

churchmusicfuture
providing expertise and support in music and mission

factsheet

Music Education Hubs

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Background

In 2012, following a national review of music education by Darren Henley, the Government published [The Importance of Music, A National Plan for Music Education](#). The report's main finding was that, whilst there was some excellent music education provision around the country, it remained patchy, and recommended that Music Education Hubs be formed in local authority areas across the country, through which it would fund and support music education.

The National Plan included the following aims:-

- 'Children from all backgrounds and every part of England should have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence if they wish to.'
- Music education is patchy across the country and change is needed to ensure all pupils receive a high quality music education.
- New music education hubs will take forward the work of local authority music services from September 2012, helping improve the quality and consistency of music education across England, both in and out of school.'

So what is a Music Education Hub?

According to the Arts Council, who handle funding for Hubs, it's this:-

- 'The hubs are a new way of organising music education. They are groups of organisations, including primary and secondary schools, further education institutions, professional music organisations and arts organisations. They work in local areas to create music education programmes for children and young people.'
- Music education hubs have now been in place for two school years. Hubs are already working with 80 per cent of schools in England, meaning that around one million children and young people are learning a musical instrument.'

In reality, Hubs have unfolded in different ways, and with varying degrees of success. However, they're now largely in a much more settled position than they were, and it's a good time to connect with them if you haven't already.

And what does that mean for me/my church?

It means you've a great opportunity to get connected with the musical life of your area, and potentially to enhance your own activity.

It is a condition of funding that Hubs engage in a wide range of partnerships to ensure that they provide the widest and best possible provision for all young people in their area. So if you are providing music activities, or would like to, you could do any one (or more) of the following:-

- Make contact with your local music education hub. Links here: <http://www.musiceducationuk.com/music-hubs/>
- Consider how best you might connect. For example:-
 - Making elements of your music activity part of the hub's offer
 - Offering to host hub music activity in your setting
 - Sharing information and intelligence about the young people/schools you work with
 - Sharing resources and connecting into the network of music providers in the area

- Accessing training to enhance your, or a colleague's, musical leadership skills
- If you've a strong music set up, explore becoming a Hub partner, and having a strategic input into its work, potentially pursuing/drawing in funding or income as part of the partnership
- Find out from the schools you work with what support they get from the Hub, so that you can complement or support it

On the whole, you'll find that you get out from Hubs what you put in. If you're genuinely committed to ensuring all young people are able to access high-quality musical opportunities on a regular basis, and are prepared to work in partnership, with positivity and patience, you could find that Music Education Hubs are of immense value.

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- **free access to a website knowledgebase and blog, where common questions and topical themes are explored**

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