



The Music Partnership - Commissioning Arrangements

This document lays out the expectations and operational arrangements for The Music Partnership (TMP). This includes the role of the Hub Lead Organisation (HLO), Local Lead Partners (LLP), and partnership agreements with other organisations delivering work across the region.

TMP is the Music Hub covering the Department for Education (DfE) defined region of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, and Telford & Wrekin. The DfE Core Revenue Grant for Music Hubs is administered by Arts Council England (ACE).

Overview

The HLO is Entrust Support Services Ltd. (Entrust), based in Staffordshire, and who designate a 'Lead Officer' to oversee all Music Hub activity. The Lead Officer reports to Entrust via the Directors of the organisation who themselves report to the Joint Venture Company Board. The JvCo board consists of representation from the joint shareholding for Entrust, Staffordshire County Council (49%) and Capita Plc. (51%)

The LLPs are Shropshire Music Service, Entrust Music Service Staffordshire, The City Music Service Stoke-on-Trent, and Telford & Wrekin Music. Aside from Entrust, all LLPs are local authority services. LLPs have been identified as organisations who subscribe to TMP's partnership principles, have significant engagement with schools in their local authority area (more than 75%) and who bring more than 50% match funding to support the Local Plan for Music Education. They have the skills, track record, pedagogy, quality, and capacity to deliver across all three action areas and will build on their recent experience of mature partnership working across the region.

Entrust implements a Music Hub governance structure, including a board and operational steering groups. The board has independent members and an independent chair. All funded partner organisations, including Entrust (as HLO) and LLPs, report their activity against grant spend to the board for scrutiny and oversight.

The Lead Officer is a suitably qualified and experienced music education specialist with a comprehensive understanding of the region and with relevant operational management experience in the music and music education sector.

Full governance arrangements and structure charts are published under separate cover.

Mission

The Music Partnership is a group of the region's leading quality music education providers, committed to working together to ensure all young people are given the opportunity to sing, learn an instrument, perform as part of an ensemble or choir, and progress their musical interests.

Three action areas, drawn from a needs analysis, are identified for partners to deliver this mission and fulfil the aims of the National Plan for Music Education, [The Power of Music to Change Lives](#). A transparent reporting system allows the hub to demonstrate progress across the [5 strategic functions](#) from the National Plan and monitor TMP's overall effectiveness.

A legally binding agreement between the Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) and the Local Lead Partners (LLPs) determines how these actions are devolved to LLPs, how funding is cascaded, and the responsibilities of hub partners. In addition to delivery actions, LLPs support development of the **strategic direction, reporting and governance** of the hub.

Quality

The HLO, LLPs and any organisation working in partnership across the region will adhere to the quality principles which are outlined in TMPs quality framework.

The seven principles are:

1. Striving for excellence
2. Being authentic
3. Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Ensuring a positive, child-centred experience
5. Actively involving children
6. Providing a sense of personal progression
7. Developing a sense of ownership and belonging

The framework is available in the Local Plan for Music Education and published on the TMP website.

Partnership

All organisations working as part of The Music Partnership, irrespective of whether they may receive funding or not, will adhere to the 'TMP principles of partnership', outlined under separate cover and published on the website.



The Commission

The Local Lead Partner

Each Local Lead Partner (LLP) will:

- review, develop, resource, and monitor music education across their local area, connecting with local stakeholders to ensure that what is being developed responds to local need.
- commission partners in line with need, to deliver the programme of activity and to address cold spots and gaps in provision.
- work together with the operational steering groups, to deliver new regional opportunities for young people which promote musical diversity and progression.
- report to the HLO, as required through the partnership agreement, on all designated music education and financial matters to enable the HLO have secure knowledge of the local work and to report on behalf of the region.
- contribute to the regional networks for teachers and practitioners.
- receive the grant allocated to their local area, less a top slice (fixed at 2% for 2024-25), which the HLO will retain to enable delivery against the designated HLO roles for the region.

Each LLP will be commissioned by the HLO to lead music education in their local area, and to be a key member of the regional partnership. LLPs will be identified as having:

- a solid track record in delivering music education in their area.
- effective local Governance.
- a workforce with the expertise and capacity to deliver across their area.
- Understanding of pedagogy with performance management for their team members.
- High-quality outcomes for young people.

A legally binding agreement between the Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) and the Local Lead Partners (LLPs) determines how these actions are devolved to LLPs, how funding is cascaded, and the responsibilities which LLPs have in accepting the Commission. The specific requirements of the Commission are listed below under the following headings: ***Delivering Activity (Delivery); Supporting Schools and other educational settings (Support); Music Performance and access to venues (Performances)***.

In addition to this local work, LLPs will support the development of **new regional activity for young people** and the **strategic direction, reporting and governance** of the hub.

Delivery. Local Lead Partners will provide:

1. Regular weekly music lessons for individuals and small groups of learners.
2. Classroom instrumental lessons for schools (formerly known as Whole Class Ensemble Teaching).
3. Specialist music curriculum teaching for schools.
4. Music performance groups for schools.
5. A structure of 'out of school' music performance groups and other musical opportunities.
6. Musical activity specifically designed for children in the Early years phase, those with SEND, and for Alternative Provision settings.
7. Other regular weekly music education activity requested by schools.

Support. Local Lead Partners will provide:

1. Access to high-quality musical instruments for local young people and schools.
2. Access to bespoke funding pathways, bursaries, and remissions, for individuals in need of support.
3. Networking and strategic information sharing with all schools.
4. One-to-one school support for music development.
5. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for school staff.
6. Workforce development for hub partner employees / workers.
7. Access to, and support with, Music Technology, including specialist licenses and software to support music lessons in school.
8. Community music development, beyond the school.
9. Signposting pathways to higher education and into careers.

Performances. Local Lead Partners will provide:

1. Opportunities for children to perform in a range of venues.
2. Projects to enhance the musical offer for those already engaged in Delivery functions.
3. Large-scale events, such as festivals, where schools and ensembles can perform alongside each other.
4. New opportunities targeting those who have yet to engage.
5. Effective ticketing and publicity systems for concerts, and events, to promote audience development.

LLPs may commission partner organisations to deliver work that supports the Hub mission at their local level, or partners may be commissioned collaboratively by the HLO and its partners to support work at the regional level. All Hub partners **work inclusively** across the programme of activity, committing to engaging children from all backgrounds and circumstances with an increasingly diverse workforce

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The Music Partnership
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