

Friends of Music in the Education Authority (North East Region)

(Registered with the Charity Commissioners for Northern Ireland - NIC 103653)

Annual Report - 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025.

Aims

1. The aims of the Friends of Music in the Education Authority (North East Region) (hereinafter referred to as the Friends) remains unchanged and continues to be:

To advance and develop the art and science of music and musical education, with particular reference to orchestral music, in the Education Authority (North Eastern Region) by providing services not normally covered or subsidised by the Department of Education or Education Authority grants.

Organisation

2. The Executive Committee (EC) of the Friends is elected at the Annual General meeting and is the body responsible for the day-to-day management of the organisation. Decisions taken by the EC must conform to the objectives of the Friends set out in the constitution and are also taken having regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance.

3. The EC met on three occasions during the year. Members of the EC during the 2024/25 year were:

Christine Stewart (Chairperson)
David Foster (Secretary)
Tracey Montgomery (Treasurer)
Jeanne Martin
Brian Lynas

Liz Brown
Noel Lamont
Helena Haffield
Clifford Bell

(These members of the Executive Committee were in office when this report was approved.)

4. The registered address of the Friends is 82, Ballylagan Road, Ballyclare BT39 9QR.

Activities during the year

5. In September 2024 a circular was issued to all schools within the area previously covered by the North East Education and Library Board; this detailed the existence of the Friends and publicised the fact that the organisation was willing to give assistance to musical projects in schools. 38 applications were received. Projects ranged from assisting with the purchase of instruments and music to the purchase of outdoor musical equipment for installation in playgrounds. Assistance was offered to 16 applicants (2 applicants were unable to take advantage of offers of assistance), 16 applicants were refused, 3 did not answer requests for additional information and 3 are still under consideration.

Finance

6. The 2024/25 financial account shows the Friends to be in a sound financial position with a balance of £9,798 in the bank.

7. At 31st March 2025 financial assistance, amounting to approximately £1,665.83 had been offered to 3 schools but had not been paid as the schools were in the process of obtaining quotations for instruments or services or awaiting delivery of instruments. When these projects are finalised the bank balance will be approximately £8132.

2025/26 Executive Committee

8. The members of the Executive Committee elected for the 2025/26 year are:

Christine Stewart (Chairperson)
David Foster (Secretary)
Tracey Montgomery (Treasurer)
Clifford Bell
Liz Brown

Helena Haffield
Noel Lamont
Brian Lynas
Jeanne Martin

Signed:



David Foster (Secretary)

Date:

16/8/25