

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

### **Education and Lifelong Learning Committee**

**Wednesday 20 October 2010**

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**Subject: West Dunbartonshire Council Youth Orchestra**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To provide members with background information relating to a slide show which will be made to Committee on the West Dunbartonshire Council Youth Orchestra's (WDCYO) residency in Edinburgh between August 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** As part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest arts festival, WDCYO was invited to become involved in a week long residency in Edinburgh between 16 and 22 August 2010.
- 2.2** The event was the first time that the WDCYO had been involved in a residential trip. Both in preparation for and during the residency, the WDCYO worked in collaboration with Joined Up Thinking Projects (JUTP) from Devon and Cornwall and with Yong-in Youth Orchestra from Yong-in City, South Korea.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The week long residency in Edinburgh provided the young people with a range of educational experiences that could not have been delivered through the normal programme of activities.
- 3.2** The young people were invited to attend a performance and a closed rehearsal paid for and delivered by the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra where they were introduced to the conductor.
- 3.3** The young people had access to two composers who wrote pieces of music for them which they then performed as world premier items at their concerts.
- 3.4** During the course of the week the young people worked alongside other musicians from England and South Korea and were able to work with 5 different conductors and benefit from the different styles of each.
- 3.5** Two major concerts were delivered during the course of the week: a lunchtime concert in St Giles Cathedral which drew an audience of 650 and an evening Gala Concert in St Mary's Cathedral in front of an audience of 150.

- 3.6** Following the successful three way collaboration in Edinburgh, Yong-in Youth Orchestra has invited WDCYO and JUTP to go to Korea to take part in a similar course there next summer (2011) and to build on the links already established. The practical implications of undertaking such an ambitious foreign trip are currently being explored.

#### **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** Staff from the Music Service and volunteers worked with and supported the young people.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** All finances for the Edinburgh residency were met through sponsorship and fundraising.
- 5.2** Should the trip to South Korea go ahead, there has been an informal indication that the South Korean authorities would cover most of the costs for the visit, with the participants covering only the costs of inoculations, visas and transport. Estimated costs for these elements are £1000 per person. The number of people involved in this trip would be approximately 40. Further work would require to be carried out to establish how best to raise the money to cover these costs.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** Full risk assessments took place to Council health and safety standards before the Edinburgh trip took place. Further risk analysis would be undertaken if the trip to Korea goes ahead.

#### **7. Equalities Impact**

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this course.

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 8.1** The week long residency in Edinburgh was a very successful experience for all involved and a significant good news story for West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 8.2** The committee is asked to:
- a. note the contents of this report and of the slide show which will be made to the Committee; and
  - b. agree that the Council's Music Service should explore the costs and implications of the invitation to visit South Korea.

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**Appendices:** none

**Background Papers:** none

**Wards Affected:** All wards