

Councillor Lyndon Jones
Convenor
Education Scrutiny Performance Panel

(By Email)

Please ask for: Councillor Robert Smith
Direct Line: 01792 63 7429
E-Mail: cllr.robert.smith@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: RS/CM
Your Ref:
Date: 19th January 2023

Dear Councillor Jones

EDUCATION SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 15 DECEMBER 2022

Swansea Music's Response to a Letter from the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning following the meeting of the Panel on 15 December 2022 where the Panel looked Education performance against priorities, progress with the Estyn Inspection recommendations and Swansea Music.

Question 1: How will the core responsibilities to support and raise standards will be realised for schools who cannot afford to purchase the support?

In 2021, Swansea Music redesigned the Service Level Agreement offer to schools with the support from head teachers, Swansea Music staff and local authority officers. This new, flexible SLA model, launched to schools in September 2021, allows schools to buy back their music provision with Swansea Music, using their delegated music budget with a number of choices:

- Choice to bespoke their music package content to satisfy the needs of the school to support and raise standards
- Choice of flexible hours: schools are able to buy back the number of hours they require so that it is affordable (with a minimum expectation for 1 hour per school for a year)

Click [here](#) to view Swansea Music Prospectus 2022-2023

Question 2: By delegated school budgets in the report, are you suggesting that a percentage of funding (per capita, per school for example) could be directly devolved to a school to buy in the musical teaching they deem most appropriate for their students?

In the report, the delegated school budget refers to the money currently delegated to schools annually, to buyback music provision through a Service Level Agreement with the Swansea Music Service, where required. The education directorate in Swansea would like to encourage schools in the first instance to use this part of the delegated budget to boost

the number of pupils who will benefit from whole class music opportunities. These whole class sessions for all pupils, act as the baseline for maximising opportunities for progression, for pupils through the Youth Arts Wales pyramidal structure.

Question 3. How and when is Charanga going to be supplied to schools for use? When will teacher training commence and how much will be provided?

Through the National Music Service (NMS) grant, a Charanga licence was offered to both Swansea Music Staff and to all schools in Swansea. The offer, was communicated to schools in a National Music Service Newsletter and shared with Swansea schools in the Education Directorate Newsletter during the Autumn Term 2022. To date, Swansea Music staff have already received Charanga training and Charanga, have recently offered this training opportunity to schools, therefore, we can look into training for school staff, if required.

Click [here](#) to view the National Music Service Newsletter.

Question 4: Concerns around the funding of progression steps after the First Experiences and PlayAlong programmes are highlighted. How will this progression be funded?

National Music Service Wales funding for the second year could be used to explore opportunities to support the funding of progression within the 'Music Pathways' programme. Future discussions with the NMS coordinator on how we could support pathways are to take place. In addition, within the suggested music-funding model for schools, profiled in the report, irrespective of whether they buy into the SLA or not, the following could be adopted:

- 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

Question 5: The number of schools/pupils eligible for the free initial project and how many schools are taking up the offer? How many pupils are actually engaged in the initiative.

The National Music Service for Wales, First Experiences programme offered by Swansea Music to schools for 2022-2023 and highlighted in the report, is free to all schools and is in addition to the Service Level Agreement. Take-up will depend on whether schools decide to take part in the offer. If all schools take up the offer, pupil engagement will represent all pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7.

Question 6. What are the projected numbers of Year 3 projects that can be delivered in reality with the actual number of qualified staff. Are there plans to recruit more teachers in future to deliver against the national plan?

In Year 1 of the National Music Service for Wales, each music service in Wales is developing and piloting their own unique 'First Experience' programme for Year 3 pupils. In Swansea, there is a designated team of Swansea Music staff qualified to support the CPD offer to Y3 teachers in Swansea and this is sufficient to support Y3 class teachers to deliver the PBuzz project. The framework is in place and began in September 2022. The project is

a pilot for 2022-2023, therefore, there are no plans at this stage to recruit further teachers to deliver this in Year 2.

Question 7: What are the plans for monitoring the success of the project and data illustrating the ongoing take up of instruments as a result of the initial free period of learning. When/how will concrete data and impact of the project be shared?

The Welsh Government/WLGA are benchmarking all 'First Experience' programmes across Wales throughout the year to measure success for Year 2 of the National Music Service Wales. To date, when and how data will be shared has not been published by Welsh Government/WLGA

Question 8: How will the limited number of brass peripatetic teachers involved with Swansea music actually deliver free pbuzz projects to every Year 3 pupil across the county?

To support the Cerdd 2 Progression Step Framework, each Y3 pupil will receive a PBuzz for the academic year 2022-2023 and each Y3 classroom practitioner has been offered a unique opportunity to receive termly face to face CPD training days at the Brangwyn Hall delivered by Chris Fower PBuzz Cymru and a Swansea Music Brass Practitioner. The purpose of the project is to provide CPD training for Y3 classroom practitioners to develop the basic skills to deliver PBuzz music to their Y3 pupils. In addition, the Swansea Music Brass Practitioner will supplement the training days with half termly online Q & A check in/drop in sessions to support this process. For 2022-2023, there are sufficient Swansea Music Brass Practitioners to deliver this project.

Click [here](#) to view the PBuzz flyer to schools

Question 9: What happens to the instruments at the end of the free term and if a small number of children wish to continue learning the instrument, can they keep them - free? Must the instrument loan and tuition then be paid for and by whom - school or parental contribution?

As is practice, Swansea Music would need to take a detailed inventory of instruments to make sure they are fit for purpose for any future use. All Year 1 'First Experiences' pilot programmes will be evaluated collectively across Wales with the National Music Service Coordinator to plan resources and projects for Year 2. To date, this process has not commenced and therefore, at this stage, Swansea Music is not in a position to outline the plan for Year 2.

Question 10: If schools wish to deliver a free first access instrumental project themselves (e.g. if they have appropriate music staff), how could they access the funding and instruments to do this or is all funding entirely ring fenced for the Swansea Music Service. Could schools supply a project more cost effectively?

The National Plan for Music in Wales, developed to deliver the Programme for Government, is a strategic and sustainable approach to ensure a diverse and equitable music education is accessible for our children and young people from ages 3 to 16.

To fulfil the delivery of these priorities within the National Plan for Music in Wales, a National Music Service Wales has been established. Within this national framework, Music Services in Wales, working together with stakeholders, have been tasked with developing

cost-effective plans/projects for the next 4 years, including a Music in schools programme, implemented from September 2022. In its first year, the emphasis of the Music in schools programme is 'First Experiences' and as required, Swansea Music, has rolled out its programme for schools free of charge. This 'First Experiences' programme is in addition to the weekly lessons that schools have in place through the Service Level Agreement with the Swansea Music Service/Swansea Council. The 'First Experiences' programme in Wales ensures all children and young people of school age (3 to 16), have access to opportunities to play, sing, take part in and create music, however, the National Plan for Music in Wales does not allow for all children and young people of school age (3 to 16) to have free tuition - Mr Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education stated that *'we are not saying that what the scheme will do is to provide free music tuition for every child in Wales without limitation. We are not unfortunately able to do that' 'But what we do want to make sure is that the funding in the system goes to those who need it most in order to access the service.'* – BBC Wales Online

Question 11: How is/will feedback from schools and parents be sought to continue improving the offer and quality of provision?

The Welsh Government/WLGA are developing a 'First Experience' survey to collect feedback across Wales, to measure success, develop and improve the offer for subsequent years of the National Music Service Wales.

Question 12: Will all schools be enabled to participate in showcase events?

All schools in Swansea are invited to participate in National Music Service Wales 'First Experiences' showcase events relevant for the target year group

Question 13: How can we measure that the plan is making a difference?

The Welsh Government/WLGA are developing a 'First Experience' survey to collect feedback across Wales to measure success, develop and improve the offer for subsequent years of the National Music Service Wales. In addition, data collection across Wales will also help to analyse if the plan is making a difference.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd Robert Smith / Councillor Robert Smith
Aelod y Cabinet Dros Addysg a Dysgu
Cabinet Member for Education & Learning