

Lincolnshire Music Education Hub

Independent Chair

Job Specification

Working Pattern	Relief (Hybrid – online quarterly meetings, one face-to-face per year in Lincolnshire)
Contract Type	Voluntary (with expenses reimbursed)
Term	Fixed term (typically 3 years)
Location	Lincolnshire

Purpose

The Lincolnshire Music Hub Chair is the individual charged with providing the Lincolnshire Music Hub board with leadership, and to harness the talents and energy contributed by Lincolnshire Music Service and board members.

The chair is required to retain an objective viewpoint of all aspects of Hub management and delivery.

It is a requirement of the funding agreement that an independent chair is appointed. By independent we mean they should not be:

- employed by Lincolnshire Music Service
- (nor connected to) the Head of Service or senior management of Lincolnshire Music Service, or identified Hub partner

It is best practice to have an independent chair as this approach is more likely to foster independent decision-making, objective perspectives and mitigate conflicts of interest that may arise. They may also be able to bring a focus and expertise to the role that will be of benefit to the work of the Hub board.

Objectives

The Hub Chair will provide the guidance and leadership to ensure the Hub Board has:

- Equitable, consistent and evidence-based monitoring and decision making of the Hub's aims and objectives
- Strong insight that will help the Hub in its efficient strategic delivery
- Independence and impartiality for appropriate accountability and oversight of the Hub, with a clear conflict of interest policy, Terms of Reference and an independent chair with the authority to meet or correspond with the Arts Council, when required
- Breadth of perspectives to ensure the Hub is responsive, participatory and inclusive of all key stakeholders' voices including young people, schools, parents/carers, partners, and the wider arts/ cultural, youth and music industry/sector
- Robust and transparent quality assurance processes

Background

Lincolnshire Music Hub is the lead organisation of the Lincolnshire Music Hub and receives funding from the Department for Education, brokered by Arts Council England.

Arts Council England has a responsibility to ensure that public funding is used for the purposes it was intended for. Given the scale of public funding ACE are investing in on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE). The grants must be used efficiently and effectively to maximise the benefits to children and young people. As part of the funding agreement, ACE therefore expect LMS to demonstrate that appropriate governance structures are in place.

Lincolnshire Music Education Strategic Group (LMESG) has been established to provide governance, the purpose of which, to ensure that strategic decisions made on behalf of all the partners and collaborations reflect the overall aims and objectives of the Music Education Hub.

LMESG acts as a body to provide the necessary level of challenge and support to monitor progress against the agreed outcomes and to act as a reporting mechanism to the Music Hub's accountable body and other relevant parties e.g. Arts Council England.

LMESG will monitor funds and make recommendations to Lincolnshire County Council for financial decisions where those bodies have the final responsibility.

Vision

Lincolnshire Music Education Hub is committed to achieving the best possible music education for children and young people within Lincolnshire and beyond. It ensures a smarter approach to the delivery of music opportunities through streamlined resources, combined workforces where applicable and the consolidation of duplicated services to maximise the potential music education funding.

Our vision ensures consistency of provision and quality of music opportunity for all children whilst pooling resources through a shared interest in improving music education within the county.

Objectives

Lincolnshire Music Education Hub is committed to ensuring that delivery is tailored to meet local needs and to work in partnership with schools and other providers.

- Children and young people (CYP) from all backgrounds and every part of Lincolnshire should have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; make music with others; learn to sing; and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence if they wish to
- Ensure all CYP receive a high quality music education by addressing provision, both in and out of school
- Support and challenge schools to enable them to provide a high quality music education for all, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum
- A mixed model of first access for all, progression routes and inspirational opportunities of the highest

quality to ensure we drive forward progression and excellence in music education across the county

- CPD for music leaders and generalist teachers including accreditation where applicable e.g. Certificate of Music Educators (CME).

The LMESG will directly contribute to these wider objectives by:

- Working collaboratively to ensure that music education contributes to achieve the stated objectives
- Providing a strategic overview for music education in Lincolnshire and links with wider Arts programmes and initiatives
- Ensuring robust monitoring and evaluation procedures are in place
- Informing planning of music education activities across Lincolnshire
- Advising and prioritising investment in music education against the targets set out within the business plan
- Monitoring progress against the agreed key targets within the activity plan and business plan
- Support the coordination of activity for specific priority groups including children in challenging circumstances, pupil premium and gifted and talented CYP
- Advocating and supporting the Hub to achieve a better music education for CYP.

Governance and Accountability

In all Hub governance arrangements, LMS must demonstrate to the Arts Council that they are ensuring:

- objective, consistent evidence-based decision-making
- strong insight that will help the Hub in its efficient strategic delivery
- independence and impartiality for appropriate accountability
- breadth of perspectives to help the Hub be responsive and participatory
- robust and transparent quality assurance processes.

LCC is the legal entity that underwrites the trading activities of the Hub with LMS at HLO. The LMESG will advise, support and monitor against the agreed objectives with LMS directly accountable to LCC and ACE. LCC is the accountable body however the LMESG is involved with decision making at a local level and to hold LMS to account.

Other Partners and working groups, forums and networks will be accountable to the LMESG on a termly basis. These include:

- Lead Schools Network
- Lincolnshire Music Education Hub Youth Voice Forum
- Lincolnshire Music Education Hub Partner Forum
- Lincolnshire Music Education Hub Families Forum.

To ensure independence and impartiality for appropriate accountability, and to mitigate the risk of reputational damage, a conflict of interest policy is in place and must be adhered to.

Representatives

Representatives of the LMESG will comprise of appropriately placed stakeholders who are able to provide support and/or delivery of aspects relating to the key aims of the Local Music Education Plan, whether through formal partnerships or informal collaborations. Representatives include:

- Independent Chairperson
- Headteacher Representatives
- Lincolnshire County Council Representative
- Lincolnshire National Portfolio Organisation Representative
- Co-Elected Representatives
- Young People (via Forum 2024/2025)

