorgan Music Service which served the counties of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea. Swansea Music currently sits within the Achievement and Partnership Service and forms part of the School Improvement Team.
- 1.2 The core responsibility of Swansea Music is to support and to help raise standards and support schools to provide high quality music provision. Swansea Music provides a complete range of music tuition and music services to meet the needs and aspirations of all pupils, collectively and individually, and those of schools and local communities. Access to Music Service provision is at the discretion of the Head Teacher and Governing Body and it is a non-statutory service. For the academic year 2022-2023, 48 Primary Schools, 8 Secondary Schools, 1 Special School and Maes Derw Pupil Referral Unit access the Service Level Agreement (SLA).

1.3 Staffing levels at present are a Head of Music Service, one administration assistant (0.2 FTE), 2 Team Leaders (1 FTE) and 19 other members of teaching staff of which 2 are full-time and 17 are part-time. All teaching staff are employed on School Teachers' pay and conditions. There are 7 members of staff who have qualified teacher status and are therefore paid as qualified teachers, the rest of the staff members are paid as unqualified teachers. All contracted staff undertake performance management, administered by the Head of Swansea Music and Team Leaders.

1.4 Instrument specialisms of contracted staff include (with some members of staff teaching more than one specialism):

- Brass x 3
- Woodwind x 4
- Strings x 6
- Percussion x 3
- Harp x 1
- Keyboard x 1
- Guitar and ukulele x 2
- Vocal x 1

1.5 Since 2016 Swansea Music has extensively enhanced its SLA provision with the current SLA prospectus offering a wide range of options for schools including:

- Swansea Music's First Steps (Whole Class music for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils)
- Whole-Class 'PlayAlong' Project
- Whole-Class 'SingAlong' Project
- Whole-Class 'BandAlong', 'JazzAlong' and 'SambaAlong' Projects
- Traditional Instrumental and Vocal Tuition, Small & Large Group
- Traditional Instrumental and Vocal tuition, Individual Tuition
- School Ensembles and Choir Rehearsals
- Swansea Youth Music After-School Activities for Pupils
- Additional Support Packages and Projects Available for One-off Costs and support the options choices including Music Therapy and Wellbeing
- Curriculum Support and Collaboration
- Wellbeing, Live Performance & Career Opportunities
- Transition Support Projects for Schools

2. Briefing on Swansea Music Service Level Agreement (SLA)

2.1 In April 2021, a review of the Music SLA was undertaken through engagement with a stakeholder working group. Members of the working group included local authority officers, representatives from primary and secondary schools and the Swansea Music Service. Due

to the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic, the focus of the new Music SLA Prospectus ([found here](#)), encourages schools to use music and the arts to support pupils' wellbeing and academic learning. The vision is to provide inclusive music opportunities for all pupils within a school setting. By working together, the focus is also to ensure all pupils have real-life experiences, to make up for the disruption caused by the pandemic. The new SLA model launched to schools in September 2021 is radical in its design, and it affords schools greater flexibility to select their option choices to suit the needs of their pupils highlights the progression routes and County, Regional and National ensembles. To maximise impact, the flexible SLA offer enables schools to increase the level of whole-class or large group sessions delivered to pupils, so that more pupils have opportunities and experiences to enjoy the benefits of learning a musical instrument. The new SLA options, together with the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales, create exciting opportunities for developing the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience in Swansea, cultivating a sense of place and sense of belonging, as embodied in the Cynefin. Swansea Music Service is one of the few Music Services in Wales to offer a full range of whole-class programmes 'PlayAlong' and 'SingAlong', designed by the Music Service across a range of instruments including whole-class singing.

2.2 The summary of ambitions from the Prospectus include four overarching priorities, commitments and a suggested funding model:

2.2.1 Priorities: The four over-arching priorities for pupils include:

- Supporting wellbeing and learning post pandemic/lockdown.
- Strengthening skills and enriching experiences for Curriculum for Wales.
- Reducing the disadvantage gap.
- Promoting Cynefin.

2.2.2 Commitments: Swansea Music Service are committed to ensuring learners irrespective of their background have opportunities to:

- learn to play a range of musical instruments.
- learn to sing.
- perform with others.
- progress to the highest levels.

2.2.3 Suggested Funding Model: A suggested music-funding model for schools, irrespective of whether they buy into the SLA or not, could be:

- Delegated music budget – focussed on whole-class sessions for all pupils.
- PDG – to support efsm/LAC pupils* to progress through grades.

- Charging parents – to assist with costs for pupils from more advantaged backgrounds to progress through grades.

3. Briefing on The National Music Service Wales

3.1 The past 10 years has seen a prolonged decrease in the level of funding for music services resulting in local solutions being sought and delivered, and a range of models being developed. As well as reflecting the differences in funding, they also highlight differences locally in demand and demographic challenge. A range of terms of conditions of engagement exists, costs for schools vary and consequently, an uneven level of provision and pupil offer remains. The impact of this is a huge decrease in uptake and progression of pupils, a high turnover and difficulty in retention or recruiting staff, low morale, and a sense that the situation even now, has yet to reach still its lowest point in terms of impact on opportunities for young people.

3.1.1 January 2015: A task and finish group to consider the challenge was chaired by Karl Napierella OBE. Many of the difficulties that existed then, have been compounded and accelerated in the meantime. Although a number of recommendations were put forward, accepted and acted on, none had gone to the heart of the issue. In January 2017, the Welsh Government Culture Committee then chaired by Bethan Sayed, was tasked with holding an inquiry into the 'Future Funding of Music Services'.

3.1.2 June 2018: [Hitting the Right Note, Culture, Welsh Language Committee](#)

- Music Services need to be protected, nurtured and accessible to all.
- Cuts to school music services, due to austerity measures, were causing a crisis in Welsh music education.
- The importance of equality of provision and access to pupils.
- Lack of a national strategy of vision for music services in Wales.
- The inquiry called on the Welsh Government to provide that strategic direction, by implementing a National Action Plan for Music.

3.1.3 January 2020: [Music Services Feasibility Study](#) Highlighted five options:

- The status quo – a disparate service, which is gradually shrinking with loose coordination, based upon local authority provision.
- Allowing the market to determine provision.
- A strong national coordinating body run by providers, including local authorities/co-operatives/charities/private businesses, and individual tutors. This would be an extension of CAGAC (Cymdeithas Addysg Gerdd Awdurdodau Cymru/Welsh

Authorities Music Education Association), which is a subcommittee of ADEW (Association of Directors of Education in Wales), forming a more representative formal body.

- A regional service with a national coordinating body.
- A national service.

3.1.4 March 2020: Covid-19 Pandemic

- Hiatus and Covid-19 further hits music services.
- [ISM report, Dec 2020](#)

3.1.5 January 2021: Welsh Government Working Group meets to pick up from the feasibility study. Two main objectives:

- Music Plan for Wales, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and in parallel with the introduction of a new Curriculum for Wales from 2022.
- Effect of Covid-19.

3.1.6 December 2021: [Welsh Government - Programme for Government](#): The Welsh Government committed to: 'Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive. We will: Establish a National Music Service'.

3.1.7 May 2022: The National Plan for Music Education was published on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 with the supporting budget for local authorities published on 17 June 2022 [National Plan for Music Education](#)

3.2 Award of Funding for the National Music Service (NMS) Wales: October 2021 - March 2022.

3.2.1 Preparing for the NMS 2021-2022: Music Services across Wales received a significant investment, £5.5 million, from Welsh Government in 2021/2022 for the purchase of musical instruments, adaptive musical instruments and equipment to build the infrastructure of the National Music Service and in addition a grant of £6,820,000 to spend on digital music resource platform and licences (Charanga and Music Mark membership).

- Instrument Category Grant: Swansea Council/Swansea Music Service received an allocation to purchase musical instruments in six specific key categories identified. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh Government Commercial Delivery (WGCD) worked alongside music services to put in place procurement arrangements to support the grant for the purchase of musical instruments across Wales.
- Category 1: Brass Instruments and Accessories: Normans Musical Instruments were awarded the tender.

- Category 2: String Instruments and Accessories; Normans Musical Instruments were awarded the tender.
- Category 3: Woodwind Instruments and Accessories: Haydock Music were awarded the tender.
- Category 4: Percussion Instruments and Accessories: Normans Musical Instruments were awarded the tender.
- Category 5: Special Adaptive Instruments and Accessories: EV-entz Ltd were awarded the tender.
- Category 6: Digital Musical Equipment and Accessories: EV-entz Ltd were awarded the tender.
- In addition, a proportion of the grant could be spent on supporting costs including storage, distribution and future maintenance.

3.2.2 Category 5: Adaptive Instruments

Swansea Music's Plan to support ALN pupils in Swansea using the instrument grant involved:

- working with ALN specialists to agree Adaptive Musical Instrument and equipment spend.
- agreeing ALN Adaptive Instruments to support students in mainstream and special school settings following a questionnaire to ALNco staff and pupils.
- Creation of ALN Musical Packs loaned on a half-term/termly basis with 36 establishments (34 STFs and 2 Special Schools).
- Going forward, create opportunities for Swansea Music teachers to work with ALN pupils to develop music activities and instrumental music within the new National Music Service framework including a 'PlayAlong' Celebration for ALN pupils in Summer 2023.

3.2.3 Digital music resource platform and licences 2021-2022: *Swansea Council/Swansea Music* received access and funding for corporate memberships and licenses as follows:

- Charanga Licences for schools and music service.
- Music Mark Membership.
- CPD & Training including Charanga.

3.3 Award of Funding for the National Music Service: April 2022 - March 2023

The Welsh Government awarded the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) with grant funding of £4,500,000 per year over 2022-2025 to support the WLGA, as lead body, to work in partnership with councils and other key organisations to establish the National Music Service, and to implement the priorities set out in the National Plan for Music Education.

Allocation of funding 2022-2023 - The majority of the funding, £4,065,000, is allocated directly to each council's music service based on a pre-existing funding formula related to learner numbers per council. The remainder of the funding will be used to support national strategy work, including costs associated with:

- the National Music Service Co-ordinator role and business needs.
- National Music Service branding, promotion, translation and communications.
- External evaluation.
- Professional learning for music service staff across Wales.
- Partnership working grant supporting CAGAC.
- National Youth Arts Wales grant.

3.3.1 Music in schools programmes of work: Music Services are required to follow the National Plan for Music Education to finalise the deliverables for their plan which will need to deliver the following programmes of work supporting Curriculum for Wales:

- First experiences.
- Music pathways.
- Music tuition- with support to young people from low-income households and those from underrepresented groups.
- Live music experiences.
- Music examinations (in and outside of school).

3.3.2 Music in schools programmes of work: What is Swansea Music Doing?

- BuzzAlong Abertawe/Swansea BuzzAlong 2022-2023: To support the Cerdd 2 Progression Step Framework, each Year 3 pupil will receive a PBuzz and for the academic year 2022-2023, each Year 3 classroom practitioner will receive termly (possibly 2 in Autumn Term 2022) face to face CPD training days at the Brangwyn Hall delivered by Chris Fower, PBuzz Cymru and a Swansea Music Practitioner. In addition, the Swansea Music Practitioner will supplement the training days with half termly online Q & A check-in/drop-in sessions. To celebrate the year, Year 3 pupils will take part in a BuzzAlong Bonanza at the Brangwyn Hall in June 2023.
- PlayAlong Abertawe/ Swansea PlayAlong 2022-2023: Each Year 4 pupil in the Cerdd 3 Progression Step Framework in Swansea will receive one of the six PlayAlong Schemes, which could include one of the following: TootAlong (Woodwind), StringAlong (String), StrumAlong (Ukulele/guitar), BeatAlong (Drumming/Percussion), GlissAlong (Harp), Singalong (singing). The 45 minute sessions will be delivered by a Swansea Music Practitioner on a weekly basis for up to 6 weeks.

- World Drumming 2022-2023: In the Autumn Term 2022, Year 7 pupils in the Cerdd 4 Progression Step Framework in Swansea will have the opportunity to select one of the World Drumming workshops which will be delivered by a specialist Community. In addition, there will be possible opportunities for workshops in the Spring and Summer Term 2023. Schools will be offered four different drumming sessions and they will be asked to select one of the four. The options will include African, Samba, Taiko or Tabla.
- ALN Music Instrument Carousel: Each of the 36 ALN settings in Swansea (34 STFs and 2 Special Schools), will have the opportunity to use one of the six ALN Musical Packs for a period of 1 half term which has been arranged in a carousel between a cluster of settings. Going forward, Swansea Music aims to create opportunities also for Swansea Music Specialists to work with ALN pupils and staff to develop music activities and instrumental music within the new National Music Service Framework. A 'PlayAlong' Celebration for ALN pupils is planned in the Summer term 2023.
- Elective Home Education (EHE) First Experiences 2022-2023: In a hub setting EHE learners have the opportunity to experience musical activities in a relaxed environment. Swansea Music will deliver a series of termly workshops at 4 hubs across Swansea for up to 35 pupils. The termly series will include:
 - Music Matter
 - Carnival
 - Come and Play
- Music Pathways: Support GCSE and A-level provision: Survey how many pupils are paying for lessons.
- Examinations: continue to develop Swansea Music's Internal County Assessments.

3.3.3 Music outside of schools: programmes of work. The following programmes of work supporting children and young people outside of school developed with wider community partners:

- Music for lifelong learning, health and wellbeing.
- Making music with others: music activities and ensembles.
- Making music with others: performing and creative industries.
- Improving equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Music examinations (in and outside of school).

3.3.4 Music outside of schools' programmes of work: What is Swansea Music Doing?

- Making Music with Others 2022-2023: Relaunch Music Centre activities in Autumn Term 2022 with a Come and Play opportunity. Free membership for the Autumn Term 2022 and a review of opportunities in the Spring Term 2023. Re-establish

strong partnership working developed pre pandemic with BBCNOW, WNO, Gower Festival and develop new partner opportunities under the umbrella of Swansea Music's Moulding Musical Minds Initiative.

- Music for lifelong learning, health and wellbeing 2022-2023:
 - Moulding Musical Minds – 'Making Music Felling Good' Interactive musical extravaganza at the Brangwyn Hall, in Summer 2023 featuring Presenter Kevin Johns, OBE, Swansea Music's Swashbuckling Orchestra, will celebrate the 'Year of the Sea' and demonstrate a vast array of musical instruments taught through the Playalong Scheme and apprentice pirates from Swansea Schools will have the opportunity to 'have a go'.
 - SingAlong with ABC of Opera: Y5 pupils will have the opportunity to experience the world of the Academy of Barmy Composers at the Grand Theatre in the Spring Term 2023.

4. Conclusions/Key Point Summary

4.1 The benefits of the new Swansea Music flexible SLA model:

- affords schools a greater degree of choice and flexibility to bespoke their music provision in terms of the number of hours as well as the type of instrumental/vocal tuition that suits the needs of the school and its community.
- gives greater opportunities to reach more pupils through its inclusive whole class 'PlayAlong' and SingAlong option choices.

4.2 The potential challenges posed by the new Swansea Music SLA model include:

- concerns around the funding of progression steps after the First Experiences/PlayAlong programmes. The music pathways programme of work within the National Music Framework aims to provide children and young people with music-making activities to support their health and well-being, as well as giving opportunities for those who wish to progress and pursue a career in the creative industries.
- challenges in and around the availability and flexibility of the workforce required to maintain a flexible model going forward.

4.3 The benefits of the National Music Service Plan:

- builds upon, but does not replace, the existing music tuition and music-making activities offered to schools and settings by local authorities. Schools have access to projects whether or not they have SLA with their local authority. Local authorities' music

services provide a vital link between activities delivered in school and those accessed out of school.

- allows for a strategic approach and a sustainable budget for a three-year period from 2022.
- gives the opportunity to broaden the delivery model to include an inclusive offer to stakeholders across Wales rather than by Council.
- promotes equality of opportunities for children and young people to experience and develop their abilities in music, regardless of their background and is fundamental for a diverse and inclusive music education sector. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives will address barriers to accessing music such as cost and access to music tuition and provision.
- Creates opportunities for Music as one of the disciplines in the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience. The role of the Music Service will be to support music education and signpost its programmes, and to advise schools and settings on the experiences and opportunities available from its programmes.

4.4 The potential challenge posed by the National Service Plan:

- Council Music Service structures and delivery models vary significantly across Wales. This variation could pose a significant challenge in terms of an uniformed approach given the time scale and conditions of the grant.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 5.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 5.4 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required for the following reasons:
- This is a report to share information. The summary of impacts is low. No mitigation is required.
 - This is a report to share information regarding the performance and functions of the Swansea Music Service and National Music Service Wales, which is linked to the corporate objective of improving education and skills.
 - This is a report to share information. No risks have been identified and no impact is envisaged.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

Background papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A – IIA Screening Form.