

Stephen George
Committee Clerk
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your request for information on the support that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council provide for our Cerdd NPT Music Service.

For the latest financial year, NPTCBC spend £244,588 centrally on Cerdd NPT Music through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with NPT Schools. Each school is allocated a set amount from the £244,588 provided for music tuition through the SLA but are free to allocate the spend on specific parts of the music service. Nearly all NPT Schools choose Cerdd NPT Music as their service provider (66 out of 67). Schools can also purchase additional music provision at a reduced rate, which is paid through the school budget. Many schools are now cutting their additional music provision due to budget restraints and only receive the music tuition time allocated by the SLA allowance. Heads of Music of NPT Comprehensive Schools have shown concerns at the decline in pupil numbers taking GCSE Music as the lack of options available are preventing students choosing the subject. This will result in less demand for instrumental and vocal lessons.

Cont'd.....

Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning

Aled Evans, Director of Education, Leisure & Long Learning
Oes

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.
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An additional subsidy of £272,935 to assist with the running of the service was provided by NPTCBC in 2016/17. This extra sum largely covers salary costs and the purchase of equipment, allowing the music service to charge schools at a very competitive rate and provide County Music ensembles.

Cerdd NPT Music currently employs 37 members of staff. This figure includes contracted teaching staff, self-employed instrumental instructors, administrative support staff and five music centre staff. This equates to 17.02 full time equivalent on the teaching staff, 1.17 self-employed teachers and 1.1 administration staff.

For the new financial year (2017/18), the central funding will be £206,539 with a subsidy of £170,241. This has been achieved with efficiencies made since the disengagement from Swansea Music. Changes were made to staffing levels, timetables were adjusted to allow more contact time within the school day and we naturally have less travelling time and costs as staff do not cross county boundaries. These efficiencies will not affect the delivery of music provision to NPT schools. These sums of money are paid directly from the Local Authority.

NPT is supportive of the music service and has continued this support through financial, advice, and relocation support with direct line management.

In addition to funding the Music Service and County Ensembles, NPTCBC currently contribute £33k to the National Youth Ensembles through the Service Agreement between the WJEC and the Local Authorities in Wales established in 2013/14.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Aled Evans

***Director of Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg, Hamdden a Dysgu Gydol Oes***

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