**Report following requests for the first instalment of the Music Education Grant**

**June 2011**

In order to draw down the first instalment (50%) of the Music Education Grant, Local Authorities were required to confirm that the funding is for music education and that it will be used for the provision or commissioning of music education services and that the LA is ultimately responsible for ensuring the quality and breadth of provision. In addition a statement had to be provided of:

* The level of funding the Local Authority has itself made available for music education;
* Any top slicing in respect of admin / on-costs; and
* The level of music education service (in outline) that the Local Authority will ensure is provided.

At the time of writing (10/6/11) 3 LAs have still to submit their requests for payment. These are being followed up by the Federation of Music Services administrative team. 149 (98%) LAs have submitted requests for payment including all or some of the above information requested. All payments have been made and any missing information is being followed up by the FMS administrative team.

Where the information provided gave cause for concern, (1LA) the National Music Education Grant Director has had an urgent meeting. Further meetings are being held.

A number of returns raised issues for discussion without them being sufficiently serious to warrant a request for an urgent meeting. These have been followed up with requests for meetings during the summer term. Meeting notes are written up and filed electronically at the FMS base in Otley. Visits have been made to or discussions have taken place with 60 LAs, some of which have also involved discussions of best practice.

**Contributions by Local Authorities**

Despite considerable concern, 88 (60.69%) LAs report that they are continuing to fund their music service from their own budgets. In 2010 92 LAs funded their music services. The total amount contributed in 2011/2012 is £21,543,142. Some caution needs to be exercised, however, as it is believed that some LAs are including funds given centrally from the DSG, which in the past may have counted as income. As far as it is possible to state, comparable figures for 2010 and 2009 were £23,779,516 and £22,308,954 respectively. Detailed comparisons for individual LAs are available. These figures are checked on visits and a further questionnaire has been sent out (see below). To date, with financial responses from 121 Music Services, (80%), £10.4m in 59 LAs is going to the music service with a further £2.9m coming back to the music service from the Dedicated Schools Grant. An interesting question still to be answered is: where the LA has reported funding music education and this money does not go to the Music Service, what is it being used for? Obviously this is a matter for local decisions but the answers may be helpful in ensuring public funds are used to maximum effect.

**Top Slicing by Local Authorities**

37 LAs reported top slicing their music services compared with 4 LAs in 2010 and 2 LAs in 2009. The total amount is £2,788,353. Comparable figures for 2010 and 2009 were £137,116 and £22,700 respectively, though these figures are not particularly reliable due to different interpretations of the questions asked by Local Authorities in the past.

**Music Education Services**

A questionnaire was circulated to all Music Services to gain a clearer picture of the activities provided and the various sources of income.

This interim update is based on the 126 (84%) activity responses and the 121 (80%) financial responses received to date.

**Activity (n = 126)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity (provided or commissioned through the music education services)** | **Per cent who provide the activity** | **Per cent who use the MEG** | **Per cent of those who provide the activity who use the MEG** |
| Regular tuition whole class | 100 | 98 |  |
| Regular tuition large group | 96 | 90 | 93 |
| Regular tuition small group | 97 | 79 | 81 |
| Regular tuition individual | 91 | 66 | 72 |
| Regular ensemble opportunities | 100 | 94 |  |
| Regular performance opportunities | 100 | 79 |  |
| Access to examinations | 93 | 29 | 32 |
| Festivals or joint massed events | 99 | 72 | 73 |
| National Curriculum Support | 91 | 32 | 35 |
| Workshops (one-off activities) | 96 | 60 | 63 |
| Projects (involving more than one-off activities) | 96 | 67 | 70 |
| Early Years | 68 | 37 | 55 |
| Holiday Courses | 72 | 35 | 55 |
| Concert Tours | 69 | 16 | 23 |
| Gifted and Talented | 91 | 77 | 86 |
| Remissions | 88 | 76 | 86 |
| Performance Management/Quality assurance of teachers | 100 | 89 |  |
| Continuing Professional Development | 100 | 90 |  |
| Other | * equipment including instrument purchase, maintenance and replacement and other music education resources;
* management, administration and general office staff costs;
* buildings for office, rehearsal and storage;
* administrative equipment costs and advertising
 |

**Some considerations**

1. Should some of the above activities form a ***requirement*** on those successfully bidding for the new grant in 2012)?
2. Should some of the activities be considered as ***possible*** uses for the new grant and should there be any guidelines regarding maximum amounts would be helpful? (E.g. current targets in the APPA guidance for maximum of 5% of the grant on administration and minimum of 80% on front line delivery).
3. Should some of the activities above ***not*** be eligible for the grant and should they be funded through other routes?

**Finance**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Funding Source** | **Amount** | **Per cent** |
| Total declared by LAs in first return (88 LAs) | £21,543,142 |  |
| 1 Music Education Grant | £64,734,746 | 37.4% |
| 2 Local Authority contribution (LA’s own funds) (59 LAs) | £10,741,206 |  6.2% |
| 3 Local Authority (from the Dedicated Schools Budget, centrally allocated via the Schools Forum) (20 LAs) | £2,866,107 | 1.7% |
| 4 Income from Parents (101 LAs) | £29,942,792 | 17.3% |
| 5 Income from Schools (not included in 2 above, ***mainly collected from parents***) (112 LAs) | £59,401,343 | 34.3% |
| 6 Other income including project grants etc. (71 LAs) | £5,299,017 | 3.1% |
| ***7 Total other income (4, 5, 6)*** | ***£94,643,152*** | ***54.7%*** |
| **Total** | **£172,985,211** |  |

**Some considerations**

1. FMS can share best practice and enable those services that are most effective in securing income to link with other services as mentors.
2. Should LAs look at securing funding from all three sources: parents; schools; other? What about those services that have cut right back on service delivery?
3. Should the Government’s contribution to their overall budget to a maximum of x%. What about those services that have cut right back on service delivery?
4. Should LAs that do not make any contribution (financial or in kind – though if staff are employed the LA still carries the liability) have a veto on policy? Should an attempt be made to put a figure on this ‘in kind’ support and factor that in to calculations locally?

Other information currently being planned in preparation for drawing down the second instalment in December includes:

* Provisional service data on the numbers of schools and children having 1st access instrumental tuition; numbers of children continuing after first access; numbers of ensembles being offered; and
* A 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.

**Appendix 1 Questionnaire**

**Activity**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity (provided or commissioned through the music education services)** | **Is the activity provided: yes/no** | **Is the MEG used to contribute to the cost of this activity Yes/No** |
| Regular instrumental tuition |  |  |
| Regular ensemble opportunities |  |  |
| Regular performance opportunities |  |  |
| Access to examinations |  |  |
| Festivals or joint massed events |  |  |
| National Curriculum Support |  |  |
| Workshops (one-off activities) |  |  |
| Projects (involving more than one-off activities) |  |  |
| Holiday Courses |  |  |
| Concert Tours |  |  |
| Performance Management/Quality assurance of teachers |  |  |
| Continuing Professional Development |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

**Finance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Funding Source** | **Amount** |
| 1 Music Education Grant |  |
| 2 Local Authority contribution (LA’s own funds) |  |
| 3 Local Authority (from the Dedicated Schools Budget, centrally allocated via the Schools Forum) |  |
| 4 Income from Parents |  |
| 5 Income from Schools (not included in 2 above) |  |
| 6 Other income including project grants etc. |  |
| **Total operating budget** |  |