

Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date: 5 March 2020

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Manon George

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Inquiry into the devolution of broadcasting

(09:30–10:15)

(Pages 1 – 13)

Huw Jones, Former Chair of S4C Board and Authority

Martin Mumford, Nation Broadcasting

3 Inquiry into the devolution of broadcasting

(10:15–10:45)

Justin Lewis, Cardiff University

4 Inquiry into the devolution of broadcasting

(10:45–11.30)

Heledd Gwyndaf, Cymdeithas yr Iaith

Aled Powell, Cymdeithas yr Iaith

5 Papers to note

5.1 Correspondence with Welsh Government on Music Services Feasibility Study

(Pages 14 – 19)



- 6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting**

- 7 Private debrief**
(11.30–11.45)

- 8 Inquiry into the live music industry: agree report**
(11.45–12.00) (Pages 20 – 98)

- 9 Inquiry into the use of Welsh in a digital world: agree terms of reference**
(12.00–12.15) (Pages 99 – 104)

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Kirsty Williams AM

Minister for Education

30 January 2020

Dear Kirsty,

Music Services Feasibility Study

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 16 January to discuss the Music Services Feasibility Study.

Equality of access to excellence

As discussed in the meeting, the current inconsistency in provision across schools in Wales can lead to an inequality of access. You mentioned that you are seeking to reduce this through the use of Pupil Deprivation Grant funding. Please can you give examples of how this funding is being used to give children from low income households the same ability to learn to play an instrument as those from better off families?

When discussing the decision not to endorse a new national model of music services provision, you mentioned your support for subsidiarity and the need to allow local communities find solutions which suit them, rather than imposing a national model. Please can you set out how you will ensure all children in Wales have the same opportunity to benefit from music tuition, no matter where they live?

You also mentioned that your department is looking at the patchy performance among Local Education Authorities on the provision of musical services and how best practice is being encouraged. More information on your department's promotional role in this regard would be welcome.

Further information

During the meeting you agreed to provide additional information on the funding and support provided for music education in schools by the Arts Council for Wales. I would be grateful if you could send me the details of this support.

During the discussion on the ways in which the private education sector share their facilities with other schools and community groups you agreed to provide information on how many fee-paying schools are sharing their facilities. I would be grateful if you could let us know the schools which are doing this, whether they charge for the use of their facilities and how often they make their facilities available.

Next steps

Following the meeting, members commented that progress on this issue seems to be taking longer than anticipated. I am worried that there may not be any changes in place before the end of this Assembly.

You told the Committee that the next step in this process is for the stakeholder group to discuss the recommendations in the report.

Thank you for inviting me to attend the stakeholder group meeting to be a part of this discussion. I have since replied to say I would not be attending as I feel it is not appropriate to contribute to a group when the Committee is responsible for scrutinising their decisions and outputs. I would be grateful if you could update the Committee with the membership of the group and the outcomes of their meeting after 29 January.

I would be grateful if you could reply by 28 February 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethan Sayed".

Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-KW/0609/20

Bethan Sayad AM
Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

28 February 2020

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2020, I was pleased to attend the meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 16 January to discuss the Music Services Feasibility Study.

I turn to the points you raise in your letter.

Equality of access to excellence

Our ambition is for the provision of high-quality, universal access to music education for all learners, regardless of where they live or their financial circumstance. We want all young people to have access to music education and opportunities to develop their talents and skills, regardless of background or ability.

In response to calls for greater coherence and better co-ordination of music provision, a strong theme runs throughout the feasibility report to introduce a national plan for music education with the aim to provide a framework which sets out quality standards, progression routes and equality of provision. The report states that a plan could help to create greater coherence and drive specific improvements. It is also makes clear that there is a need for any plan to be considered fully with key stakeholders. My officials will work with the stakeholder group to ensure the best approach to developing a National Plan that ensures equality of access is adopted.

Importantly, the feasibility report also links a proposed national plan for music education with the new curriculum. It suggests that a plan would provide a framework for music education in schools, local authority music services, and other organisations that allows for clear benchmarking in terms of quality and provision as a strong component of the Expressive Arts Area of Learning Experience in the new Curriculum

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

for Wales. If a National Plan for Music Education was implemented, therefore, it needs to work in parallel with the Curriculum for Wales which was only published on the 28th January.

I agree that it is unacceptable for children's success to be determined by their social or economic circumstances. Underpinning all of our work is a belief that someone's ability to benefit from education should not be determined by where they live, what their background is or what the income of their parents is.

The Pupil Development Grant (PDG) is a powerful tool for schools to support learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the arts and cultural experiences they may not otherwise be able to participate in. In 2015 the Welsh Government issued [guidance](#) to schools on using the PDG in support of arts and cultural activities. This guidance made it clear that schools could use the PDG, on a case by case basis, to help individual learners from low income families to pursue particular art forms, such as musical instrument tuition; as long as it supported academic attainment more generally. The Welsh Government has produced a [training pack](#) on using arts and cultural activity to tackle the impact of poverty on attainment. This has been published on Learning Wales and highlights how the PDG can be used to support cultural enrichment. It also provides structure and support to professionals to increase their confidence when designing arts, culture and heritage interventions. Tuition would need to be part of a planned programme aimed at raising attainment across the curriculum with clearly defined outcomes.

I have recently announced the significant increase in funding through our Pupil Development Grant – Access. Funding exceeds £8 million for financial 2020/21. Not only are we looking for opportunities to change cultures and practices in schools, but we are also providing direct funding to families. This funding is not limited to supporting the cost of school uniform; it will support greater aspiration, cultural enrichment, well-being and resilience. Whether it's help buying school uniform or getting the right clothing or equipment for young people to take part in their favourite sport or musical activity inside or outside of school, then PDG – Access will support those opportunities.

Sharing good practice between our schools is part of the wider reforms we are implementing through our school improvement agenda. Regional consortia have helped build schools' capacity to self-improve through more collaborative ways of working, and therefore to improve pupil outcomes, in a relatively short amount of time. Through a range of school networks, funded by Welsh Government grants and co-ordinated by consortia, school leaders and teachers are increasingly able to access professional development and school improvement support from their peers, helping to build a culture of a collaboration and shared practice. I have asked officials to consider, with stakeholders, other ways in which we could support the sharing of identified best practice between local authorities.

Further information

During the discussion I mentioned that I was aware of individual independent schools which offer their facilities for use to others. For example I am aware that Christ College which is within my constituency, offers its facilities for use to external organisations.

You have asked for further information regarding independent schools hiring out facilities but this is not information which the Welsh Government holds. Independent schools are however, private businesses, and as such the use of their buildings is a matter for them.

You have also requested additional information on the funding and support provided for music education in schools by the Arts Council for Wales. The *Creative Learning through the Arts* programme is jointly funded and delivered with the Arts Council of Wales, although not exclusively focused on music, it has supported schools in providing a wide range of music activities and experiences (through Lead Creative Schools strand and Creative Collaborations and Go and See grants), over the period 2015-2020 with a total joint funding of £20 million.

A further joint funding of £3 million has been provided for a two-year extension phase to the programme for 2020-2022, which will enable continued support for music in schools.

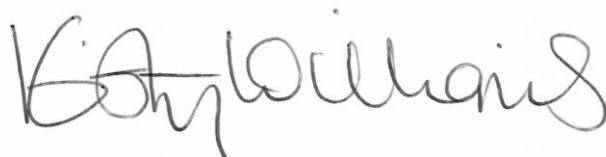
Next steps

The engagement of stakeholders is cited as an essential part of moving this agenda forward and I am pleased that we have an excellent representative of stakeholders engaging with us in this work.

The meeting on the 29 January was an opportunity for key stakeholder in music services to provide feedback on the findings and conclusions from the music services feasibility report and consider the next steps. My officials are currently considering the views from this meeting and I will be able to update you further once the feedback received has been fully evaluated.

Please find attached a meeting note from the stakeholder meeting on 29 January (Annex A), the membership is listed in the attendance. Please note, however, that these are for internal use only for members of the consultation group and are not for wider public circulation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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