

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE
MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

1 FEBRUARY 2022

COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE FEES 2022/23

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the scale of fees for parents and schools for financial year 2022/23.

2.0 MUSIC CENTRE FEES

2.1 The Music Service runs six Music Centres across the county and as part of the National Plan for Music Education, they fulfil a core role for the service. Music Centres provide opportunities for pupils to perform in ensembles out of school time. Our Music Centres have started to recover from pupil reductions due to Covid but most are at 50/60% of pre-pandemic cohorts. Music Centres were unable to fully restart, without significant restrictions, until September 2021.

Option

- A 4% increase in Music Centre fees, in line with inflation, is suggested. This will mitigate against the possible teachers pay award in September.

3.0 TUITION FEES

3.1 Recovery to pre-pandemic levels is beginning but it will take several years to reach the levels we had in 2018/19. We are now seeing the benefits of our middle management restructure and the focus we are putting on school demonstrations. From September we have had a steady stream of applications. However, we are also experiencing issues with some primary schools refusing music lessons in the mornings. This severely impacts our ability to offer lessons to all those that want them and particularly to meet one of our KPIs for the Arts Council, namely whole class instrumental lessons for primary schools.

Table showing pupil numbers since 2018 and respective tuition fees per term

Year	Fee paying pupils	Cost for a group lesson	Individual 20 minute lesson
2018	3386	£68.50	£134
2020 (levels receiving online lessons due to lockdowns)	1134	£71.20	£139.20
2021/22 (Current numbers*)	1687	£72.60	£142.00

* Figures accurate up to December 2021. Approximately 30 pupils to register on waiting list over Christmas Holiday period.

3.2 The breakdown of individual to group lessons is as follows:

Activity	Count	Potential Income per term (before remissions applied)
Group Of 2 For 30 Minutes	2	£284
Individual 30 Minute	105	£20,926
Individual 20 Minute	696	£98,832
Standard Group	884	£64.033
Total Tuitions = 1687		Total for academic year = £550,335

It should be noted that remissions currently cost the service £26K per year, which comes off the income detailed above.

4.0 PROPOSED OPTION

A 4% rise across the board, in line with inflation. This is in line with NYCC Corporate Fees and Charges Policy. This will mitigate against the teachers pay award and the 1.25% rise in NI contributions.

5.0 REMISSIONS

5.1 It is proposed that for all options, remissions for those on working tax credit and Free School Meals remain unchanged. However, it should be noted that we had 116 pupils qualify for free lessons through FSM or LAC in 2021. This costs the service 26K per year. The LA contributes 2K towards this. If numbers on FSM increase significantly we will need to review its affordability by potentially setting an upper percentage limit on the remission, in line with the working tax credit remission.

6.0 CURRENT FINANCIAL AND ARTS COUNCIL POSITION

6.1 The Q3 figures for the service indicate a small surplus of between 18K and 20K at end of financial year. However, the Spring term will determine the final position. If schools close due to staff shortages and we switch to a prolonged period of online teaching, we may lose income (judging by previous lockdowns) without the furlough support for staff.

6.2 Funding from the DfE for Music Hubs, based on current levels, has been agreed for the 2022/23 financial year and this will include funding to cover increased pension costs. Our funding allocation for next financial year will be announced shortly. The updated National Plan for Music Education is expected to be released January/February.

6.3 As lead organisation for the Music Hub we also seek to support other organisations and secure alternative funding streams. We provide 10K of the Arts Council grant to NYMAZ to run projects for special schools and those pupils in rural isolation. We also received 4K from NYMAZ to run digital projects. We are producing a series of video demonstrations for schools to use with their pupils. We also provide curriculum support to schools and have run CPD for over 60 primary schools on the new Model Music Curriculum. We have also run similar CPD for secondary schools.

6.4 At the time of writing, we have not yet received our annual feedback from the Arts Council. Whole class activity for primary schools was highlighted last year as a KPI to develop and we have made good progress on this target. We have increased activity by 33%. However, we will still fall below the National Average purely because we have more primary schools than most other Music Hubs. We were above the National Average in many of the other KPIs last year.

Table 1 – Comparison fees 2021/22 with some of our neighbours

Local Authority or Trust	Tuition rates for group lessons	School Charges
Leeds	£69 per term (no new data)	£45 to £48 p/h
East Riding (Still receives LA funding)	£53 per term (2022/23)	£35 p/h
Kirklees (Charitable Trust)	£80 per term (2020 no new data)	No info.
Lancashire	£75 per term (no new data)	£35 p/h
Teeside	£69 per term (no new data)	£60 - £70 p/h
North Yorkshire	Currently £72.60 per term	£48 to £50 p/h

*It should be noted that there are 153 music hubs across the country, all operating under different circumstances and with different funding levels. Therefore, comparisons in fees do not necessarily show like for like delivery models.

The table below shows the proposed increases in fees of 4% from April 2022

COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE FEES AND CHARGES - TERMLY

Service	2021/22	April 2022	% Increase
			%
Tuition in a group	72.60	75.50	4%
Individual tuition – 20 min	142.00	147.50	4%
Group of two – 30 min	142.00	147.50	4%
Individual tuition – 30 min	199.30	207.20	4%
Instrument Hire	No change		Variable in line with value of instrument
Music Centre – 2 sessions (full morning)	62.20	64.60	4%
Music Centre – 1 session (part morning)	49.80	51.80	4%

Remissions

Category	Remission Award	Proposed Change
FSM/LAC	Free group lessons	No change
Working Tax Credit	30% on standard group lesson	No change

7.0 SCHOOL CHARGES

- 7.1 The Music Service, as part of its core delivery for the National Plan for Music, trades directly with schools.
- 7.2 Whole Class instrumental lessons have to be subsidised by a third, ensuring our commitment for one term's worth of free tuition.
- 7.3 Whole Class Tuition and continuation are key statistics when reporting back to Arts Council.
- 7.4 The other packages we offer to schools are to support the National Plan for Music but are not necessarily core roles of the service, so fees are set accordingly and cover the current costs.
- 7.5 The table below shows this year's proposals for fee changes. These range from no change to 4% according to where our greatest cost increases have been e.g. instrument repair. Also based on what our core roles should cover. The fees where we are opting for no change are services that we do very little of. We have not done any cluster group work this year and no class GCSE cover. We do a small amount of curriculum cover and the charge already covers the cost of this work.
- 7.6 Income from schools normally totals approximately 187K with a 50/50 split between Whole Class Instrumental programmes and the rest of the offers. However, due to Covid, buy back for some areas other than whole class tuition has decreased.

Package	Pricing	2021/22 Price Primary and Secondary	2022 Proposed Price Primary and Secondary	% Increase
Cluster Group	Per hour	50.00	50.00	No change
Instrumental Teaching Block	Per hour	48.00	49.90	4%
Instruments Only	Per term	148	154	4%
Large Group Instrumental Ensemble Sessions	Per hour	48.00	49.90	4%
Whole Class Music Curriculum Sessions	Per hour	50.00	50.00	No change
Whole Class Instrumental NPME GCSE Tuition	Per Academic Year	1060	1102	4%
	Per Hour	50.00	50.00	No change

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that for the financial year 2022

- The proposal of a 4% for Music Centre fees and tuition be carried forward for implementation.
- The effective date of the fees change should be April 2022

STUART CARLTON
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

Report prepared by Ian Bangay, Head of County Music Service