



Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00272/20

Dinah Pye

info@activemusicservices.co.uk

19 February 2020

Dear Dinah Pye,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 February regarding the future of Welsh music services and the way forward for a national plan for music education.

The feasibility study report highlighted the complex issues around music education services and that there is no clear path.

In response to calls for greater coherence and better co-ordination of music provision, a strong theme runs throughout the 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 provide an instrument with which to create greater coherence and drive specific improvements. It also makes clear that there is a need for any plan to be considered fully with key stakeholders.

The report links a proposed national plan for music education in Wales 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 for Wales.

If a National Plan for Music Education was implemented, therefore, it must work in parallel with the Curriculum for Wales.

The engagement of stakeholders is cited as an essential part of moving this agenda forward and my officials are working closely with stakeholders to consider the findings and options from the report and to consider the next steps. We have an excellent representative of stakeholders engaging with us on this work. The stakeholder group has recently met and I will be fully considering their views before making any decisions.

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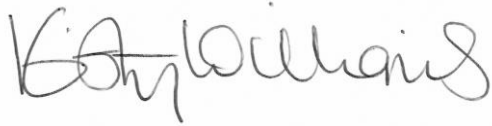
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

As you are aware, local authorities are responsible for the provision of music services and receive funding for all of the services they provide through the RSG. It is up to local authorities to determine how they allocate that funding to their budgets.

In addition to this, over the last 2 years I have provided over £3 million of additional funding to support and enhance music services in Wales.

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