

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

9 March 2020

**COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE FEES 2021/22**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the scale of fees for parents for financial year 2021/22.

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 by providing opportunities for pupils to perform in ensembles out of school time. Our Music Centres have so far not run this academic year. Pupil drop off is likely to be significant when we restart so we will need a larger than normal increase in fees to cover venue hire.

2.2 A 3% increase is proposed for Music Centres due to the need to rebuild centres following Covid and increased venue costs because of extra cleaning requirements.

3.0 TUITION FEES

Covid necessitated switching our teaching delivery online. This began soon after lockdown in 2020. Inevitably, we saw a significant decrease in tuition rates as either pupils had no access to online tuition or parents suspended lessons due to financial pressures. We lost approximately 90K in income during the summer term 2020. We were able to avoid further losses by furloughing Music Centre staff and some teaching staff that were unable to deliver online tuition e.g. whole class instrumental teachers.

There will be a requirement to rebuild access to tuition over the coming years. It is expected that there will not be a teachers pay award next academic year although this requires confirmation.

4.0 PROPOSAL

4.1 We defer the increase in fees planned for April 2021 because lessons continue to be delivered online and are likely to do so, for many pupils, for the rest of the academic year. Some will get face-to-face lessons as schools return, but there will be schools that cannot accommodate us due to a lack of classroom spaces, where socially distanced lessons cannot take place. Online lessons, whilst valuable, cannot replace the face-to-face experience so it is difficult to justify an increase in fees whilst only a small cohort of pupils will be able to access face-to-face lessons.

4.2 In the autumn term, fees increase by 2.1% in line with the assessment for inflation for the service, factoring in a pay award (see appendix). It is expected that fee increases return to the normal financial year cycle in 2022.

The table below shows fee increases and pupil numbers over the last 10 years.

Year	Fee paying pupils	Cost for a group lesson	Individual 20 minute lesson
2011	7651	£62	£125.00
2015	4277	£67.50	£132.30
2018	3386	£68.50	£134
2021 (current levels receiving online lessons due to lockdowns)	1134	£71.20	£139.20

## 5.0 REMISSIONS

It is proposed that for all options, remissions for those on working tax credit and Free School Meals remain unchanged.

## 6.0 CURRENT FINANCIAL AND ARTS COUNCIL POSITION

- 6.1 The Music Service lost considerable revenue during the summer term 2020 and in to the autumn term due to lockdown. However, the ability to continue trading online, make savings on travel expenses and to furlough some staff has meant that we expect outturn to be a small surplus of between 10K and 15K
- 6.2 Funding from the DfE for Music Hubs, based on current levels, has been agreed for the 2021/22 financial year and this will include funding to cover increased pension costs. Our funding allocation for next financial year will be announced shortly. Funding to support the pension uplift for teachers will also be announced shortly.
- 6.3 The updated National Plan for Music Education is expected to be released in the new academic year.
- 6.4 The Music Hub, of which the Music Service is lead organisation, continues to secure funding from Youth Music and other grants to support projects run by our partners NYMAZ and their associate partners. Although projects have been difficult to run, we produced a series of videos for VE day as well as other performances. These gained over 50,000 hits on our NYCC pages.
- 6.5 Our Arts Council feedback letter for 2019/20 increased our risk rating from low to moderate. We need to address issues over low whole class instrumental take up as well as increase our tuition rates.

The table below highlights key KPIs.

KPI	NYCC Music Service	National Average
Schools engaged in core roles	94%	84%
Percentage of schools supported through NPME Schools Plan	85%	78%
Percentage of schools engaged with Singing Strategy	84%	67%
Percentage of primary schools engaged with Whole Class Instrumental Lessons	18%	43%

6.6 Whole class activity for primary schools has been highlighted as a KPI to develop. However, discussions with our Arts Council relationship manager have recognised our particular issues, listed below:

- More primary schools than all but three other Music Hubs
- Small schools with limited budget to afford whole class lessons
- Limited staffing capacity of Music Service core teaching team
- Higher delivery costs to the service in comparison with urban music hubs i.e. travel costs, mileage and time taken between schools.

Table 1 – Comparison fees 2020/21 with some of our neighbours

<b>Local Authority or Trust</b>	<b>Tuition rates</b>	<b>School Charges</b>
Leeds	£69 per term	£45 to £48 p/h
East Riding (Still receives LA funding)	£35 per term	£35 p/h
Kirklees (Charitable Trust)	£80	No info.
Lancashire	£75 per term	£35 p/h
Teeside	£69 per term	£60 - £70 p/h
<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>Currently £71.20</b>	<b>£44 to £50 p/h</b>

\*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.

## 7.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that for the financial year 2021/22:

- A 2.1% increase be applied to tuition fees.
- The effective date of the fees change should be September 2021

The tables below show the proposed increases in fees of 2.1% from September 2021 together with remissions:

### **COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE FEES AND CHARGES - TERMLY**

Service	2020/21	September 2021/22	% Increase
Tuition in a group	71.20	72.60	2.1%
Individual tuition – 20 min	139.20	142.00	2.1%
Group of two – 30 min	139.20	142.00	2.1%
Individual tuition – 30 min	195.20	199.30	2.1%
Instrument Hire	£20-35	No change	Variable in line with value of instrument
Music Centre – 2 sessions (full morning)	60.40	62.20	3%
Music Centre – 1 session (part morning)	48.40	49.80	3%

## COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE REMISSIONS

Category	Remission Award	Proposed Change
FSM	Free group lessons	No change
Working Tax Credit	30%	No change

Report produced by Ian Bangay, Head of County Music Service

1 March 2021

There are no background items associated with this report.