

**Full Council – 19 July 2023**

**Written question from Mrs R Richards to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills**

Considering the recent report to Schools Forum that 27 schools on the Isle of Wight are predicting a budget deficit within the next three years, can the Isle of Wight Council confirm that it will provide additional financial resource to ensure that the Southampton and Isle of Wight Music Hub can continue to work with 100% of Isle of Wight schools should the Hub be successful in the bid to the DfE and Arts Council England as set out in Motion 8c?

## ***Response***

The Isle of Wight Music Hub offers subsidy to all schools across the island as follows:

1 A free term WCIT (whole class instrumental tuition) worth £400 for one year group in their school. We encourage all schools strongly to buy this in for a whole year (paying for term's 2 and 3) in order to get the full benefit of covering the national curriculum with a particular year group. Delivered in 74% of school last year

2 Class sets of instruments are also fully subsidised so schools can borrow class sets for free with one of our commissioned deliverers OR deliver their own teaching in-house with our instruments.

3 A large programme of free live music events, workshops and activities for schools to sign up to take part in delivered in partnership with local cultural and heritage organisations which 80% of IOW schools took part in this year

4 Free CPD for non music specialists to support them to write and deliver their own music curriculum coverage across the whole school. Every school is supported to create their own music development plans via our toolkit and in one to one meetings with our curriculum specialists (again subsidised from the music hub budget). This year we have worked with 68% of schools in this way.

5 Free digital resources supporting vocal, curriculum and instrumental learning are ongoing and shared with schools regularly; this service is utilised by 100% of schools.

6 A remissions policy to support free instrumental learning for pupil premium children, children in challenging circumstances and affordable instrument loan plus a free mentoring programme by referral from IOW YOT and SEND settings

Although our co-curricular programme is also fully subsidised we know that there are costs passed on to schools particularly around transport to venues for accessing activities and so on. Despite this we have reached 80% of schools this year so we know that our schools do see the value of investing in this.

Re the bid we are currently in conversation to lead a bid for our prescribed geographical area as set out by the DfE (Southampton, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth

and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) in which Southampton and Isle of Wight will be the lead partner in a consortium with the other areas. Southampton City Council are fully supportive of this both corporately and politically. Should the music hub be successful in our bid to DfE and Arts Council we will continue to offer schools this same level of service. If we are unsuccessful we will still be commissioned to deliver this work for the island regardless although we may have less funds to put towards this depending on the overarching strategy coming from the lead hub in the region.