

Financial report on Local Authority and Music Service funding: May 2009

Key Findings

1. In 2009/2010 £82.5 million of Standards Fund investment in music will support the delivery of an estimated total of £219 million of educational music activity.
2. Much of the balance of activity, £136.5m, not funded by Standards Fund, would cease to exist if direct grant to Local Authorities were to be reduced or no longer ring-fenced for music.
3. In England the Music Standards Fund investment by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), represents 37.7% of the total with the balance coming from
 - a. Local Authorities: 11%
 - b. Other income sources (largely fees from schools and/or parents:) 51.3%
4. Nationally, compared with 2008/2009, this represents a slight movement in the balance of funding: a reduction in Local Authority funding (-0.6%) and an increase in other sources of income (+0.5%).
5. The above figures hide enormous local variations in actual funding levels and changes between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.
6. Additional information from several Local Authorities indicates that the trend to reduce Local Authority contributions is set to continue, largely because of the non-statutory nature of provision for music.

Recommendations

The **DCSF** should, through the National Music Participation Director (NMPD),

1. Continue to monitor financial arrangements closely during 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, in particular ensuring that the Standards Fund grant 1.11 is being fully and effectively utilised for the intended purposes.
2. Continue to provide challenge and support to Local Authorities to assist them in fulfilling their responsibility “for monitoring the quality and value for money of the provision purchased, and for ensuring that access at KS2 is a priority.”
3. Continue to support Local Authorities in developing their Local Authority Music Plan (LAMP). These plans should support all young people, particularly helping to close the achievement gap and supporting both the disadvantaged and those who are especially gifted and talented. They should
 - i. take account of the quality and range of all resources available locally;
 - ii. determine the particular function(s) of the music service alongside other provision;
 - iii. bring strategic coherence, economies of scale and value for money to their forward planning for music education; and
 - iv. articulate their local music education strategy as part of a wider cultural strategy.
4. Carry out its commitment, made in the **MUSIC EDUCATION AND THE MUSIC GRANT: (Standards Fund 1.11) Aspirations, Support and Delivery** document, to examine the funding formula “with a view to moving to a fairer distribution of funds from 2011 onwards.” In conducting this examination the DCSF should take into account the relationship between direct central government funding, local authority funding and other sources of funding for music education.

Footnote:

We are moving to a situation whereby there is greater coherence between national, regional and local funding. Progress continues to be made in ensuring that all public funding for music education is used in the most coherent way. The Ofsted report ‘Making More of Music’ (February 2009) stated:

“The recent appointment of the Music Participation Director acknowledges the need for closer monitoring by the DCSF and funded music bodies of the development of the national initiatives. Good actions have already been taken to collect data systematically from local authorities on the impact of their instrumental and vocal programmes and to identify aspects that require further support. This close analysis is equally needed for the other initiatives.” (paragraph 223).

Officials from the Department for Children Schools and Families, the Department for Media Culture and Sport and the Arts Council England now regularly meet with each other and with the National Music Participation Director as well as having joint meetings with other national organisations and key individuals. The Music Programme Board receives reports and updates on the music education activity of Government funded organisations in relation to the Music Manifesto and the Ofsted (2009) report.

Background and contextual information

Information relating to overall financial positions in 2008/2009¹ and in 2009/2010² was requested from Local Authorities.

This information was requested under three headings:

1. Music Standards Fund grant 1.11
2. Local Authority contributions.
3. Other sources of income.

Whilst most information was given in this format some information was provided with other descriptors. These amounts were then allocated to the above headings by the NMPD. Queries were followed up by email and telephone call.

1 Music Standards Fund grant 1.11

Where 'Music Standards Fund grant 1.11' was not given to the music service the total sum was nonetheless included under this heading. For example, if part of the funding was devolved to schools which then bought back in to the music service provision, this was only counted once under the 'Music Standards Fund grant 1.11' heading and not counted under the 'Other sources of income' heading.

2 Local Authority contributions

'Local Authority contributions' included any sum that Local Authorities paid directly to the Music Service, regardless of the type of activity this was to be used for. NB A parliamentary question was answered on February 4th 2009 about "Planned net expenditure on music services (not Standards Fund supported) for each of the years 2006-07; 2007-08; 2008-09" as reported by LAs to the DCSF. The description of this element is: "Expenditure on the provision of Music tuition or other activities which provide opportunities for pupils to enhance their experience of music." These figures, provided by LAs, are attached for information. It would be most helpful to know the reasons behind any differences between the information supplied to the NMPD and these figures. The underlying reasons may help ministers and senior officials in their considerations of future funding arrangements.

3 Other sources of income

All 'other sources of income', including the grants for any work associated with Sing Up, the National Singing Programme, and the government's instrument grant, distributed through the Federation of Music Service, were included in the 'Other sources of income' category.

¹ actual, as reported in April 2009

² projected, as reported in April 2009

Main Findings

The following findings are based on the information supplied to the NMPD.

1. In 2009/2010 £82.5 million of Standards Fund investment in music will support the delivery of an estimated total of £219 million of music activity.
2. Much of the balance of activity, £136.5m, not funded by Standards Fund, would cease to exist if direct grant to Local Authorities were to be reduced or no longer ring-fenced for music.
3. Actual figures to date (May 29 2009) are based on returns from 136 Local Authorities. 3 LAs have not returned any financial information. 11 LAs are still awaiting confirmation of their music service budgets for 2009/2010.
4. In England the DCSF Standards Fund investment represents 37.7% of the total with the balance coming from
 - a. Local Authorities: 11%
 - b. Other income sources (largely fees from schools and/or parents:) 51.3%
5. Nationally, compared with 2008/2009, this represents a slight movement from Local Authority (-0.6%) funding to income sources (+0.5%).
6. The above figures mask enormous local variations in changes between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.
 - a. In 2008/2009 89 Local Authorities part funded a music service.
 - b. In 2009/2010 83 Local Authorities part funded a music service.
 - i. 1 Local Authority started to fund a music service
 - ii. 6 Local Authorities stopped funding a music service
 - iii. 1 Local Authority introduced charges
 - c. In 2009/2010 45 Local Authorities are not putting funding into music services, although some LAs continue to support 'in kind'. For example Finance, Human Resources, buildings, that may or may not be recharged. (This recharge may account for the differences between returns to the NMPD and the DCSF).
 - d. Of those 82 Local Authorities that funded music in 2008/2009 **and** continued to fund music in 2009/2010, the range of percentage change between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 is from a 62.2% reduction in funding to a 21.6% increase.
 - i. 26 Local Authorities reduced their contribution by between 62.2% and 0.5%.

- ii. 37 Local Authorities increased their contribution by between 21.6%, and 0.1%
- iii. 19 Local Authorities made no change to their contribution
- e. Changes to other sources of income range from a 60.3% reduction to a 150% increase.

7. Additional information from several Local Authorities indicates future plans to further reduce Local Authority funding, largely because of the non-statutory nature of this provision.

London

Further analysis has been provided below, particularly to support London boroughs, but other Local Authorities may also find this of interest. Data includes all boroughs.

1. Overall, in 2009/2010 £11.4 million of DCSF Standards Fund investment in music is supporting a total of £28.9 million of music activity in Greater London.
 - a. For Inner London in 2009/2010 £5.2 million of DCSF Standards Fund investment in music is supporting a total of £9.4 million of music activity.
 - b. And for Outer London in 2009/2010 £6.2 million of DCSF Standards Fund investment in music is supporting a total of £19.5 million of music activity.

2. The DCSF investment represents 39.4% of the total with the balance coming from
 - a. Local Authorities: 14.2%
 - b. Other income sources (largely fees from schools and/or parents:) 47.3%
 - c. For Inner London the figures are:
 - i. DCSF: 55.6%
 - ii. Local Authorities: 3.5%
 - iii. Other income sources: 40.9%
 - d. For Outer London the figures are:
 - i. DCSF: 31.7%
 - ii. Local Authorities: 19.3%
 - iii. Other income sources: 49%

Richard J Hallam MBE National Music Participation Director