

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 September 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Celebrating the Musical Success of Young People and the Instrumental Music Service
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the range of achievements and musical success of young people and employees in national and local contexts during 2018.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the positive musical success of young people and the Instrumental Music Service in national and local contexts during 2018 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. A key priority for Education Resources is to raise attainment, close the equity gap, and to celebrate the success and achievements of young people and employees. Through the provision of instrumental music tuition, Youth Music Initiative music projects and extra-curricular music-making activities South Lanarkshire is recognised as one of Scotland's leading local authorities in nurturing musical excellence and success.
- 3.2. Schools, community-based and national music organisations and other services are actively involved in celebrating the musical achievements of children and young people, on a regular basis through assemblies, concerts, award ceremonies, showcase events, social media, the press and other means.
- 3.3. Whilst there will always be a focus on literacy, numeracy and exam results, it is also important to recognise the wider achievements of young people. This helps to build their self-esteem, raise their aspirations and improve their motivation for learning.
- 3.4. The achievements and participation of young people across our establishments and services in a wide range of music-making and musical learning deserves to be recognised.

4. Celebrating Musical Success 2018

- 4.1. As we mark the Year of Young People, it is important that we take opportunities to celebrate and mark the success and achievements of children and young people. There is a lot to be proud of in the musical achievements of young people and their educators throughout South Lanarkshire. Over the last year, South Lanarkshire's

children, young people and employees have achieved notable musical success in a wide variety of highly prestigious national and local contexts.

- 4.2. South Lanarkshire Council's Instrumental Music Service provides high quality instrumental music tuition and Youth Music Initiative musical learning experiences to over 9,000 children and young people, between the learning stages of P4 to S6. Tuition is delivered across South Lanarkshire's entire school estate, including Additional Support Need schools.
- 4.3. The Instrumental Music Service offers children and young people the opportunity to participate in school-based musical learning and music-making activities involving the musical disciplines of brass, guitar, percussion, strings, singing and woodwind. This rich variety of creative and practical learning is offered to learners during the school day through a selection of delivery methods, including full class and small group formations. Thereafter, the musical talent nurtured within South Lanarkshire's schools cascades across community, regional and national settings. Such musical and creative activities demonstrate the commitment by schools, communities and other services to show how they are developing and nurturing very successful learners and supporting them to be responsible citizens and effective contributors to the lives of their schools and local communities.
- 4.4. Below are some examples of the breadth of service and individual achievements amassed since the commencement of 2018:
 - 4.4.1. **SLC Battle of the Bands (February).** This event showcased the talents of the county's emerging rock and pop talent, involving bands from 11 South Lanarkshire schools performing to a packed Hamilton Town House audience. The participants and audience also benefited from a workshop and performance from recently Sony Music signed artiste Be Charlotte.
 - 4.4.2. **SLC Instrumental Music Service Showcase (March).** The 2018 Showcase involved over 350 young instrumentalists and vocalists taking to the stage of the Hamilton Town House. The event, now in its sixth year, celebrated the talent and musical excellence that is nurtured across the county's secondary schools. No less than 24 ensembles and musical acts were showcased, including a guest performance by one of the local authority's primary school choirs.
 - 4.4.3. **Primary Music Showcase (June).** This event was staged in the Hamilton Town House during the month of June. The showcase provided performance opportunities for 400 young musical learners, and featured an inaugural public performance of the South Lanarkshire Primary Schools' Chorus, featuring over 60 young voices.
 - 4.4.4. **South Lanarkshire Schools' Big Band.** This ensemble has continued to play an active role in promoting and celebrating the quality of South Lanarkshire's high musical standards. Since the commencement of 2018, the band has performed at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall as part of the Children's Classics Concert; provided musical entertainment at the SLLC Sports Awards 2018 and staged a very successful (and sell-out) SLS Big Band in Concert event at Rutherglen Town Hall.
 - 4.4.5. **Local and Regional Ensembles.** Many South Lanarkshire young musicians and their teachers have represented the local authority within a number of regional ensembles including: South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society (SLOS); Strathclyde Youth Jazz Orchestra; West of Scotland Schools' Orchestra and West of Scotland Schools' Concert Band to name but a few. As in previous years, a considerable number of SLC's young musicians attend the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Junior Music School.

4.4.6. **National Representation.** Within a national setting many of South Lanarkshire's young musicians have continued to represent their communities in a selection of Scotland's national ensembles including: National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland; National Youth Choir of Scotland and National Youth Brass Band of Scotland. Special mention and commendation must go to Calderglen High School senior pupil, Ross Abernethy, who was selected from thousands of applicants to perform at the BBC London Proms in July. Ross formed part of the BBC Proms Youth Ensemble's brass section, playing his euphonium.

4.4.7. **Concert Band Success.** This area of success has continued to be particularly prevalent within a national domain since the beginning of 2018. A representation of 8 South Lanarkshire based school and community concert bands participated in the National Finals of the Scottish Concert Band Festival in March. All bands performed extremely well and received high commendation. Worthy of significant mention, however, is the South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society (SLOS) Senior Concert Band's success at the event. The SLOS band was awarded a highly coveted Platinum Award; an accolade that marks a truly sector-leading standard and celebrates the band's position as the highest achieving community youth band in Scotland.

5. Academic Success, Learning Opportunities and Pathways

5.1. These important aspects of curricular support, achieved through the medium of musical study and participation, have continued to feature strongly during the course of the year. In excess of 1,500 SQA candidates received and utilised music tuition as part of their SQA Practical Music requirement during the course of the academic session. In addition, many young musicians participated in external music examinations.

5.2. A number of music recording initiatives and performance opportunities have been nurtured and encouraged within South Lanarkshire's Additional Support Needs establishments, in addition to a number of visits by the young musicians to a selection of local care homes.

5.3. Many South Lanarkshire school leavers have secured places within the UK's music conservatoire's universities. As importantly, many other young people have progressed their musical, creative and cultural journeys throughout the remainder of their education and during further study or employment thereafter.

5.4. Education Resources will continue to promote the musical success of young people and encourage them to participate in a wide range of active learning activities where they have the opportunity to further develop their skills and talents.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Financial implications are met from within existing budgets.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 9.2. Education Resources will continue to support establishments and services to recognise and publicise the achievements and success stories of children, young people and staff.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

29 August 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 19 June 2018

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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