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| **Post of Independent Chair for Sound Foundation Somerset**  **Supporting Information** |

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy for the Independent Chair of Sound Foundation Somerset. We hope you find the following information useful.

**BACKGROUND**

**WHAT ARE MUSIC EDUCATION HUBS?**

Music Education Hubs are groups of organisations – such as local authorities, schools, other hubs, art organisations, community or voluntary organisations – working together to create joined-up music education provision, respond to local need and fulfil the objectives of the Hub as set out in the Department for Education’s document “The Importance of Music: A National Plan for Music Education (NPME) <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180973/DFE-00086-2011.pdf> including 4 Core and 3 Extension Roles – see below. Music Education Hubs were established in 2012, in response to the NPME to provide access, opportunities and excellence in music education for all children and young people. Hubs are coordinated by the Hub lead organisation, which takes on responsibility for the funding and governance of the Hub.

**HOW ARE HUBS FUNDED?**

Hubs are funded through formal funding agreements with Arts Council England. The total amount of Hub funding from the Department for Education in the 2018-19 financial year is £75 million. Each Hub lead organisation receives a proportion of the overall funding amount based on their share of the overall number of eligible pupils in their local authority area(s). 90% of the funding is distributed based on each local authority’s share of the total number of pupils registered on roll and the remaining 10% is distributed based on their share of the numbers of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).

**THE MUSIC HUB IN SOMERSET**

Somerset’s Music Education Hub is called “Sound Foundation Somerset” (SFS) and is one of 123 music education hubs in existence nationally. It is made up of number of partner organisations working collaboratively to provide inspirational, progressive and high-quality music education and experiences. Our main partner delivering all of the core and extension roles is Somerset Music, the music service for Somerset.

Sound Foundation Somerset considers its partnership working a strength and further partnerships continue to emerge and grow steadily year on year.

Other long-standing delivery partners are Actiontrack, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Centre of Young Musicians (CYM and an outreach of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama); Jackdaws; SPAEDA, the South West Music School, the Taunton Music Trust, Charanga, and Sing-Up. From September 2018, new partnerships were made with Live Music Now, Open Up Music, Young Somerset (formerly Somerset Rural Youth Network), Bath Philharmonia, NYMAZ and the BBC Concert Orchestra for its 10 Pieces Programme.

SFS also has a close partnership the 3 consortium members of the Arts Education Network, “InspirED”: Somerset Film, Take Art and Somerset Art Works which are all National Portfolio Organisations.

Sound Foundation Somerset has always adopted a commissioning approach to service delivery. The SFS Management Group agrees the budget apportionment across all core, extension roles and back office costs, and a service requirement/specification is then drawn up for each against which delivery partners are requested to bid. Awards of grant are made as detailed within formal funding agreements with each partner.

**THE CORE AND EXTENSION ROLES**

The Core Roles:

* Core Role A: To ensure that every child aged 5 – 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-week class ensemble teaching programmes, with weekly tuition on the same instrument for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term);
* Core Role B: To provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage;
* Core Role C: To ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people;
* Core Role D: To develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

The Extension Roles:

* Ext Role 1: To offer Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum;
* Ext Role 2: To provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes.
* Ext Role 3: To provide access to large scale and/or high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues.

**MISSION STATEMENT & VISION**

Sound Foundation Somerset’s mission statement is:

*“Inspirational, progressive and high quality music provision for all children and young people in Somerset”.*

This is at the very heart of our work. Placing children and young people at the centre of our aspirations, Sound Foundation Somerset draws on extensive local partnerships to embed educational excellence through diverse delivery of a wide range of styles and genres.

Our vision is that by 2021 Somerset will be nationally recognised for high quality music provision that meets the needs of all children and young people regardless of background.

**LOCAL CONTEXT**

Somerset covers 3,452 square kilometres and is home to roughly 10% of the south west's population.

Divided into four districts (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, and Somerset West and Taunton – not North Somerset or Bath and North East Somerset or BANES), the county is predominantly rural; 48% of the population lives in a rural area compared to the average of 18% in England. Somerset has a population of around 555,000 (Source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year estimate 2017). This is approximately 100,000 more than the population of Bristol in an area nearly 24 times larger.

There are two main arterial transport routes within the county (the M5 and A303) which give easy transport through the county but transport across the large geographical area, especially from east to west, is more difficult and time consuming. As a result of the population distribution and transport difficulties, rural isolation can be a significant factor, particularly for children and young people and the disadvantaged. (See Appendix 1 for map of Somerset).

There are estimated to be 121,700 children and young people (aged 0-19) living in Somerset. The birth rate in Somerset increased steadily between 2004 and 2011 and at its peak in 2011 there were 5,764 births, 665 more than the low of 5,099 in 2004. This equates to 22 additional classes of children requiring reception places across Somerset in 2015 compared to 2008. Although the birth rate has been fluctuating since 2012, it remains higher than the period 2004 – 2007.

At October 2018 there were 70,494 children educated in 267 state-funded schools and academies (including early years children in school run nursery classes). 9.8% of the school population is classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British. 11.7% of pupils are recorded as eligible for free school meals – up from 10.5% in 2016 and 6.8% of pupils have a first language other than English – up from 6.2% (Source: School Census Jan 2018). There were 517 children in care in Somerset as at April 2018.

The breakdown of schools and colleges is as follows:

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| **Phase/Type** | **Total Number** | **No of Academies** |
| State-funded Establishments | | |
| All Through | 2 | 2 |
| Middle | 8 | 6 |
| Infant | 13 | 3 |
| First | 38 | 13 |
| Primary | 154 | 51 |
| Junior | 11 | 3 |
| Secondary | 24 | 20 |
| Upper | 4 | 2 |
| Special | 9 | 2 |
| PRU | 4 | 0 |
| SUB TOTAL | 267 | 102 |
| Other | | |
| Colleges | 4 | N/A |
| Special Post 16 | 3 | N/A |
| Independent | 18 | N/A |
| Independent Special | 15 | N/A |
| SUB TOTAL | 40 | N/A |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **307** | **102** |

**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, & ROLE & REMIT OF MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The governance of the Somerset Music Education Hub will be through the appropriate Local Authority Board in place at the time. This is currently the Somerset Education Partnership (SEPB) for Children and Young People which is an existing structure with its own terms of reference, remit and governance. It has schools in a majority and links very closely with other bodies such as Somerset’s Schools Forum. It is a vehicle for joint working for all schools and other partners underpinned by a firm commitment to the fundamental moral purpose that collectively and individually we should make a difference to the lives of children and young people.

The Somerset Music Education Hub reports and is accountable to the SEPB on matters of educational outcomes and raising achievement and links to strategic education vision, plans and policies. It reports to this group as part of its annual schedule of meetings with progress reports.

The Hub Management Board therefore is not legally constituted but still has a crucial function as an advisory board. Its purpose is to provide ‘strategic vision’ in order to develop and enhance the musical education offer to all children and young people in Somerset, to advocate on behalf of the Hub, and to advise on the use of the Department for Education grant in delivering the National Plan for Music Education. To support and inform the work of the Hub Board, occasional smaller working groups will be set-up to discuss specific areas of either music education related to the ‘core’ and ‘extension’ roles or other more specific areas of future strategic planning.

**ROLE DESCRIPTION**

* The Chair will lead the Board through scrutiny, oversight and advice providing challenge and focus to help focus positive outcomes and decisions for our children and young people;
* The Chair will work closely with the Lead Officer for Sound Foundation Somerset, to enable a shared understanding of the main issues affecting the operation of the hub and to ensure that adequate time is allocated at each meeting to enable meaningful discussion and debate on key strategic issues;
* The Chair will also promote a culture of openness and debate by facilitating the effective contribution of all partner representatives and ensuring constructive relations between the Lead Organisation, delivery partners and stakeholder representatives.
* The Hub Board is an advisory body and is not constituted. It does not have a legal status and the role of Chair does not carry the official legal responsibilities of the Hub lead role.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

* The Chair will be responsible for keeping meetings focused and productive, ensuring that all Board members feel engaged and can contribute openly and constructively.
* The Chair will be required to:
  + Chair 4 Hub meetings a year in Taunton – the current format is a meeting of the Hub Board followed by a joint meeting of Hub Board and Delivery Partners;
  + Deal with email and phone communications with the Music Education Hub Lead Officer, including a pre-meeting briefing;
  + Read and understand a variety of information, documentation and emails in preparation for meetings;
  + Support the development of the Somerset Music Education Hub;
  + Act as a critical friend to the Hub and to the Hub Lead Officer, advising and challenging where necessary and appropriate;
  + Represent/attend additional key meetings on behalf of the Hub as appropriate.
* The Chair will be expected to attend performances, signature events, and conferences.

**PERSONAL SPECIFICATION**

The Chair will need to have all or the majority of the following:

* An enthusiastic and forward-thinking working ethos, open to new ideas and opportunities;
* A working knowledge of best practice governance and experience of driving a business forward;
* Highly informed about education: its challenges and opportunities;
* A passion for music education, and a keen interest in arts and culture;
* A strong working knowledge and understanding of the ‘National Plan for Music Education’ (2011), of best practice and implementation;
* A commitment to ensuring diverse, inclusive and high-quality music opportunities are offered to the children and young people of Somerset;
* The ability to chair a meeting efficiently, objectively, fairly and a willingness to challenge when necessary;
* An ability to ensure equal participation from all stakeholder representatives;
* An ability to tackle and resolve issues constructively, positively and diplomatically.

**TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

This is a voluntary post and there are currently no expenses payable. However, this may be reviewed and consideration given. The post will initially be for a period of twelve months from Sept 2019 to Aug 2020 with the possibility to extend, subject to continued ACE funding of the Hub. As a guide, the anticipated minimum number of voluntary hours over the academic year is approximately 30 including meeting attendance and preparation, but not including concert attendance.

**EQUALITY STATEMENT**

Sound Foundation Somerset supports Equality and Diversity. We welcome all applications irrespective of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, family circumstances, race, religion and marital status.

For further information, please contact Helen Reid, Hub Lead Officer [hreid@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:hreid@somerset.gov.uk) tel 01823 355329 or Glyn Bowen, Director, Somerset Music [gbowen@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:gbowen@somerset.gov.uk) tel 0300 123 7364.

To apply please e-mail a letter of application explaining why the role of Independent Chair is of interest, detailing your previous experience, explaining how you consider yourself to have the necessary skills and attributes to fulfil this role and including the names and contact details of 2 referees to Julie Hoccom [Jhoccom@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Jhoccom@somerset.gov.uk)

CVs can be attached to your letter in support of your application. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 17 May 2019. It is hoped that interviews will take place prior to the end of May 2019.