

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE – UPDATE REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Education Committee on recent developments in the Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the publication of the National Audit of Youth Music in Scotland, *What's Going On?* (Scottish Arts Council, 2003), the Scottish Executive announced funds totalling £17.5 m to be made available to local authorities for the development of youth music.

A working group was formed to develop an application that focused on the need to offer a diverse spread of provision, address local needs and reflect the identified national priorities in *What's Going On?* We have been funded for the first two years of the programme. The Reference group members "welcomed the fact that this was an excellent plan with considerable attention to detail".

3. THE YMI PROGRAMME IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 3.1 The following strategic action points, included within the year-two application, also form part of the year-three application:

- Increase number of available instruments.
- Support Summer School Development.
- Support Primary Choral Development in partnership with *Youngchoirs.net*.
- Support and develop out-of-school-hours string tuition.
- Offer enhanced staff development opportunities in voice training.
- Explore new methodologies.
- Develop Scottish Traditional Music opportunities in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.
- Review current provision and delivery of piano, keyboard & voice tuition.

4. NEW YMI ACTIVITY/DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 Introduce a YMI support teacher post (YMI Co-ordinator 0.4 FTE) to co-ordinate YMI activities, support staff, liaise with schools and parents/carers and gather monitoring and evaluation information. The post holder will work

closely with the Principal Teacher of Instrumental Service, the Expressive Arts Development Officer and the Links Officer in the Arts in Education and will be offered relevant staff development opportunities.

- 4.2** Recruit a *Sounds of Singing* Support Teacher/Tutor (1.0 FTE) to facilitate the introduction of the Sounds of Singing course, provide support to staff and work directly with classes on a rolling rota basis.

This vocal experience represents a significant enhancement to the curricular delivery of the "Using the voice" strand within the 5-14 Expressive Arts Guidelines.

This approach will significantly increase the skills of vocal teaching across the authority and will be sustainable beyond the funding cycle. The target pupils will initially be in Primary 4/5, although this appointment is key to meeting the P6 target.

- 4.3** Introduce a partnership programme with Drake Music Project focussing on pupils attending Special Educational Needs establishments.

Drake Music Scotland creates opportunities for people with disabilities to make music using specialised music technology including touch-sensitive switches, ultrasonic movement detectors and computer software. Over the course of one year, Drake Music Scotland will work in each Special School running music-making workshops and training sessions. Training will usually take place directly following the pupil's sessions and will result in schools having a sustainable music service after three terms.

- 4.4** Support an International Children's Opera project with Scottish Opera and the *SCORE!* Programme in Elgin, Chicago. This programme develops creativity through composition, expands performing opportunities and supports international collaboration and the sharing of cultures. *SCORE!* (Students Creating Opera to Reinforce Education) provides pupils ages 10 – 13 with the opportunity to create, develop and produce their own original opera production. Through the programme the pupils learn life-skills such as the value of collaboration, group dynamics and leadership skills.

5 MEETING THE P6 TARGET

- 5.1** The range of activities mentioned in 3 and 4 above will enable East Ayrshire to meet the P6 target. (By 2006, all schoolchildren should have access to one year's free music tuition by the time they reach P6".)
- 5.2** The P4 creativity pilot programme in partnership with Caber Enterprises ABC, as part of our YMI Strategic Initiative also contributes to the achievement of the P6 target.
- 5.3** These skills and attributes will have far reaching benefits regarding the preparation of pupils to learn a musical instrument through the Instrumental Service Programme and to the preparation of young people for an life of enjoyable and rewarding music-making.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** YMI funding of £189,888 has been applied for and the implementation of the plans and posts outlined in 4 above are dependent on this funding being secured.

7. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note the progress being made within the Youth Music Initiative;
- (ii) be kept informed of future music developments.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JMcC/JW
5 May 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Education Committee paper - Creative Minds Update -23 March 2004
- 2. Education Committee paper – Creative Minds Update – 14 September 2004

Members requiring further information should contact John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education (01563 555634) or John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563 576126)

Implementation Officer – John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support