

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

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**Our vision:**

**We want Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up actively.**

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## Foreword



The importance of being physically active is widely understood and we know from evidence that the skills and confidence formed in youth are an important foundation for an active life. That is why throughout Scotland we have invested considerable resource in supporting services that encourage physical activity in early years, school, further and higher education and within the community. This investment has taken many forms from supporting the infrastructure of cycle paths and swimming pools to increasing the opportunities for young people to engage in physical education, physical activity and sport. This is delivering real results and we want to build on it and do even more.

We know that sport is only one part of an active life for children and young people. But now, on the eve of 2014 – when we will see the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup in Scotland as well as the Winter Olympics in Sochi – there is no better time to celebrate what we are doing for youth sport and consider what more could be done.

At the heart of this draft Strategy is what the Young People's Sport Panel told us they wanted. Their contribution has shaped our approach and thinking. We appreciate that there are many organisations and individuals who have an important role to play in supporting the development of youth sport. That is why we have developed this document with a working group<sup>1</sup> and published it as a draft Strategy, with a final Strategy and Action Plan to be published after consultation in the spring of 2014. We have worked particularly closely with COSLA and will continue to do so in the development of the final Strategy and Action Plan.

The consultation process will provide us with an opportunity to engage with even more children, young people and a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that our final Strategy delivers what young people need, whether they are active or inactive, sporty or not. We want this Strategy to be for all young people.

We know the power of sport to deliver better health and wellbeing for young people. But young people want the value of sport to be recognised in other ways which they value: opportunities to learn skills and develop experience that can help them gain work, a context in which they can grow their confidence and sense of self-worth, and importantly for many young people, a 'time-out' to enjoy being with others and having fun.

We believe this draft Strategy offers a fresh perspective on youth sport and we are delighted to consult on this and look forward to hearing everyone's views in order to shape the future of youth sport for the next 10 years.



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<sup>1</sup> The working group consisted of representatives from the Scottish Government, the Young People's Sport Panel, **sportscotland**, Education Scotland, ADES, COSLA, VOCAL, the Scottish Sports Association, Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Student Sport, Youth Scotland, Young Scot, and the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People.

## Context

### Why have a strategy?

Our vision is for Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up actively. With over two thirds (70 per cent) of children aged 2-15 meeting the recommended levels of physical activity<sup>2</sup>, 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 well-being, opportunities to develop skills, confidence, and for many, the opportunities to make and build friendships at every age. Equally important is the right to enjoy the simple pleasure of having fun!

We know that increasing physical activity levels will take a concerted effort from across government and our partners. It is important that we strengthen and grow the successful work we have already done together across play, education, active travel and dance to support children and young people and ensure they lead an active life. Scotland's first ever national Physical Activity Implementation Plan will be launched by the end of 2013. The plan will link directly to the government's legacy ambitions for the Glasgow 2104 Commonwealth Games and will cover a number of key outcomes including: that all places of learning in Scotland will promote increased physical activity; and a commitment to better designed environments that encourage physical activity and which prioritises children and students using active travel to places of learning.

In publishing this draft Strategy, we are focussing on sport as one specific element of the joined-up effort on physical activity. 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 (walking, scooting and cycling) 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 young people and attract a new generation of sporting participants including those with disabilities and the most disadvantaged in our society.

But that is not the only reason we are focussing on sport. Just as we are learning about the risks of being sedentary for long periods of time, we are also learning about the benefits of more vigorous activity that develops our physical strength – the kind that is often delivered through sport and through training related to sport. We also know that the skills and confidence to enjoy taking part in this kind of activity are easiest to develop at a younger age.

We recognise that knowledge, expertise and responsibilities for sport are distributed across a wide range of stakeholders such as Local Authorities (sometimes through Leisure Trusts), schools, universities and colleges, Scottish Governing Bodies of sports, clubs and voluntary and community organisations. A key aspect of this draft Strategy is to recognise their existing contribution and support their continued efforts.

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<sup>2</sup> The physical activity guidelines are available at <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/physical-activity-guidelines-for-young-people.aspx> and a summary of key finding from the Scottish Health Survey at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/09/4693>

## What do young people think?

Fundamentally, this should be a Strategy for young people. It was therefore important that they were the first to be consulted. 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 by asking the YPS Panel for their views on what a Strategy should say.

What the YPS Panel told us quite clearly was that they want only the best for children and young people in Scotland. They want opportunities that ignite and excite them to get involved and stay involved.

They don't want a focus on projects, initiatives and one-offs – they want sustained vibrant services and opportunities that offer them choices that are relevant to their needs as they grow up. One young person described their desire to see the Strategy as a tree with long roots, many branches and a long life. They also want children and young people's sport promoted and celebrated when they are successful.

Their needs can be simply summarised as – give us great opportunities, supported by great people, delivered in great places and help us to give what we do a higher profile.

The following sections of the draft Strategy are therefore shaped around the YPS Panel's ask.

# **Great Opportunities**

**Providing opportunities for children  
and young people to be active**



## What the Young People's Sport Panel told us

The YPS Panel told us that they want opportunities to be involved in sport in a range of ways. They also want to have opportunities at school as well as out of school, in clubs, groups and informally with their friends and family. The diagram below illustrates this.



## Opportunities to learn

The National Play Strategy and the related Action Plan<sup>3</sup> highlight the crucial role of play in Scotland's social, economic and environmental wellbeing, with the early years of life setting the pattern for children's future development.

School provides the setting to build on the early foundations of play. Once children learn to move with competence and confidence, demonstrating a range of movement qualities, they are able to access a world of opportunities to be active. Schools are best placed to develop pathways from structured school sport to local club sport.

High quality physical education (PE) should inspire and challenge children and young people to enjoy movement, to develop positive attitudes both individually and as part of a group, and to enhance their quality of life through active living. Therefore, it is critical that all children and young people have access to high quality learning and teaching. Education Scotland's strategic objective to promote this has focussed on working with a wide range of practitioners across all education sectors on the quality of the learning experience in PE.

This explains why we reaffirmed our commitment to PE and by 2014 will deliver at least two hours of PE in primary schools and at least two periods of PE in secondary schools for pupils in S1-S4. In order to support this, £5.8 million has been made available over 2012-13 to 2013-14 to add to the significant resource already invested by Local Authorities and schools. The Healthy Living Survey results from 2013 showed that 89 per cent of all schools were meeting this target, up from 85 per cent in 2012 and less than 10 per cent in 2004-05.

- Education Scotland and **sportscotland** will provide continued investment of **£5.8 million over 2014-15 to 2015-16** to support schools to deliver high quality learning experiences in PE . This funding will assist Local Authorities in maintaining the quantity, and continuing to improve the quality, of PE provision in schools, ensuring that all children and young people have the opportunity to develop the fundamental competencies and skills necessary to participate in a wide range of physical activity and sport.

In addition to high quality PE, we believe that learning to swim and learning to cycle are fundamental skills for life. Since 2010, we have invested £1.2 million in the Swimming Top Up Programme which aims to improve the opportunities for school aged children to learn to swim and contribute to increasing the number of children who can swim, giving them new skills for safety, fitness, health and fun. In 2012-13 Swimming Top Up initiatives resulted in at least 3,700 children receiving support and at least 1,300 achieving the swimming standard as a result. This additional support combined with the long standing commitment of Local Authorities to support learn to swim activity is a vital component of our approach to youth sport.

On-road cycle training has also been supported through the Bikeability Scotland training programme, the delivery of which is coordinated by Cycling Scotland with funding from Transport Scotland. This training develops both the skills and confidence to cycle and is delivered through a network of 2,000 volunteer cycle training assistants, which we hope to

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<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/5675> and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/10/9424/2> respectively.

double over the next 3 years. Bikeability Scotland levels 1, 2 and 3 offer different skills from balance and simple bike control in the playground to planning and negotiating commuter routes to and from school.

Currently 37 per cent of eligible children receive on road training, though this varies significantly across Local Authorities. Cycling Scotland aim to increase this figure to 40 per cent by 2016<sup>4</sup>.

## Opportunities to have a go

We know that a young person's first experiences in sport are an important part of their future development. A range of opportunities to try out sports are delivered through Active Schools, programmes and classes provided by Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts, and through the voluntary sector landscape of youth and community organisations. Research tells us that the number of different sports a young person has participated in influences the likelihood of them doing any sport in later life. The choice to simply 'have a go' at as many as possible is therefore important. There are a range of ways in which these opportunities to have a go are currently delivered.

The Active School network of managers and coordinators work across Scotland specifically to provide more and higher quality opportunities for all children and young people to participate in sport before, during and after school. The team works to increase the number of opportunities available to children and young people by recruiting volunteers and building partnerships with clubs and other community organisations to create a pathway for pupils to develop and grow their interest in sport beyond school. In the 2012-13 academic year, the Active Schools programme provided 270,000 Activity Sessions in a range of over 100 different sports/activities.

The opportunities to have a go at sport in higher and further institutions are also significant and we would like to see that develop further. In 2010-11 there were a total of 3.15 million visits to sports facilities in Further and Higher Education campuses and 45,000 students were members of the sports facilities on their campus.

These opportunities are the tip of a large iceberg, with many, many more sports specific and generic opportunities available. We also know that the environment on young people's doorsteps provides important spaces and places for casual and unstructured sport experience and this is addressed in a later section.

Some programmes, such as Active Girls, recognise the imperative to make sure that sport truly is for all. We recognise that for some children and young people existing provision may not adequately meet their needs and we want to do more to understand and address this. Some of this can be tackled through better education and continuing professional development for those working with children and young people and some of this may require specific programmes that reach young people in ways that better suit their particular needs.

The Co-operative Young Volunteer Programme delivered by Street Games in partnership with Youth Scotland, focuses on encouraging young people to be involved in and support

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<sup>4</sup> See the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland, available at: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/cycling-action-plan-2013>

the development of community, doorstep sport in their youth groups and clubs. The programme provides young people with opportunities, training and residential experiences to support and develop them to be confident volunteers. It also provides training and resources for volunteer managers to ensure they provide the young people with the best support. Through the partnership with Youth Scotland there are ten groups currently part of the programme in Scotland.

Again this is only an example of ongoing work that is specifically designed to support young people whose needs may make accessing mainstream provision less possible or enjoyable for them. Programmes such as Street Soccer, Jump2it and Active East are other examples of programmes addressing the specific needs of young people. **It is important that Local Authorities (and Trusts) work with sportscotland and agencies which deliver youth work approaches to** coordinate and make effective use of available funds in **engaging young people who do not engage with mainstream provision** in targeted sport and physical activity programmes.

We believe that the infrastructure for young people to have a go at sport is strong and needs to be sustained in order to grow and develop even further. We do however want to have a closer look at whether we are doing all we can to ensure that existing opportunities are inclusive and engaging for all young people. Specifically we want to make sure that Community Sport Hubs are effective in including young people from their communities in their community-led approach.

- Further opportunities will be explored to **grow and support the sport for development sector** to achieve positive outcomes and social change.
- **sportscotland** will work with the **Robertson Trust** to **develop and support stronger youth work approaches in Community Sport Hubs** ensuring that Hubs reach out to all young people in their local communities.

## Opportunities to develop

As young people develop an interest in sport, we want to ensure there are a range of opportunities which motivate and support them to reach their fullest potential. For some young people, this may be a school environment such as the 25 Scottish FA Schools of Football supporting around 800 young people or the 26 schools delivering Scottish Rugby's Schools of Rugby initiative to 500 pupils (an initiative now exported internationally), both supported through the CashBack for Communities Programme. For many more young people, the opportunity to develop their interest is likely to be in a local sports club.

The Government's CashBack for Communities Programme has invested some £24 million on sporting activities and facilities projects since its inception in 2007, and has contributed to the overall programme funding of 1.1 million activities and opportunities for young people.

Projects range from diversionary work to longer-term and potentially life-changing intervention projects, which aim to turn an individual's life around and provide them with the opportunity of a positive destination such as employment, education, or volunteering. For example, the Twilight Basketball and Jump2it projects aim to stimulate positive behavioural and attitudinal change in young people from disadvantaged communities,

through the provision of sport, recreation and learning opportunities whilst the Scottish FA, through its involvement in the CashBack programme, is working to enhance opportunities for girls to participate in sport and address issues related to physical activity, health and wellbeing, obesity, diabetes and mental health.

Clubs are the mainstay of opportunities to develop an interest in sport and the estimate is that there are around 13,000 of them in Scotland. They are the places where time can be spent practising and playing with the support of coaches and leaders. They are also where a sense of belonging and interest in the wider aspects of the sport can be nurtured – volunteering, leading and learning to organise sport for others. These opportunities to lead are important outcomes for young people beyond the health benefits of being physically active.

Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport (SGBs) have a major role to play in supporting their clubs to create the right climate and opportunities for young people. This means offering a welcoming transition from the places where young people may have developed their interest. **sportscotland** has recently announced a package of £10 million to support clubs and SGBs to allow them to increase the opportunities for people to join sports clubs. It is clear that for most sports, that growth will come from offering high quality opportunities for young people.

Community Sport Hubs (CSHs) add to that opportunity by providing a home for clubs and a heart for sport in a community. The target to have 50 per cent of CSHs on school sites is a specific recognition of the vital role that CSHs have in nurturing opportunities for young people to develop their interest in sport. All 32 Local Authorities have approved plans for CSHs and of 114 being developed, 60 per cent are around a school. This ensures that facilities within schools are available outwith the school day, increasing the number of places young people can go to access sports clubs throughout Scotland. However, with 2,596 schools in Scotland there is a real opportunity to extend this further.

- We know the school Community Sport Hubs model works and **we will work to sustain and improve the existing school-based hubs and to grow more**, with an aim of reaching a position where every secondary school which wishes to can either have access to or be a Community Sport Hub.

For some young people, their level of interest and commitment to train can quickly develop into a talent for sport and a desire to compete at a high level. We also want to ensure that our performance sport infrastructure provides the best possible support to talented young athletes so they can achieve success on the world stage and progress into the adult performance sport environment where possible.

The **sportscotland** Institute of sport, **sportscotland** institute network, and Scottish and British squads for young people all provide consistent quality support and training. These opportunities are enhanced with additional specific initiatives such as Glasgow School of Sport at Bellahouston Academy, where 130 pupils study across five sports specialisms: athletics, badminton, gymnastics, hockey and swimming. Pupils receive coaching from one of the best high performance coaching teams in the country. The coaches have competed or coached at a national level in their sport and many have received top coaching awards.

The important role that universities play in relation to performance sport is illustrated by the 2011 audit of sports provision in Scottish colleges and universities. This shows that

87 per cent of universities in Scotland provide support to student performance athletes. This includes scholarships and bursaries, access to facilities, high performance expertise such as physiotherapy and physical conditioning, and administrative support. It also showed that 652 students were in receipt of a sports scholarship/bursary and 53 per cent of universities work with the **sportscotland** institute of sport and 67 per cent work with the **sportscotland** institute network.

## Opportunities to take part in events and competitions

All young people should have the opportunity to take part in events and competitions appropriate to their age, ability and interests. There are already a significant range of national and international age group competitions for young people who are competing at a high level. There are also opportunities to take part in competitions of a significant size and scale such as the Sainsbury's School Games and the Commonwealth Youth Games. These games provide an opportunity for Scotland's young athletes to test themselves against the best and to gain experience of participating in a multi-sport event in high-quality venues. Last year's School Games were used as a test event immediately before the London Olympics and Paralympics and saw participation of 1,600 athletes and 35,000 spectators.

In the Commonwealth Youth Games, 47 Scottish athletes from a total of 200 have progressed from the youth to the senior Commonwealth Games Team, with 11 going on to win a total of 18 medals for Scotland. This demonstrates the critical importance of youth competition as part of the performance sport pathway.

However, the opportunity to take part in competition that is available to young people within schools and between schools and at a local and regional level is currently inconsistent. This means that many young people may never experience competition while others' first experience could be at a significant and high level event. It is important that we address this and support young people to have more and better experiences of appropriate and well-organised competitions.

- **sportscotland** is currently **piloting the delivery of intra and inter school sport competition** with eight Local Authorities, and across Tayside and Fife Region. We want to **learn from this and roll out the lessons**.

## Opportunities to lead

Young people are at the heart of this draft Strategy. We have the utmost confidence in their ability to lead, motivate and inspire other young people to participate in sport and we have been inspired by their leadership. Increasingly, these opportunities are a critical part of a young person's journey towards employment: learning the skills of organisation and planning, building and supporting teams, dealing with challenges and setbacks and managing resources.

The importance of putting young people at the heart of decision-making explains why **sportscotland** and Young Scot created the YPS Panel. This Panel is a group of 16 young Scots aged 14-25 selected to give a voice to young people across Scotland. The YPS Panel works individually and collectively to influence and shape the future of sport in Scotland and to raise the profile of sport in Scotland.

But beyond national influence, it is important that young people shape the delivery of opportunities locally. Active Girls is a good example of this where participation in PE, sport and physical activity for girls and young women is achieved through the direct influence of young women on the type and way activity is delivered. As a direct result of these young women's leadership and influence, one element of this programme has reported 60 per cent of girls taking part in a physical activity they had not done before and 37 per cent taking part in physical activity outside of schools as a result of trying it in school.

We think we should support and encourage even more opportunities for children and young people to play leadership roles in sport.

- **sportscotland** will work to **ensure that every Community Sport Hub has young people as an integral part** of their management team.

We also recognise that young people are important peer leaders and can inspire and motivate the young people around them. Programmes such as Youth Legacy Ambassadors, Young Ambassadors and Lead 2014 involve over 1,000 young people across the whole of Scotland. There are currently over 600 Young Ambassadors across Scotland covering 90 per cent of schools across the 32 Local Authorities. There are also 126 Young Scot Youth Legacy Ambassadors across 30 Local Authorities who are championing the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games to other young people and their local community, helping to promote the benefits major sporting events can bring. The programmes all contribute to ensuring that young people make the most of the opportunities of 2014 by getting involved in local and national events and opportunities – many of them led and delivered by young people.

Young people are also a significant part of the workforce that delivers sport. Over 3,500 young people deliver activity in the context of Active Schools and there are many more volunteering on a regular basis to lead sport in clubs and communities. In 2012-13 alone, 5,310 young people completed the Sports Leaders UK qualification, a key component of which is their active participation in sports leadership in their community. Since November 2011, 2,500 young people have received funding to undertake a level 1 coaching qualification (the first level of recognition of coaching competence).

For organisations who want to develop youth work skills to enable them to better reach out to young people, there is the Youth Work in Sport Initiative, a partnership programme between The Robertson Trust, The Rank Foundation and YMCA George Williams College. Through the initiative, community sports organisations receive funding to employ a young person as a Trainee Youth Worker, who will develop relationships with young people within their community using sport while also studying for formal youth work qualifications, up to degree level, through the College's distance learning programme.

With the sport sector in Scotland accounting for 2 per cent of employment (46,300 full time equivalent jobs), and seeing significant growth in the past decade, it is vital that we recognise the important training role that many of these volunteering and training opportunities provide and encourage and support our young people to access these.

The Scottish Government has established a £5 million Legacy 2014 Young Persons' Fund which will give up to 2,500 young people the opportunity to gain employment and experience in the major events that Scotland will host in the years to come. The first part of

this has been up and running since 1 April 2012 and will provide a cash incentive of £1,500 to assist 1,550 employers with fewer than 150 employees who want to recruit Modern Apprentices.

## Opportunities to celebrate sport and attend significant sporting events

The YPS Panel made a clear case for the value of young people being supported to attend major sporting events. The opportunities that surrounded the London 2012 Torch Relay kindled a significant interest and appetite to participate in large scale celebrations of sport. The excitement generated by the scale and the significance of the event demonstrated that people want to connect with and be part of a celebration, on and off the field of play.

The Queen's Baton Relay in 2014 will deliver a major opportunity for young people across Scotland to connect with the 2014 celebrations in a range of ways. The ClubGolf initiative already delivers a significant range and number of opportunities for children and young people to have the best possible experience whilst attending golfing events in Scotland and this will continue with the Ryder Cup in September 2014. We wish to see more of these opportunities for our young people to see and be part of major sporting events, providing excitement, inspiration and lasting memories of significant moments in Scotland's sporting history.



# **Great People**

**Developing and supporting leaders  
and workers who are committed,  
capable and confident**

We agree with the YPS Panel that we need to develop and support **leaders and workers who are committed, capable and confident**. Our aim is to ensure that children and young people are supported by a range of people who are competent at the level they need, who can keep them safe, whilst working on the right kind of activities and in the right places.

Day in, day out and week after week there are vast numbers of teachers, volunteers, parents and coaches who give their time, energy and commitment to encourage children and young people to enjoy sport, have fun and keep active. In Active Schools alone there are 19,000 deliverers, 16,000 of whom are volunteers.

We want to ensure that this sizable workforce delivering sport in schools, clubs and community environments, have appropriate support, training and development opportunities to ensure they support and include young people to have the best possible sporting experience. We also want young people themselves to be well supported in their efforts to become great sporting leaders of the future.

In addition to the significant core skill-based development that coaching and leader training offers, there has been an enhanced effort to support those working with children and young people to develop more child-centred behaviours. This has included enhanced training about safeguarding, disability inclusion and protecting children and young people as well as Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS).

PCS aims to drive culture change in the behaviours of the key influencers in a young person's life (parents, teachers, coaches and leaders). Since 2010-11, 894 workshops have been delivered to the key influencers in the lives of young people – their parents, coaches, teachers and club leaders. These workshops have been attended by over 14,000 people across Scotland. **sportscotland** has allocated £848,000 to PCS for the period 2013-15 to ensure that training is further developed and rolled out.

For those employed to work with young people there have also been enhanced opportunities to develop skills, learn from each other and share best practice.

In order to drive progress towards the PE target, 38 Physical Education Lead Officers have been appointed across 29 Local Authorities. They are working to support a range of national initiatives developed by Education Scotland to build the confidence and capacity of teachers to improve the quality of the learning experience in PE. These initiatives are focussed to non-specialist, newly qualified and undergraduate teachers and seek to develop their skills and confidence in PE through a range of professional development opportunities.

More specifically, the Scottish Government, through Education Scotland, has provided Scottish Disability Sport with £125,000 to offer both PE and classroom teachers across Scotland access to training which will provide them with the knowledge, skills and experience to fully include disabled young people in PE and sport. This PE Disability Inclusion Training programme is giving up to 1,000 teachers in Scottish schools the knowledge, skills and experience to include disabled young people fully in quality PE and sports provision by 2014 and is now a key part of the development of coaches in disability sport.

- We are keen to ensure that **the sport inclusion model from Scottish Disability Sport is widely adopted and incorporated** into relevant continuing professional development for those working with young people in sport.
- We are fortunate to have a huge and talented resource of coaches and volunteers working to deliver sport for young people in Scotland. However, we can build further on these foundations. **sportscotland will:**
  - **continue its commitment to the Positive Coaching Scotland programme**
  - **develop and deliver a New Clubs Leaders Training Programme**
  - **deliver a new 'multi-skill' coach training programme/qualification**

# **Great Places**

**Providing great places to be active**

We agree with the YPS Panel 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.

In recent years, Scotland has seen a transformation in the capital infrastructure for sport. The scale of new national, regional and local facilities for sport combined with the school estate modernisation programme mean that we have never been as well served by great sports facilities across Scotland.

The Scottish Government has been a significant contributor to the cost of new sports facilities delivered through **sportscotland**. Since May 2007 over £73 million of Government and Lottery funds has been invested in sports facilities, including £36 million in competition and training facilities. This has helped to deliver over 12 new and upgraded swimming pools (including a 50 metre swimming pool and diving pool in Aberdeen), over 23 football pitches, a national indoor arena and velodrome, a refurbished stadium at Scotstoun and new regional indoor facilities at Toryglen, Ravenscraig and Aberdeen. The Scottish Government has also committed to invest £25 million to the creation of a National Performance Centre for Sport which will be based at Heriot-Watt University's Riccarton Campus in Edinburgh.

Since 2008, £8.25 million of funding recovered through the Proceeds of Crime has been committed through the CashBack programme to specifically support improvements to rugby and football facilities across Scotland. This funding has benefitted 82 projects across 30 Local Authorities delivering improvements to pitches, training areas, changing accommodation and floodlights. More young people across Scotland are set to benefit from the £3.15 million CashBack for Pitches fund announced in June this year.

At a local level the school estate is also a vital component of the system for sport. By March 2018, the £1.25 billion Schools for the Future Programme will see the construction of 67 new schools built for over 46,000 pupils. This programme is intended to help Local Authorities replace those schools in the worst condition and will see schools built in every part of Scotland. £800 million is being provided by Government and £450 million by Local Authorities. At the time of publication 11 schools are complete and open to pupils (four secondary schools and seven primary schools) and a further nine schools are under construction (three secondary schools, five primary schools and one Additional Support Needs school).

- To ensure that this investment in the school estate is effectively used in the context of sport, the **Scottish Government will facilitate sportscotland's earlier and on-going involvement in the design of new schools to be delivered within the Scottish Government school building programme**, Scotland's Schools for the Future.

Each of these local, regional and national facilities is supporting and hosting opportunities for children and young people to be more active and to have a go, develop and reach their full potential in sport. We know that the revenue costs associated with every sports facility are significant and require the on-going commitment and subsidy of partners. That's why we are keen to ensure that partners work collaboratively to ensure that the local, regional and national estate for sport is well planned and is being used for the right activities at the

right times in order to maximise opportunities and make the best use of the available investment.

**sportscotland** research on the school estate<sup>5</sup> highlighted that the vast majority of schools are open to their local community but for some there could be a more integrated approach taken towards the management and programming of school and local sports facilities to maximise the benefits of these facilities. Working with local partners to support them to maximise the use of the estate across their local area will be an important part of making sure children and young people are well served with the right places at the right time.

- **sportscotland** is **now using this information to discuss improvements to the programming of community sport activity in schools** with Local Authorities and their partners.

In addition to formal sports facilities, children and young people need a range of open spaces and informal recreational places to play sport. £10 million is being invested in helping local communities create or improve places to help people be more active through the Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund. To date over £3.2 million has been committed to supporting 64 projects in 20 Local Authority areas. This investment will help deliver important facilities such as skate parks, adventure play parks, bike trails, walking routes and other informal spaces, with an emphasis on the projects being led by the community for the community.

The YPS Panel were keen to ensure that not only were facilities available to young people, but that no young people would be prevented from pursuing activities because of the cost of participation. We know from **sportscotland's** annual review of prices and charges for sports facilities<sup>6</sup> that all Local Authorities have a subsidy or discounting system for young people. These vary from Authority to Authority. Young Scot, through its Local Authority partnership network, is continually exploring the possibilities for use of the Young Scot National Entitlement Card, working alongside the Improvement Service, COSLA and others. Given that agencies across Scotland can access a single entitlement card platform for public services, **we would like to explore how this could be fully exploited to improve access and participation, simplify prices for young people and ensure affordability through such a mechanism.**

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<sup>5</sup> This is available at: [http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/resources/resources/school\\_estate\\_audit/](http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/resources/resources/school_estate_audit/)

<sup>6</sup> This is available at: [http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/sportscotland/Documents/Research\\_Reports/sportscotland\\_research\\_digest\\_111\\_-\\_charges\\_review\\_survey\\_2012-13.pdf](http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/sportscotland/Documents/Research_Reports/sportscotland_research_digest_111_-_charges_review_survey_2012-13.pdf)

# **Higher Profile**

**The talents and success of young people will be celebrated and communicated**

The final ingredient to achieving success is ensuring that **the talents and success of all young people in sport 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 gone on to compete, coach and lead in sport nationally and internationally.

The YPS Panel is keen that a higher profile should be given to the breadth of young people's involvement in sport: their efforts to learn, have a go, develop, perform and lead. They are also keen that the diversity of young people and the diversity of their activities are given more exposure.

- We would like the **Young People's Sport Panel to develop proposals** on how the involvement of children and young people in sport can be given a higher profile.



# Next steps

As noted in the foreword, we appreciate that there are many organisations and individuals who have an important role to play in supporting the development of youth sport and that is why we have published this document as a draft Strategy for consultation.

We will continue to work with stakeholders, and in particular children and young people, during the consultation period to ensure that the final Strategy and Action Plan to be published in the Spring of 2014 delivers on the aspirations of Scotland's children and young people.

Once in place, to ensure this Strategy helps improve outcomes we will monitor progress through the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity. We look forward to engaging with children and young people to hear their stories of success and achievement.

Outcomes are delivered locally and there is already fantastic work happening through Local Authorities, Community Planning Partnerships, Scottish Governing Bodies and out into the wider sector. We can see that commitment reflected in single outcome agreements and other local strategic plans. We will continue to work with COSLA and Local Authorities to support the development of this agenda.

At an even more local level, we can see the fantastic work being done by schools and others. The School Sport Awards will be a mechanism to recognise and celebrate successful physical education, physical activity and school sport. The core criteria for the awards are built around the components of this Strategy. The awards are currently being piloted in schools in three Local Authorities. Following learning from the pilot and feedback from the consultation, the School Sport Awards will be further developed and rolled out to support this Strategy.