

‘Giving children and young people a sporting chance: A draft Strategy for Scotland’

Introduction

The importance of being physically active is widely understood and our vision is for Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up actively.

With over two thirds (70%) of children aged 2-15 meeting the recommended levels of physical activity, we should rightly celebrate and take confidence from the fact that Scotland is doing well in battling the global challenge of physical inactivity.

However, we want all children and young people to enjoy the benefits of an active life and we know the benefits are many: better health, greater wellbeing, opportunities to develop skills, confidence and for many, the opportunities to make and grow friendships at every age.

We recognise that sport is only one way in which we can support children and young people to grow up actively and that sport sits alongside play, dance, active travel and active living as one part of an active life. But sport is rightly in the spotlight at this unique time. Hosting the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup in 2014 gives Scotland the opportunity to inspire and motivate our young people to get involved, including those with disabilities and the most disadvantaged in our society.

That is why we have committed to develop Scotland's first Strategy for youth sport.

Purpose of Consultation

Fundamentally we want this Strategy to not only be **for** children and young people but be developed **by** children and young people. The Young People's Sport Panel (the YPS Panel) was established in 2012 as a national platform to represent the voice of young people across Scotland, and to help influence and shape the future of sport in Scotland. It made sense to start this Strategy by asking the YPS Panel for their views on what a Youth Sport Strategy should say.

They told us that what children and young people want are opportunities that ignite and excite them to get involved and stay involved. Simply put they said – **give us great opportunities, supported by great people, delivered in great places and help us to give what we do a higher profile.**

The attached draft Strategy "Giving Children and Young People a Sporting Chance – A Strategy for Scotland" sets out how we think these opportunities can be provided.

This consultation now seeks the views of children and young people and a range of others who are involved in youth sports including parents and coaches, volunteers and delivery bodies on the vision and content of the draft Strategy.

Questions

Please look at the questions on the following pages and respond with your views.

Vision

The draft Strategy sets the following vision: “We want Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up actively”

1. Is this the right vision for Scotland?
2. Does the draft Strategy provide the right framework to achieve this vision?
3. How does/could you/your organisation contribute towards achieving the vision?

Great opportunities

Young people told us that they want opportunities to be involved in sport in a range of ways: opportunities to learn; opportunities to have a go; opportunities to develop; opportunities to take part in events and competitions; opportunities to lead; and opportunities to celebrate sport and attend significant sporting events.

4. How can we build on the existing opportunities?
5. Are there other opportunities which should be considered to encourage children and young people to participate in sport?

Great people

We agree with young people that to achieve our vision we need to develop and support leaders and workers who are committed, capable and confident.

6. How can we build on what we already do to develop and support leaders and workers to provide high quality experiences for children and young people?
7. Are there sufficient opportunities for leaders and workers to develop the right skills?
8. How can more people be encouraged to become leaders and workers?

Great places

We agree with young people that as well as great people we need great places to be active. We aim to ensure that children and young people have a more accessible network of places where they can take part in sport and physical activity and that those places better meet their needs and expectations.

9. How can we build on the current use of facilities in schools and communities and ensure they are welcoming environments for children and young people?
10. Are there any areas where improvements could be made to encourage children and young people to participate in sport?

Higher profile

The final ingredient to achieving success is ensuring that the talents and success of young people will be celebrated and communicated. We should see, hear and read more about children and young people's sport in their communities and about people who have come from their communities who now compete on the world stage.

11. Do you hear or read enough about sport and sporting opportunities for children and young people in your local community?
12. How can the profile of youth sport be improved locally and nationally?

General

13. Please give any additional views you have on any aspect of the draft Strategy.
14. We would welcome your views on how sport can be made inclusive for all children and young people (see the Annex A – Equality Impact Assessment).
15. We would also welcome your views regarding the impact that the draft Strategy may have on business or the third sector (see Annex B - Business Regulatory Impact Assessment).

Responding to this consultation

We are inviting written responses to this consultation by 2 March 2014. **Please send your response with the completed Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) to:**

YouthSportStrategyConsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; or

Youth Sport Strategy Consultation
Sport and Physical Activity Team
2E South
Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

If you have any queries contact Ashley Allen on 0131 244 0903.

We would be grateful if you would use the **consultation questionnaire** provided as this will aid our analysis of the responses received.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>.

The Scottish Government has an email alert system for consultations, <http://register.scotland.gov.uk>. This system allows stakeholder individuals and

organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new consultations (including web links). It complements, but in no way replaces Scottish Government distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all Scottish Government consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

Handling your response

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** which forms part of the **consultation questionnaire** as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

Alternative formats and community languages

If you require a copy of this paper in an alternative format or different language please contact YouthSportStrategyConsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or contact the Sport and Physical Activity Team at the address above.

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public in the Scottish Government Library (see the attached Respondent Information Form), these will be made available to the public in the Scottish Government Library by 28 March 2014. You can make arrangements to view responses by contacting the Scottish Government Library on 0131 244 4552. Responses can be copied and sent to you, but a charge may be made for this service.

What happens next ?

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us finalise the draft Strategy.

We expect to publish the final Strategy and Action Plan in spring 2014.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact details above.

Equality Impact Assessment

The public sector equality duties require the Scottish Government to pay "due regard" to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, victimisation, harassment or other unlawful conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic

These three requirements apply across the "protected characteristics" of age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex and sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership.

In effect, this means that equality considerations are integrated into all functions and policies of Scottish Government Directorates and Agencies.

A key part of these duties is to assess the impact of all of our policies to ensure that the Scottish Government do not inadvertently create a negative impact for equality groups, and also to ensure that the Scottish Government actively seek the opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

As part of our consultation process, and as we work towards publishing the final Strategy in spring 2014, the Scottish Government will seek the views of children and young people, as well as a range of relevant stakeholders on how sport can be made inclusive for all sectors of the population. This will contribute towards the development of an Equality Impact Assessment.

More generally, the Scottish Government welcomes your feedback regarding the equalities impact of this draft Strategy, and the effect they may have on different sectors of the population.

Business Regulatory Impact Assessment

The Scottish Government is committed to consulting with all parties potentially affected by proposals for new legislation, or where any regulation is being changed significantly. All policy changes, whether European or domestic, which may have an impact upon business or the third sector should be accompanied by a Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA).

The BRIA helps policy makers to use available evidence to find proposals that best achieve the policy objectives, whilst minimising costs and burdens. Through consultation and engagement with business, the costs and benefits of the proposed legislation can be analysed. It also ensures that any impact on business or the third sector, particularly small enterprises, is fully considered before regulations are made.

As part of our consultation process, and as we work towards publishing the final Strategy in spring 2014, the Scottish Government will seek views on the impacts of the proposals in the draft Strategy on business or the third sector which will inform the development of a BRIA.

More generally, the Scottish Government welcomes your views regarding the impact that the draft Strategy may have on businesses or the third sector.



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