

## Leicestershire Music Partnership Development & Partnership Commissioning Policy

V.2 Aug-2024

*A Music Education Hub is a partnership, led by a Hub Lead Organisation, that is responsible for supporting, delivering and enabling access to music education activity for children and young people within a local area.*

*Partnerships include schools, early years and other education providers, local authorities, community music organisations and other regional and national youth music organisations and industry. Hub Lead Organisations and their Hub partners understand and respond to local context to support the needs and interests of all children and young people.*

Arts Council England

### Section 1 – Background

Leicestershire Music has gone from strength to strength demonstrating resilience and determination in ensuring that young people can continue to access a high-quality music education. Through a developing workforce and dynamic partnerships (including schools) Leicestershire Music enables children and young people from all backgrounds in Leicestershire and Leicester to 'Enrich and connect their worlds through life changing experiences.' Leicestershire Music leadership has been strengthened and supported by the Hub Board and Leicestershire County Council (Children and Family Services) to ensure that the organisation moves forward and continues to develop in line with the needs of the communities it serves.

Leicestershire Music has a carefully thought-out vision for the musical future of our children and young people in Leicester and Leicestershire and fully embraces the objectives and recommendations of the National Plan for Music Education. We are committed to:

- providing an inclusive, diverse, and engaging music education and recognise that music education plays a vital role in developing creativity, cognitive skills, social connections, and overall well-being.
- delivering high-quality music education programs and this will be achieved by investing in the continuous professional development of music educators, fostering partnerships with local schools and cultural organisations, and regularly evaluating the impact and effectiveness of our work.

To align with the National Plan, Leicestershire Music Hub will develop programmes of activity that focus on:

## Partnerships

**Leicestershire** Music has already developed strong partnerships with schools, local, regional and national organisations and community groups. These collaborative efforts will continue to be developed to share resources, expertise, and best practices that will enriching the overall music education landscape in Leicester and Leicestershire.

## Schools

**Leicestershire** Music will continue to develop relationships with all state-funded schools in the area and support them to deliver high-quality music education, including a quality curriculum support offer, specialist tuition, instruments and ensembles, and a broad range of progression routes and musical experiences for all pupils.

## Progression and Musical Development

**Leicestershire** Music will continue to focus on the development of clear progression pathways for all young musicians, enabling them to develop their skills and pursue music education at all levels. This will involve collaborations with partners, professional musicians, and industry experts to provide guidance, mentorship and performance opportunities.

## Inclusion

**Leicestershire** Music will continue to develop ways of working within the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) framework. This underpins the work by **Leicestershire** Music to ensure that all children and young people in the area, regardless of their background or circumstances, have access to quality music education.

## Sustainability

**Leicestershire** Music approach to environmental and financial sustainability continues to be high priority and continues to be developed. A new Fundraising Strategy has been written and is in the early implementation stages.

## Section 2

### Partnership Working – How Partnerships are Appointed

**Leicestershire** Music Hub welcomes interest from individuals and organisations delivering music education opportunities to young people in Leicester and Leicestershire to be part of the **Leicestershire** Music Hub.

Leicestershire Music Hub is made up of different types of Partnerships, from delivery Partners through to Strategic Partners and everything in between. The one fundamental of any partnerships is that both partners want to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in Leicester and Leicestershire through Music.

Any individual or Organisation wishing to become an official partner of the Leicestershire Music Hub must participate in an introductory meeting(s) with representatives from the Hub Lead Organisation (HLO), Leicestershire Music. The purpose of the introductory meeting is to enable both partners to identify who they are, how they can support the delivery of the National Plan for Music Education within Leicester and Leicestershire, how the partnership would support the Needs Analysis, as well as identify the type of Partner they would be and how the partnership would benefit our young people. Opportunities for Hub partners will be promoted through the Leicestershire Music website and social media channels as well as through conversations in networking events and partner events. Leicestershire Music also have a dedicated Partnership area on their website where Hub partners can review partnership principles, agreements and key policies.

Further information will be provided by the HLO at this meeting regarding the minimum standards required of a Partner, particularly around Safeguarding and Quality.

Following a successful meeting and where required, a Partnership Agreement will be drafted and once approved and subsequently signed by both parties, will become live.

Partnership Agreements will usually be for the duration of one Academic Year and will be reviewed at least on an annual basis. New Partnership Agreements will be issued ahead of the new period.

In circumstances where the Partnership is no longer supporting the aims of the Hub, benefitting children and young people in Leicester and Leicestershire or is causing serious concern with regards to Safeguarding, Quality or Impact a report will be taken to the Hub Board outlining concerns, which may result in the agreement being terminated mid-year or not renewed at the end of the agreement period.

**It is the responsibility of all Hub Partners to ensure that all children and young people participating in music education activities in Leicester and Leicestershire are safe, inspired, experience enjoyment and take meaningful value from the music education they participate in, so that they are motivated and supported to continue along their chosen progression pathway.**

### Quality & Performance Monitoring

The content of Partnership Agreements will be derived from the type of partnership being entered. For example, the Quality and Performance monitoring requirements will be different for a delivery partnership to a strategic partnership. The Partnership

Agreement will therefore outline the basis of how the partnership will work, what the agreed outcome are as well as the expectations of both parties. How quality and performance will be monitored against the agreed outcomes will be determined from this.

**Leicestershire** Music Hub takes its Safeguarding duties extremely seriously and where breaches of the Safeguarding policy are found, or concerns are raised these could result in immediate termination of the partnership.

**Leicestershire** Music Hub will assess Quality, Impact & Performance by following the **Leicestershire** Music Hub Inclusion & Quality Principles, **Leicestershire** Music Hub Evaluation and Impact Framework as well as the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA) Framework.

Partners will be asked to complete termly surveys to help provide data to inform progress, reach and overall impact of the **Leicestershire** Music Hub. In addition, where Delivery Partners have completed a project, they will be required to provide more detailed project evaluation data and case studies.

## Financial Arrangements

Being a Partner of the **Leicestershire** Music Hub does not mean that there is automatic access to Hub Grant Funds. **Leicestershire** Music as HLO, is also a delivery partner and receives Hu grant funds to deliver elements of the NPME including classroom instrumental learning, school music development plans and CPD delivery and music groups, bands and orchestras. The awarding of the Hub Grant to Partner Organisations, including **Leicestershire** Music, will be carried out in accordance with Leicestershire County Council's Contract Procedure Rules for Procurement as detailed in Part 4G of the County Council's constitution, which can be found [here](#).

Hub Grant Funds are primarily reserved for delivery of activities that meet the aims and objectives of the National Plan for Music Education as determined through the Needs Analysis where existing gaps in provision are identified. Therefore, there are no guarantees that funds will be awarded to Hub Partners that are delivering activities that meet the aims of the NPME.

To support the drive to generate income, that is at least equal to the value of the Hub Grant, across the Hub area, all Hub Partners must work to securing additional funding from a variety of sources to support their work. For example, fundraising, trading, applying for grants etc.

Where the Needs Analysis identifies a gap in provision the HLO will invite expressions of interest (EOI) from Partners to provide the outlines of a delivery offer that meets the need. Within the EOI the Partner should provide a brief outline of what they will deliver, how they will deliver it and provide an outline costing / budget for delivering the work. There is an expectation that at least 50% of the cost to deliver the work will come from

sources other than the Hub Grant. The EOI should also outline how the work will align with the Hub's Quality and Performance frameworks and policies.

All expressions of interest will be assessed, and a project agreement awarded to the successful applicant. The project agreement will detail the financial contribution to be made as well as expectations, conditions and monitoring requirements. Project agreements must demonstrate value for money and adhere to Arts Council England requirements and exclusions as set out in their terms and conditions.

### Complaints, Grievance or Termination of a Partnership Agreement

In the first instance, any complaint or grievance regarding a partnership should be reported in writing to the Service Manager of **Leicestershire Music**. Should this not be resolved in a satisfactory manner then this can be escalated to the Chair of the **Leicestershire Music Hub Board** who will investigate and respond accordingly.

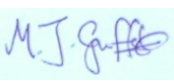
Any breaches of Safeguarding will be taken extremely seriously and could result in the termination of a Partnership Agreement. Where Performance is found to fall short of expectations then this could also result in the termination of a Partnership Agreement.

Other scenarios that could result in the termination of a Partnership Agreement or decision not to renew an agreement may include the following, but not exhaustive, scenarios:

- Partnership not delivering against agreed outcomes
- Partnership actions resulting in reputational damage the **Leicestershire Music Hub**, **Leicestershire Music**, Leicestershire County Council, Arts Council England or Department for Education.
- Partnership Agreements conditions not being met
- Repeated failure to meet branding guidelines of **Leicestershire Music Hub** or Arts Council England
- Failure to provide data in accordance with timetable set

The Chair of the Board will have the final say on whether a Partnership Agreement is terminated. Any decision will be final.

Policy reviewed and signed off by Leicestershire Music Hub Board Chair:

Hub Chair: 

Next Review by Date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025