

MUSIC GRANT 2011-12

Background

1. Below is an extract from a letter the council received on 2 March 2011 from the Federation of Music Services.:
2. *“The Government has made available £82.5 million for music education for 2011-12, with allocations to be made to local authorities on the basis that no authority will lose more than 10% of their funding from Central Government compared to the amount received in 2010-11.*

In response to the Music Education in England 2011 Review by Darren Henley, the Government also stated that it would move to a national funding formula which would begin to address the inequities in funding for music experienced over the last 11 years. Allocations for 2011-12 will be made on the basis of the numbers of primary school-aged children in the local authority area with an 11% weighting applied for those children eligible for free school meals.

Because the Department for Education intends that this money be used solely for the purposes of providing or commissioning music education services it has asked the Federation of Music Services to make payments to local authorities on its behalf.

The allocation for Wiltshire for 2011-12 is £528,511. This will be paid by the Federation of Music Services in two instalments – April and December – on receipt of the following declarations and information:

- *For 1st payment (50% in April) a declaration from the Director of Children’s Services, countersigned by the Head of Finance, that he/she accepts that:*
 - *this funding is for music education and that it will be used for the provision or commissioning of music education services;*
 - *the LA is ultimately responsible for ensuring the quality and breadth of provision;*
- and a statement of:*
- *the level of funding the LA has itself made available for music education;*
 - *any LA top-slicing in respect of admin / on-costs; and*
 - *the level of music education service (in outline) that the LA will ensure is provided.*

Further guidance will be available during April on the information to be provided in order to draw down subsequent payments; but it will be along the following lines:

- *For 2nd payment (50% in December):*
 - *provisional service data on the numbers of schools and children having 1st access instrumental tuition; numbers of children continuing after 1st access; numbers of ensembles being offered; and*
 - *service plan for the 2011/12 academic year including evidence of building partnerships;*
 - *final service data (when available) plus - where information provided for payment 1 has thrown up areas of concern - evidence that those areas of concern have*

been addressed.

An announcement will be made by the Department for Education in the summer regarding the publication of a National Plan for Music Education and funding for future years.”

Implications for Wiltshire

3. In 2010-11 Wiltshire Council received a grant of £476,850 for music as part of the Standards Fund programme. £183,850 of this sum was devolved to schools to support the provision of music education at Key Stage 2.
4. The increase in grant is welcomed but the change in the purpose and conditions of the grant has implications for the way the grant is allocated and managed in Wiltshire.

Recommendation

5. As notification of the grant has only recently been received and further guidance is not being made available until April Schools Forum is recommended to:
 - i. allocate to schools one third of £183,850 on the current basis to represent the cost of maintaining the provision of music education for Key Stage 2 for terms five and six;
 - ii. to consider future arrangements for the Music Grant at its next meeting.

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: None