

## **Working Together Supporting Music in Midlothian**

### **Parents, Young People and Staff Working Group**

13 attendees from the community and 6 members of council staff including music instructors, communications, PT music and central staff.

The working group welcomed the increase in up take to over 800 and noted the need to increase further.

### **Working with you, for you**

What should the working group focus on? In addition to:

- Streamlining application and payment processes.
- Promotion and increased targeted uptake.
- Pilot P5 where capacity.
- Fundraising Strategy – Sponsorship of Events/Instruments.
- Musical Instrument Amnesty.
- Future Performances Options/Usher Hall.

### **It was suggested that the working group also consider:**

- Uptake rates in schools.
- Equity of offer across schools.
- Targeting families with no musical background/schools partnership working.
- Charging and levels were discussed.
- Create musical links with the parent councils and schools.
- Centralised system for booking and offering tuition.
- Make access to tuition easier/more accessible.
- On the subject of sponsorship, agreement that it is a good idea but only to raise extra funds to enhance the service, not to pay for the core service.
- Explore more venues for more concerts for smaller ensembles but within Midlothian.
- Explore opportunities for pupils to play more with bands within Midlothian, such as the silver bands. This could give opportunities for ticketed events.
- Identify practical short term wins e.g. sponsorship, instrument amnesty, help raise project group profile.
- Explore constituted group to raise funds with bank account.
- Need to make the application forms as user friendly as possible.
- Need to be clear to families how to demonstrate low income.
- Bring instruments and musicians into the primaries, use secondary pupils as ambassadors to represent music/do demos for primary schools.
- Form could look at categories.
- Priorities: get more instruments, especially flutes, clarinets, brass and saxophones. We could put out an appeal on the face book page.
- We can take instruments we do not teach and upgrade and swap them.
- Need to have a public face book page, needs to have an admin.

- Create a Friends of Midlothian account and over to take donations £10 a month.
- Have performance throughout the year that could raise funds.
- Create a did you know campaign.....if you get free school meals you can get music tuition free? Did you know there are 100 bursaries available?
- Consider music leadership qualifications.
- Introduce the idea of young people and or music volunteers to add value not replace staff.

### **How should the working group operate?**

- Monthly meetings on Friday afternoons was the majority view. Discussion around if young people should have their own meeting. Parents thought it would be a good idea if the young people did their own survey among peers as to why some pupils were taking music while others were not.
- Consider a young person's group where they could play and sing instruments whilst contributing.
- No meetings for meeting sakes – small group discuss then quarterly or half yearly meetings.
- Online as much as possible.
- Separate work streams /specific projects/sub groups.
- 3pm on Fridays are great for meetings – need to have childcare or activity.
- Commit to monthly but could vary over time.
- Lasswade High School Good venue.
- Newbattle High School Good venue.
- Focus promoting, sustaining and extending opportunities.
- A potential role for young people could be to promote and play in primaries and raise funds.
- Have a clear focus at each meeting.
- Sub groups and themed.
- Alternate meetings between Lasswade and Newbattle evenings and Fridays.
- Feedback to parents next steps.
- Consider who is not represented.
- Consider siblings discount
- Consider trial lessons, pay termly, advertise what the service does, currently you get free rehearsals in authority for OSA

### **Other key points:**

- General agreement in favour of a pilot for P5s as the sooner you learn and instrument the better.
- They said there should be universal access first and then maybe a test if there was to be some sort of selection process.

- Parents said there must be pots of money Midlothian could tap into from organisations such as the lottery fund and Creative Scotland.
- Create a central database of instruments loans
- Produce performance report for music instruction
- Consider alternative ways of providing progress reports to parents in terms of their child development and skills.
- Create cluster assemblies for music including P7 transfer
- Have a schools champion for music at each school, parent, young person and teacher.
- Pull in contacts as need publicity.
- Create publicity, leaflets and newsletters for the service.
- Invite members of working group to visits to other local authorities.
- Create an image of instruments looking cool.
- Consider how to up keep instruments tuning etc.
- Link with the Edinburgh College Instrument Repairs Courses, also they may wish to join working group.
- Consider partnership with music suppliers – they benefit from pupil purchases could they be asked to do a voluntary cash back into the Midlothian Music Fund.
- Could take professional photos at the Usherhall and sell to parents
- Consider monthly newsletter updates on progress of the working group.

### **Next Steps**

- Monthly meetings to be established and invites issued.
- Publish working group ideas