



Instrumental Music Service
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20th June 2022

Dear Colleague

Music Centres

Music Centre was the extra-curricular activity, i.e., Bands, Orchestras and Ensembles provided by the Instrumental Music Service, that took place on Tuesday, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings before Covid-19.

In March 2022, Aberdeenshire Council confirmed a reduction in the revenue budget for the Instrumental Music Service of £600,000 effective from April 2022.

The previous model for the extra-curricular Music Centres was not self-financing and the level of subsidy was not sustainable, or equitable with other extra-curricular activity available to children and young people in Aberdeenshire.

In order to protect and preserve substantive posts and delivery of tuition in the core Music Service, a new model for delivery needs to be created.

A Service decision has been made to stop Music Centre activity in its current form, from August 2022. This decision has not been taken lightly and has followed discussions with staff and parents, which started in September 2021 and concluded in May 2022. These included a parent's survey, staff engagement with self-appointed staff working groups, Unions and HR and feedback from Music Centre instructors. Through discussions, approval has been sought with Aberdeenshire Council senior management.

A new model will be developed to ensure extra-curricular music making activity can be provided using a self-financing model. This is expected to be in place from August 2023. In the interim, play days and weekend ensemble music making sessions will be organised for the 2022-23 academic session.

We will inform you of these sessions and future plans with the aim of maintaining and promoting positive music making and ensemble opportunities in the next academic session.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Music Centre staff for their commitment to the Music Centre over the years and look forward to working with them on the new model.

Yours sincerely

Justin Brook
Music Development Manager