

Report for: Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families

Item number: 6

Title: Decision to Approve Funding from Arts Council England to Haringey Music Service for the North London Music Hub.

Report authorised by : Ann Graham, Director of Children Services

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1.** This report seeks authority to approve receipt of grant funding for Haringey Music Service from Arts Council England to the value of £1,718,403.00
- 1.2.** The funding will go towards coordinating music education in the local area, tailored to the needs of children and young people across Haringey, Barnet, Camden, Enfield and Islington, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 1.3.** Working with over 400 schools across the North London Music Hub and each of the boroughs, students will be offered high quality music education through diverse partnerships between educational, creative and community organisations, in their local communities and throughout the country.
- 1.4.** Haringey will be signing an ACE Funding Agreement and will therefore administer the funding to the other consortium members. In agreement with Heads of Service and Service Managers from Barnet Education Arts Trust, Camden Music, Enfield Music Service and Music Education Islington. Haringey will remain the Hub Lead Organisation, a status held from the 1st September 2024. This means Haringey will be responsible for the distribution of the Music Hub grant (£1,718,403), and quarterly reporting for the above areas, now referred to as the North London Music Hub.
- 1.5.** It is recommended that approval to receive funding is granted so that Haringey Music Service (HMS) can continue to develop a funding agreement with ACE.
- 1.6.** There is no financial risk to the Council, as the grant requires no match funding, requires no additional staffing and there are delivery plans in place.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families:

- 2.1.** Approve acceptance of the grant funding set out in this report (£1,718,403) from Arts Council England (ACE) as part of the Music Hub investment programme as permitted by Contract Standing Order 21.01 where the grant is valued at £500,000 or more.
- 2.2.** Agree that LBH will administer the funding to consortium members taking a top slice of 3.75% for the administration of the North London Music Hub from Consortium members namely, Barnet Education Arts Trust, Camden Music, Enfield Music Service and Music Education Islington.
- 2.3.** Agree that HMS will continue to be the Hub Lead Organisation using a flow through model of grant funding to consortium members as per the suggested Department for Education funding formula. Each Hub Lead Organisation will receive a proportion of the overall Music Hubs programme funding amount based on the number of eligible pupils in each Local Authority area that the Music Hub serves. Ninety percent of the funding is distributed based on the total number of pupils registered on roll. Ten percent of the budget is allocated according to the Hubs' share of the total number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals. This recognises that these pupils will need greater support from Hubs than others in order to take up certain musical opportunities.
- 2.4.** Agree the timely mechanism of receiving the Music Hub grant from ACE and payment to consortium members.

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1.** This grant funding aims to ensure that music education is accessible and impactful across the North London Music Hub.
- 3.2.** This links to aspirations with the culture strategy and London Borough of Culture 2027 project.

4. Top slicing

Table 1 below shows the names of the Local Authority areas (consortium partners) that make up the North London Music Hub. Column two is the total value of each partners music hub grant, and column three is the contribution in pounds at 3.75% of the Music Hub grant. Including Haringey's contribution as a consortium member this totals £1,718,403.00 for 2025 / 2026. Column four shows the amount that will be sent to consortium partners to undertake activity in their area.

Local Authority area	REVENUE Allocation TOTAL (£)	3.75% Revenue grant top slice TOTAL (£)	Amount to fund consortium partners (£)
Barnet	520,123	19,504.61	500,618.39
Camden	179,345	6,725.44	172,619.56
Enfield	492,400	18,465.00	473,935.00
Haringey	319,147	11,968.01	307,184.99
Islington	207,388	7,777.05	199,610.95
Totals (£)	1,718,403	64,440.11	1,653,968.89

- 4.1. The above top slice although relatively low in terms of contract management is a workable figure, considering the consortium nature of the North London Music Hub partnership.
- 4.2. The 3.75% top slice has been reviewed in June 2025 and covers the cost of administration for academic year 2025 / 2026.
- 4.3. It remains extremely unlikely that Haringey Council as the Hub Lead Organisation would incur any additional expenditure, which is outside of the top slice contribution.
- 4.4. Amounts to fund consortium partners (column four), will be sent in five payments upon the Hub Lead Organisation receiving reporting documentation.
- 4.5. Reporting documents required are published as part of the ACE relationship framework and additional conditions. Typically, this involves reporting on ACE three strategic aims and five strategic functions, along with management accounts and Hub board minutes and any other requirement from the additional terms and conditions.
- 4.6. Due to the current high performance of the Music Service, continuation of the Hub Lead Organisation role for North London is seen by many as a great honour and this will only help to strengthen the reputation of Haringey.
- 4.7. Heads of Service and Service Managers from consortium partners continue to have a joined-up approach and positive working relationship, endeavouring in doing what's best for young musicians and their families.
- 4.8. A separate Hub Board, independently chaired, continues to have a key role in monitoring and challenging the work of the Music Hub.

- 4.9.** Haringey as the Hub Lead Organisation and consortium member will be responsible for:
- 4.10.** An area-wide strategic vision, shared values, and budget, monitored by a representative Hub Board.
- 4.11.** A strategic approach to supporting inclusion and progression so that young people can connect to local, regional, and national structures.
- 4.12.** A shared understanding and approach to considering environmental responsibility.
- 4.13.** A collective commitment to consulting regularly, researching, and analysing need, evaluating and monitoring the impact of programmes, keeping abreast of sector thinking and ideas and using this evidence to ensure that resources, investment, and support can be effectively targeted.
- 4.14.** A strategic approach to identifying shared fundraising and income generation opportunities, with resources and capability directed at the use of government funding to leverage further investment.
- 4.15.** The identification of opportunities to realise economies of scale and reduce duplication by centralising expertise, resources, and processes.
- 4.16.** A diverse and more equitable range of musical activities, opportunities, teachers, instruments and equipment which is consistently available to more young people.
- 4.17.** A better supported and more collaborative workforce that has access to training and networking, resources, and career progression opportunities.
- 4.18.** A strategic approach to ensuring quality through performance management, monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance processes and peer assessment.
- 4.19.** More strategic and high-profile engagement by Music Hubs with significant place-based infrastructure such as Combined Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- 4.20.** Stronger communications and marketing which means that children and young people, families, and schools know about local, regional, national opportunities, prices, and subsidies.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1.** There is no other national music funding such as the ACE Music Hubs grant, that ensures music education is accessible and impactful.

6. Background information

- 6.1.** Music Education Hubs were created in August 2012 as partnerships of music education organisations to deliver aspects of the first National Plan for Music Education (2011) in England. After some consolidation and changes in leadership, there are currently 117 Hub partnerships. Around 70% are led by local authorities, with charitable trusts leading most others. Music Education Hubs were never rebranded local authority music services, although some confusion grew up around this which still persists. The Department for Education has funded Hubs every year since 2012, and at substantially the same level since 2015/16.
- 6.2.** In June 2022, the Department for Education published a new National Plan for Music Education, *The Power of Music to Change Lives*. This reasserts schools' primacy in delivering music education and redefines Hubs' role as more strategic, supportive and developmental, with commissioned activity from a wider range of partners.

- 6.3. Following a competitive tendering process from the 1st September 2024, Haringey Music Service has been the Hub Lead Organisation for the North London Music Hub.
- 6.4. There is now 43 Music Hubs in England, all bar five covering multiple local authority areas.
- 6.5. Music Hub areas are pre-defined by the DfE.
- 6.6. The funding formula remains the same (ninety percent on eligible pupil numbers and ten percent Free School Meals allocation).
- 6.7. Allocations are for academic years.
- 6.8. Music Hubs continue to receive a capital allocation (2024/26) to purchase instruments and equipment.
- 6.9. Eligible pupil numbers include those who are sole or dual main registered at a school in Year 1 to Year 11 or aged five to sixteen at 31st August in the year before funding is distributed. Where dual registration applies, all young people registered on roll at their main school. Free school meal eligible pupils in Year 1 to Year 11 or aged five to sixteen at 31st August in the year before funding is distributed.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. Due to the prescribed geographies from the Department for Education, and that day-to-day teaching, learning and music making remain unaffected, consultation around the new governance has remained with Corporate Directors, Directors, Heads of Service and Service Managers. The strategic and largely prescribed administrative nature of the proposed changes, meant there little point in consulting on options with service users and schools / settings as the teachers in schools and settings will not change as a direct result of receiving grant funds.

8. Can any risk be mitigated?

- 8.1. There is little to no financial risk involved in HMS undertaking work as the Hub Lead Organisation.
- 8.2. There is little to no reputation risk involved in HMS undertaking work as the Hub Lead Organisation.

9. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes'

- 9.1. **Approval to accept the funding and related Music Hub programme directly responds to outcomes** in the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 to 26, particularly in relation to themes 3 and 7 which sets out the council's ambition for every child to have the best Start in Life, successful futures and for Haringey to be a culturally rich borough through:
- 9.2. Ensuring music is part of the first few years of every child's life.
- 9.3. Giving children and young people the long-term foundation to thrive through requirement to align with the National Plan for Music Education.
- 9.4. Increased access to Haringey Music Service and high-quality music education by local and neighbouring Children and Young People.
- 9.5. Being an integral part of Haringey's cultural landscape.

- 9.6. Increasing access to arts and culture by Haringey residents.
- 9.7. Providing tangible opportunities for skills and professional development within the creative industries.

10. Financial sustainability

- 10.1. To further develop financial sustainability, we continue to explore diverse revenue streams including corporate sponsorships, trusts and foundations and partnerships with larger educational institutions.
- 10.2. The service currently has cost management strategies in place.
- 10.3. Achieving financial sustainability will require a comprehensive approach that we will develop over time.

11. Carbon and Climate Change

- 11.1. We aim to offer training and workshops focused on energy conservation and sustainability, raising awareness among musicians, teachers and the instrumental and vocal workforce about reducing energy usage.
- 11.2. Our current plans include commitments to our approach to sustainability.
- 11.3. HMS are continually improving environmental performance as an integral part of our environmental strategy and operating methods.

11.4. Transport -we will:

- 11.5. Reduce the need to travel, for example in planning teaching timetables.
- 11.6. Promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing.
- 11.7. Encourage staff, partners and suppliers to travel by public transport wherever practical.
- 11.8. Make additional efforts to accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles.
- 11.9. Maintain the hire of our electric van.

11.10. Energy and water - we will seek to:

- 11.11. Reduce the amount of energy we use as much we can.
- 11.12. Switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use.
- 11.13. Adjust heating with energy consumption in mind.
- 11.14. Consider energy consumption and efficiency of new products in purchasing decisions.
- 11.15. Evaluate whether a need can be met without purchasing new equipment.
- 11.16. Endeavour to reduce waste and to order only what we need.
- 11.17. Favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible.
- 11.18. Reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

11.19. Purchasing office supplies and musical equipment - we will:

- 11.20. Evaluate whether a need can be met without purchasing new equipment.
- 11.21. Endeavour to reduce waste and to order only what we need.
- 11.22. Favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible.
- 11.23. Reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

11.24. Paper and plastic - we will, as far as possible:

11.25. Minimise the use of paper in the office

11.26. Reuse and recycle all paper

11.27. Seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products

11.28. Avoid single-use plastics and excessive packaging

12. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Assistant Director of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

Finance

13.1 This report seeks authority to approve receipt of grant funding for Haringey Music Service to become the North London Music Hub Lead Organisation.

13.2 The funding will go towards coordinating music education in the local area, it will be across Haringey, Barnet, Camden, Enfield and Islington, Haringey will be the Hub Lead Organisation.

13.3 There is no financial risk to the local authority, as the grant requires no match funding and requires no additional staffing and there are clear delivery plans in the final stages of development and agreement with partners.

13.4 The top slice of £64,444.11 will be used for costs as a direct result of being the Hub Lead organisation. There will not be any financial burden for the council.

13. Strategic Procurement

14.1 Strategic Procurement have been consulted in the preparation of this report. CSO 21.01 permits Cabinet to approve the receipt of grants valued at £500,000 or more.

14.2 Strategic Procurement support the recommendations in section 2 of the report.

15. Legal

15.1 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of the report.

15.2 Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 21.01 Cabinet has the power to approve receipt of grants where the value of the grant is £500,000 or more and such the recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report is in line with the Council's CSO.

15.3 Further to paragraph 15.2 above, and pursuant to the Council's CSO 0.08, a decision reserved for Cabinet may be taken by a Cabinet Member with the agreement of the Leader and as such the recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report requesting Cabinet Member for Children's, Schools and Families' approval is in line with the Council's CSO so long as the Cabinet Member is taking the decision with the agreement of the Leader.

15.3 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing Cabinet Member from approving the recommendations in the report.

16. Equality

16.1 The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

16.2 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.

16.3 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not.

16.4 Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not. The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual.

16.5 This report relates to the receipt of the Music Hub grant for children and young people across North London. This service by its inclusive nature provides support to vulnerable people, including those with the protected characteristics.

16.6 The Arts Council Grant will clearly set out the supplier's responsibilities under equalities legislation, including a requirement to have in place up to date equalities policies and to ensure that the service is accessible to all sections of the community. The contractor's compliance with equalities legislation will continue to be quality assured through regular contract monitoring and service review.