**Durham Music Service**

*Inspired practical music-making with instruments and voice is at the heart of all learning. Our culture of musical excellence links learning through creative teaching and performing. Partnership collaboration and performances with world-class musicians, challenge and stretch teachers’ and students’ horizons. Awe-inspiring experiences stimulate lifelong passion for music.*

Durham Music Service (DMS) strengthens and extends recent developments in strategic planning and partnership delivery of music education in County Durham and Darlington highlighted in the National Plan for Music Education’s (NPME) case studies. DMS is the lead partner within The Music Education Hub and has made great strides in establishing an embryonic hub with key partners laying a strong foundation for the recently established Hub. Judged “outstanding” by Federation of Music Services (FMS) evaluations, DMS’s strategic plan and delivery is the Hub’s benchmark to ensure all children and young people (CYP), regardless of ability and background, have access to the best quality music education. By Linking the Learning (contextualised approach to teaching/learning creating clear connections between classroom, practice room, ensemble and beyond), the Hub’s meaningful partnerships have facilitated greater opportunities to experience diverse and compelling pathways; providing real, relevant musical experiences for all students and staff. As lead partner DMS has sustained and extended the outstanding quality of teaching/learning which has been disseminated on both a regional and national level.

Partnership is at the Hub’s heart, consolidating and diversifying relationships by exploring and building a range of new partnerships to maximise reach and impact. Hub strategic planning encompasses nurseries/children’s centres, special schools and youth/community groups. Organisational reach and networking has expanded as DMS has explored new ways of working. DMS and partners already take a leading role in strategic networking and are closely aligned with The Gala and Forge National Portfolio Organisations.(NPOs).

DMS is committed to working in partnerships across the North East of England. Case Studies have been provided to illustrate exemplary methodology with The Bridge organisation. DMS have regular meetings with Sage Gateshead (SG) and North East Music Services exploring potential for collaboration.

With a common goal of excellence, the single Hub covering two LAs brings significant benefits working in closer collaboration with a wide range of existing and new delivery partners. Sharing expertise, knowledge and good practice has improved local needs analysis and data-sharing. Networking and information-sharing has facilitated innovation and progression and supported better targeting of resources to meet young people’s needs in rural and urban areas. While increasing the potential for wider educational and social impact, “In terms of musical outcomes, the value added is greater than the sum of the parts” (NPME p48).

DMS has achieved considerable transformation since 2009, demonstrating strong working relationships. A more outward-looking learning partnership has evolved and acknowledged “outstanding” by a recent FMS evaluation. The enhanced presence of partners has driven future developments both strategically and operationally. Transformation to Lead Partner of the Music Education Hub has facilitated the commissioning of additional inclusive, innovative and progressive pathways to take student learning to a higher level of enjoyment, understanding and achievement. Transition and progression has been driven from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through primary/secondary to sixth form with the potential to reach FE colleges and exploit out of school hours opportunities.

Innovative solutions to engage more boys and girls have included exploring the digital potential for exciting independent learning through virtual learning platforms (VLE) providing equality and breadth for students and staff. Customised programmes have increased accessibility for special needs students ranging from severe learning difficulties in special schools to those with behavioural difficulties in the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and a young offenders’ secure unit as well as gifted and talented (G&T) attending mainstream schools. Success has depended on Linking the Learning through tailored CPD and expert School to School support so teachers and instructors have confidence and expertise in the constantly evolving music agenda.

The Hub serves over 300 schools, including very small schools with fewer than 50 pupils, in extremely rural locations, often creating barriers of transport and time management. As lead partner, DMS has been able to strengthen existing communication mechanisms with its 263 primaries, 41 secondary’s and 9 special schools through linking partners’ websites, the County Learning Platform and regular network meetings. It has encouraged mini-hub networks for music co-ordinators in cluster areas and facilitated the successful termly county-wide EYFS, Key Stage 1-2, KS3–5 network meetings for heads of music, curriculum leaders and co-ordinators. Curriculum leaders from other authorities in the north east attend the termly networks on a regular basis. Networks signpost and evolve opportunities to raise the profile of free or affordable inclusive progression pathways, eg First Access, whole-class ensemble teaching, vocal programmes, ensemble performances in diverse genres, for all young people in Durham and Darlington.

The service is driven by a culture of musical excellence in partnership with Durham County Council to facilitate world class performance and learning opportunities students of all abilities. This culture has created stimulating experiences which result in the development of performance skills in a real, relevant and contextualised way. Students and staff have worked in partnership with the Arts Development Team since 2010 to create opportunities for young musicians to work alongside some of the most inspiring bands and artist in the world. Previous experiences have involved performances with Sir Thomas Allen, The Soul Rebels, Pee Wee Ellis, Eminence Brass, Oompah Brass, The Stooges, Mark Nightingale, Abram Wilson Julian Segal to name just a few.

Ensemble progression routes provided by DMS are facilitated by 52 differentiated ensembles across all key stages and enable students to progress through structured district, regional and county ensembles. Numerous customised programmes are emerging to meet the needs and demands of students with a real passion for music making.

Highly qualified and skilled specialist musicians teach instrumental and singing skills. They have either minimum first degree/PGCE qualifications or proven teaching experience. Teachers’ terms and conditions attract staff of the highest quality to inspire a culture of musical excellence. Specialist teachers working in schools include semi/professional performers in singing, woodwind, string, percussion, brass.

***‘Empowering people to unlock their potential through music.’***

**Goals**

1. We believe that practical music making is at the heart of all musical learning
2. Musical excellence links learning through creative teaching and performance
3. Working with all the young people, regardless of ability and background, across D&D
4. Investing in our teachers to deliver the finest musical learning opportunities
5. Responsive to opportunities and new and fresh ideas