Music Generation Kildare – Summary Framework Plan

Our research has shown that the key barriers related to the delivery of high quality music performance education in County Kildare can be summarised as follows:
- Access to high quality performance music education programmes for children and young people
- Funding and Cost
- Location and Transport particularly travel for those in rural areas
- Progression Routes for children and young people to pursue their interest and participation in music
- Quality Musicians and the difficulty accessing suitably qualified, or experienced musicians, who can commit to longer term projects

Goals
Arising from this research, the following goals have been identified for Kildare Music Education Partnership:

Access
- To develop a Music Education Partnership programme that inspires and enables children and young people from all backgrounds and regions of County Kildare to learn to play musical instruments, sing and make music through a partnership approach with local musicians and local music providers
- To provide increased opportunities for children and young people to engage in workshops by qualified, professional musicians, across music genres, through music access programmes within a whole school environment
- To provide increased opportunities for children and young people to experience performances through Music Outreach Programmes in schools
- To establish a Music Instrument Bank with a range of instruments, according to need.

Funding
- To reduce the barrier of cost through highly subsidised performance music education programmes so that it is affordable to children and young people in County Kildare

Location and Transport
- To broaden access to high quality performance music education for children and young people across the 5 Municipal Districts to address the issues presented by geographical complexity
- To add value to existing music development initiatives for children and young people in County Kildare through the establishment of additional youth music hubs.

Progression Routes
- To provide quality and inspirational opportunities for children and young people to perform together to showcase their work and learn from their peer performances through large scale public performances
- To identify progression routes for children and young people to support and encourage them beyond the Music Generation programme across each of the 5 Municipal District areas.

Support for Musicians
- To provide regular and sustained work opportunities for musicians through their engagement in performance music education programmes
- To support musicians in their continuous professional development opportunities and nurture the musician workforce locally (with increased opportunity for regional, national and international platforms) through a strategic partnership with Maynooth University Department of Music and Centre for Teaching and Learning.
PROGRAMME STRANDS

PROGRAMME STRAND 1: ‘KILDARE SINGS’ VOCAL PROGRAMME

KEY PARTNER: MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

- Building on Kildare’s unique strengths in choral music at both amateur and professional level, we will develop a county wide vocal programme in whole school environments for children aged 5-12 years, across the 5 Municipal District areas. High quality music tuition experiences, beyond the school curriculum, will be delivered in a fun and accessible way, enabling children to become more confident and proficient at music reading and performance. ‘Kildare Sings’ Vocal Programme will take the form of workshops, utilising various pedagogical methods providing children with tuition in singing, movement, music notation, composition, etc. It will provide a foundation for independent music making and will develop participant’s technique in vocal performance. We envisage that ‘Kildare Sings’ Vocal programme will be a 30 week programme of 40-60 minute workshops, depending on age profile and will coincide with the school calendar year
- Students in all the participating schools across the 5 Municipal District areas will be immersed in a repertoire that will enable them to come together for large group rehearsals and public performances, alongside other ‘Kildare Sings’ Vocal Programme projects and additional options that were identified as progression options to support the Music Education Partnership.

Performances
- The ‘Kildare Sings’ Vocal Programme will encourage additional performances within whole school environments and local towns. This will provide a further platform for children and ensure that issues caused by socio-economic status and geographical complexity, such as travel, cost and access are kept to a minimum. Simultaneously, this will also create better local awareness locally about the Music Generation initiative.
- We also envisage the development of public performance opportunities that facilitate large groups, at an inter-county level, building on our experiences of the hugely successful Tzipora Children's Music Festival and the Peace Proms in Goffs and performances in Kildare Town Cathedral. We envisage such a large scale public performance in Year 1, with the opportunity to involve some high profile guest performers either living in the county or through our partnership with Maynooth University Department of Music who invite international performers as part of their programme.

Commissions
- Through our conversations with Maynooth University Department of Music, the department’s specialist skill and expertise in dynamic choral singing to a high level of proficiency was identified. Furthermore, department specialism on choral music for children was also recognised. It is envisaged therefore, that the Department of Music will support the annual commissioning of a choral work for children's choir. The commissioned work would form part of a large scale public performance, with orchestral accompaniment, alongside familiar music pieces, across genres.

PROGRAMME STRAND 2: MUSIC ACCESS PROGRAMME

KEY PARTNERS: PRIMARY SCHOOLS, POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS, PARENTS

- A programme of instrument tuition will be established in whole school environments, for children at both primary and post-primary schools across each of the 5 Municipal District areas.
- This will provide performance music education opportunities beyond those available in primary and post-primary school music curricula. The rationale is to take music experience beyond formal curriculum in a specialist-led programme that will achieve tangible outcomes. Our aim is also to provide much needed progression routes from primary to post-primary by offering both an introduction to instrumental tuition and instrumental progression programme as identified in our research. In the long term, this will ensure sustainability for the programme.
5-12yrs programme
- The purpose of this programme strand will be to provide instrumental tuition and music theory for groups of children within a school environment. It is envisaged that children will 'self-select' to participate in such programmes. Delivery will be through weekly ensemble tuition with an emphasis on group performance, commencing in year 1 with a foundation programme.

13-18 yrs programme
- It is envisaged that that instrumental tuition at Post-Primary level will be focused on students in their first academic year. Efforts will be made to support young people who have already participated in the programme for 5-12yrs, while also making provision for young people who have not had an opportunity to participate previously.

Routes to Performance
- Longer term, our intention is that the Music Access programme will add value through encouraging and supporting the creation of Performance, Bands, Ensembles and Orchestras through school environments, after school programmes and community initiatives, as identified as an area of need in our research. Through the Music Access Programme, linkages will be created with existing music providers, across the 5 Municipal District Areas such as Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Ballymore Eustace Band and other concert bands, Kildare Gospel Choir, local bands and music groups who have committed to an MEP for Kildare.

- Our consultative process affirmed the appetite locally to encourage progression options for children participating in ensemble training to sustain and add value to the existing music framework in Co Kildare. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann particularly recognised the need to nurture young people to sustain their organisation in the long term.

PROGRAMME STRAND 3: YOUTH MUSIC

KEY PARTNERS: YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Hubs
- In line with our regional approach, each Municipal District will have a dedicated creation/exploration space for musicians aged 13 – 18, to begin to address the lack of quality performance music education currently available for this cohort. Establishing Youth Music Hubs away from schools will encourage a stronger sense of ownership for the young people using the Hubs as our research suggested that young people would see them as a place for creative expression rather than solely ‘educational’.
- These Youth Music Hubs will be largely fluid spaces, allowing the young people engaging with them to dictate the direction and focus of the performance education programme.
- To enable this, each Hub will host a range of opportunities across genres in year one to establish preference and direction of the space. The initial programme in year one will include:
  - Song writing across genres
  - Composition across genres
  - Introduction to musical instruments
  - Introduction to music technology
  - Mentoring for emerging musicians
  - Instrument tuition
  - Summer / Easter music camps across genres
  - Performance opportunities
  - DJ and digital music creation
• It is envisaged that the Youth Music Hub offering will also offer Introduction to Music Technology tuition and Progression programmes for young people, which was identified in our research.

**Sound Engineering**

• Since 2008 the TY Sound Engineering programme at Platform4 Audio and Digital Media Studio has given participants (300 to date) the hands on practical tools to improve the quality of their performance music opportunities. The course focuses on the art of recording. Participants learn how to adjust, augment and adapt recorded sound in a studio and a live environment, using the most up to date industry standard equipment. Participants will also become familiar with all the equipment in a recording studio and how to use it appropriately.

• Current demand for this programme is at capacity. The Music Generation programme will add value to the existing programme by offering greater county-wide reach, accessing a larger number of young people, within and outside school environments. To support the expansion of this programme the mobile recording studio and live rig will be upgraded to enable recording a range of performance opportunities across the Music Generation Programme. Participants will be mentored and supported to lead the recording of the performance music opportunities of the Music Generation Programme.

• All of the live gig recordings will be uploaded to a purpose built website to use as an interactive consultative space for young people, with opportunities to exchange ideas. It will also showcase the performances of the Music Generation programme and act as an archive of performance music development in the county.

**PROGRAMME STRAND 4: SUMMER CAMPS**

**KEY PARTNERS:** YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WICKLOW MUSIC GENERATION

• A number of different types of Summer Camps will be supported to provide high quality mentoring opportunities for young people in all areas of the music industry in collaboration with other agencies, venues and organisations. The two areas of interest that were identified through our research fall into two principal categories:

  - **Rock Summer Camp.** Developed in partnership with other agencies, venues and organisations. Emphasis on providing mentoring in all areas of music industry – song writing, development of lyrics, recording, editing, mastering, graphic design, career management, networking etc.

  - **Specialist Summer Camp:** Opportunity to develop other types of summer camp in conjunction with local partners. These could include dj, traditional music, jazz, and programmes for participants with special needs or a variety of other options

**PROGRAMME STRAND 5: TRADITIONAL MUSIC SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN UILLEANN PIPES AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN SOUTH KILDARE**

**KEY PARTNER:** NA PÍOBAIRÍ UILLEANN (NPU), COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

• Na Piobairí Uilleann (NPU) have confirmed support for Kildare's Music Generation application and welcome the opportunity to partner with a Kildare MEP in the future. Kildare has a strong heritage of uilleann piping, dating back over two hundred years and we feel that NPU is uniquely positioned to assist in rekindling this element of cultural life in the area, increasing public awareness and involvement in the art among the community. Simultaneously, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann have expressed a desire to extend its presence in South Kildare, as there has been no presence there for some time.

• Our research has shown that the town of Athy, despite its rich cultural heritage, has lower music provision across services for children and young people.
NPU have a proven track record in partnering with MEPs in Laois, Louth and Sligo and have also assisted both Carlow and Wicklow MEPs and similar tuition programmes with other music organisations in Derry, Letterkenny, Gaith Dobhair and with Childvision in Dublin. Apart from providing weekly tuition in uilleann piping, NPU have partnered with the organisations in providing many mentoring and developmental activities for students of the piping classes. Indeed, some young people from Kildare are currently accessing programmes in uilleann pipes in other MEP programmes. Furthermore, these young people have been identified as potential tutors in future years.

The outcomes have included local, national and international performance opportunities and musician/teacher development workshops. Apart from the provision of quality, consistent and sustained weekly tuition, some of the other benefits that the Kildare MEP could rely on to provide added value through NPU include:

- Established administrative processes with Music Generation organisations
- Strong governance – early adoption of the Governance Code, regularly audited accounts to SORP standards
- Access to pipes in the NPU Pipes on Loan Scheme
- Experienced teachers with proven record of success
- Consistency with teachers and substitute teachers always being available
- Access to performance opportunities
- NPU publications and events showcasing MG students
- Access to scholarships schemes
- Developmental resource material from our continuous programme of publications, DVDs, tune collections and online archival materials

NPU take a strategic approach focusing on outcomes in order to create a sustainable local Uilleann piping environment ultimately including the development of locally based Uilleann piping teachers, reed makers and pipe makers. The organisation are supporting us to develop a proposal for a dedicated physical space in Athy that would act as a centre of learning and also as a space for making reed and pipes, in a building recently acquired by KWETB.

RESOURCES

Professional Development for Musicians

In partnership with the Maynooth University Department of Music and the Maynooth University Centre for Teaching and Learning, we will develop a professional development programme to ensure that all musicians are trained with the relevant skills and experience in performance music education to engage with, design and implement programmes for children and young people. The programme will also be open to the part-time tutors currently employed by the Maynooth University Department of Music. By bringing university tutors together with Music Generation Kildare musicians the professional development programme will create opportunities for dialogue and mentoring, while also investing in the overall quality of performance music education in the region.

Support for Performance Music Education within Whole School Environments

Kildare Education Centre will devise a complimentary summer course for teachers within schools who are participating in the Kildare MEP programme. This is intended to provide teachers with a greater appreciation of performance music education, beyond the primary school curriculum and the role of a musician within a whole school environment. Schools wishing to avail of the Kildare MEP projects will be actively encouraged to participate.

Instrument Bank

A countywide Instrument Bank will be developed to offer a rental scheme of a variety of instruments to young people. Different Instrument Banks will be required for different areas of activity. Our approach to the administration and housing of the Instrument Bank will vary and is based on the learning from the
previous Music Instrument Bank programme in Kildare, as well as learning from other Music Generation programmes.

- Over a three year period we will review the provision of the Instrument Bank and increase the scheme to a wider range of individuals and organisations, subject to demand. We will investigate philanthropic support and/ or support in-kind for the programme on an ongoing basis including potentially the establishment of a music instrument purchase scheme, to assist in financially securing the venture beyond the initial 36 month period.