

# The Challenges of Progression

**Performance, Participation and Partnership: Looking to the Future**

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donegal  
music  
education  
partnership



**etb**  
Education & Training Board  
Donegal

# Background

- **Donegal ETB's MEP was one of two national Local Music Education Service Partnerships piloted in a joint initiative between Music Network and the Department of Education.**
- **The pilot project, approved in 2004, began in 2005.**
- **Music Development Manager and Violin Resource Tutor appointed.**
- **Instrument Bank.**
- **Panel of part-time Instrumental and Vocal Tutors.**
- **Tuition began in various centres around the County.**

# Membership of the Music Education Partnership

- **Donegal ETB (formerly VEC) - Main partner organisation**
- **Donegal School of Music (Core - Voluntary Organisation)**
- **Donegal County Development Board**
- **Donegal County Council's Cultural Services**
- **Údaras na Gaeltachta**
- **Donegal Education Centre**
- **Music Network**
- **LYIT**

# Priorities in the first 5 Years

## Working in three main areas

1. After school (non-mainstream) provision of Instrumental and Vocal Tuition
2. In-school Music Support (Primary and Post Primary)
3. Music in the Community

**Targeted Age-Group: 7 – 18 yr olds**

# Further Developments

- **September 2010 - Change in Personnel with the appointment of a new Music Development Manager**
- **An opportunity to review, reflect, prioritise**



# Strategic Priorities

**Protect / maintain the CORE activity**

**Quality and diversity of tuition**

**CPD for tutors**

**Social Inclusion**

**Communications and Marketing Strategy**

**Information management system**

**RESOURCES, RESOURCES, RESOURCES**

# DMEP Today – A Snapshot

- **3 full-time members of staff – Music Development Manager, Administrator & Violin Resource Tutor**
- **32 core part-time tutors**
- **13 Teaching Centres in 10 locations around the County**
- **30 weeks tuition per year, 4.30-9pm, Monday to Saturday**
- **15 Performing Groups - instrumental & choral - that rehearse either weekly or bi-weekly**
- **Approx. 800 students are regular users**
- **Primary Age Group remains as 7 to 18 years but have started a programme for 4 – 7 yr olds.**

# DMEP Today – A Snapshot

- **2013-14 Academic Year: 40 concerts & performances directly involving our performing groups & students, 8 in-school workshops, 3 community workshops and 5 chamber music for strings / summer school**
- **Scholarship Programme**
- **CPD for Tutors**
- **On-line registration / payments system & barcoded tagging system for instrument bank**
- **Rebranding – Donegal Music Education Partnership – and in early stages of developing our own website, independent of Donegal ETB**
- **Continue to work in partnership**



# Ongoing Challenges

## Fulfilling Expectations

- Being able to protect the core activity, maintain the present momentum - an ongoing challenge
- Having raised expectations in the community its challenging to stay at that level with limited budgets and manpower
- There is an expectation from stakeholders to constantly expand regardless of standstill resources
- Difficulty in finding adequate time for Planning and Creative Thinking

# Ongoing Challenges

## Quality Control

- Attracting & keeping quality teachers
- Resistance to embrace CPD opportunities
- Traditional teaching methods VS more creative all- embracing music-making and group teaching
- Notion that the tuition is of less value if not accredited or exam focused
- Maintaining standards within the various performing groups
- Lack of human resources / Personnel

# Ongoing Challenges

## Financial Challenges

- Ongoing sustainability – raising match funding
- Demand for increased per-hourly tuition rate
- Cost of high quality tuition can be prohibitive to parents – therefore deterrent/participation barrier
- Cheaper tuition alternatives being offered by unqualified teachers

# Ongoing Challenges

## Resources

- Human – both paid and voluntary
- Adequate office accommodation, rehearsal space, instrument storage etc
- Preservation, maintenance and development of instrument bank

# Ongoing Challenges

## General / Miscellaneous

- **Marketing & public profiling is essential but this very much a neglected area due to required time commitment.**
- **Sheer geographical size of county & spread of tuition centres**
- **Transport & Supervision**



# Words of Advice to the new MEPs

- **Be MODERATE in your plans and outlook, start from a small base**
- **Know your limitations - Nothing worse than raising expectations in the community but NOT HAVING THE RESOURCES / ABILITY TO DELIVER**
- **Only grow as you have the resources to do so**
- **A good information management system is essential**
- **Implement a Volunteers Programme**
- **Good Communications and Marketing Strategy to maintain awareness**

# Words of Advice to the new MEPs

- **Continuously meet, inform and educate those people in key positions in your 'Parent' organisation (i.e. ETB or Local Authority) as to what it is that you do.**
- **Write up an OFFICE MANUAL**
- **Maintain and nurture a good relationship with Centre Caretakers**
- **Keep enjoying what you do and have fun !**