

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Piping and Drumming Tuition

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 notes the contents of this report address the Pipe Band Drumming Motion by Councillor Kumar and the Amendment by the Administration
 - 1.1.2 note the dialogue between the Council's Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning (WA&LL) Instrumental Music Service (IMS) and the Scottish Schools Piping and Drumming Trust (SSPDT)
 - 1.1.2 agree to proceed with the three-year grant offer of around £120k in total, from SSPDT;
 - 1.1.3 note the considerations and risks to longer term commitment to piping and drumming tuition as part of IMS beyond the life of the grant;
 - 1.1.4 delegate responsibility to officers to deliver piping and drumming tuition within available budgets and potential grant awards

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Piping and Drumming Tuition

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A Motion to Education, Children and Families Committee on 16 April 2014, instructed officers to re-open negotiations with SSPDT to secure time limited funding for piping and drumming.
- 2.2 Piping and Drumming Instructors have never previously been engaged as part of Edinburgh's Instrumental Music Service (IMS).
- 2.3 The Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning (WA&LL) Scottish Schools Piping and Drumming Trust (SSPDT) have been in dialogue since early 2023 about the potential to introduce piping and drumming tuition into schools via the IMS.
- 2.4 Following a gap in the dialogue, officers and the Chief Executive of SSPDT are currently scoping the details of a grant award, how pipe band drumming tuition could be offered with a view to confirming funding from SSPDT by the end of June.
- 2.5 This report sets out the proposal, identifies the funding sources including a grant offered by SSPDT and highlights the factors that need to be considered when engaging staff using external funding.

3. Background

- 3.1 In December 2022, a permanent full-time Piping Instructor post was advertised in the IMS. Only 2 applications were received, and no-one was appointed.
- 3.2 The decision to advertise a piping instructor was based on a number of factors;
 - 3.2.1 there has never previously been any piping provision in IMS
 - 3.2.2 only those pupils undertaking SQA music programmes and courses and where bagpipes is one of their instruments, have had piping lessons provided in school by IMS. This is agreed between Secondary Schools and IMS annually. The funding for those lessons has been additional to the IMS core budget and covered from external music education funds.
 - 3.2.3 new funding for IMS was announced by Scottish Government which could potentially be used to employ a piping instructor

- 3.3 Following the advertisement for a Piping Instructor, SSPDT approached the Council with a proposal to include a drumming instructor and to begin a conversation about how that could be funded.
- 3.4 SSPDT has a long-standing ambition to support more piping and drumming in Edinburgh schools. Between January and April 2023, these discussions led to a verbal offer of funding from SSPDT. This was to contribute to the cost of an instructor over 2/3 years, with the Council's piping post providing match funding.
- 3.5 SSPDT's ambition is for their offer of time-limited funding to allow the Council to then absorb the new drumming instructor into the permanent IMS workforce.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The unfilled piping instructor post was not re-advertised in January 2023. It was uncertain if the new Scottish Government Funding for IMS was to be awarded annually and how much could be expected. The potential appointment of a piping instructor also had to be balanced with:
 - 4.1.1 increased requests from schools to appoint more singing instructors to teach more learners, and voice being a low cost 'instrument' to support equity,
 - 4.1.2 prioritising the Scottish Government funding on purchasing new instruments to support more pupils, particularly those from low-income families,
 - 4.1.3 requests for IMS provision in new schools with no current IMS provision,
 - 4.1.3 the funding being awarded annually and therefore the risks of appointing IMS instructors to permanent contracts. Fixed Term contracts would not provide learning continuity or the pathways in music education
 - 4.1.4 the allocation of a small piping resource to schools and the cost of bagpipes.
- 4.2 Over the first 2 years of Scottish Government funding, priority was given to buying instruments for IMS tuition. This has resulted in more pupils being able to learn and practice at home without the need to share an instrument, with an increase in learner participation in lessons, bands, orchestras and ensembles.
- 4.3 The SSPDT and the Council discussed the options which included a different model for Piping and Drumming if the instructors were not engaged permanently as part of IMS. This was not an attractive proposition to SSPDT as their offer of funding over 2 – 3 years was to find a way to include piping and drumming within the IMS.
- 4.4 That meant that the Council would need to appoint a permanent piping instructor (funded from Scottish Government funding) as match funding for a permanent drumming instructor (funded from SSPDT). Consideration was then given to whether this temporary funding was an acceptable risk given the posts needed to be permanent to support learning potentially from P6 through to S6.
- 4.5 The Scottish Government funding continues to be allocated annually and indications are that it is stable, although this may change with any future change of Government.

4.6 The proposal is to advertise and appoint a piping instructor and a drumming instructor to IMS, funded as follows:

Instructor	Funding source (academic years)				Notes
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027 on	
Piping	Scot Gov	Scot Gov	Scot Gov	Scot Gov /Council	Each year the pay uplift will need to be covered by the Council using Scot Gov funding. Should Scot Gov funding cease the Council would need to cover the salary costs Scot Gov funding will need to also purchase chanters, pipes and drums for pupils
Drumming	SSPDT	SSPDT Council (using Scot Gov funds) to cover shortfall	SSPDT Council (using Scot Gov funds) to cover shortfall	Scot Gov /Council	

4.3 If approved, officers will continue to liaise with SSPDT throughout June (and July if required) to agree the terms of the funding over three years.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Agree the terms of the funding from SSPDT.
- 5.2 Work with schools and IMS managers to determine the best Learning Communities / schools for the new piping and drumming provision.
- 5.3 Timetable the new instructors with provision to continue to support piping pupils in other schools who are following SQA programmes and courses
- 5.4 Recruit the two new posts over the summer to begin offering piping and drumming tuition from August 2024
- 5.5 Purchase chanters, sets of pipes and drums for schools/pupils to ensure there are no cost barriers to learning and uptake is maximised

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Should the Scottish Government funding reduce or stop in future, additional budget would need to be sourced or HR processes would be followed to cease instructor provision in piping and drumming.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 Piping and drumming lessons and instruments would be offered at no cost to pupils or schools.
- 7.2 With a finite resource of 2 FTE, the piping and drumming instructors would be deployed to those schools/learning communities where the impact could be maximised.
- 7.3 IMS managers, schools and the new instructors will work closely to ensure timetables are filled and all young people in the allocated schools are given the opportunity to learn and participate with all cost barriers removed.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 Staff will be timetabled to reduce un-necessary travel.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 While the Scottish Government funding for IMS is awarded annually, there is no indication that this will cease. The financial risks of it stopping or reducing in future cannot be mitigated at present. Good planning and following procedure will ensure any future risks linked to funding reductions are managed.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Motion to Education, Children and Families Committee – <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/b24543/Motions%20and%20Amendments%2016th-Apr-2024%2010.00%20Education%20Children%20and%20Families%20Committee.pdf?T=9>

11. Appendices

- 11.1 N/A
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