1 Summary

1.1 This report provides a brief update regarding the successful transfer of the Lewisham Music Service and Hub (previously managed by Lewisham Council) to Lewisham Music – a new charity established on 1 April 2017.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee note and comment on the report and additional information provided by Lewisham Music.

3 Policy Context

3.1 Nationally, ring-fenced central government funding for those music services functioning as music hubs in England reduced from £82.5m (2010/11) to £58m (2014/15) alongside ongoing reductions in LA grants for music education. Over the last few years there have also been significant reductions in Lewisham Council’s general fund revenue budget as well as cost pressures of 8% identified for schools.

3.2 As a service funded predominantly by an Arts Council England (ACE) grant and through the purchasing of services by schools and parents, Mayor and Cabinet agreed that Lewisham Music would be better placed to secure the future of high quality music provision for the children and young people of Lewisham by becoming an independent charity.

4 Background

4.1 The transfer of the Music Service took place on 1 April 2017 following consultation with staff and stakeholders and the formal establishment of
Lewisham Music with the Charity Commission and completion of the TUPE process.

4.2 Four trustees oversaw the transfer and a further three trustees are expected to join the Board in September 2017.

4.3 Officers consider that the new service is making good progress from a good starting point and all the components for success are in place in terms of finance, staffing, leadership and governance. Attached as Appendix 1 is a detailed report from Lewisham Music which updates on the progress of the service.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no further financial implications to Lewisham Council since the Music Service has transferred out of the Council and become an independent charity.

5.2 Lewisham Music has provided detailed information regarding 2017 – 2018 charges for schools, after school groups and the Saturday Centre along with the funding agreement feedback letter from Arts Council England (ACE) and information relating to their ACE approved budget plan. Charges for schools and parents have been maintained at 2016 -2017 levels and the charity is forecasting a reserve of at least £85,000 at the end of this financial year which is required by the Charity Commission.

5.3 School programmes have been maintained at 380 hours per week and an additional 25 hours per week of provision has been requested by schools for the Autumn term.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 The legal implications of the transfer have been detailed in previous reports and in the transfer agreement which came into effect on 1 April 2017. There are no further legal implications arising from this report.

7 Equalities Implications

7.1 Music provision is especially important for disadvantaged young people, those at risk of underachievement and children with disabilities.

7.2 Council officers have asked Lewisham Music to collect and monitor data regarding the uptake of services by children and young people to ensure that their offer continues to meet the needs of diverse groups and enables children and young people from all backgrounds to access quality music provision.
This will enable them to evidence that they are continuing their inclusive approach, an approach which values all cultures in the borough and which is highly aspirational.

8 Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications of this report.

9 Crime and Disorder Implications

9.1 There are no crime and disorder implications of this report.

10 Report Author

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List of background papers

Paper 1 – Lewisham Music Services to schools 2017-18

Paper 2 – Charges for after school groups

Paper 3 – Charges for Saturday Music Centre

Paper 4 - ACE email of 12th July 2017

Paper 5 – Implementation of new trust arrangements