

Report to:	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Date:	17 October 2023
Reporting Officer:	Catherine Moseley, Head of Access Services
Subject:	TAMESIDE MUSIC AND LIBRARY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT
Report Summary:	The following report sets out the role and output of the music service, including its statutory obligations and the school library service.
Recommendations:	It is recommended that the Board notes the content of the report.
Corporate Plan:	The Corporate Plan outlines the priorities for improving the borough of Tameside including the quality of life for children and families.
Policy Implications:	There are no policy implications arising from this report
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>Annual budget for the music service is £1.010m, which is funded by £0.389m grant funding and £0.621m parental and school traded income. The service had a surplus of £0.007m at the financial year 2022-23 and is currently forecasting a balanced budget in the financial year 2023-24.</p> <p>Annual budget for the school library service is £0.065m, which is funded by traded income. The service had a deficit of £0.028m at the end of the financial year 2022-23 and is currently forecasting a deficit of £0.022m in the financial year 2023-24 due to reduced buy in from schools. This deficit position creates a pressure on the general fund, which will have to be met from within the Children's Directorate.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>This report provides Members with a helpful update on the activities and impact made by these services.</p> <p>As the service is funded in part by a grant it is important that all spending is undertaken in accordance with the terms of the grant to avoid any clawback provisions.</p> <p>It is also critical that the service continues its monitoring of the financial position as the service has to be brought in on budget.</p>
Risk Management:	The service needs to meet the requirements of the National Plan for Music and the National Curriculum for Music to ensure that grant funding from the Arts Council continues. The traded elements of the services need constant review to ensure that they are recovering their costs.
Access to Information:	This report does not contain information, which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Catherine Moseley, Head of Access Services



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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Tameside Music Service (TMS) is part of the Greater Manchester Music Education Hub (GMMEH) along with 9 other regional Music Services and 18 partner organisations; The Halle, The Bridgewater Hall, Chetham's, Brighter Sound, Sing for Pleasure, Charanga, University of Salford, Royal Northern College of Music, Camerata, Music Unlimited, BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Metropolitan University, Voices Foundation, Music and the Deaf, the Royal Exchange theatre and, most recently, Spirit Studios, the British Institute for Modern Music and Futureworks. The Head of School Music and Library Services continues to chair the Wider Partnership Group meetings for the GMMEH.
- 1.2 TMS is a traded service that receives a grant from the Arts Council England (ACE), which is handled by Bolton Music Service, the Lead Service in the GMMEH. The grant accounts for approximately 36% of the annual budget. Attached to the grant are several conditions, which form a basis for the output of the service, such as ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. The School Library Service is a traded service and is committed to providing support and advice to schools to engage students in reading.
- 1.3 Collectively, TMS&SLS supported every school in the borough during the 2022-23 Academic Year either directly or indirectly. Direct includes buying in a specific service to deliver whole class, small group or individual tuition in the case of music and Junior Librarian training, Library makeover or Reading Champions in the case of SLS. Indirect includes accessing partner opportunities or resources and attending network/briefing meetings. The services have worked with approximately 8000 children across all schools in Tameside.

2. TAMESIDE MUSIC SERVICE 2022-23

- 2.1 The focus has been on consolidating and developing their offer to ensure it is reflective of the needs of young people within the borough, as articulated in the corporate vision. Trauma informed nurture groups were established within several primary schools, Birch Lane was used as an inclusion centre for students receiving education outside of mainstream education and a dementia choir was commissioned by the NHS.
- 2.2 TMS continued to be fully involved in the GMMEH with the Head of Service chairing and facilitating Wider Partnership Group Meetings, the Instrumental Manager chairing the First Access forum and the Participation Manager chairs the SEND and Rock and Pop forums, all of which meet termly.
- 2.3 July 2023 saw the first TMS fest at Manchester Academy – this was an opportunity for young artists from around Tameside to experience performing in a high quality, nationally-renowned venue.
- 2.4 Students from 15 different main and special schools were given the opportunity to play and sing with the Halle orchestra in June 2023 and more primary schools were invited to sing at the Bridgewater Hall as part of the Greater Manchester Music Hub's Celebration concert in July.

3. SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICE 2022-23

- 3.1 The SLS continued to support schools with a comprehensive offer including School Library Audits, Reading Champion scheme, Junior Librarian Training, World Book Day resources, Rolling Library offer, Project Loan Scheme and Nurture Group sessions.

3.2 The Reading Champions Celebration took place at Dukinfield Town Hall in July 2023. There were pupils from 17 schools represented at the event who had all been involved in encouraging their school to engage in reading for pleasure.

3.3 A survey was sent to all schools around Tameside in November 2022 to gauge the impact that the service was having. 25 schools completed it and the responses were all positive, e.g. *“Our pupils love the school loans service, many of them struggle to visit libraries and have not been to a book shop ever (until we take them). Having the school loans means for new, exciting books on a regular basis. We could not afford to purchase them as a school. The topic box service also supports vital learning and gives teachers and children access to books and resources that we as a school could not afford to buy.”* Despite glowing reviews, the majority of schools conceded that they would not be impacted if the service had to close.

4. BIRCH LANE CENTRE

4.1 Birch Lane was established as an exam centre for both the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity Music College exams.

4.2 The centre was used for ensembles, bands, groups and individual students to receive tuition on an extra-curricular basis. Several play days were also offered to new and emerging young musicians at weekends over the school year. These were well attended.

4.3 Virtual School utilised the centre as a location for students facing social isolation to attend with their tutor, receive music tuition and, in a few cases, sit their GCSE exams.

5. COLLABORATION

5.1 The service worked with Great Academies Education Trust to establish a Music Subject Network for their secondary and primary schools. This was then opened up to all primary and secondary schools within the borough for CPD and professional learning.

5.2 TMS worked with local and regional partners to extend the offer available to young people within the borough. Highlights included working with The Vale in Mossley and the Royal Northern College of Music Pathfinder’s scheme. Pathfinders is a scheme open to any student who is facing a barrier to music making whether it is economical, social or logistical. Students from Tameside have gone on from Pathfinder to be accepted in to the Royal Northern College of Music, Chetham’s School of Music, Salford University and beyond.

5.3 The service worked with established vocal experts to provide a Singing Festival at St Peter’s church, Ashton in June, which was attended by 6 different primary schools. The festival was the last event in a series of Big Sings, which saw primary schools coming together to sing in Dukinfield, Denton, Mossley, Stalybridge, Hyde and Droylsden.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Whilst engagement with the School Library Service has increased during 2022-23, the buy in has decreased. Conversely, the Music Service continues to grow and thrive and realised a small surplus in 2022-23. The Music Service has seen a growth in both engagement and buy in and it is likely that this will continue to increase in 2023-24 due to the new National Plan for Music Education coming in to force during this academic year. The National Plan makes it clear that schools and Music Hubs should be working closely to realise its aims.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 As set out at the front of the report.