

Leeds Music Education Partnership Annual Report 2020-21

All children and young people have the right to learn an instrument, make music with others, to sing and to progress through levels of excellence.

ArtForms Music is the lead partner for the [Leeds Music Education Partnership](#) (LMEP) – the music education hub for Leeds. ArtForms is the music and arts service, working with children, young people, families and schools. There are two strands to ArtForms - [ArtForms Music](#) and [ArtForms Arts Development](#). ArtForms has a key position within Leeds City Council's Learning Improvement Team (which sits within the wider Children and Families Directorate). As such LMEP has a close working relationship with the Learning Improvement Service and the Leeds Learning Partnership (the support network for secondary school music teachers).

In addition to being the lead organisation in LMEP, there are five key aspects of the service's work:

Schools' music provision comprising a range of weekly activities
Music Centres (which run on Saturday mornings with a wide community reach)
City of Leeds Music (CLYM) groups (a range of 12 instrumental and vocal ensembles)
Music Connect (CPD Programme for Leeds Schools)
Leeds Schools Music Association (concerts and large scale events)

The Music Education Hub (MEH)

LMEP has grown since its inception and 40 organisations had a formal relationship with LMEP in 2020-21. This includes 20 funded partners and 20 associate members of the partnership. LMEP strategic pods for Progression and Inclusion remained active, by direction from the Strategic Advisory Group and enable LMEP to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of our partners. Innovative funding grants allow partners to develop programmes which target children and young people specific to LMEP priorities, and were awarded to Cloth Cat, YAMSEN, Diocese of Leeds, Heads Together, Leeds Conservatoire, Leeds Lieder and SAA UK.

Despite the challenges facing the partnership as a result of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, the programme of delivery stays firmly rooted on the following principles contained within the [National Plan for Music Education](#) :

- All children and young people have the opportunity to take part in and make progress in musical activity regardless of background
- CPD is made available to ensure that all teachers and practitioners can provide high quality music provision in, after and beyond school
- Committed and focussed leadership develops productive local partnerships to deliver high quality music education with consistency of provision and equality of opportunity for all children and young people

Our work with schools and pupils

LMEP is required to gather data from 280 schools. Despite the immense challenges caused by the pandemic during 2020-21, LMEP exceeded national averages in all key areas as follows:

Area	LMEP	National average	Difference
Schools worked with on core roles	91%	81.8%	+9.2
Deliver in WCET schools	45%	35.5%	+9.5
Singing strategy schools	91%	61.6%	+29.4
SMEP schools	92%	75%	+17

Delivering on the Music Education Hub Core roles

LMEP worked with 255 schools (91%) on core roles, this is 96% of Primary schools, 72% of Secondary schools and 80% of SILCs/ other specialist provision.

Whole class ensemble teaching (WCET)

LMEP worked with our delivery partners on delivering WCET in schools. A blended approach to learning enabled the majority of WCET programmes to take place and, as a result, LMEP partners delivered WCET in over 55% of Leeds Primary schools (45% of Leeds schools overall).

Ensembles

The restrictions caused by Covid had a negative impact on the number of ensembles that were delivered in 2020-21: 5 were delivered by schools in partnership with the hub, 49 area-based groups were delivered by ArtForms and 16 area-based groups were delivered by partners. Most ensembles ran online while schools were in lockdown, however all CLYM groups and music centre ensembles returned to face to face provision in the summer term, once restrictions eased.

Some CLYM groups were able to perform in outdoor venues (such as the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra and Leeds Youth Wind Orchestra at Kirkstall Festival). Leeds Junior Conservatoire's Saturday Music programme works in partnership with ArtForms and LMEP to enable children and young people to engage in a range of opportunities (including minority instruments).

Progression

LMEP worked with partners to deliver support from EYFS right through to secondary and beyond. In 2020-21, almost 13,000 children received music tuition provided by ArtForms in Leeds schools. This number includes 4000 children who received teaching from the ArtForms National Curriculum team. In addition, almost 600 learners participated in a range of classes in 7 locally based music centres across Leeds. The impact of the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on these figures in comparison with 2019-20. LMEP bursaries are available to support progression routes for learners in and out of school. In 2020-21, LMEP supported 745 learners in 83 schools through bursaries and a further 38 learners in CLYM and Music Centres.

Singing strategy

Considering the massive impact that Covid-19 had on singing, we are proud that we supported 255 schools (91%) through our Singing Strategy and range of opportunities – 96% Primary, 73% Secondary, 80% SILCs. We continued to offer support to schools through their singing strategy by offering free subscriptions to Charanga, Sing up and Sparkyard. Our Friday afternoon Music programme also contributed by promoting singing where school risk assessments allowed. Visiting NC (National Curriculum) teachers in 45 schools provide support in developing the school's singing strategy on behalf of LMEP and Leeds Leider and Opera North developed blended learning projects. The number of schools taking part in our massed singing events was significantly higher than in previous years, (e.g., KS1 Little Sing 80 schools compared to 9 schools when face to face in 2019; LSMA Christmas concert 81 schools taking part in comparison with a usual 39 schools taking part when in the Town Hall) perhaps due to the events being online.

Delivering on the Music Education Hub Extension Roles

CPD

The Music Connect offer for 21/22 accommodated both online and face to face sessions and was fully subsidised for all Leeds schools and academies. Sessions supported non-specialists in the delivery of the National Curriculum, and through the Music Leaders network sessions. Over 100 Primary and Secondary colleagues attended the first online network sessions where we shared guidance on safe music making and the ArtForms Recovery curriculum. This scheme has since been delivered to 4000+ children. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: 'Headteachers were really

pleased with the mindfulness/wellbeing elements of the Recovery Curriculum. It really helps to support children's return to school as well as providing excellent music lessons', (Jane Roe, Lead teacher LLP) and 'The children found the sessions incredibly engaging as they provided them with a much-needed creative outlet throughout lockdown. Furthermore, the sessions in school helped reintegrate the children back into school by allowing them to work collaboratively', (Rob Ash, Music Leader at Allerton CE Primary).

Instrumental loans

Despite the impact of the pandemic, LMEP supplied free instrument hire in more than 50 schools. There was a reduced take up of other offers during the year.

Large scale musical experiences

Most of the large-scale LMEP events were all delivered online and the CLYM music tours and residential had to be postponed. However, LMEP and its partners ensured that children and young people of Leeds still had access to quality musical experiences. 'Friday Afternoon Music' created an opportunity to host events such as Live music in schools' performances, Little Sing, LSMA festival concerts and CLYM proms and were viewed by more than 200 schools. 'Music Nuggets Live' created an online musical experience for schools and enabled them to virtually make music with professional musicians. 352 children took part in Big Samba as an outside live event in the summer term.

School Music Education Plan (SMEP)

LMEP continued to use a variety of methods to engage and support schools:

- free curriculum advice and consultations
- Music Connect network sessions.
- Curriculum development tools
- Guidance for safe music making during Covid-19
- Music Champion Schools

Has it made a difference?

Comments about Leeds Youth Choir, one of our CLYM Groups from its members during lockdown: *"Music creates fireworks in your brain," "singing makes me feel calmer. If I am feeling at all stressed it just wipes it all away," "It puts you in your own magical world," "It creates an escape route from everything else going on in the world," "Choir is a place where I can be myself," "The first choir in September after lockdown was like being back with family," "choir feels inclusive."*

"We have accessed the music offer in the year 2 team and are continuing to do so post lockdown. The nugget sessions have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children; they always give a spontaneous 'yeeessss' when they are told we are doing the sessions. It has been a fantastic resource to use in school." Adel Primary

"We feel much better in the hands of Artforms for peripatetic teaching, for online learning, safeguarding, clear payments etc." Lawnswood School

"I felt that the SILC children did very well and were engaged and it was sometimes hard for them considering their needs; I felt the lessons were all-inclusive. O can be quite challenging ... but he enjoyed it thoroughly and really thrived from showing his musical ability. T, who doesn't like singing and dancing, really joined in and enjoyed it. You're amazing can you come back? You are enthusiastic and you can see that in the kids. Please come back!" Feedback from Hollybush Primary School after Attend, Attain, Achieve project.