

MUSIC ON SEA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

Welcome to the Music on Sea (MOS) June newsletter! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find:

- An Update from Kitt Garner
- Key Updates
- Project, Performance and CPD Opportunities
- Sharing Successes
- Safeguarding
- Greater Essex Music Hub (GEMH) Update
- Key Contacts

An Update from Kitt Garner

One of the standout highlights last month was the fantastic success of our 'Amplify' event at The Fickle Pickle Club. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for students involved in our Rock School programme at Southend Music Centre, alongside a number of school-based bands, to perform in a professional live music venue. For many, it was their first experience of playing on a fully equipped stage, and they rose brilliantly to the occasion, delivering confident and high-energy sets.

We extend a huge thank you to Ted Groves for his hard work organising this opportunity. Events like this are crucial in inspiring our young musicians and giving them real-world performance experiences, and we're excited to build on the success of Amplify and continue it next year.

As we move towards the end of the academic year, there are still plenty of opportunities ahead for students to get involved, perform, and celebrate their progress. From concerts and showcases to collaborative projects, it's shaping up to be a vibrant finish to what has been a very productive and rewarding year.

Kitt Garner, Lead Officer for the Music Service

Key Updates

MOS Tutor Training with SpeedAdmin

The MOS tutor training session delivered by Lee Carter from SpeedAdmin at the Civic Centre proved to be a successful and energising event. Tutors engaged enthusiastically with the platform, gaining hands-on experience in key functions such as attendance tracking, communication tools, and timetable management. The interactive format encouraged questions and collaboration, ensuring that all attendees left with increased confidence in navigating SpeedAdmin and understanding how it can streamline their day-to-day work.

The training marked a key step forward in embedding SpeedAdmin across the service. With tutors now better equipped to use the system effectively, the session has laid strong foundations for more consistent communication, improved data management, and enhanced support for our learners. The success of this event highlights the value of continued professional development and collaboration as we move forward as a music service.

Project, Performance and CPD Opportunities

Greater Essex Music Hub Curriculum Conference 2026 - Thursday 9 July 2026, Hylands House, Chelmsford

This full-day conference offers high-quality CPD focused on strengthening music provision across all key stages. The programme includes:

- A keynote exploring the national picture for music education
- Practical classroom strategies from EYFS through to KS5
- Sessions on inclusion, SEND and music technology
- Singing, composing and performance workshops
- Opportunities to engage with Music Hub partners and plan provision

Delegates can tailor their own programme across the day, ensuring relevance to their role and setting. For more information, see here: <https://www.greateressexmusic hub.org.uk/site/greater-essex-music-hub-curriculum-conference-2026/>

Bursary Opportunities for Young Musicians

Southend Choirs is delighted to announce that applications are now open for the annual music bursary scheme, operated on behalf of two former charities: the ESU and the Birn Young Musician of the Year. These awards are designed to support the next generation of talented musicians in our community.

The scheme offers two bursaries at £500 and £250 and is open to young musicians up to age 25. Applicants must either be currently studying music at a higher education institution or be in Year 13 and planning to begin a music degree the following September. To be eligible, applicants must live or study in Southend, Castle Point or Rochford.

We encourage all young musicians in the areas to consider applying - contact southendchoirs@gmail.com for more information.



Sharing Successes

SEND Information Day at the Civic Centre

This inspiring event brought together families, practitioners and partners to share and celebrate the support available for children and young people with SEND.

At the event, Music on Sea highlighted our new specialist Nurture Group provision, alongside our Whole Class Instrumental Programme, including our inclusion-focused 'Headstart' approach. This model is designed to ensure that all young people - particularly those who may need additional support - can access high-quality music-making from the very start of their journey.

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with families and professionals, and we were proud to highlight the role music can play in developing confidence, communication, creativity, and broader life skills, particularly for those with additional needs. We look forward to continuing these conversations and working closely with partners, to further promote inclusive music opportunities across Southend.

Safeguarding

A Letter of Assurance to cover MOS staff and tutors is issued to all schools and educational settings (compliance with safer recruitment, vetting, and statutory safeguarding checks). The letter can be found here: [Education | Safeguarding Southend Partnership](#)

Our full safeguarding procedures are detailed in the Greater Essex Music Hub Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy, which outlines our responsibilities, reporting processes, and the measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every child we work with.

The policy can be accessed here: [Greater Essex Music Hub Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy](#).

Safeguarding Contacts

DBS Update Service: 0300 020 0190 / customerservices@dbb.gov.uk

MASH+ Children's Social Care, Southend-on-Sea City Council: 01702 215007 or 0345 606 1212 (out of hours for urgent referrals) / fct@southend.gov.uk

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): lado@southend.gov.uk

Safeguarding Advisor: Sharon Langston 01702 534591 / safeguardingforchildren@southend.gov.uk

Greater Essex Music Hub (GEMH) Update

Free Youth Vocal Day - Sunday 5th July 2026, FitzWimarc School, Rayleigh

Essex Music Service is offering a free Youth Vocal Day in Rayleigh, providing an exciting opportunity for young singers aged between 8-18 to develop their skills.

This event is designed to:

- Inspire and engage young vocalists
- Provide opportunities to sing collaboratively



- Build confidence and musicianship in a supportive environment

We strongly encourage schools to promote this to students with an interest in singing, particularly those who may benefit from enrichment opportunities outside the classroom. Over 90 students have signed up so far for what promises to be an amazing day. For more details of how to get involved, see: <https://www.essexmusicservice.org.uk/site/join-our-free-youth-vocal-day-in-rayleigh/>

More can be found here: [Home - Greater Essex Music Hub](#)

Key Contacts

Your first point of contact is Ted Groves at musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.

Who Do I Contact If I Have a Question?

I have a safeguarding concern/disclosure	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I'd like to request music provision	Ted Groves	musiconsea@southend.gov.uk
I have a challenge with a tutor	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I have a challenge with a provider/partner	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I'd like to discuss a sensitive matter	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I have a query about an SLA/agreement	Ted Groves	musiconsea@southend.gov.uk

The Music on Sea Team

Kitt Garner	Music Service Lead Officer & Designated Safeguarding Lead
Edward (Ted) Groves	Music Service Support Officer
Julie Hollingsworth	Senior Advisor and Manager for the Service
Amanda Champ	Head of Performance, Partnerships & Safeguarding