

PE1694/A

Moray Council submission of 4 October 2018

The drop-out rate of children having instrumental music tuition in the past two years

The drop-out rate 2 years ago was 15% partly due to a 20% increase in charges.

The projected drop-out rate for this year if charges for instrumental music tuition continue to increase as they have done in recent years

There has not been an increase in charges for 1 year with the result that the dropout rate has levelled out. I would anticipate the dropout rate would rise again to reflect increase in charges as this has happened every year when charges increased. The rate is linked to the rate of increase i.e. 20% resulted in 15% dropout while in other years the increase was around 5% with a smaller dropout rate. The biggest impact in dropout rate seemed to be linked with families having more than one child in the programme and with such an increase the fees to two or more children were not affordable. Therefore all children from the household were removed from the service and thereby contributing to the higher dropout rate.

Is there a particular reason that instrumental music tuition is not being regarded by education departments as a core subject?

The instrumental service appears as a separate budget held centrally outside either the schools budget or DSM allocation. The budget was also separated from other centrally held budgets when the service introduced charges. Since then the service has attracted budget discussions separate from the overall schools central budget or individual school budgets. As a result of the budget structure the service is not seen as a core subject within schools but rather the centrally held service, now with an income generation target.