

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 JUNE 2008

MUSIC DEVELOPMENTS AND YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for a further year of the Youth Music Initiative in East Ayrshire pending the successful outcome of the recent funding application to the Scottish Arts Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the past years, the Music Service in East Ayrshire has been continually developing partnerships, opportunities and experiences for young people with an interest in music.

Particular value is placed on the wider personal and educational aspects of music-making. The enhancement of self-esteem and self-confidence, along with the development of team-building and respect for others, all contribute greatly to ensuring that young people have the very best opportunity to realise their maximum potential and achieve their goals.

Reflecting the authority's continued support of the arts and music education, the Pilot Inspection of The Education Functions of East Ayrshire Council reported:

“East Ayrshire Council was successfully maintaining and strengthening its approaches to improving the quality of education for its children and young people with a view to raising further their attainment and achievement. A particular thrust of this approach was the emphasis given through the Creative Minds initiative to promoting pupils’ self-confidence, good citizenship and achievement.the authority provided a wide range of enriching experiences for young people in arts, cultural and enterprise activitieswhich had a very positive impact on pupils’ learning experiences.

Over 2,500 pupils annually participate in authority-wide projects and opportunities including eight authority bands, choirs and ensembles, performance opportunities such as *Xtravaganza!* and *Showcase*, and curricular partnership experiences including Scottish Chamber Orchestra *Masterworks*, Scottish Opera, Drake Music Project Scotland and the RSAMD Scottish Traditional Music Saturday Morning Centre.

These activities support and enhance the excellent curricular and extra-curricular music making which takes place in all our educational establishments each and every school day of the academic session.

3. The Youth Music Initiative

- 3.1 The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) has been operating in East Ayrshire for five years. The YMI is varied in terms of focus and delivery and includes:
- the continuation of the enhanced provision in lower string, guitar, voice and percussion tuition.
 - the continued development of the Music Summer School programme.
 - a variety of Out of School Hours activity including the Scottish Traditional Music Saturday Morning Centre in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.
 - the continued support of vocal and choral experiences through the Sounds of Singing Programme, Primary Choir, Scottish Opera Modern Languages Project and Scottish Chamber Orchestra Matserworks.
 - new commissions for the Authority Bands and Choirs supporting the CCiSS Local Heroes theme and linking with the authorities Homecoming 2009 celebrities.
 - the continued development of the already established international links with Northern Ireland and Norway.
- 3.2 The strategic change of focus of the Sounds of Singing Support Tutor to that of YMI Support Tutor reflects the evolving requirements of the Drake Music Scotland Programme (supporting the development of creativity and associated technology in our four special schools and communications units), the ABC Caber Creativity Programme and the Sounds of Singing Programme.

4. National Recognition

- 4.1 Following *Honourable Mentions* in 2003 and 2004, East Ayrshire was one of only eight Local Authorities UK wide to receive the prestigious Diploma of Merit from the National Music Council of Great Britain in 2005. East Ayrshire was the only Scottish local authority to receive a Diploma of Merit.

The Council was recognised for its commitment to instrumental tuition, the Scottish Youth Music Initiative, summer music schools and out of school learning opportunities. There was also commendation for the Council's commitment to large-scale projects, like *Railway Mania*, which was a partnership commission between the Council, the Scottish Chamber Orchest and one of Britain's most respected jazz composers, Huw Warren.

The report concluded, *"throughout the submission there were good examples of young people's music-making being showcased in exciting and fruitful ways. In short, there is a pleasing vitality about the music education in East Ayrshire."*

In 2006 East Ayrshire received the top award. The Major Award, which was shared with Southampton, was presented at a ceremony at the Royal Society for the Arts London during December and in 2007 received an unprecedented third award receiving a Diploma of Merit presented by Dame Cleo Laine.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Following a successful application, funding for the Youth Music Initiative is awarded to each Local Authority by the Scottish Arts Council.
- 5.2 For 2008/09 East Ayrshire's allocation is £189,888. This will be used to support the developments outlined in 3.1.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 NIL

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The above programmes support the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship via the themes of Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All activities will be risk assessed as per the Council's revised Risk Assessment Guidelines and Procedures.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Members:
- (i) approve the programmes of musical development outlined in this paper along with the change in post title from Sounds of Singing Support Tutor to YMI Support Tutor;
 - (ii) note the external funding available to support these projects;
 - (iii) be kept informed of future developments; and
 - (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
4/6/08

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS Youth Music Initiative - May 2006 Youth Music Initiative - November 2007

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, tel: (01563) 576017 or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, tel: (01563) 555634.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER
John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education