



CFO name: National Youth Choirs of Scotland/NYCOS	Reference number (GMS): G200801004
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Lead officer’s recommendation

Summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and highlighting any specific risks):

The recommendation should clearly reflect the assessment.

The overall assessment is High

- This is an excellent application. As it approaches its 10th anniversary, the company appears to working effectively in all of its operations. It is making a significant contribution to Scottish cultural life in the support and advocacy of singing provision for children and young people at a national level. It continues to aim higher and wider by being open to new policies, opportunities and partnerships.
- Main strengths of its artistic activities are the **pyramid of opportunities** for young people to engage in choral singing at school (YMI) and in local/regional choirs and progress to participating at national level in a variety of NYCOS national choirs. Even at this level, there is still choice for young people to express themselves in choirs most suited to them. All national choirs perform at the highest level expected. The organisation continues to widen opportunities for young people at local level through creation of new choirs or partnership with existing ones.
- Behind the scenes, training support for teachers and choir leaders appears to be effective and empowering for participants to continue with the development of their own work at regional or higher level. Similarly, advocacy at a wide and high level is raising the profile of the organisation and the importance of its work.

Recommendations

- I would recommend that the company remain a CFO. The current grant does not reflect the level of effective work being carried out a national level. I would therefore recommend an increase from 2007-08. Depending on budgets available this is likely to not match the levels requested. There may be, however, some other support for 10th anniversary events that the Music Department could assist with.

Assessment:	High X	Medium	Low
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Areas of concern:

Development issues:

- Consider greater role of equalities in NYCoS' remit
- Consider support for evaluation of management/administration in light of large expansion of work
- Consider a limited term for Board Directors

Lead Officer:

Date: 03 December 2005

Print name: Tamsin Mendelsohn

Stage 2**Decision and authorisation****CFO name: National Youth Choir of Scotland/NYCOS****Reference number (GMS): G200801004****Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem****Category for support****Essential X****Important****Partial**

I am happy to support the positive assessment made by my Lead Officer on NYCOS. Together with NYOS, it is an essential organisation which, in its short history has evolved and grown into one of the prime bodies in the national youth music sector and has fully embraced the YMI programme, directly benefiting as a result. NYCOS has established a new code of excellence for delivering singing-led programmes of work throughout Scotland, which have been singularly beneficial to both individual and group participant. NYCOS has also lead many local authorities from a position where singing was rarely considered as a curriculum enhancing activity (even in standard and higher still music, where it can be a major contributory part of the final assessment) to a position where many of the same authorities now put singing down as one of their core activities of which they are respectively most proud in terms of participation and achievement. This is almost entirely due to the intervention of NYCOS and their interaction with the YMI programme. I have no hesitation in recommending and assessing NYCOS as an essential organisation under all three scenarios and not only worthy of our continuing support, but must be considered for increased support in the future.

Decision authorised:

Head of Department
Print name: **Ian Smith**

Date: 5/12/05

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario**CFO name: National Youth Choir of Scotland/NYCOS****Reference number (GMS): G200801004**

Category for support	Foundation		
<p>NYCOS, like its longer established colleague NYOS is an exemplary organisation that has benefited greatly from the introduction of YMI. They have highlighted the need for singing tuition and provision to be provided throughout Scotland and have engaged fully with all 32 local authorities as a result. Their governance and administration is strong and we look forward to supporting their continued growth as an essential foundation based organisation.</p>			
<p>Recommendation authorised:</p> <p>Head of Music Department: Ian Smith</p>		<p>Date: 15/2/06</p>	

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: National Youth Choir of Scotland/NYCOS		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
<p>Agree with the recommendation for Foundation funding status from 07/08 at an increased level and would encourage, through the lead officer, the opportunities for national youth arts agencies to work in tandem.</p>			
<p>Decision authorised:</p> <p>Group Head Print name: Jim Tough</p>		<p>Date 14.02.06</p>	<p>By 14 February 2006</p>

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			

CFO name: National Youth Choir of Scotland/NYCOS		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
Agreed as per Manager/Group Heads recommendation.			
Committee Chair Print name: Jennifer Waterton		Date 06 February 2006	

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: National Youth Choir of Scotland/NYCOS		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
Approved Foundation funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendation			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment