

Proposed Cross Party Group on Music

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 21st February 2018, 6pm in Room Q1.03, Scottish Parliament

Present: Tom Arthur MSP (TA); Andy Wightman MSP (AW); Liam Kerr MSP (LK); Gordon Lindhurst MSP (GL); Stuart McMillan MSP (SMc); Rachael Hamilton MSP (RH); Sharon Mair, BBC Scotland (SM), Luke McCulloch, BBC Scotland (LMc); Morag Campbell (MC); Carol Main, Live Music Now (CM); Alan Morrison, Creative Scotland (AM); Amy Geddes (AG); Dougal Perman, Scottish Music Industry Assoc (DP); David Francis, Traditional Music Forum (DF); Ally Gray, EmuBands (AG); Toni Malyn, Emubands (TM); Jamie Gilmour, EmuBands (JG); Nick Stewart, Music Venues Trust (NS); May Murray, Music Education Partnership Group (MM); Tom Orrs, Music Education Partnership Group (TO); Lois Fitch, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (LF); Gayle Martin-Brown, Heads of Instrumental Teaching (GMB); Paul Stubbings, St Mary's Music School (PS); Kirk Richardson, EIS (KR); Kenny Christie, Heads of Instrumental Teaching (KC); Jenna Main, ABRSM (JM); Louise Stanners-Pow, Musicians Union (LSP); Caroline Sewell, Musicians Union (CS); Rab Noakes, Musicians Union (RN); Olaf Furniss, Born to Be Wide (OF)

1. Welcome and introductions

TA welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Election of convener

AW nominated TA, LK seconded. Tom Arthur elected as convener

3. Election of deputy conveners

TA nominated Pauline McNeil, SMc seconded. Pauline McNeil elected as vice-convener

TA nominated AW, LK seconded. Andy Wightman elected as vice-convener

TA nominated SMc, AW seconded. Stuart McMillan elected as vice-convener

TA nominated GL, SMc seconded. Gordon Lindhurst elected as vice-convener

4. Non-MSP members of group

TA encouraged members to tell other groups about the proposed CPG and encourage them to attend and engage.

5. Appointment of secretary

No nominations received. TA office will provide interim support. DF intimated that Traditional Music Forum may be able to assist in future.

6. Appointment of treasurer

No nominations received. Post let unfilled for now

7. Purpose of the group and proposed discussion topics

TA – to share value of music and help with understanding and perception. Welcome suggestions based on proposed purpose “to enable musicians and the industry to bring issues impacting the sector to the attention of MSPs. This could be anything from music instruction in schools to international trade.”

AW – suggested “The purpose of the CPG on Music is to provide a forum to discuss matters relating to the world of music including music education, the music industry, creative arts and cultural policy and to take action to advance matters of interest to the CPG.”

KC questioned number of meetings. TA advised envisaged meeting around 4 x per annum. AW noted that there are different formats to CPGs – some talk, some communicate between meetings. SMC advised of outcomes from other CPGs showing examples of cross-group working.

RN noted the composition of group attending and noted that should aim for diversity to be considered and reviewed.

CS noted appropriate timing for group to convene to harness key issues and upcoming topics. Can look at diversity and representation

GMB stressed the important of music education

DP spoke of the need to nurture, train and inspire musicians. To look at the evidence base to safeguard music teaching in Scotland. Agent of Change news is good, but there must be a check to make sure it is adhered to.

AM mentioned Brexit uncertainty, and should look at how to monitor the effects and how music is exported.

KR shared concern that music is being marginalized in education and action should be taken to prevent this

CS mentioned the impact on venues. Other issues to discuss include business rates, looking at an industry strategy.

SMc highlighted that not all musicians learn through school and to look at contacting other organisations that teach, including Boys Brigade.

OF spoke about tourism helping venues and artists. Education needs to look at preparing musicians to make a living and pathways to employment

RH mentioned the “Loud & Clear” event looking at work of disabled musicians and that there is a deficit of provision, need to look at stage equipment and accessibility.

KR mentioned having a national overview to understand what each other do and avoid duplication of effort

NS highlighted that it is worth money to a venue to invest to become accessible. Also spoke to disparate sectors and that the challenge is lack of coordination and communication.

TO mentioned that Scottish music education is seen as world leading from the outside, however the perception within Scotland is that it is struggling. It is important to make music education relevant

DF spoke of the need to encourage playing music for fun

NS asked that the group look to produce a distinct Scottish cultural policy

The meeting moved to discuss why the CPG would be in the public interest

AW mentioned the economic impact and wellbeing of music

NS stated that the intrinsic value of music should be recognized and that there are urgent music issues to be addressed

CS said that the Culture CPG is a broad church. A Music group allows examination in real detail.

LMc stated that this gives collaboration opportunities and gives music a voice.

Topics which the group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months:

AM mentioned Brexit and how this affects musicians route to make money.

TO spoke of current research projects ongoing, with early results due in May. Can look for geographic and income gaps in music education provision

OF mentioned that current research is looking at music and tourism in Glasgow

DF discussed the important of sound archives and need to record the output of the Scottish recording industry

NS highlighted the threats to music venues

CS discussed looking at people who work as musicians and how this falls in terms of fair work

CM wanted to look at funding and where artists will be funded from

OF spoke of looking at how local authorities operate

8. Future work programme

DF suggested looking at national outcomes and possibly lobby for music to be a headline cultural outcome

KR suggested looking at working across culture and the possibility of a National Music Day

DP suggested a themed year for music

CS suggested looking at international campaigns on music streaming

9. AOCB

AW mentioned that there will be oral evidence given regarding Agents of Change at committee on Wed 28th Feb. Also gave a reminder of the Lobbying Act which will be coming in to force

Meeting ended at 19:42