**Actions, Attitudes and Expectations 2**

Despite the extended summer with record temperatures as late as October 31st, my hope to write several blogs on the subject of Actions, Attitudes and Expectations over the summer did not materialise.

Over three months since the additional £18m was announced for music education in England for 2015/2016, and with just five months before this money will start to be spent, we still await answers to some of the questions I posed in Actions, Attitudes and Expectations 1. This issue was raised again at the DfE Hub Advisory Group meeting in October and we look forward to announcements soon.

Discussions continue around GCSE and A level with the aim of making the outcome for young people is as good as it can possibly be.

October also saw data returns completed from hubs for the 2013/20145 academic year. I will again be carrying out my ‘Music Service Trends’ research. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MusicServiceTrends20132014> if you wish to participate.

Last week saw over 150 teachers from around the world gathering in Raploch for an excellent International Sistema Teachers’ Conference. Sistema-inspired programmes are social programmes aimed at supporting the child, the family and the whole community through music, but there is much to learn and much to share – in both directions – for those involved in Sistema-inspired work and those who are working in music education. Last week was also the ISM/SMA professional development weekend.

Next week will see the Schools’ Proms and the National Music Council awards – both will celebrate more superb achievements. The week after is the Music Mark conference.

Funding and policy matter. But it is what we in the music education sector ***actually do*** that ultimately counts for the young people. There are many examples of excellent practice to share and opportunities for colleagues to support one another. If we are to realise the potential of music, each and every one of us needs to stand up for quality music education. We must agree what best practice looks like and emulate it, whilst, of course, taking full account of our differing local contexts.