

New Chief Executive appointed at the Federation of Music Services

The Federation of Music Services (FMS), the organisation that represents all music services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, has announced that Virginia Haworth-Galt is to become its new Chief Executive. She takes up the post on the 9th August 2010.



Ms Haworth-Galt is the first FMS chief executive to come from outside the world of music services and her appointment signals a mood of change within the music education sector as budgets come under scrutiny and streamlining of services moves into sharper focus.

Ms Haworth-Galt was previously Chief Executive of Artswork, the national youth development agency that provides a range of creative and cultural opportunities for Young People at Risk, which she is credited with steering to national prominence. She has worked closely with both the DCMS, DCSF (now Dept for Education) and the Arts Council and has been an adviser to the Secretary of State for Culture in matters concerning cultural provision and the interests of Young People at Risk. Ms Haworth-Galt also has a strong background in advocacy and communication for the arts sector both regionally and nationally.

The outgoing FMS Chief Executive, John Witchell, said: "We are delighted to have attracted someone of Virginia's talent and experience to help lead the FMS through the challenging times that lie ahead. The role of the Federation in education has never been more crucial: music's contribution to the wellbeing of our children's cultural development is inestimable. I am certain that Virginia will ensure that access to music for all young people will remain at the forefront of the educational agenda."

Ms Haworth-Galt commented: "I am very much looking forward to joining the FMS. It is an influential and well-respected organisation and I am excited about building on the excellent work that has been done in recent years, working with its members on new developments and reinforcing the Federation's key role on the educational and cultural agendas of the day."

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Notes to Editors

1. The FMS is a registered charity that was formed in the 1990s to help regional music services organisations to be more effective and to represent them in dealing with central and local government.

2. The FMS represents 158 Music Services organisations in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Isles – 98% of all music services. Their role is to provide primary and secondary schools with all that they need to teach music: they set standards, provide teaching aids, equipment and training for heads of music/ music teachers. They employ about 12,000 music teachers, music tutors and assistants nationwide and teach more than 2 million pupils every year. FMS members are the backbone of music education in this country.

3. The Dept. for Education support music provision through the Music Standards Fund Grant. A separate grant, the Musical Instrument Fund, provides money for the purchase of musical instruments in the Wider Opportunities Programme at KS2.

