

Committee(s): Barbican Centre Board	Date(s): 19/09/2018
Subject: Islington Music Education Hub announcement	Public
Report of: Director of Learning & Engagement, (Barbican / Guildhall School)	For Information
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Summary

Islington Council, in partnership with the Guildhall School and the Barbican, is launching a new Islington Music Education Hub from October 2018. It is the first time a Music Education Hub will be led by a local authority, working with an internally renowned conservatoire and in alliance with a leading arts centre.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note this report.

Main Report

Background

1. In February 2011 the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and Department for Education (DfE) jointly commissioned and published an independent report reviewing music education in the English school system, authored by Darren Henley. The report outlined a national plan, with a key recommendation calling for the creation of Music Education Hubs in each Local Authority area. The Government implemented this recommendation in 2012 and further extended funding in 2016 for a further 4 years.
2. The lead organisation for Islington's Music Education Hub since 2012 has been Arts First, a Community Interest Company working alongside other partners to deliver music education opportunities for children and young people in the borough.
3. An application to lead a new Islington Music Education Hub was submitted to Arts Council England (ACE) on 26th June by London Borough of Islington (LBI) with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama as the lead strategic partner, working in close partnership with the Barbican Centre.
4. On 27th July 2018 Islington Council received confirmation from Arts Council England that its application had been approved and a grant agreed in principle for delivery of Music Education Hub activity.

Current Position

5. Following the successful bid to ACE, Islington Council in partnership with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, will launch a new Islington Music Education Hub from October 2018. In reaction to the news, teams across both partner organisations are now moving swiftly to agree the timeline for implementation.
6. The new Hub will be led by the council working in partnership with the Guildhall School alongside leading local music education providers and Islington school leaders. Through the Creative Alliance between the Barbican and Guildhall School the offer will be significantly enriched by the opportunity for children and young people to engage with the widest range of music and multi-arts performances.
7. The new Hub's vision is that all children and young people aged 5–18, regardless of their background, can experience the joy of making music through high quality and sustained music education activities. This will be achieved by providing regular opportunities to sing, learn a musical instrument and play in ensembles and by ensuring clear progression routes for all in a wide range of styles and genres. In particular, opportunities for children and young people in challenging circumstances will be widened and deepened, and affordable progression opportunities will be provided for primary school children.
8. Priorities will include:
 - Ensuring that every child aged 5–18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for a year (minimum of a term).
 - Providing opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
 - Developing a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly, and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.
 - Offering Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
 - Providing an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for families on low incomes.
 - Providing access to large scale and / or high-quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and performing artists through the Barbican, Guildhall School and other Partners.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The Music Education Hub is part of a wider initiative between Islington Council and the City of London Corporation, developed over the past year, to establish closer working ties and advance shared priorities across the City / Islington border. Immediate shared priorities include music and cultural enrichment, skills development, strategic planning and economic development. Culture Mile adds significant value to this partnership, particularly through Culture Mile Learning.

10. In driving forward the priority of cultural enrichment for children and young people, the Hub is in alignment with the Strategic Objectives in the City of London Cultural Strategy 2018–2022.

Conclusion

11. The Islington Music Education Hub presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Barbican and Guildhall School to support and strategically lead the delivery of music and cultural education in schools, offering Islington young people access to world-class artists, resources and experiences, with Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning also providing opportunities to engage with an international arts and learning programme.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Islington Music Hub announcement press release

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