



Archive - Music Hub Investment Programme FAQs

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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Navigating these archived FAQs

These FAQs refer to completed stages of the Music Hub Investment Programme and, as such, have been removed from the website.

[You can find the updated Music Hub Investment Programme: FAQs here>](#)

Can't find what you're looking for?

If you're using a desktop computer, press the Ctrl and F keys together (or Command and F for Mac users) to search each page for the word you're looking for.

Current Music Education Hubs

Why did the Arts Council collect data from current Hub Lead Organisations?

Updated 14 June 2023

As both the fundholder for the current programme and the administrator for the Music Hub investment programme, the Arts Council is responsible for ensuring that all the necessary implications of these potential changes, for both current and prospective Hub Lead Organisations, are considered.

One such area is whether the legislation known as “TUPE” (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)) is likely to apply. In 2022, we therefore contacted all current Hub Lead Organisations to request further information about the staff currently employed (or assigned) to support the coordination of Hub activity funded and/or sustained by the current DfE grant. All communication and guidance clearly outlined the reasons we were requesting this information and how it would be used.

Organisations interested in the Music Hub Investment Programme might want to look at our data dashboard to learn more about Music Education Hubs’ current delivery, engagement with schools, funding arrangements, governance and, workforce.

[View the data >](#)

We will shortly be contacting current Music Hub Lead Organisations with further information about this.

We’ve also shared some guidance for current Music Education Hubs about sharing information regarding potential transfer arrangements with prospective applicants.

[Take a look >](#)

Will current Music Education Hubs be expected to deliver the NPME immediately?

Updated 6 June 2023

The Department for Education has confirmed that implementation of the refreshed National Plan for Music Education: the power of music to change lives will begin in September 2023. This means that current Music Education Hubs will be required to start delivering against the vision, three aims and five strategic functions for Hubs as set out in the plan during the 2023-24 academic year funding period.

Implementing some of the key policy changes of the National Plan from this September, will help the music and education sectors prepare for the Music Hub Investment Programme and make it easier to move to the new Music Hub structure from September 2024.

Will Music Education Hubs continue to be funded until the new Music Hub programme begins?

Updated 25 May 2023

Yes. The 2022-23 funding arrangements for current Hub Lead Organisations has been extended to August 2023. Funding agreements for current Hubs for 2023-24 will be for the academic year September 2023 to August 2024. Funding agreements for the new Music Hub programme will run on academic years from September 2024.

If a current Music Education Hub Lead Organisation is unsuccessful in its application to be a new Music Hub Lead Organisation, how much notice will they be given before the start of the new Music Hub Programme?

Updated 25 May 2023

We intend to let applicants know whether or not we invite them to become a Music Hub Lead Organisation in April 2024. In the months before the new Music Hub Programme begins in September 2024, we'll work with organisations to negotiate their funding agreement, sign paperwork, and support them as they transition to the new structure. We'll also continue to work with and support current Music Education Hub Lead Organisations who apply to the Investment Programme but we don't invite to become a new Music Hub Lead Organisation throughout the last few months of their funding agreements.

[Review the timeline >](#)

What does this Investment Programme mean for current Music Education Hubs?

Current Music Education Hub Lead Organisations were identified through an investment process which took place in 2011-12 and, while there has been change within the network since then, there has not been a full investment process since.

We expect that many current Music Education Hub Lead Organisations will remain an important part of the new programme, either because they successfully apply to become a Music Hub Lead Organisation for a larger Music Hub or because they are a key delivery partner in a new Music Hub.

New Music Hub geographic areas

Why can't organisations themselves say which areas in England that they want to apply for to be the Music Hub Lead Organisation?

Updated 5 June 2023

A single set of geographic areas needs to be defined in order to provide a clear and open process for all bidders, and so that bids can be compared fairly.

We understand that organisations have existing collaborative relationships which continue to evolve. We also recognise that organisations have started to think about what delivery across wider geographic areas could mean in this context. It's important to remember that any organisation can be a partner in more than one Music Hub area - collaboration and partnership within and between Hubs will always be welcome and is strongly encouraged.

Organisations interested in applying to become a new Hub Lead Organisation do not need to finalise their partnerships before making an application.

Do new Music Hubs need to be named after their geographic Music Hub area?

No. Organisations will apply to become the Hub Lead Organisation of a geographic Music Hub area. Successful applicants that are appointed to be a new Music Hub Lead Organisation can work with their partners to choose the name for their new Music Hub. This name does not need to include the exact wording of the Music Hub geographic area, but it must be clear which geographic area, or areas, the Music Hub serves.

Funding

What do you mean by indicative allocations?

Updated 18 July 2023

On 18 July 2023, we published the confirmed core grant revenue allocations for the new Music Hub areas.

[Download the updated Music Hub areas and grant allocations essential document >](#)

Previously, we shared indicative core revenue grant allocations based on the 2023-24 funding allocation figures to support prospective applicants with their plans. Applicants to the Investment Programme must use the confirmed core revenue grant allocations in their application.

The Music Hub areas and grant allocations essential document also contains the final allocation figures for the capital grant for musical instruments. Music Hub Lead Organisations will have responsibility for administering the capital grant for musical instruments. The funding will be allocated to successful HLOs in a series of payments in financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, with 90% of funding to be drawn down in 2024-25 and the final 10% in 2025-26.

Is there likely to be much change between indicative and final allocations for the Music Hub core revenue grant?

Updated 18 July 2023

On 18 July 2023, we published the confirmed core grant revenue allocations for the new Music Hub areas.

[Download the updated Music Hub areas and grant allocations essential document >](#)

The confirmed core grant revenue allocations are different to the indicative allocations previously published. This is because a Hub's core revenue grant allocation will change if its share of the total number of pupils nationally (and/or total number of FSM pupils) changes. Changes can sometimes also be affected by local authority boundary changes where this impacts on the total number of pupils in that area.

What figure should I use for the budget proposal as part of my application?

Updated 18 July 2023

On 18 July 2023, we published the confirmed core grant revenue allocations for the new Music Hub areas. Applicants to the Investment Programme must use the confirmed core revenue grant allocations in their application.

[Download the updated Music Hub areas and grant allocations essential document >](#)

Application process

When will the Music Hub Investment Programme be open for applications?

Updated 12 October 2023

The Music Hub Investment Programme application portal was open between Tuesday 18 July 2023 and Thursday 12 October 2023.

[Review the timeline >](#)

Will all of an application be assessed by one person?

Updated 27 September 2023

Individual assessors will score an applicant's entire application (ie they will score all sections of the application and conduct the financial risk review). However, applicants should not assume an assessor will apply information from the answer of one question to another. Applicants should also not assume that an assessor will have any prior knowledge of the applicant organisation, its work, or its proposed partners. Applicants should ensure they respond to all of the assessment criteria of each question within each answer.

Can an organisation that attended an introductory conversation as a proposed consortium member or strategic/delivery partner submit an application to lead a Music Hub, even if they weren't named as the lead organisation?

Added 30 August 2023

As stated within our [Guidance for Applicants](#), all applicants intending to apply to become a new Music Hub Lead Organisation must have an introductory conversation.

If an organisation attended an introductory conversation as part of a consortium or partnership proposal (but was not the proposed lead applicant), the organisation may apply as the lead organisation for the consortium or partnership, if all the other consortium or partnership member organisations have agreed. However, the original lead applicant (ie the organisation that booked the introductory conversation) must notify us of the change in lead applicant via email by 5pm on Friday 29 September, and no further changes will be permitted. If you do not let us know about the new lead applicant by this date, your application may be ineligible.

You will be required to attach a Word document to your application form on Grantium which contains both the email confirming that an introductory conversation has taken place and the correspondence notifying us of the change of lead applicant.

Please remember that a lead applicant cannot apply to lead a Music Hub and be part of a separate consortium application for the same Music Hub area. However, they can be named as a strategic and/or delivery partner within another application. If you submit an application as a lead organisation, but are also named in a consortium application for the same Hub area, both applications may be ineligible.

What happens if a proposed consortium or partnership arrangement changes following an introductory conversation? Could all of the organisations that attended the introductory conversation apply to lead the Music Hub?

Added 30 August 2023

As stated in the [Guidance for Applicants](#), any organisations that were considering applying as a consortium were encouraged to decide the lead organisation of their application before having an introductory conversation with us. However, we recognise that proposals may change as an outcome of the conversation, or as discussions develop further.

If your consortium structure is changing (including if the lead application of your consortium application is changing), you must notify us of the change(s) via email by 5pm on Friday 29 September. Please note that no further changes will be permitted, above and beyond this request. You will be required to attach a Word document to your application form on Grantium which contains both the email confirming that an introductory conversation has taken place and the correspondence notifying us of the change of lead applicant.

You can read what to do if your partnership's or consortium's lead applicant is changing in the 'Can an organisation that attended an introductory conversation as a proposed consortium member or strategic/delivery partner submit an application to lead a Music Hub, even if they weren't named as the lead organisation?' FAQ on this page.

However, if two or more organisations within the consortium or partnership discussed in the introductory conversation are now wanting to submit separate, competing bids to lead the same Music Hub area, both the consortium/partnership lead applicant and the relevant organisations must notify us about the change to the consortium/partnership via email. You must let us know about the change by 5pm on Friday 29 September.

Please note that no further changes will be permitted above and beyond this request. You will be required to attach a Word document to your application form on Grantium which contains both the email confirming that an introductory conversation has taken place and the correspondence notifying us of the change of lead applicant.

If you have notified us that your consortium/partnership is changing, or that you are now intending to submit a separate application, we may ask you to have a conversation with us to discuss your proposals before the application deadline (Thursday 12 October 2023).

[Email our team>](#)

What is an introductory conversation and how do I request one?

Updated 1 August 2023

If you're thinking of applying, you will need to have an introductory conversation with our team. You need to speak with us even if you have previously been involved with a Music Education Hub.

An introductory conversation is a key opportunity for you to ask questions about how to apply and help you understand the application process. You can learn more about what to expect from an introductory conversation in the [Guidance for Applicants](#).

[Download the guidance>](#)

You will be able to have an introductory conversation between Monday 10 July and Friday 18 August 2023.

The deadline for requesting an introductory conversation was midday (12pm) on Monday 31 July 2023.

How do I apply to be a new Music Hub Lead Organisation?

Updated 18 July 2023

We have published all the information and resources you need to prepare your application for the Music Hub Investment Programme. We've also shared how-to guides and video walkthroughs to help you complete your application.

[Take a look>](#)

We understand that there is a lot of information, so we've created a checklist of what you need to do to apply.

[Download the checklist>](#)

How do I learn more about the application process?

Updated 17 July 2023

On Wednesday 28 June, we held a webinar to answer your questions and support you as you prepare your application.

[Watch the webinar and download the transcript>](#)

We've updated these FAQs to answer your commonly asked questions in the webinar.

[View all the questions asked in the webinar>](#)

How 'local' should a Local Plan for Music Education (LPME) be and what should an organisation consider when preparing their application to be a new Hub Lead Organisation?

Added 11 July 2023

A Music Hub needs to develop one LPME for its entire Music Hub area. We expect the LPME to set out how the Music Hub understands and is addressing local needs to ensure a consistently high-quality music education offer is available to all children and young people within each of the local authority areas in the Music Hub. This might mean addressing the needs of certain groups of children and young people or even specific districts, boroughs or even neighbourhoods.

You can include as much detail as needed for each of the local authorities in your area within your LPME, drawing on different Hub partners where appropriate. For example, it may be relevant for certain aspects of your LPME to be Hub-wide (eg your partnership arrangements, overall strategies for inclusion and/or progression, or details on your governance and management arrangements).

For other sections, such as your programme of activity, it may be more appropriate to develop a bespoke approach for each area within your Hub, dependent on your needs analysis and/or consideration of each local context you operate within.

It's important to remember that the LPME is a partnership approach to strategic planning, with the Hub Lead Organisation coordinating and facilitating collaborative working between Music Hub partners.

The Investment Programme application asks how you'll go about developing your LPME but not what will necessarily be in it. We'll be looking for evidence that you have thought about how you might undertake the development process for your Hub area. This includes who might be involved and what structures, mechanisms and/or tools you might use to help you ensure you're considering the needs and priorities for all stakeholders, particularly children and young people. Applicants can use their Music Hub Development Plans to set out their high-level thinking and milestone planning for what you'll be thinking about and doing from April 2024 and during that first year of the programme.

How should Lead Schools be decided?

Added 11 July 2023

As part of an HLO application, applicants are asked to set out how they will identify and appoint appropriate Lead Schools in each local authority area the Music Hub will cover, and to describe their indicative plans for the roles and responsibilities of Lead Schools as part of the Music Hub. Applicants will not be asked to identify their Lead Schools at this stage.

Guidance about the criteria for Lead Schools and the role we expect they will play as part of the Music Hub is available in the Lead Schools for Music essential document.

This document explains the criteria for Lead Schools as set out in the National Plan for Music Education. While more specific criteria will be provided to successful HLOs before Lead Schools are appointed, in outlining the approach to Lead Schools as part of their application, prospective HLOs should consider how they would ensure that they exemplify excellent music provision as part of a broad and balanced education. HLOs might wish to consider, for example, Ofsted reports, test or examination results, as well as schools' track record in supporting their peers in other schools to strengthen their delivery of music.

[Learn more in the Lead Schools for Music essential document >](#)

Who can apply?

Updated 14 June 2023

The Music Hub Investment Programme is an opportunity for all kinds of organisations, and from a range of sectors, to consider how they could co-ordinate collaborative working within a Music Hub.

The Investment Programme Guidance for Applicants explains that any properly-constituted organisation that can demonstrate their ability to deliver the responsibilities for Hub Lead Organisations can apply. We also welcome applications from consortia and from new entities led by a named organisation.

Find full information in the Eligibility section of the Guidance for Applicants.

[Read the Guidance for Applicants >](#)

Do I have to have an introductory conversation?

Added 14 June 2023

Yes. All organisations intending to apply to become a new Music Hub Lead Organisation must have an introductory conversation. You will not be able to submit your application without attaching the email from the Arts Council that confirms you have attended an introductory conversation.

[Learn more in the Guidance for Applicants >](#)

Does an organisation need experience of working across a whole Music Hub area in order to apply to be a Hub Lead Organisation?

Updated 14 June 2023

No. New Hub Lead Organisations will form partnerships with a wide range of delivery partners, drawing on local knowledge and experience to ensure every child and young person in their areas has access to high-quality music education. A prospective Hub Lead Organisation doesn't need to have experience working across a whole Hub area as they will work with delivery partners to make sure local need is met.

There is no limit to the number of organisations that can work as part of a Music Hub – all organisations currently involved with Music Hubs, and those who are not yet, are welcome to be part of a new MusicHub partnership.

[Read more in the Investment Programme Guidance for Applicants >](#)

[Read more in our partnerships, operating models and governance FAQs >](#)

What will happen if no application or no sufficiently high scoring application is submitted for a Music Hub area?

Added 11 July 2023

The Arts Council undertook a consultation exercise to help determine the geographic arrangements for the new Music Hub programme. As part of this consultation, considerations were given to the levels of interest organisations may have in leading Music Hubs across these new geographic areas.

In the event that the Arts Council receives no applications or applications that are unfundable for a Music Hub area through the Investment Programme, we will publish our contingency arrangements and ensure that continuity of activity for children and young people is prioritised across the affected Music Hub area.

Partnerships, operating models and governance (Application requirements)

Can organisations apply to lead a Music Hub area as a consortium?

Updated 11 July 2023

[Learn more about what a consortium is on the Government's website >](#)

Yes, we will welcome applications from consortia. In a consortium application to the Music Hub Investment Programme, all of the members of the consortium would collectively and strategically carry out the functions of the Hub Lead Organisation and lead and manage their Music Hub.

Consortium member organisations can also be involved in the delivery of Music Hub activity. Learn more in the 'What is the difference between a consortium and an organisation applying to be a Hub Lead Organisation with named partners?' FAQ on this document.

You can learn more about consortia applications on page 39 of the [Guidance for Applicants](#)>

Can organisations apply to lead a Music Hub area as a new entity such as a Special Purpose Vehicle? Do new entities need to be established at the point of application? At what stages of the application process/Music Hub Investment Programme can the Hub Lead Organisation status (and associated responsibility/accountability) be transferred to the new entity?

Updated 11 July 2023

Yes, we welcome applications from new entities.

However, if you intend to establish a new entity but this isn't established by the point at which you make an application, you will need to identify an organisation to act as the Hub Lead Organisation. This organisation would be responsible for the submission of the application and be the accountable organisation for any funding that is initially awarded, if we invite you to become a new Hub Lead Organisation.

You will be able to transfer the responsibilities of the Hub Lead Organisation to a new entity once funding has been awarded. If this is your intention, your application must clearly demonstrate a rationale for this change and plans for how and when this will happen. The Arts Council can support transfers of leadership and will be able to novate a funding agreement from one organisation to another even after the funding agreement has been issued and signed by the original Hub Lead Organisation.

We will carry out further checks and assessment on any proposed new Hub Lead Organisation (especially if it is a completely new entity) and we can't guarantee that a transfer of leadership will take place within the timeframes proposed by the applicant in their application.

It is possible for a new entity to submit an application to be a Hub Lead Organisation. The new entity will need to be a "formally constituted" organisation by the time the application is submitted and it must be able to meet all of the eligibility criteria stated in the [Guidance for Applicants](#) (see page 36 of the guidance).

All applicants to the Investment Programme must submit financial documentation as part of the application process to demonstrate appropriate financial planning, organisation solvency, financial resilience and liquidity. However, we recognise that some new entities may not be in the position to supply all documentation for the requested time period (eg financial statements for the previous financial year). In this case, we would expect the applicant to:

- provide the most recent financial statements (eg management accounts) for the new organisation with an explanatory statement included within their narrative response to the financial information section; or
- if financial statements for the organisation are unavailable, provide financial statements (for the previous financial year) for the constituent organisations that have formed the new entity to demonstrate an appropriate financial history and track record. This should also include an explanatory statement within the narrative response to the financial information section of the application form.

You can find more information about applications from new entities on page 38 of the [Guidance for Applicants](#) and on page 5 of our [Governance and management arrangements for Music Hubs essential document](#).

What is the difference between a consortium and an organisation applying to be a Hub Lead Organisation with named partners?

Added 11 July 2023

In the context of the Music Hub Investment Programme, a consortium is a legal agreement between two or more organisations to collectively carry out the functions and responsibilities of the Hub Lead Organisation.

For the purposes of the application process, consortia will still need to identify a named 'lead organisation' to be responsible for the submission of the application, on behalf of their consortium members. The named lead organisation will also be accountable for any funding that is subsequently awarded to the consortium as an outcome of the application process.

Typically, a consortium arrangement will be considered if two or more organisations consider it to be appropriate to work together on the **strategic leadership and management** of a Music Hub through a collective legal agreement.

A single organisation may also apply to be a Hub Lead Organisation. In this type of application, the Music Hub's named partners will typically not carry out any of the strategic functions or responsibilities of the Hub Lead Organisation.

We expect Music Hub partnerships to have a broad and diverse range of partners that are reflective and representative of the entire Music Hub area. New Hub Lead Organisations (be it a single organisation or consortium of organisations) will work collaboratively with, and fund, Hub partner organisations to develop their Local Plan for Music Education and **deliver the activity** of the Music Hub. Organisations applying to become a new Hub Lead Organisation will need to name the Music Hub delivery partner organisations and/or individuals they intend to include in their proposed Music Hub partnership within the Partners Table of the application form.

The Hub Lead Organisation and consortium members, if relevant, can be involved in the delivery of Music Hub activity (and can, therefore, also be named as a delivery partner within their Music Hub partnership, as applicable). They can also be named as delivery partners (ie Music Hub partners) in another organisation's application.

However, organisations cannot apply to be a new Hub Lead Organisation by themselves **and** be a named member of a consortium application for the same Music Hub area.

You can read more about Music Hub partnerships and consortium applications in the FAQs on this page. You can learn more about consortia applications on page 39 of the [Guidance for Applicants](#).

What partnership, governance or operating model is best for my new Music Hub? Does the Arts Council have a preferred model or do we have to mirror existing Hub arrangements?

Added 11 July 2023

We do not have a preferred partnership, governance or operating model for new Music Hubs. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how they will work in partnership with relevant partners and stakeholders that represent each of the local authority areas within the Music Hub area they are applying to lead. This is in order to develop and implement appropriate operating models that meet local needs and circumstances.

We would expect applicants to be considerate of any existing arrangements that support continuity of provision for children and young people and reflect the interests of partners and stakeholders at a local level, but there is no expectation that models or structures should remain the same as current Hub arrangements.

We strongly recommend that all applicants talk openly and constructively with other key partners and stakeholders in the Music Hub area, including those who are currently leading Music Education Hubs and/or who are also interested in applying to lead the same Music Hub. When speaking with other organisations, we recommend sharing your strengths and risks with each other and thinking about how a partnership could improve these.

[Find other organisations interested in collaborative working using our partnership resource >](#)

We have published research into Music Hub partnership models for Hubs that operate across more than one upper tier local authority area. The research highlights some of the challenges and ways in which these have been overcome in some areas. You may wish to reflect on these examples to help inform your own partnership and governance models.

[Download the research >](#)

[Learn more about the research in our partnerships webinar >](#)

The Investment Programme application form asks organisations to outline their proposed governance and partnership arrangements. These do not need to be finalised at the point of application. Applicants that we invite to become new Hub Lead Organisations will be asked for further information on their confirmed plans during the funding agreement negotiation period.

You can use the Music Hub Development Plan to capture how you will plan to establish and develop these arrangements from point of award and during the first year of the programme. It's important that you clearly demonstrate how your proposed model or models meet the requirements and expectations within the guidance, including how the Hub Lead Organisation will ensure the strategic functions will be fulfilled, and how you will work in partnership with relevant partners and stakeholders that represent each of the local authority areas within the new Music Hub area.

My organisation is in early stages of discussion with potential partners. How do we write our application, or talk about our proposals in an introductory conversation, when there is so much still to be decided?

Added 11 July 2023

Applicants' proposals for new Music Hubs, including partnership arrangements, do not need to be finalised by their introductory conversation or their application.

The introductory conversation is an opportunity for all potential applicants to talk to us about your proposals. Though all potential applicants must have an introductory conversation, it's important to remember that it won't have any bearing on the assessment of your application. The conversation is an opportunity for us to provide some general feedback on your proposals, including any potential risks or issues. However, we can't provide specific feedback about draft applications or ways in which your application can be improved. This means that we can't tell you about which specific partners you should work with, what the most appropriate governance and management structure might be for your Music Hub, or who the most appropriate Hub Lead Organisation might be if you are planning to bid as a consortium.

We recognise that proposals, including partnerships arrangements and proposed governance and management structures, may change in the period between an introductory conversation taking place and the submission of an application. However, where possible you should try to ensure the organisation that books the introductory conversation is the one that takes the application forward.

If you are working on a consortium application and decide to submit an application with a different lead organisation than the one who booked the introductory conversation, you will need to notify us about this at the earliest opportunity as it may require you to hold a further conversation with the Arts Council about your proposed application.

The Guidance for Applicants states that Music Hubs should have oversight from a Hub board or equivalent oversight group that is supported by an independent Chair. What does "independent Chair" mean?

Added 11 July 2023

An independent Chair is someone who is not employed by the Hub Lead Organisation (this does not include remuneration as part of the role of Chair). This is to ensure an objective perspective and avoid any conflicts of interest. For all types of organisations, it is best practice to have an independent Chair.

[Learn more in the Governance and management arrangements for Music Hubs essential document >](#)

You can read the Governance guidance for current Music Education Hubs (ie for the 2023-24 funding period) [here](#).

Accessibility

What access support is available to applicants?

Added 14 June 2023

We are committed to being open and accessible to everyone.

We have published alternative formats of the documents you need to prepare your application. If you will require the documents in another format such as BSL and braille, get in touch and we'll be happy to help. You must tell us if you need an alternative accessible format by Friday 4 August 2023.

If you expect or experience any barriers when making your application, our Access Support helpful document explains the ways we can help.

[Take a look >](#)

Can the Arts Council pay for a support worker to help applicants with their application?

Added 14 June 2023

Yes. Our Customer Services team will help you to arrange payment for your Support Worker. When finding the best way to help, we consider cost and practicality as well as your preference and comfort.

We can either pay for a support worker you usually work with - or where possible, help you directly with support work if you require it.

There is a lot of complex information to navigate. What additional support is there for disabled-led organisations?

Added 14 June 2023

We recognise that we have published a lot of information. We have done this because this is a new application process based on the new National Plan for Music Education. We also wanted to give applicants as much information as possible so that new organisations can understand in detail what will be involved in applying for and becoming a new Music Hub Lead Organisation.

We have a dedicated support team for disabled-led applicants within our customer services team. Any disabled-led organisation who needs additional support and advice should contact them as soon as possible. Through that team, we will monitor requests for additional support and consider what further help we can offer to disabled-led applicants.

Who do applicants with access needs contact for support?

[Contact Customer Services >](#)

Capital grant for musical instruments

What is the capital grant for musical instruments?

Updated 11 July 2023

In addition to the core revenue funding for new Music Hubs, the Department for Education is investing a further £25 million in musical instruments. This capital grant will be made available to Investment Programme applicants that we invite to become new Hub Lead Organisations. Organisations applying to become a new Music Hub Lead Organisation through the Investment Programme are therefore also applying to receive funding from the capital grant.

The 'Purchasing and maintaining musical instruments' essential document contains information about the capital grant, including funding arrangements, how to plan musical instrument purchases, the capitalisation of instruments, and how new Hub Lead Organisations must consider how they are supporting the needs of children and young people with special education needs or disabilities when investing this grant.

[Read the document >](#)

When will Hub Lead Organisations receive the capital grant and when will they need to spend it by?

Added 11 July 2023

The capital grant for Music Hubs will be allocated to organisations that we invite to become a new Hub Lead Organisation in a series of payments in financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, with 90% of funding to be drawn down in 2024-25 and the final 10% in 2025-26. This means Hub Lead Organisations will need to request and receive 90% of their capital allocation in 2024-25 and the final 10% in 2025-26, meeting required payment conditions. Confirmation of the period over which the grant can be spent timings will be provided to new Hub Lead Organisations, as well as payment conditions and specific payment timings.

Can the capital grant be used for instrument repair or maintenance?

Added 11 July 2023

The capital grant for Music Hubs is for the purchase of musical instruments. Purchases made with the grant must be capitalised according to the purchasing organisation's accounting policies. This will mean purchases need to exceed a 'de minimis' cost threshold and will need to have a minimum productive life (of at least one year). The grant cannot be spent on repair, maintenance or storage of instruments. Such costs cannot generally be capitalised, as they will usually be too low value. Prospective Hub Lead Organisations will be asked to explain their plans for storing and maintaining assets, including instruments, as part of their

application. These will need to be paid for from sources other than the capital grant (such as the core revenue grant and/or other earned income). Further information is provided in the Purchasing and maintaining musical instruments essential document.

Who will own instruments purchased using the capital grant?

Added 11 July 2023

The capital grant will be provided to organisations that we invite to become new Hub Lead Organisations, who will be responsible for administering the grant. Hub Lead Organisations can transfer the grant to partners to make purchases for the Music Hub. Partners may also store, manage and/or maintain instruments bought with the capital grant, on behalf of the Music Hub. Hub Lead Organisations will be required to maintain an up to date records of instruments held across the Hub, including by partners, and specifically to hold a register of assets purchased by the capital grant and held by the Hub, regardless of whether the Hub Lead Organisation or a partner purchased the assets. Further information is set out in our essential document on purchasing and maintaining musical instruments. Further detail, including the grant terms and conditions, will be provided to new Hub Lead Organisations.

How much funding will each new Hub Lead Organisation receive from the capital grant for musical instruments?

Added 14 June 2023

We have published the confirmed capital funding allocations for new Music Hub areas.

[Take a look at the funding allocations >](#)

Will new Hub Lead Organisations be able to delegate the capital funding to Hub partners?

Added 14 June 2023

Yes.

[Read more in the 'Purchasing and maintaining musical instruments' essential document >](#)

If you have any questions, please get in touch with our team.

[Contact us >](#)