

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-637
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02224/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

25 November 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 November in relation to Petition P-04-637 to protect the Future of Youth Music in Wales. You asked specifically whether music hubs were being considered as a model for Wales and about specific music related actions within our action plan Creative Learning through the Arts.

The Music Services Task and Finish Group considered the introduction of a 'hub' model for Wales during their deliberations; however it was felt that this approach was too prescriptive. It was decided that the model of delivery (for example, charitable trust, arm's length organisation, consortium, or hub) would be best left as a matter for groups of local authorities to determine, based on what they felt was the most appropriate vehicle for collaborative working in their region.

I am committed to delivering creativity across the curriculum as a tool that teachers can use to open the minds and raise the aspirations of learners. In March this year "Creative Learning through the Arts – an action plan for Wales", a joint programme between the Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales, was published. This is a 5-year plan to enhance creative approaches to teaching and learning and encourage greater collaboration between schools, arts and cultural organisations and creative practitioners, making sure good practice is shared and accessible to all. The Welsh Government has committed £10 million over these 5 years to match a further £10 million committed by the Arts Council Wales' lottery fund.

Within the Creative Learning Plan are 2 work streams, the Lead Creative Schools Scheme and the All-Wales Arts and Education Programme. The Lead Creative Schools Programme enables schools to apply to participate in a two-year programme to improve attainment. In this programme, trained creative practitioners work alongside teachers to develop a more creative approach to learning

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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.

The All-Wales Arts and Education Programme will increase and improve opportunities in all art forms for teachers, learners, artists and cultural organisations to work together, through regional networks, improved communications and training.

The plan is not aimed at increasing participation in any particular art form, but instead looks to increase and improve engagement with culture and the arts in general.

More information on the Creative Learning Plan can be found at:

<http://www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk/what-we-do/creative-learning>

The Welsh Government response to the Music Services Task and Finish Group Report has been published and is available at the link below:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/wagreviews/music-services-task-and-finish-group-report/?lang=en>

The Welsh Government recognises the important contribution that music makes to the well-being of young people. Music therefore figures prominently in the statutory areas of learning defined for the Foundation Phase and all pupils have opportunities to develop their skills in performing, composing and appraising while in primary and secondary education.

Local authorities are however responsible for the funding and delivery of music services in Wales as part of the arrangements for funding schools and education.

We believe that local authorities are best placed to judge local needs and circumstances and to fund schools and education accordingly as Local authorities are accountable to their electorates for the decisions they make. That is why support for music services remains the responsibility of local education authorities, who decide the level of support they should give to music services in their area, based on their understanding of local needs and priorities. The schools' governing bodies are responsible for how that funding is allocated for the services provided to pupils.

Yours sincerely



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