

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Date: February 2023
Report for: Information
Report of: Ruth O'Keefe: Head of Service

Report Title

Trafford Music Service – An overview of provision

Summary

Trafford Music Service is part of the Local Authority and sits under the Strategy and Resources Directorate.
Trafford Music Service is one of 10 Music Services which make up the Greater Manchester Music Education Hub. The GM hub is the largest collaboration of Music Services in the country and has led the way in music service across the country over the last 10 years.
Music Service delivery is underpinned by the DFE National Plan for Music Education, and the Music Education Grant is dependent on us meeting the outcomes specified in this document. Trafford Music Service is delivered in consultation with school Head Teachers and Music Leads.

Recommendation(s)

That the contents of the report are noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Background

Trafford Music Service (TMS) is based at the Claremont centre in the centre of Sale. There have been recent proposals to move the service however these are now on hold for a minimum of 5 years.

Trafford Music Service is made up of 2 full time managers – Head of Service and Business team leader, 5 part time managers, 5 business support staff, 3 supervisory assistants and 74 music teachers. The music teachers are contracted under teachers pay and conditions and this helps with recruitment, retention, consistency of provision and ensuring the highest quality of provision for our children and young people.

Streams of work

Wider opportunities / First access projects

These are whole class projects where a class of children all learn to play an instrument together, for a minimum of a term. TMS deliver these projects in 53 / 64 mainstream primary schools. We supply all the instruments for the projects as well as the teachers and

these projects are bought in by primary schools. This year we will be engaging approximately **5640 children** in these programmes.

In addition, we also deliver PPA cover (music) for 13 schools and we deliver curriculum support for 3 schools (this is available to all) to upskill class teachers in music delivery.

Training and development

The Head of service is also the Music Advisor for Trafford and as such aims to meet with every Head Teacher of every primary school once a year to go through the changes in government guidance, to review the music provision in school and to offer support and challenge. This year TMS have delivered singing in the classroom training, led all music subject leader meetings for primary school music coordinators and we have just agreed with Ashton on Mersey that we will lead the secondary music networks also.

Instrumental tuition

TMS currently provide instrumental tuition in 45 of our 64 mainstream primary schools. Some of our primary schools do not have instrumental tuition and some have private providers. Most lessons are paid for by parents and TMS invoice parents direct. Some lessons are paid for by schools to support the most vulnerable (such as Looked After Children or those in receipt of Pupil Premium) . We are supporting schools with putting mechanisms in place for identifying children who may be interested in instrumental lessons but do not engage due to finance, and then arranging for lessons to be funded. We currently deliver lessons to **853 children** in Trafford in primary schools and **265 students** in secondary schools..

The Claremont Centre

This Claremont Centre is the home of Trafford Music Service. Our business support and management team are based at the centre as well as the storage of thousands of instruments which are used for our Wider Opportunities programme; this allows us to operate an instrument hire scheme for children wanting to learn an instrument. We run instrumental lessons every weekday evening and on a Saturday. Many children from across the borough engage in ensembles. Currently **397 students** engage in these. Youth ensembles / orchestras nationally have seen a huge decrease in numbers since covid and we are in the process of rebuilding this programme. We have achieved an increase of 162 children since Jan 22. All students who are part of our ensembles will perform in our termly concert series. This is held at the Stoller Hall or the RNCM and provides students with the experience of performing in a professional concert hall. Our audience is made up of parents and for many, this is their first experience of being in a professional concert hall.

The music centre also has instrumental and vocal lessons running every evening and Saturday am. Instrumental lessons include individual 1- 1 lessons, paired and group and we currently have **521 students** attending the Claremont Centre each week for lessons. This is an increase of 119 students since June2022. We are now very close to full capacity for the building and are looking at options to provide another teaching space to facilitate expansion of provision.

Residentials

We run twice yearly residentials for our ensemble members. This is to give our students the opportunity to bond and make lifelong musical friendships which are different to those they forge in schools. In 2022 we visited Grange over Sands in April and Preston in October. In May 23 we are taking 100 students to France.

Infant provision

Many children in Trafford have full schedules by the time they are in year 3, with dance, cubs, swimming, football etc. We want to ensure that there is space made in children's lives for music and so we offer infant music sessions at Claremont Centre 3 times per week. Children can learn a range of instruments (suitable for Y1 and 2) and can sing in the infant choir from reception. We currently have **109 infants** on our programme. We have a very high continuation rate (98%) into Juniors where children will then enter into our group / paired / 1-1 instrumental lesson programme and join our junior ensembles.

Quality of provision

As well as a rigorous recruitment process, we invest time and high-quality training in our teachers. This year, we also are including Neuro Diversity training, Rainbow trust, an insight into music therapy techniques, Equality Diversity and Inclusion, exploring cultural diversity in music delivery as well as wellbeing sessions. We work closely with schools to ensure regular feedback regarding provision.

A snap shot of some of the other areas

- 48 schools are signed up for Trafford singing festivals (run by TMS- this is with the ambition that Trafford children have the opportunity to perform on stage in a professional theatre before they leave school)
- We have appointed an early years lead, extending our management team by one person
- Polar Express concert at the Stoller Hall between our Philharmonic Orchestra, St Antonys Catholic College, Broadheath, Primary and Park Road Primary
- Carols on the Plaza with 5 local school choirs and our brass bands
- Jazz Camp for girls – Jazz Will Michael Jazz Education award in 2021 , In 2022 won the parliamentary Jazz award for Jazz in Education
- This year we have launched our Trafford Young Musicians programme to promote shortage instruments – Bassoon, French Horn, Oboe, Orchestral Percussion, Clarinet and Double Bass.26 students engage in this programme in partnership with Chethams School of Music in Manchester
- New beginners' booklets for students starting instrumental lessons with us to help continuity across the service and to link to ensembles more closely.
- Working on our EDI and remissions policy and developing a charity to run alongside the Music Service
- Delivering a year 6 music transition programme
- Working with the GM hub to deliver regional high-level ensembles made up of the highest level students across all 10 boroughs.