

Is this really an additional £18m to support music education?

The Government have announced [an additional £18m of funding to support music education](#) during 2015/16. This funding will go direct to music education hubs to help them fulfil their core roles. As Alan Davey says in the press release, this will help them plan with more confidence for the next year or so.

I welcome this additional funding. However, there are a couple of provisos. Firstly, this 'additional' money comes after significant cuts of around 10% every year to music education funding over the last few years. This additional money still means that music education funding is woefully short of where it was when this Government came to office.

Secondly, the spectre of significant reductions in Local Authority funding for music education still remains given the ongoing consultation into the Educational Services Grant. [I wrote about this back in April](#) yet the Government have still given no assurances that music education services will remain a core part of this grant. The potential losses to music education as Local Authorities withdraw their support will make this 'additional' £17m pale into insignificance. As many of us know, across the breadth of our country, music services are shutting or restructuring as their core funding from Local Authorities diminishes year by year.

UPDATE: See [my recent post](#) about another announcement today (22/7/14) through a ministerial statement by David Laws. Local Authorities will retain the right to use ESG funding for music education should they so wish.

You might call me naive, but I think the crux of the argument is this. During the forthcoming election campaign, the

Government can now say they have increased funding for music education (whilst in reality, over the whole term, they have decreased it).

The Government can now also blame Local Authorities for cutting music education funding and still maintain that they have supported it fully through this 'increase' in funding for music education hubs.

As usual, Tories cut and cut, privatise and then blame others when things go wrong. It's pretty cynical but there you go.