

**All-Party Parliamentary Group for Music Education,
AGM and briefing minutes - Wednesday 10 October 2018**

AGM Business

Parliamentarians present: Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist, Diana Johnson MP, Earl of Clancarty, Mark Prisk MP, Wera Hobhouse MP, Lord Wrigglesworth, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Lord Aberdare, Rupa Huq MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, Liz McInnes MP, Baroness Altmann, David Warburton MP

The attending parliamentarians were joined members of the music education sector.

1. **Welcome** – Diana Johnson MP

2. **Election of Officers**

The following nominations were received:

Chair and Registered Contact: Diana Johnson MP (Labour)

Co-Chair: Andrew Percy MP (Conservative)

Secretary: Lord Aberdare (Crossbench)

Treasurer: Baroness Finlay (Crossbench)

Vice-Chairs: Sharon Hodgson MP (Labour), Nigel Adams MP (Conservative), Mark Prisk MP (Conservative), David Warburton MP (Conservative), Baroness Altmann (Conservative), Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative)

All were elected.

3. **Income and expenditure statement**

The expenditure of the Group (purely support in kind from the secretariat) did not exceed the levels required for reporting.

4. **Close of AGM**

Main Business - presentations

Following the AGM, presentations were given by music educationalists, professional musicians and campaigners to provide the most current picture of music education in primary and secondary schools, as well as demonstrate the value of music as a subject.

1. **Dr Alison Daubney, University of Sussex – Secondary Music Curriculum Provision between 2016-18/19**

Dr Alison Daubney (Senior Teaching Fellow in Education, University of Sussex) presented research into Secondary Music Curriculum Provision between 2016-18/19 by the University of Sussex. The research – a survey of almost 500 schools - was undertaken by Dr Daubney and her colleague Duncan Mackrill (Senior Lecturer in Education, University of Sussex) between June and September 2018 and was published on Wednesday 10 October 2018. It follows on from research undertaken by the University for the period 2012-16.

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The research revealed music education provision in schools to be in a precarious state, with schools offering music a subject, staffing levels and teaching hours in music all in decline since 2016. The EBacc was highlighted as a key driver behind this continuing decline, alongside other performance measures and cuts in funding as other contributing factors.

The headlines from the University of Sussex's research:

- The EBacc was specifically named as having a negative impact on the provision and uptake of music in schools (within and beyond the curriculum), with some schools discouraging top set students from taking music at KS4 because of the EBacc, whilst in others lower ability students were prevented from taking music so they could concentrate on core subjects.
- There has been a further decline in GCSE music entries (on top of a 23% decline since 2010). Responding schools predicted a further 9.8% drop, and 18% of responding schools no longer provide GCSE music as a subject option.
- An increasing number of schools have reduced or completely removed music in the curriculum for year 7, 8 and 9 students which has resulted in some schools now not offering music as a curriculum subject and in others taught only on an 'enrichment day' once a year.
- A decline in the number of schools offering GCSE music and other Key Stage 4 qualifications with some schools only offering it outside of school hours, if at all.
- 15.4% fewer centres offering A Level music in 2018 compared to 2016, and a reduction of 31.7% in A Level music technology.
- An increase in music teachers teaching outside their subject area – over 70% cited often doing so since 2016, and a potential rise in redundancies for music teachers in the next academic year, with some responses noting that music teachers were not being replaced when leaving or retiring.

2. Kevin Rogers – Music Curriculum Provision in Primary Schools

Kevin Rogers (former County Inspector, Hampshire Music Service) outlined the headline findings of his research (undertaken in collaboration with the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) between June and September 2018) into the provision of curriculum music in primary schools. The research surveyed 163 primary schools from nearly 100 local authorities.

The headline findings from his research:

- One in five primary school students now spends less time on curriculum music in comparison to five years ago. Twice as many Year 6 students are not being taught music when compared with Year 1 students.
- One in five primary schools reported a decline in the provision of curriculum music in comparison to five years ago. Almost 40% of schools reported cuts to budgets and staffing and the pressure of accountability for maths and English results (particularly for Year 6 students) as having a negative impact on curriculum music provision.

3. Nicholas Daniel (oboist) and Laura van der Heijden (cellist)

Professional musicians Nicholas Daniel and Laura van der Heijden (both winners of BBC Young Musician of the Year) outlined the holistic benefits of music education. Ms van der Heijden spoke of the support received from her state secondary school in relation to her

music education and how this provided her with the foundation she needed to embark on a successful music career. She also spoke of the benefits of learning a musical instrument; how it builds a child's confidence and teaches them a universal language and the prospect of 'long-term gratification' – especially vital in an age of technological advancements and 'instant gratification'.

In addition to his early experiences in music, oboist Nicholas Daniel discussed the important work of the *Every Child a Music* campaign, particularly the successful pilot in which free musical instruments and tuition are now provided to children in Years 5 to 7 in Newham.

4. Deborah Annetts – Music Education and Delivering World-Class Creative Industries

Deborah Annetts (Chief Executive of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and founder of the Bacc for the Future campaign) discussed the role in which music education has in delivering the Government's ambition to support and grow the UK's creative industries.

The UK music industry is worth £4.4bn a year to the economy and one in seven albums sold worldwide in 2014 was by a British act – key reasons, Ms Annetts stated, for the music industry to be at the heart of Government strategy post-Brexit.

Echoing Dr Daubney's concerns, Ms Annetts also cited the EBacc as the cause of a continuing decline in the uptake of creative subjects, including music, in schools. She stressed the need for Government to review its education policy, so it aligns with the ambitions of the Industrial Strategy.

Following Ms Annett's speech, a discussion took place which heard widespread concerns from Parliamentarians across all political parties about the marginalisation of music and creative subjects in both primary and secondary schools.

Note: Ofsted to refocus inspection frameworks

On Thursday 11 October 2018 (after the APPG for Music Education meeting took place) Ofsted announced that school inspections in England will no longer focus on exam results and grades, but instead the substance of what children are being taught will be examined. Amanda Spielman told BBC Radio 4 that 'the attention on performance data is coming at the expense of what is being taught' and 'there should always be space for creative subjects in the curriculum'.