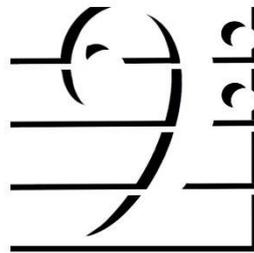


Education and Children's Services



Report
Session 2020 – 2022



Vision, Values and Aims

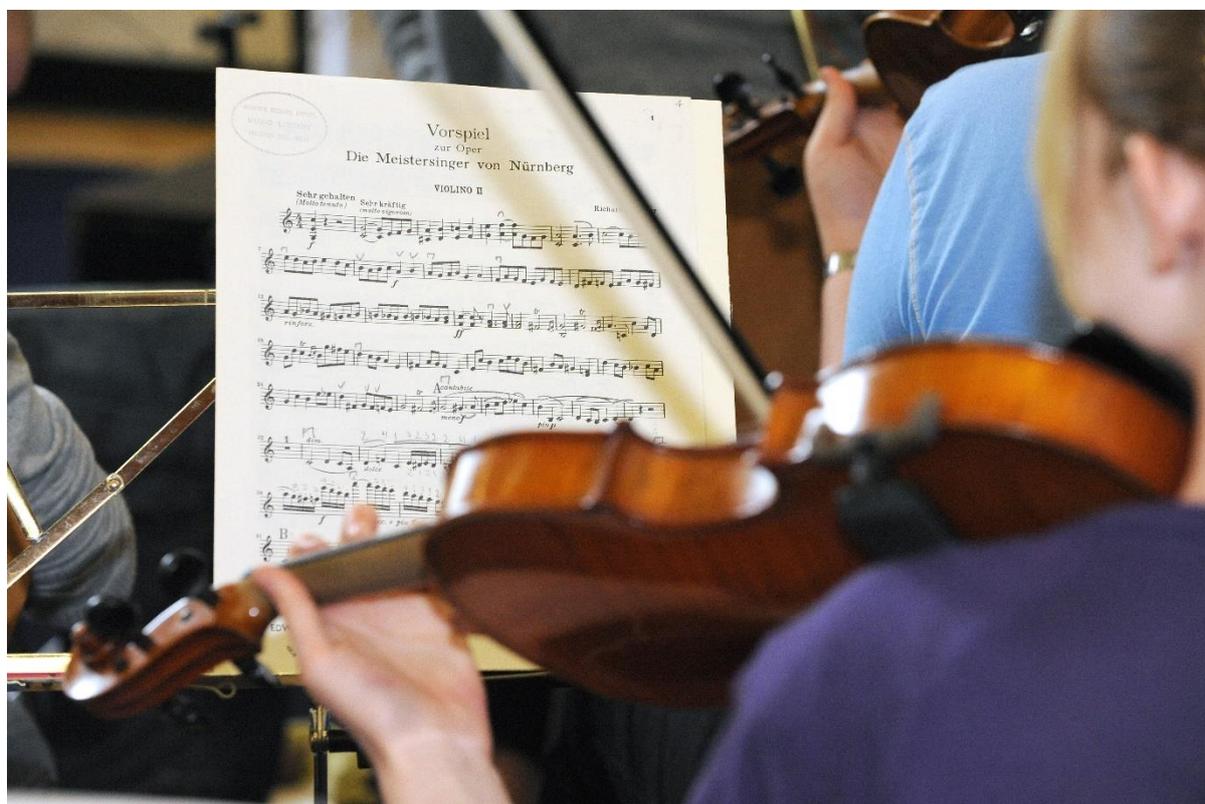
The Instrumental Music Service is committed to working together with schools and communities to secure continuous improvement in outcomes for children and young people and to have better, integrated working arrangements within ECS in pursuit of improved outcomes for children and young people

Our ambition is to offer the best opportunities for as many people as possible to benefit from our Service.

We uphold the Education and Children's Services values of quality, equality, engagement, and integrity by our commitment to pupils and parents.

We aim to continuously develop the service to maintain an efficient and modern service which maximises digital technology and new ways of working in order to support free instrumental music tuition in Scotland by working in partnership with communities, schools, organisations and individuals.

We aim to provide opportunities for pupils and the wider community to experience a broad range of music-making.



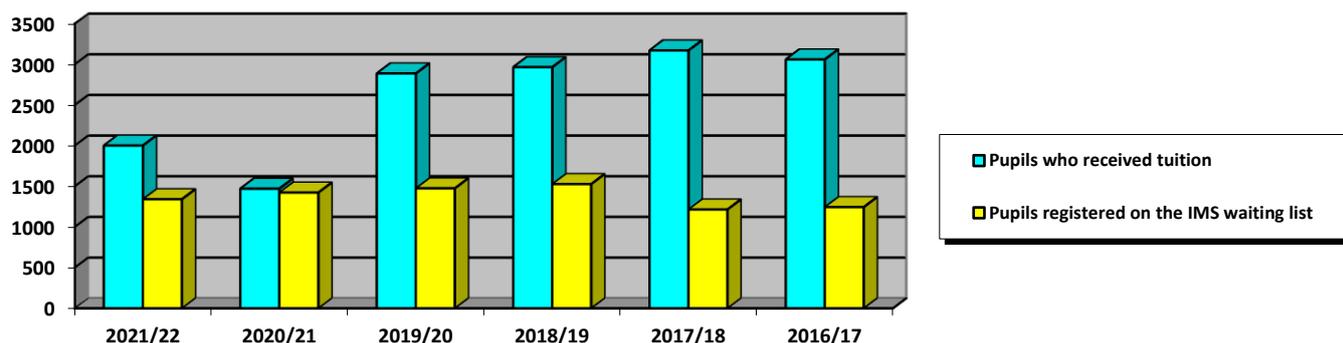
THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE

CORE SERVICE

The Instrumental Music Service (IMS) operates in all 17 Community School Networks across Aberdeenshire, providing group and individual lessons.

A significant drop in the number of pupils accessing tuition occurred in 2020/21 as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. There was an increase in numbers in year 2021/22 as lessons in schools were able to resume.

Aberdeenshire Council Instrumental Music Service Report 2022



In Session 2020/2021 there were 45 instrumental instructors with a full time equivalent (FTE) of 36.54. Instrumental instruction was offered in 9 disciplines:

In Session 2021/2022 there were 42 instrumental instructors with a full time equivalent (FTE) of 35.00. An additional temporary fixed term contract for FTE 0.08 was in place. Instrumental instruction was offered in 9 disciplines:

Discipline	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/2018	2016/2017
Woodwind	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE
Brass	5.0 FTE	5.0 FTE	5.0 FTE	5.0 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.6 FTE
Percussion	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.9 FTE
Piano/Keyboard	4.2 FTE	4.6 FTE	4.6 FTE	4.6 FTE	4.6 FTE	4.3 FTE
Guitar	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	2.8 FTE
Violin/Viola	9.2	10.14	10.54	10.14 FTE	10.94 FTE	12.6 FTE
Cello/Double bass	3.8 FTE	4 FTE	3.8 FTE	4.2 FTE	4.2 FTE	3.3 FTE
Bagpipes*	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE
Pipe Band Drumming*	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE

Music Centre

Up until March 2022, Aberdeenshire Council provided a comprehensive music centre service, designed to meet the needs of pupils of all ages, from very young to advanced players. Junior groups met on Saturday mornings in Stonehaven, Inverurie and Fraserburgh. Senior groups met on Tuesdays and Fridays after school in Westhill and Mintlaw. Pupils could attend more than one Aberdeenshire Music Centre at no additional cost. This Music Centre model was not sustainable. The fees had remained the same as 2019 levels, because of the online nature of delivery during lockdowns. Face to face rehearsals did not resume until January 2022.

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Annual membership charge	£70	£70	£70	£70	£68	£65	£64
Number of pupils taking part	167	234	398	481	483	503	453

In March 2022 Aberdeenshire Council confirmed a reduction in the revenue budget for the Instrumental Music Service of £600,000.

Discussions with staff and parents started in September 2021 and concluded in May 2022. These included a parent's survey, staff engagement with self-appointed staff working groups, Unions and HR and feedback from Music Centre instructors.

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/SurveyResults>

In order to protect and preserve substantive posts and delivery of tuition in the core Music Service, meetings between the Music Development Manager, Service Manager and Head of Service, Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships took place prior to further meetings/consultation between the Head of Service, Director of Education and the ECS Senior leadership Team in order to establish agreement and approval for a service decision to stop Music Centre activity from August 2022.

A new model will be put into place to ensure extra-curricular activity continues using a self-financing model. In the interim, play days and weekend ensemble music making sessions and condensed rehearsals led by Instrumental Music Service instructors.

Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG)

The IMS as a whole took part in various MEPG online projects and webinars between 2020-22. This first online project the group initiated was the "Over the Rainbow Project" which paid tribute to NHS Scotland. This Nationwide project was set up by the Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG) which is an independent group originally funded by Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS) and the Scottish Government. HITS is a support network organisation for music service managers. Instructors also took part in the project called "Doorstep Samba". Pupils and staff submit videos of themselves playing. Twitter is the main platform for sharing as well as coverage from the BBC and STV.

In 2022 MEPG set up the Scottish Young Musicians Competition. Aberdeenshire Music Development Manager set up a Regional competition for Aberdeenshire. The competition was held online, and the winner was announced in May 2022. The final for the National competition was held on 29th of May in which the winners of Regional events all competed. The Final was held at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow.



Youth Music Initiative (YMI)

In 2003, the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) was launched to put music at the heart of children and young people's lives and learning. It currently operates with an annual budget of £9 million and supports all musical genres, age groups and teaching methods.

In 2020-22 the Instrumental Music Service worked in partnership with Live Life Aberdeenshire, to provide a range of musical experiences, including the Kodaly Singing and Musicianship Programme, through Youth Music Initiative funding. The Aberdeenshire YMI has been recognised by Creative Scotland as being one of the most diverse and effective programmes in Scotland.

In 2020-22, Aberdeenshire Council (IMS) and Live Life Aberdeenshire (Arts Team) delivered or partially delivered 20 music projects to school pupils from nursery through to secondary school. The Purpose 1 strand of our programme is delivered to whole classes in primary schools and is fully inclusive, enabling us to work towards the Scottish Government target of all pupils having access to one year's free music tuition by the time they leave primary school. Project 1 (Kodaly Singing & Musicianship) specifically addresses this target, enhanced by our Project 2 Whole Class Music projects and Purpose 2 strand.

Further information is available at: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ymi>

Charges

Prior to March 2020 Aberdeenshire Council had a policy of charging parents/guardians a moderate annual fee, payable in 4 equal termly instalments. This fee represented a contribution towards the overall cost of tuition with tuition being offered on an individual or group basis. Fees were suspended in March 2020 because of COVID-19. In August 2021, the Scottish Government Free Tuition was implemented.

Aberdeenshire Council Instrumental Music Service Report 2022

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Individual	SG Free tuition	Fee suspension continued due to COVID-19. Scottish Government free instrumental tuition manifesto pledge announced April 2021	£328 (£82 per ten week period) Under review as from March 2020	£328 (£82 per ten week period)	£316 (£79 per ten week period)	£308 (£77 per ten week period)	£304 (£76 per ten week period)
Group	SG Free tuition	Fee suspension continued due to COVID-19. Scottish Government free instrumental tuition manifesto pledge announced April 2021	£220 (£55 per ten week period) Under review as from March 2020	£220 (£55 per ten week period)	£212 (£53 per ten week period)	£208 (£52 per ten week period)	£204 (£51 per ten week period)

Fees remained the same in 2019/20 as the previous year. Tuition fees were placed under review in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Scottish Government Free Tuition initiated in August 2021

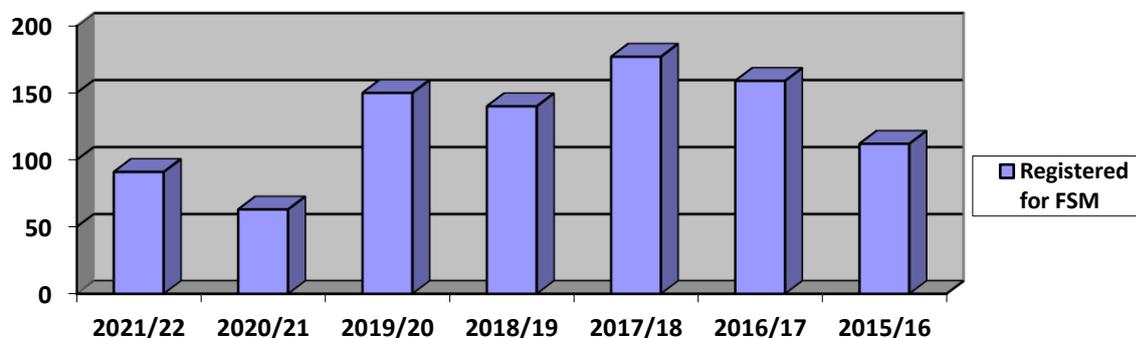
Sibling Discounts

A 20% discount is applied to each child when 2 or more siblings are paying for tuition. To receive the discount each sibling must be registered with the same contributor (person responsible for payment).

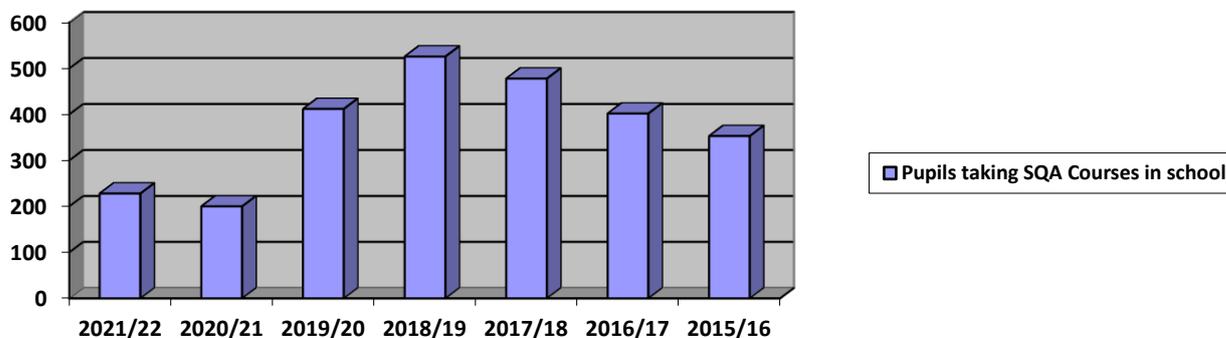
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Sibling discounted tuition numbers	n/a SG Free Tuition	n/a SG Free Tuition	505	542	548	530	476

EXEMPTIONS

Pupils registered for free school meals are exempt from Music Tuition fees.



All senior phase (S4 to S6) pupils receiving instruction on an instrument for an SQA course are exempt from charges. SQA courses include Higher Music, Advanced Higher Music, National 4 Music, National 5 Music, and free-standing Music units e.g., 'Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice' coded F3F4.



Budget

Revenue Income from tuition fees (financial year)

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/2017	2015/2016
Income from tuition fees	£0	£0	£427,371	£445K	£433K	£436K	£418K
Income from Music Centre	£10,930	£13,844	*£32,119				

* first time Music Centre income figure expressed as a separate figure

The Scottish Government has allocated funding to local authorities to support Free Tuition implementation. In 2022 Aberdeenshire will receive:

- £364,000
- £269,000 top up

Indicative allocations for 2023/24:

- £139,000
- £90,000 top up

Finance

The gross total running cost of the IMS for 2020/21 financial year is £2.126m.

The gross total running cost of the IMS for 2021/22 financial year is £2.011m.

Budget

2020/21 financial year total IMS cost is approximately 0.62% of the Education & Children's Service budget.

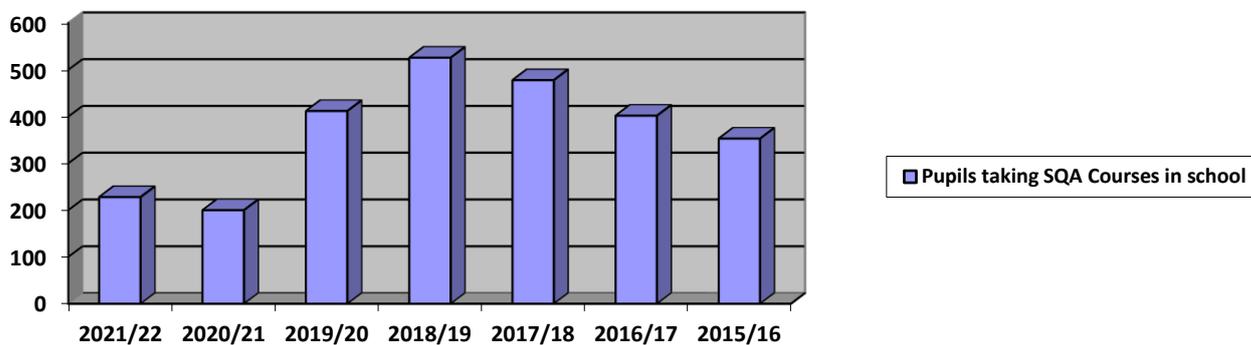
2021/22 financial year total IMS cost is approximately 0.6% of the Education & Children's Service budget.

Instrumental graded examinations attained.

mmm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Advanced
2021/22	42	50	29	35	21	8	7	4	
2020/21	14	5	6	0	1	2	0	2	
2019/20	55	32	44	26	32	16	5	8	
2018/19	84	95	83	50	44	7	10	12	
2017/18	155	126	95	67	63	25	13	23	3
2016/17	181	123	112	67	52	26	19	21	-
2015/16	143	105	108	53	64	32	17	14	-

Numbers in 2019/20 dropped because external examinations were not available in Term 4 due to Covid-19. Examination. In 2020/21 numbers of candidates continued to fall due to examination boards not being able to run examination centres. The external examinations that did take place in 2020/21 were digital. Face to face examinations became available for all disciplines in 2022 where an increase in numbers can be seen.

The number pupils taking an SQA course in music fell during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Numbers increased in 2021/22. Face to face lessons were resumed in August 2021 and school ensemble and group activities resumed in January 2022.





Scottish Concert Band Festival (SCBF)

Four bands from Aberdeenshire IMS participated and received numerous awards. The IMS also entered an Orchestra for the Scottish String Orchestra Festival (SSOF) which was a new strand of the SCBF

<https://www.scottishconcertbandfestival.com/>

Link to The South Central Aberdeenshire (IMS Music Centre) Youth Concert Band entry.

https://youtu.be/cq_EbcPFm4o

Aberdeenshire SCBF and SSOF Awards for the 2021 Finals:

Mackie Academy Concert Band - Gold plus (Conductor Sarah Gove)

Portlethen & Mearns Academy Concert Band - Gold Plus (Conductor Sarah Gove)

South Aberdeenshire Music Centre Junior Concert Band – Gold (Conductor Sarah Gove)

South Central Academy Music Centre Senior Concert Band – Platinum (Conductor Bruce Wallace)

Central Aberdeenshire Music Centre Junior Concert Band - Silver (Conductor Ben Light)

South Central Aberdeenshire Music Centre Orchestra - Silver Plus (Conductor Hamish Wood)

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6x2oyWw2vrs>



8. Aberdeenshire Schools Pipe Band (ASPB)

* Through match funding from the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust a bagpipes instructor and a pipe band drum instructor were introduced to the Banff network in 2016.

From 2020 the ASPB suspended face to face rehearsals. Tuition of Pipes and Drums the Banff, Turriff and Meldrum networks continued with support for the school Pipe Bands as they gradually returned to face to face rehearsals in 2021-2022. Plans were in progress during the Summer Term of 2022 to return of ASPB rehearsals in August 2022.

Pipers and drummers were involved in putting together a Christmas performance for the Press & Journal's digital advent calendar in 2021.

Members of the pipe band were actively involved in submitting recordings for the various academy Christmas concerts throughout 2020-22

Academic sessions 2020–2022 and the COVID-19 Pandemic

In August Video Conferencing (VC) for instrumental tuition was authorised by Aberdeenshire Council, but the return of pupils to a full timetable did cause a range of challenges, such as pupils leaving class to attend VC lessons. Equipment resources set up and cleaning were also challenges that needed to be addressed.

These areas were included in the ECS-IMS Risk Assessments which were regularly updated and shared with instructors and schools.

VC Training for instructors was carried out and liaison with schools took place between the IMS Manager and head Teachers to assess the needs for individual school in terms of resources, accommodation and infrastructure.

- Brass, Woodwind and Singing were categorised as High Risk and, as such, face to face lessons for these subjects did take place in Aberdeenshire Schools. Blended learning including live video conferencing lessons took place where practicable. Instructors of these subjects also made some visits to schools to appraise pupil's online submissions face to face.
- Virtual Bands were utilised by many instructors as a way to continue some form of ensemble playing, in the absence of this activity being able to take place in a live setting.
- Music Centre continued by using Google Meet through Glow and rehearsing for virtual Band and Orchestra Christmas concerts. This was a steep learning curve for all instructors, in particular the editing side of this type of work.
- Pupils being allowed out to a designated area to attend lessons either Face to Face or virtually depending on local school plans were less of an issue than anticipated due to good communication between the Service and schools.
- Instructors spent the first part of the term 1 & 2 working online and digitally with the additionality of Video Conferencing
- Letters were sent to parents as part of the planning process with follow up letters as more guidance for Music Services emerged from the Scottish Government and Education Scotland.
- VC lessons were delivered via Google Meet and Teams with Google Meet being the most commonly used by instructors.

Throughout 2020-21 academic session, all academies accommodated instructors for face to face instrumental lessons with the exception of Brass and Woodwind. Instructors visited academies on a rotational basis depending on the school's accommodation. Therefore, online lessons still continued to be delivered when an instructor was not able to visit a school.

Many Primary schools were able to accommodate instructors, both face to face and in facilitating VC lessons.

The Youth Music Initiative funded Kodaly Team delivered a blend of face to face and online learning to primary schools. No singing took place in any of these lessons. Instead, the project focussed on rhythm and theoretical work.

During academic session 2021-22 restrictions eased and Brass, Woodwind and Singing were able to return to face to face lessons with strict adherence to mitigations listed in the ECS-IMS Risk Assessment. Small e group lesson work could take place where space allowed for disciplines other than Brass and Woodwind. Ensembles returned to live rehearsals in January 2022, with a concert taking place in March 2022 with a live audience. Music Centre groups had significantly diminished in numbers due to the pandemic, so groups from North, Central and South were amalgamated in order to form ensembles that were able to perform.

In March 2022, the Council agreed £605,000 saving for the IMS. Reduction of instructors along with other necessary savings was addressed through the council's Voluntary Severance package. At the time of writing 2 FTE had accepted voluntary severance. Another 0.8 FTE was waiting for figures from pension provider before confirming their position. In term 4 the remodelling and redesign of the Service continued with the permanent appointment of the Music Development Manager, which replaced the post of Instrumental Music Service Manager.

- During this time, all instrumental instructors delivered music sessions via Glow using either Google Classroom or MS Teams. Video Conferencing (VC) was authorised, and all instructors delivered lessons digitally with almost all instructors delivering VC lessons. By the 2022 all instructors had experience in delivering VC lessons and had upskilled considerably during this 2 year period.
- Types of delivery were varied and included:

- Setting weekly assignments for pupils to submit
- Pre-recorded video of instructor demonstrating work with advice and guidance
- Pre-recorded audio of instructor demonstrating work with advice and guidance
- Pupils were able to submit pre-recorded video and/or audio for appraisal
- Glow mail used to communicate with pupils
- Ensemble work continued to take place with some instructors using a variety of software such as Sound Slice and Smart Music.
- Virtual Band Projects across several schools
- Theory work as well as practical assessments is being set
- SQA F3F4 stand-alone performance units assessed by instructors with results being submitted to Deputes, Faculty Heads and Principal Teachers of Music.
- Electronic chanters were purchased so that face to face lessons could continue during restrictions for wind instruments
- Video Conferencing lessons

The IMS followed guidance and advice of the EIS Guidance for Instrumental Music Teachers Working from Home, as well as our own Council guidance through Education Development and in turn Education Scotland.

- A number of Youth Music Initiative (YMI) projects delivered by the IMS continued:
 - Kodaly Instructors submitting work to the schools that they were scheduled to work in during Term 3 and 4. Work sent to Head Teachers to cascade to Teaching Staff to utilise on Glow
 - Work being shared using Glow, Google Classroom and MS Teams
 - The School hubs all received regular work, resources and ideas from the Kodaly music Team
 - One Kodaly Instructor will be going into some of the school hubs to deliver directly to pupils attending school
 - Private YouTube channels accessible to all primary schools
 - iPad Music project instructor visited school hubs to deliver the iPad Music Project directly
 - 1 online YMI project covering 25 schools delivered by Charanga. These projects are available to all class teachers in the participating schools. Charanga was made available to the school hubs as well

As projects were able to return face to face a significant amount of delivery remained online. Staff had been upskilled and it was agreed that Kodaly Instructors would continue to share work to the entire school community as well as work in person.

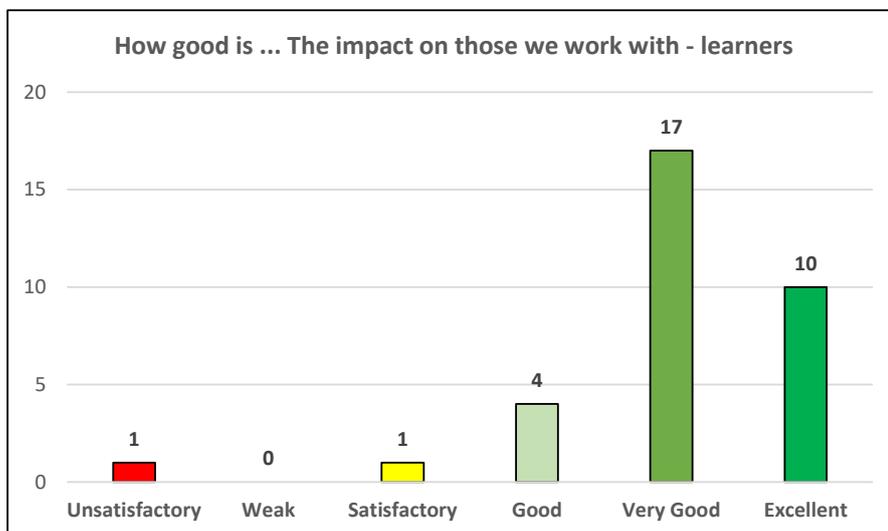
Instrumental Music Service Self-Evaluation

In Autumn of 2021, as part of a taking stock exercise in the IMS, an exercise in self-evaluation was designed by the Strategic Development Officer in the Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships Service. This was a strategic intention to capture a picture of the delivery across the Service involving those engaged in the delivery of Instrumental Music and to build capacity around self-evaluation going forward.

This work was undertaken across a backdrop of the pandemic, three severe storms and also some expected change in the organisation of the IMS. The Education Scotland six point scale for evaluation was adopted. Thirty three staff responded.

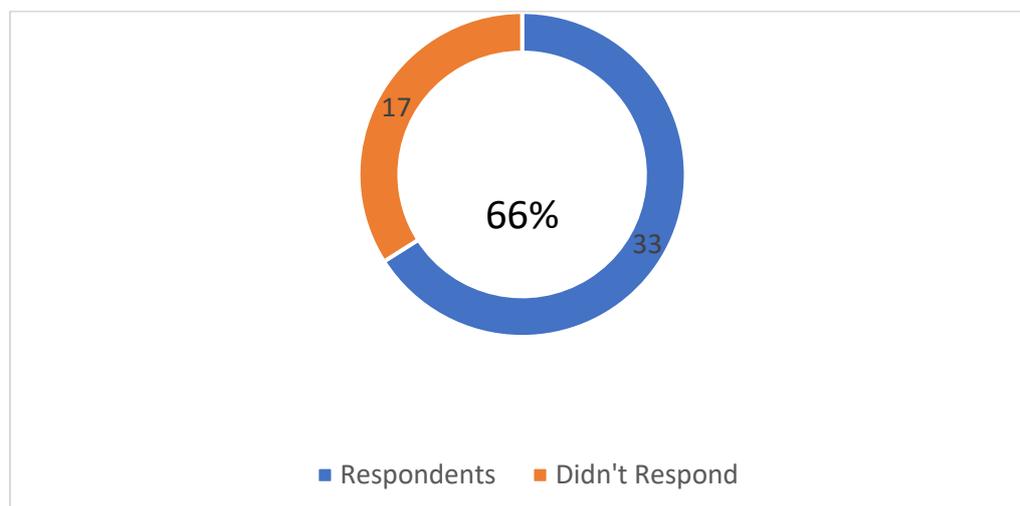
An Initial Survey was sent to staff. Building on this – an In-Service programme was designed to engage the same staff group in building knowledge and skills for evaluation. It also introduced more rigour around use of the six point scale for evaluation. It was planned for two 1.45 hour sessions on

two separate dates with up to twenty five staff attending each event. The events were introduced by the Head of Service.



Education Scotland provided advice and guidance in the initial layout, and they also delivered a presentation and workshop introducing the concept of self-evaluation and the importance of gathering evidence to underpin the picture we have of “how we are doing”. In-house Aberdeenshire Associate Assessors with Education Scotland provided facilitation time along with two experienced colleagues from Aberdeen City.

Initial survey results



An initial survey found that almost all staff feel very positively about the service they deliver both in terms of quality of provision and impact upon those we work with and although obviously enforced, the online learning offer during the pandemic has unlocked our own learning about what can work and what presents challenges. Staff proved highly adaptable in the circumstances faced by the pandemic.

Communication and access to professional learning has been hugely extended during lockdown and also now in the recovery phase – a high degree of upskilling has taken place to enable staff to operate successfully online. Peer learning and support has been a feature of this.



Across the Instrumental Music Service there is a picture of differing levels of communication and connection to the schools which we work with. This can create an incoherence and affect delivery across the geography we cover in our delivery.

Going forward:

- Develop effective and consistent approaches to delivering our offer through a hybrid model of face-to face and online activity, both achieving balance and meeting needs
- Further strengthen self-evaluation practice building on what has been done so far.
- Using our learning so far, build approaches to evidence gathering to underpin our success stories and areas for improvement including robust arrangements for feedback from parents, carers and learners themselves
- Continue to promote online access to professional learning for staff in recognition that this opens doors to workforce development
- Consolidate and strengthen links and communication between the Instrumental Music Service and schools

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/lmsSelfEvaluation>

Justin Brook

Music Development Manager