

ITEM No ...3...

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE –
28 JANUARY 2019

REPORT ON: SISTEMA SCOTLAND - THE 'BIG NOISE' IN DOUGLAS

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 41-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Services Committee with a further update on the progress being made to introduce the SISTEMA Scotland 'Big Noise' programme in Dundee following the signing of the formal Partnership Agreement. This report sets out the revised operational timeline between the City Council, Optimistic Sound and Sistema Scotland, the organisation responsible for the Big Noise programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee members are asked to:
- i. note the contents of this report;
 - ii. note the revised timeline for implementation at school level; and
 - iii. instruct the Executive Director to produce an annual report on the implementation of the programme.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for Children and Families Service arising from the project. The project will be jointly funded over the first five year period by Optimistic Sound (75%) and Sistema Scotland (25%).

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A report was taken to committee in May 2016 to outline the progress being made in bringing the Sistema Big Noise programme to the city. Article III of the Minute of the Children and Families Services Committee of 23 May 2016, report 183-2016 refers. The report set out the background to the development of the programme as well as the funding arrangement between Sistema Scotland and Optimistic Sound. It explained that the Douglas community had been identified as being ideally suited as the Dundee 'Big Noise' site and that Claypotts Castle Primary School and St Pius Primary School had been identified as the schools to take part in the programme. The 'Big Noise' programme is intended to transform the local community over a period of time using access to musical tuition as a community engagement tool.
- 4.2 The choice of the Douglas community had been carefully made as a result of discussions between council officers, Sistema Scotland and Optimistic Sound. The key selection criteria included community identity; population demographics; the number of children in the area from 0 to 15 years; pre-school and primary school provision; local geography and logistics; ongoing community interventions; community assets; community willingness to partner with Sistema Scotland; statistical data derived from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and data held by Dundee City Council.

The Big Noise Douglas programme was officially launched by the charity Sistema Scotland in September 2017. The following report gives an update on progress made, and the foundations that have been built for the programme within the community.

4.3 MAIN TEXT

Delivery Structure:

Big Noise Douglas is delivered through a combination of community, nursery, in-school (Primary 1-3) and after-school and holiday provision (Primary 3/4 and will increase in future years).

In the first year of delivery, the Big Noise Douglas team have worked in close partnership with the schools and families to design a weekly structure and timetable across these areas.

Baby Noise

Baby Noise is a weekly session for babies, toddlers and their parents. This runs weekly at the Douglas Community Centre and is open to families that work or live in the Douglas community. There are now 33 children signed up, with an average of 8 families attending each week.

Nursery

Big Noise Douglas currently works with around 180 children at Claypotts Castle and St Pius nurseries. At St Pius all the children have a weekly lesson, at Claypotts Castle the 2 year-olds have a weekly lesson and the 3-5s have a lesson every fortnight. The nursery programme is based around movement, singing and games.

In-school Delivery

Big Noise Douglas currently works with P1, 2 and 3 children at Claypotts Castle and St Pius primary schools. At Claypotts Castle PS, P1 children have two 30 minute sessions per week, P2 and 3 children have two 45 minute lessons each week. At St Pius, P1, 2 and 3 have two 45 minute sessions each week.

P1 children learn pre-instrumental skills such as pulse, rhythm and pitch through movement, rhymes, singing and games. The sessions also support non-musical skills including language acquisition and numeracy.

The P2 children continue learning general musicianship skills until January, when they make their own violin, viola, 'cello or double bass to form a 'paper orchestra'. They then use these instruments to learn how to hold and care for their instrument, as well as orchestral discipline. At Easter, the P2 children will move onto real instruments.

P3 children have one general musicianship session and one session learning on their instruments. They will add new skills such as singing and playing from hand-signs, and learning to read musical notation.

Summary of current numbers of children in the "in-school delivery" strand.

	P1	P2	P3
Claypotts Castle	51	59	60
St Pius	31	24	33
		Total	258

After School Club

After-school club runs on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon until 4.45pm. It is currently open to all P4s at both schools (and also children who live in the community but attend school elsewhere). The children are collected from school (St Pius children join a walking bus to Claypotts Castle PS) and are given a healthy snack and a drink before they start the musical sessions. The sessions include instrument specific lessons, small group lessons, general musicianship, choir as well as full orchestra each week.

As of October 2018 there are 63 children signed-up for the club, with average attendance of above 80% each night. Currently, Big Noise Douglas is working with over 74% of the eligible children at both schools within the after-school club.

We will be inviting the current P3 children to the club in February 2019.

Holiday Clubs

Big Noise ran a holiday club for 5 weeks during the summer and 2 weeks during October. P3 and P4 children were invited Monday – Thursday mornings and were given breakfast and lunch (provided by Dundee Bairns). The programme for the holiday club included a range of musical and non-musical activities including crafts, sports and even a highland games. Both holiday clubs ended with a sharing session, and a family BBQ at the end of the summer club with over 100 community members and children attending.

Links with other partners and initiatives:

Collaborations with other local organisations and partners is important, and in this first year the programme has worked with the Aspire Dance team at St Pius PS on a dance for the community ceilidh, with the Aspire dance team and the Claypotts Castle multi-sensory unit to create a sound-track with the school's Deaf students. Big Noise has also performed with the Tinderbox collective as part of the Neon festival.

The Big Noise Douglas and Sistema Scotland team have made links with many organisations and groups including University of Dundee, Dundee Comic Creative Space (design of an informational cartoon for the children), East End Learning Partnership, Dundee Music Strategy group, Dundee Science Centre and HMS Unicorn.

Big Noise Douglas is delivered by the charity Sistema Scotland in partnership with Optimistic Sound and Dundee City Council and with the support of Strategic Partner Gannochy Trust.

Big Noise Douglas Staff Team:

The team now consists of a team leader, operations manager and an administrator as well as 8 musicians (5 upper strings, 2 lower strings and 1 musicianship) and 3 support workers.

There are also 7 volunteers working the team on a regular basis.

Key Milestones

2017

7th September: Launch concert at St Pius PS
11th September: P1 – 3 delivery starts in both schools
October: Nursery delivery starts
Easter: Baby Noise starts
30th November: Community Ceilidh at community centre.

2018

April: Launch of Afterschool Club (for P3s)
23rd May: Douglas choir attends reception at Scottish Parliament
14th June: Big Noise in the Big Top – community concert.
July: Summer Club

September: Children from the 4 big noise centres performed at the 3D Festival for the opening of the V and A on Saturday 15th September.

October: Holiday Club (P3 and 4)

9th October: Festival of Strings with Nicola Benedetti (Caird Hall)

8th November: Performance at Neon festival with Tinderbox (Abertay University)

19th December: Performance with Dundee Symphony Orchestra and Nicola Benedetti at Caird Hall.

5.0 EVALUATION

- 5.1 A high quality longitudinal, mixed method, 'life-course' evaluation of the Big Noise programme is carried out by Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH). The first phase has been an extensive formative evaluation of the first three Big Noise centres. Two reports on this phase have been published (June 2015, June 2017,) and the third report is anticipated to be published in early 2019. GCPH have confidently reported a range of positive impacts on Big Noise participants, with the quality of the participant to musician relationship underpinning these impacts.

The GCPH evaluation is now transitioning to its second phase that will be using data linkage to analyse data from Education, Health, and Social, Welfare and Justice System. Meetings with Dundee City Council have already taken place to explore ways to integrate this process with regards Big Noise Douglas and other evaluation work already underway in Dundee.

University of Dundee researchers have carried out initial work with stakeholders of Big Noise Douglas to discover expectations of the programme and further areas for evaluation. This consultation found that impact on the community was of particular interest and a beneficial topic to study. Community therefore will be the focus of evaluation around Big Noise Douglas. University of Dundee are currently preparing a bid to fund this study.

6.0 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 There will be an invite to the current P3s to join the After-school club from April 2019. Sistema Scotland has a new chair, Benny Higgins, who will be visiting Douglas this term.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Integrated Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Glasgow Centre for Population Health evaluations in June 2015 and June 2017.

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December 2018