

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

Tuesday, 12 September 2023

South Yorkshire Music Hub

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions?	Not a Key Decision

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Executive Summary

South Yorkshire has a rich, diverse and growing music ecosystem built out of; creatives, music industry companies, touring and production skills, leading music education providers across our Music Hubs and a higher education base as well as globally recognised music output. This paper is seeking approval to take forward an application to Arts Council England for a South Yorkshire Music Hub to bring together our existing hubs into a strategic collaborative partnership to enhance music education delivery across the region.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

Bringing together the capabilities of the four South Yorkshire Music Hubs at a South Yorkshire level as a regional strategic partnership, will enhance the music education offer for young people, strengthen creative skills development and bring additional funding to the region to support music education. A regional strategic vision, will also help music hubs reach children and young people from all backgrounds across South Yorkshire and build on the excellent reputation of our music hubs to position South Yorkshire as a national leader in music education.

Recommendations

The MCA Board are asked to:

1. Support taking forward a South Yorkshire Music Hubs proposal – with the MCA as accountable body.
2. Note the timeline as set out in the report.
3. Note the intention for this work to be 'owned' through the work of the Creative, Culture and Digital portfolio.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

None

1. Background

1.1

Music Education Hubs (MEH) were created in August 2012 as partnerships of music education organisations to deliver aspects of the first National Plan for Music Education (2011) in England. After some consolidation and changes in leadership, there are currently 117 Hub partnerships nationally. Of these around 70% are led by local authorities, with charitable trusts leading most others.

In June 2022, the DfE published a new National Plan for Music Education, *The Power of Music to Change Lives*. This reasserts schools' primacy in delivering music education and redefines Hubs' role as more strategic, supportive, and developmental, with commissioned activity from a wider range of partners. Engagement with schools is expected to be 95%+ and focus on supporting schools to develop individual 'School music development plans', promote the DfE's Model Music Curriculum, as well as identifying lead schools to share best practice.

The DfE subsequently commissioned Arts Council England to lead the Investment Programme to identify and appoint new Hub Lead Organisations that will lead Music Hubs across new, larger areas. These HLOs will receive government funding to co-ordinate Music Hub partnerships from September 2024.

1.2

Each Local Authority runs a Music Hub that deliver music education across schools in their area. Coverage of the service is excellent. There is good officer level collaboration and an appetite for much stronger connectivity across the region.

Whilst each Music Hub has their own objectives, in essence Music Hubs across South Yorkshire aim to:

- Give high quality music education and support for 5-18 year olds
- Inspire young people to sing, create and play a musical instrument.
- Develop young musicians' talent by offering the chance to perform at different levels.
- Promote and develop music and enhance and develop life skills through music.

1.3

South Yorkshire Music Hubs deliver a range of activity that includes:

- 1) Allowing children from age 5 to 18 the chance to learn a musical instrument for a year in school, instrument loan schemes and small group tuition.
- 2) Options for pupils to achieve a nationally accredited music grade, one to one lessons (used to support higher standard pupils).
- 3) Ensembles in partnership through choirs, bands, groups and orchestras for all instrument families. Performance/workshops and regular concerts, master classes and workshops in a range of venues locally and nationally.
- 4) Continuing professional development (CPD) to school staff and support to schools to deliver music in the curriculum.

1.4

Across South Yorkshire there is considerable capital investment being made in the physical infrastructure that supports arts and culture, including music. This includes investment in Harmony Works in Sheffield and the new Northern Academy for Vocal Excellence (NAVE) in Barnsley.

2. Key Issues

2.1

Proposal

It is proposed that the four South Yorkshire Music Hubs and the MCA develop a submission in line with the Arts Council England guidance that brings together the capabilities of the four Music Hubs at a South Yorkshire level as a new Hub Lead Organisation.

The Music Hub leads have established some initial joint working objectives, which include:

1. Developing a SY proposal and funding submission that secures continued growth and diversification of the offer for children and young people.
2. Work on shared strategic vision to ensure we reach children and young people from all backgrounds across South Yorkshire.
3. Build on landscape of disruption nationally – recognising that South Yorkshire is collectively already well ahead of the game – with the opportunity to work strategically and being well placed to take a lead on new national strategies.
4. Further building on an improving relationship with Arts Council England to help to lever additional funding and further grow our regions reputation in all Local Authority areas.

2.2

Advantages of more formal collaboration and a joint funding proposal

Beyond the opportunity to extend the SY Music Hub delivery, there are a number of other advantages to the proposal. These include:

- 1) **Reputation:** A signal to the Arts Council and DfE / DCMS that South Yorkshire is a partner that is willing to work across boundaries and in more effective ways.
- 2) **Strategic alignment:** This project has alignment with the new Creative, Cultural and Digital portfolio and presents an opportunity to connect music

education into the work of the MCA across skills, business support, the South Yorkshire story and narrative and visitor economy.

- 3) **Scaled funding proposals and pilots** – more formal mechanisms of engagement enable a connecting-up of best practice in particular areas of South Yorkshire capability.
- 4) **Resilience of the offer:** Joint working enables more effective resource planning and potential economies of scale.

2.3

Resourcing

MCA Board should note that:

- At this stage there is no expectation that the MCA would provide financial support for delivery of work currently funded by Local Authorities or that made available by Arts Council England.
- Some resources may be required to develop a proposal that satisfies ACE business case requirements.
- The Music Hubs may seek support for any additional extensions to delivery that are not supported by external funding, with an expectation that this would form part of MCA portfolio resource planning for 24/25 and beyond.

2.4

Governance

The MCA and Constituent Councils will need to develop a governance model that ensures strategic fit with the expectations of Arts Council England and develop arrangements that support greater joint working across the four Music Hubs in the region.

These arrangements will be co-designed with the MCA and Local Councils to ensure that new arrangements have local delivery and operational autonomy at their core, whilst also enabling; stronger joint working, improved advocacy and engagement with funders and partners and connecting the work of the Music Hubs to other opportunities.

The Culture, Creative and Digital Portfolio lead and lead Chief Executive will lead the development of this work.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

As set out in the paper the MCA Board are asked to support the proposal for an application to Arts Council England to establish a South Yorkshire Music Hub that brings together the four local Music Hubs operating in South Yorkshire into a strategic partnership.

3.2 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations

This course of action is recommended to achieve a strengthened music education offer for the region and is supported by the existing Music Hubs.

There is a risk that the region is unsuccessful in its application. To mitigate this the MCA and partners are working closely with Arts Council England to ensure the application meets the expected requirements.

3.3 **Option 2**

On the basis that the Government are seeking greater alignment of Music Hubs in local areas it is likely that a different delivery model would have to be explored that still aims to bring together the Music Hubs together more strategically.

3.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

Not taking the application forward may risk missing out on extra funding and lose the strategic support from Arts Council England to develop the regional hub.

Recommended Option

3.5

Option 1

4. **Consultation on Proposal**

4.1

Consultation thus far has been through the Music Hub leads officer group, further consultation will take place through business plan development if the application is successful.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1

Oct 2023	Proposal submission deadline
April 2024	Announcements on funding award
Sep 2024	Delivery commences.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

6.1

Should the MCA support the proposal to submit a South Yorkshire Music Hub proposition and if that bid is successful, the MCA will take on formal accountability status with the funding body with a funding award in Q3 of 24/25.

7. **Legal Implications and Advice**

7.1

The MCA has a general power of competence which supports this initiative.

8. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**

8.1

n/a

9. **Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

9.1

n/a

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 n/a

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 n/a

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 n/a

List of Appendices Included:

A None.