

EE60. Instrumental Music Tuition Fees

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing recent guidance issued by COSLA regarding "Instrumental Music Tuition", which included recommendations for charges and concessions. The COSLA Guidance paper was appended to the report.

The report set out the background to the guidance which aims to support local authorities on their decision making of instrumental music services and approaches to charging. Due to the timing of its publication, there was no time to consider the guidance prior to the Council's budget meeting.

Children's Services currently apply two level of charges, full and concessionary. The fee levels, set as part of the 2019/20 budget paper, are £160 (full) and £50 (concessionary). The concessionary charge applies to those pupils who qualify for free school meals. Charges apply for pupils selecting to receive individual or group tuition in a particular instrument or genre, and not to those studying for their SQA music examination.

COSLA guidance and recommendation is that there should be no charge for students who have entitlement to free school meals. The estimated loss of income to this proposal would be c.£6k per annum.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the report and the COSLA Guidance, set out in Appendix 1;**
- (2) agreed that from 1 April 2019, no charge for instrumental music tuition would be made for those pupils who are entitled to free school meals, and**
- (3) instructed the Director of Children's Services to undertake a wider review of the current charges in line with the Improvement Service findings as outlined in section 4.3(ii) of the report.**