

Rochdale Music Service

Vocal Strategy

January 2018

Our Vocal Vision

Our vision is for people in Rochdale of all ages and circumstances to have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from singing. We would like Rochdale to be known as a singing borough.

Key Aims of the Vocal Strategy

Rochdale Music Service Vocal Strategy aims to promote singing and develop high quality vocal work across the Borough of Rochdale. Our key aims are:

- ❖ Supporting children and young people
- ❖ Supporting adults and the local community
- ❖ Facilitating progression
- ❖ Continuing professional development

Through these key aims our actions are:

- To engage every Rochdale pupil in singing and raise the profile of singing.
- To establish links with the wider vocal community and develop support networks and strong relationships with the community as well as schools.
- To support schools in providing singing at every level and promote singing for all.
- To enable every school across the Borough of Rochdale to have a choir or singing group.
- To provide and support extension pathways outside school, ensuring all pupils have access to progression routes to sing at all levels. E.g. GMMH show choir.
- To offer high quality singing events, opportunities and vocal initiatives for all ages.
- To support all Rochdale Music Service staff to have the confidence and skills to use singing across their work.
- To organise repertoire to show progression through the school years and beyond as well as developing and creating resources.
- To increase teacher confidence in leading singing in the classroom across the Borough of Rochdale ensuring access to CPD for all staff at all levels.
- To be available to help and support choir leaders within the community.
- To facilitate equality of opportunity for all pupils, regardless of race, gender, location, musical ability, parental income, whether they have special needs or disabilities, and whether they are looked after children.

The Context

Rochdale has a rich cultural heritage and singing forms the backbone of the national curriculum at all levels. Rochdale Music Service is part of the school improvements team and we aim to raise the standard of music education across the school sector.

At Rochdale we strive to be an entirely inclusive music service not only working with children and young people in mainstream education but creating musical opportunities for the disabled as well as children and adults with special educational needs. Our work also extends to the wider community.

Rochdale Music Service aims to develop inspirational partnerships with our Greater Manchester Music Education Hub, other music services and regional music organisations which enable all children to enjoy high quality music making from the earliest beginnings. Also to aid them to access a broad range of coherent musical pathways in and beyond school, which promote self-confidence, ambition and achievement.

We are part of a collaboration of eight other local music services (Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) known as The Greater Manchester Music Hub. Our twelve other partners include: BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, The Bridgewater Hall, Brighter Sound, Charanga, Chethams Music School, Greater Manchester Arts, The Hallé, The Manchester Camerata, MMU, Music and the Deaf, Music Unlimited, The RNCM, Salford University, Sing For Pleasure and The Voices Foundation.

The vocal strategy also links into these strategies and policies:

Department for Education

'The Importance of Music – A National Plan for Music Education' (2011)

"Singing can improve pupils' learning, confidence, health and social development. It has the power to change lives and build stronger communities. This is why we are asking hubs to develop singing strategies in and beyond schools to ensure that every child sings regularly and that choirs are available. Such strategies will widen singing opportunities for all pupils, drive up quality and give routes for progression such as access to chorister programmes, area/ county choirs and National Youth Choir."

Arts Council England

'Achieving Great Art for Everyone – A Strategic Framework for the Arts' (2011-2021)

At the heart of the framework, Arts Council England (ACE) identifies five goals to help achieve great art for everyone, which are as follows:

1. Talent and artistic excellence are thriving and celebrated
2. More people experience and are inspired by the arts
3. The arts are sustainable, resilient and innovative
4. The arts leadership and workforce are diverse and highly-skilled
5. Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts

Current Provision at Rochdale Music Service

The following provision is now embedded by Rochdale Music Service at a local level:

- Singing as an integral part of the Wider Opportunities Provision
- Curriculum music provision has singing embedded at the core
- Many vocal ensembles are available at our Music Centre
- Bespoke vocal projects and festivals, both for school clusters and borough-wide
- Support and development of school choirs and singing groups
- Providing high quality CPD for teachers
- Actively sign-posting pathways for gifted and talented pupils
- Provision of individual and small group vocal tuition

Other provision which is new and emerging at Rochdale Music Service:

- A commitment to develop community links and to promote singing in the wider community
- Integration of SEND and mainstream singing
- Opportunities for singing with pre-school children
- Providing Performance opportunities, such as celebration events
- Developing and enhancing EYFS singing
- Running CPD events for 'Singing in the Classroom' at schools across the borough
- Increasing the range and genre of singing opportunities within the music service

The sub regional opportunities available across the Greater Manchester Music Hub:

- GM Hub Show Choir
- Vocal Workshops
- Primary Schools' Singing Challenge
- Regular project days throughout the year
- Hallé Choirs

At Rochdale Music Service we are committed to carrying out an annual Vocal Audit of singing across our region and to developing and reviewing local strategies on a regular basis both to evaluate current provision and to inform future planning. The results of the audit are also shared amongst the Vocal Vision Group.

This is a steering group for the hub, made up of a key vocal leader or manager from each Music Service, who meet on a regular basis. On an ad hoc basis, the group is also joined by representatives from other hub partners who are involved in singing, usually when they are also involved in projects and resources. This group creates hub wide performance opportunities, training packages and develops resources.

Our Partners

Rochdale Music Service are engaged in working closely with our colleagues across the other Greater Manchester music services, including Bolton Music Service, Bury Music Service, Oldham Music Service, Salford Music Service, Stockport Music Service, Tameside Music Service, Trafford Music Service and Wigan Music Service.

As part of the Greater Manchester Music Hub we have already participated in vocal projects with a number of external partners, including The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Brighter Sound, Chethams Music School, The Hallé, Music Unlimited and Sing for Pleasure. We welcome opportunities to further these partnerships.

Working with SEND

At Rochdale Music Service we have a strong ethos of being a completely inclusive music service and have become closely linked with Music Unlimited delivering their Total Vocals Projects. These projects have involved staff working with children with special education needs and disabilities. The projects have included:

- Facilitating and running singing groups and choirs in SEND schools in Rochdale
- Participating in Super Sing Events at The Bridgewater Hall involving schools across Greater Manchester
- Partnering SEND school choirs with mainstream school choirs
- Providing SEND schools with staff to run a school choir
- Training and facilitating SEND school staff to run their own school choir

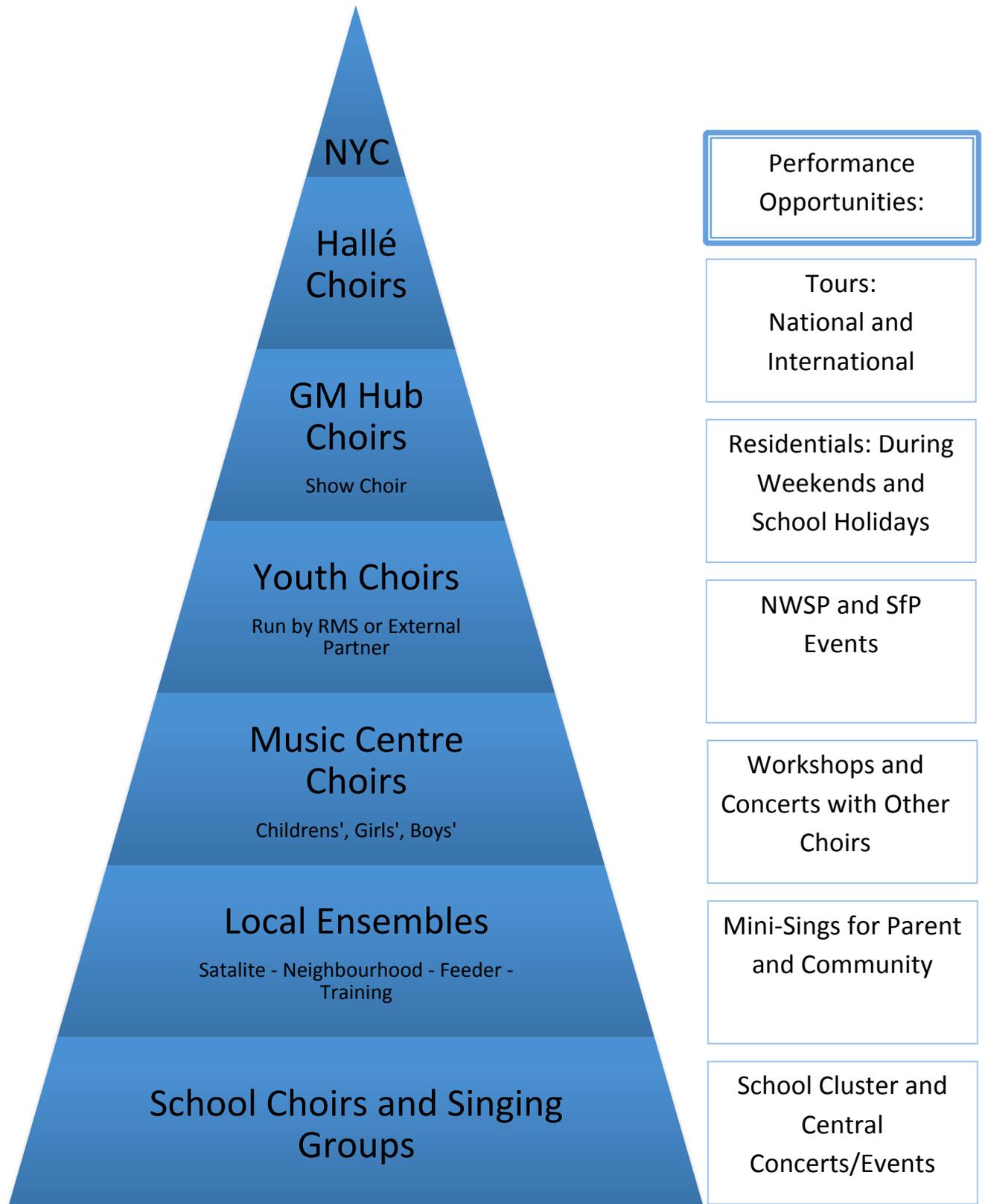
Building on the principals of Total Vocals with Music Unlimited we will work together with the Greater Manchester Music Hub to:

- Encourage the composition of works to support inclusive singing and maintain a list of existing works proven to do so
- Furnish all Greater Manchester Hub partners with a singing leader SEND starter pack
- Establish a SEND/mainstream referral network
- Establish a public first contact point for inclusion information and opportunities within the Greater Manchester Music Hub for potential participants, parents and carers
- Maintain a list of mainstream students willing to act as performers and pastoral team leaders at inclusion events
- Establish universally agreed assessment tools for singers with SEND

Ensemble Progression Pyramid

On the next page, there is a diagrammatic representation of Rochdale Music Service Ensembles Progression Pyramid, articulating possible progression routes for pupils from school choirs to the highest levels. The pyramid shows possible performance opportunities as well as provision for adults in schools and the wider community.

Rochdale Music Service Progression Pyramid



Paths for Progression

Adult Provision.

- Individual tuition
- Music Service Pop Choir
- Music service Day Choir
- Community choirs
- Hallé Choir

KS3+

- Music Service Youth Choir
- Individual tuition.
- School Choirs
- Auditions for GMMH choirs/ NCCGB/ NYCGB.
- GCSE performance
- Community opportunities inc church choirs/ theatre groups
- Large scale vocal events
- Music Service singing events
- Halle Youth Choir
- National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

KS2

- Singing in the classroom and whole school assemblies
- School choirs
- Music service Junior Choir
- Individual/ small group tuition
- Large scale singing events
- Singing through curriculum provision
- Singing through WCIP Provision
- Music Service singing events
- Halle Youth Training Choir
- National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

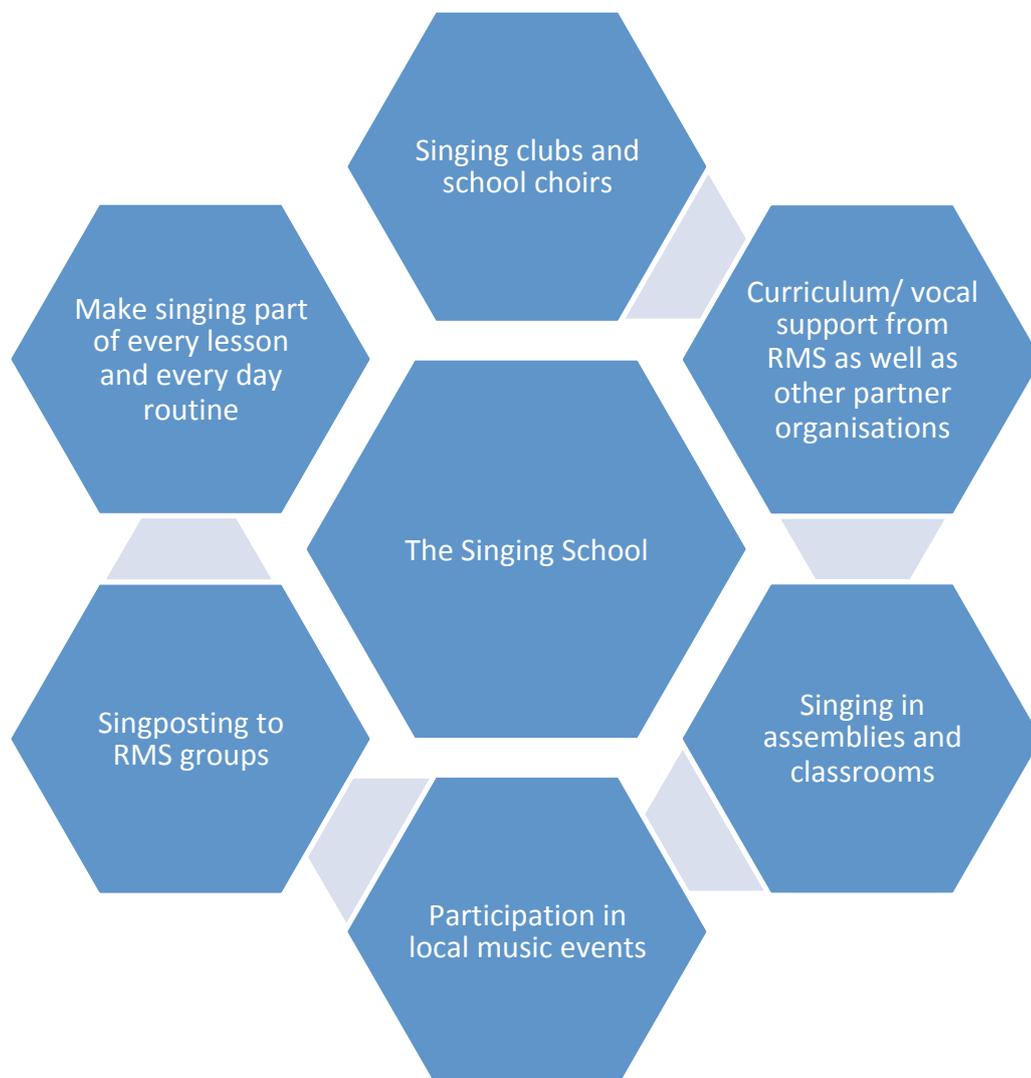
EYFS and KS1

- Whole schools assemblies and singing in the classroom.
- Childrens Choir (RMS)
- EYFS Singing in the Classroom Training
- Singing through curriculum provision
- Singing through WCIP Provision
- Mums and toddler group?
- Music Service singing events
- Hallé Children's Choir

Focus Area: Schools

There are 88 schools including academies and special schools in Rochdale. The challenge is to ensure singing and vocal work is thriving in all schools. That all schools value singing and music making and all pupils have the opportunity to sing regularly and progress to the next level if they wish to.

We have 10 choirs run by our staff in Rochdale schools (at the time of publication). We have also helped to established and develop 7 choirs in schools in Rochdale (at the time of publication) which are run by members of staff in each school and supported by our lead vocal tutor.



Focus Area: Music Centre (Vocal)

There are 8 singing ensembles and groups (at the time of publication) currently in operation within our Music Centre and local hubs spanning many different disciplines, age ranges and genres. Our aim is to promote singing and vocal work and keep our ensembles thriving. We want all pupils with our borough to have access to singing ensembles outside of school, and have the opportunity to sing and perform regularly as well as progressing to the next level if they wish to.



Where Do We Go From Here?

Over the next **two years** the Music Service will create new projects to support schools with their singing strategies and enhance pupil's experiences in singing. These projects include:

Singing Security

The key aims of the Singing Security initiative are:

- To enable all Music Service staff with the tools and resources needed to deliver singing within curriculum, instrumental lessons and whole class instrumental provision
- To ensure all staff are comfortable with resources available
- As a service to collectively believe in the power and use of singing

We will run regular CPD sessions within our own organisation to ensure all staff are equipped with the resources then need to deliver singing within their respective fields. We also wish to promote vocal health and sustainable singing practices to ensure our quality of delivery is to the highest possible standard. We will also discuss suitable repertoire and make sure all staff have access to the resources they need.

Engaging Events

The key aims of the Engaging Events initiative are:

- To run engaging projects and opportunities for children in both primary and secondary schools
- To enable schools to collaborate together
- To enable children to sing with engaging singing leaders, musicians and professionals
- For events to encompass many different themes, styles and genres of music

As a Music Service we aim to run engaging events throughout the academic year building up an exciting calendar of events. These should include annual events taking place at approximately the same time every year as well as new and exciting individual projects. These events should create opportunities for schools to collaborate together and create new memories and experiences for children in the borough. These events will also allow children to have the opportunity to work with professionals in all areas of music including instrumental musicians, composers, librettists etc. The children in our borough will also experience working with seasoned professionals delivering a wide range of styles and genres of music and feed into many aspects of music beyond performance including composition, personal expression, arranging music, music leading and direction and many more.

Over the next **five years** the Music Service hopes to bring the following projects to fruition:

Singing Schools Improved

The key aims of the Improved Singing Schools initiative are:

- To access Rochdale primary schools and help to ensure that they are teaching singing to the highest possible standard
- To help to develop a sustainable, long-term, high quality singing strategy, which is specific to each school's, needs
- To create and develop safe sustainable singing practices and enable appropriate repertoire choices for children
- To identify with schools needs and support them fully

An experienced vocal tutor will visit a school during an active school day to discuss and observe how singing works throughout the school. There will be a short vocal questionnaire prior to the visit. It will begin with a brief meeting with the head teacher and the music coordinator then schools will be invited to demonstrate some of their singing work. This will be followed by a singing session delivered by the vocal tutor (this could be whole school/ KS1/ KS2/ school choir). After the singing session there will be a feedback session with the head teacher and music coordinator. The tutor will then create a report identifying the school's strengths in singing and outlining areas for development with suggestions of ways to achieve this.

Singing All Together

The key aims of the Singing All Together initiative are:

- For every child to have access to a choir either within their school or locally

This will involve an experienced vocal tutor approaching schools and visiting regularly for a term to develop a choir. Each choir will be led by a member of staff put forward by each school to lead their choir. The member of staff will be trained by our vocal team and will gradually take ownership of their choir during the term resulting in independent leadership of the school choir. Our staff will be on hand to support with available resources and to visit the choir regularly if needed. As a Music Service we also will develop the number of choirs and range of genre covered as well as running workshops in local schools to promote our choirs and ensure every child has access to a choir within the borough.

In the next **ten years** the Music Service would like to have worked substantially towards or achieved the following projects:

The Integrated Musical Schools

The key aims of the Integrated Musical Schools initiative are:

- For a school to integrate singing into every aspect of the life of the school
- To have all staff of the schools (including lunchtime assistants, teachers, caretaker, office staff etc.) to use singing as much as they can during every school day
- To give these schools access to free online resources collated and/or composed by Rochdale Music Service
- For singing to be at the centre of every school's life and the power of music be in the hands of every member of staff

In response to the research project carried out by Susan Hallam and Out of the Ark, at Rochdale we wish to respond to this in the following way. Sending an experienced vocal tutor to visit a school to deliver a CPD session to all staff working there (including lunch time assistants, caretakers, office staff, teachers, teaching assistants etc.) The session will include active modelling of repertoire and ideas for when to use singing as well as information on how to access resources. The staff will then take these resources and use singing as much as possible, in every activity, lesson and routine within their school. Where staff may not be comfortable we can employ the use of 'Singing Ambassadors' amongst the children to aid delivery. The music service will monitor online resources for data e.g. how often a song is accessed the time of day it is accessed and, if possible, where in the borough it was accessed. This project may be run as an experiment and in this case will need teachers to fill in a journal as well as regular meetings with their Music Service contact. We hope this project will enhance results across all core subjects and more broadly with personal and social development in students.

Rochdale Music Service Song Source

The key aims of the Song Source initiative are:

- To have a bank of free songs and resources that are available to schools throughout the borough
- To create a completely accessible online resource

We aim to create original works as well as signpost free resources that our schools can easily access online. This would include sheet music, lyrics sheets, backing tracks, vocal tracks and some karaoke software "Words In Time" which can be found on a secret youtube channel accessible to the schools throughout the borough. Creation of these resources involves original composition as well as developing and recording of our children singing the songs. We can utilise the recording studio situated in one of our primary schools as well as the children at that school to create the vocal and backing tracks as well as digital software to simulate the instrumental sounds and "Words In Time" software. Our songs will also help to support all the areas the national curriculum.

Contact Us

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