



National Planning Framework Music Generation Submission

Key question: What sort of place should Ireland be in 2040 and what do we need to do to achieve this?

An Ireland where every child and young person has access to performance music education irrespective of circumstances

Why?

- *What policies can the NPF include to effect improvements to our general health, including physical and mental wellbeing, in Ireland over the next twenty years?*
- *Are there key priorities the NPF can identify to ensure better or improved health and wellbeing of people and places in Ireland?*

In identifying priorities to ensure better or improved health and wellbeing of people and places in Ireland, Music Generation would urge that the NPF considers the transformative, positive impact performance music education can have for Ireland's children and young people.

Music Generation is Ireland's national performance music education programme, initiated by Music Network and co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills and Local Music Education Partnerships.

Music Generation believes that it is the right of every child/young person to have the choice of access and the chance to participate as a musical citizen, regardless of circumstances, transcending any perceived barrier, be it geographical, financial, social or cultural.

Music is relevant in all sectors of society – childcare, healthcare, community development, education, disability, among others. Research continues to prove that music helps to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities who access it. It also produces the musicians necessary to continue to make music possible. This in turn generates increased inward investment for Ireland, as people want to live and work in a country where quality of life is enhanced.

Having access to high-quality performance music education in one's own locality will enable children and young people to develop their creativity, reach their full potential, achieve self-growth and realise their future possible self. It will contribute to their personal development within a vibrant music community.

How do we ensure that existing and new development can be supported by the timely provision of social infrastructure?

We would call on the NPF to sustain and support the model pioneered by Music Generation which provides and augments social infrastructure that adds value to development in regions and communities throughout Ireland.

Music Generation creates access to high-quality performance music education for children and young people ages 0 to 18. Our business model is based on public-philanthropic partnership whereby philanthropic funding leverages sources of sustainable local investment and creates long-term, lasting outcomes for the partners involved - most crucially for the children, young people and musicians participating in the programme. We operate a devolved model of delivery through Local Music Education Partnerships who make a plan for music education in their area and work together with a range of stakeholders to make it happen.

This model was born out of a [national strategy for music education](#) developed by Music Generation's parent company, Music Network. Prior to establishing Music Generation in 2010, this strategy was successfully piloted and independently evaluated as '*a workable and replicable framework for development... on a wider scale through Ireland.*'

Six years on, Music Generation now has a proven track record of developing this successful and sustainable business model, where philanthropic seed funding generates ongoing local and national investment. The contribution of all partners involved has had, and will continue to have, a transformative effect not only on the music education landscape in Ireland, but on the lives of children and young people and the communities in which they live. This is illustrated in the column inches of local and national papers, in the videos and photographs, social media, and in the words, deeds, actions and artistry of those who are learning, participating and helping each other to improve and to progress.

Music Generation's ultimate vision is to establish a national music education service of international excellence, where every child and young person in Ireland has local access to high-quality tuition.

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