

Youth Music Initiative (YMI): Aberdeenshire Council secures music funding

An application, led by Aberdeenshire Council's Arts Development Team, has been successful in securing, in full, a 3rd years allocation of £588,368 from the Scottish Executive's Youth Music Initiative Fund.

The fund, which is managed by the Scottish Arts Council (SAC), aims to enhance Scottish local authorities' provision of a rich variety of musical experience and tuition for children and young people. Aberdeenshire Council has already received two years funding for The Youth Music Initiative (YMI), totalling £394,000. The new allocation will secure the project until 2008.

Aberdeenshire Council's innovative approach attracted praise from the SAC for involving a wide range of partners from the earliest stages. The formation of Aberdeenshire's Youth Music Forum, a voluntary advisory group comprising of teachers, youth workers and music professionals was also highly commended and will be copied by other local authorities.

Local partners in provision include; The Gordon Gaitherin, the Buchan Boorach, the Deveron Festival with Soundzgood, Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, Learning by Lug and Aberdeen University in conjunction with Sonic Arts Network.

Aberdeenshire's Instrumental Music Service, supported by a partnership with the National Youth Choir of Scotland, is running the Kodaly Singing Programme in primary schools. This programme, which promotes a system of musicianship through singing, based on the Hungarian model inspired by composer Zoltan Kodaly, has proved popular with pupils. Several additional instrumental instructors for schools have been engaged by this service and a programme for introduction to instrumental music is currently being developed.

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