

Study into Music Provision for Children & Young People in Medway

1. Introduction and Context

The National Plan for Music Education, which is being implemented from September 2023, has five strategic aims for Music Hubs. One of them is **“Inclusion: Drive broad access to music education, so every child has the opportunity to participate irrespective of their circumstances, background, where they live or their special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).”** The National Plan has also reduced the number of Music Hubs from 118 to 43 from 1 September 2024. In our case this means forming a new Music Hub for Kent & Medway.

Central to the thinking of the new Kent & Medway Music Hub will be a focus on those areas where engagement and access are lowest and to prioritise these areas with a view to transforming the numbers of children & young people benefiting from music education.

In August we submitted a broad needs analysis to Arts Council England as part of our planning for 2024/25, in which we highlighted Medway as an area that needed further research. The main reason for this is that Medway is new to Kent Music, and we are at pains to ensure that any plans we put together for Medway are based on research and data. Medway is also a Levelling Up for Culture area, and we believe that our findings will also support this agenda.

The aim of this research is to put together a picture of music provision across the Medway Towns in and out of schools to give us the data and knowledge required to put together an informed music plan for Medway.

The study will also help us to identify the necessary resources needed to support the plan and the Music Hub is likely to offer up resources from its Arts Council funding on the basis that it is matched by funding from other sources, with a view to funding a long-term plan rather than a series of short-term interventions.

Over the past year Kent Music has developed a set of five values to guide its work and we will be keeping them in the front of our minds while we undertake this study:

Creativity - we champion creativity, nurture imagination and spark inspiration

Achievement - we empower people to progress and excel

Inclusion - we open doors, fostering inclusivity and accessibility

Awareness - we recognise the impact of our actions and make ethical and informed choices

Joy - we encourage fun, seeking enjoyment and opportunities for celebration

2. Research Areas

- 2.1 Analyse available data on school music provision in Medway to help identify the strengths and weaknesses as well as the rationale behind previous funding decisions made by the former Music Education Hub for Medway.
- 2.2 Bring together available data on out of school provision supported by the Medway Music Education Hub as well as the Medway Towns Music Centre (which is run by Kent Music).
- 2.3 Bring together a picture of other out of school music provision in Medway including that provided by the Youth Service and other organisations working with children & young people.
- 2.4 Compile a picture of live music opportunities designed for young people in Medway.
- 2.5 Draw together the key findings from the research and data into a report that will form the basis for discussion with schools and partners about the content of the Music Plan for Medway.

3. Data sources to inform the study

- 3.1 Data from the outgoing hub lead organisation for Medway (Dynamics) including their 2023/24 schools survey.
- 3.2 Data from Kent Music's in house system, SpeedAdmin, about instrumental lessons and other music participation where we have it (MTMC)
- 3.3 Local demographic data (Medway Council, national statistics)
- 3.4 Data from other activities and organisations in the in the area.

4. Documentation to reference

The Power of Music to Change Lives: National Plan for Music Education 2022

Kent Music Early Years Research 2024

Kent Music Review of Whole Class Instrumental Tuition (WCIT), 2024

5. Timeframe for the research project (2024-25)

October	Discussion and agreement on the details of the methodology
Nov-Dec	Research phase
January	Research and key findings report

Timeframe for follow up work by the Music Hub (2025)

January	Identify key people and organisations to present the report to
February	Follow up meetings
March	Outline plan put together
April - July	Set plans for 2024/25

6. Application process

Please submit a proposal stating how you will approach the brief. Please also show the experience and expertise that you/your organisation has that is relevant to this piece of work and please submit brief biographies of the people who will be working on the project.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is 9am on Monday 14 October 2024.

The fee for this piece of work will be £7,500.

Please send your proposal to Kate Chesterman at kchesterman@kent-music.com