

**SPORTS COUNCIL FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**AUDIT OF THE USE AND
POTENTIAL USE OF SPORT
BY NON-SPORTS SPECIFIC
COMMUNITY AND
VOLUNTARY GROUPS**

Final Report

16 March 2000

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section of the report highlights the salient points of this review.

Background

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland (the Sports Council) is charged with increasing quality participation in sport by all people in Northern Ireland and with giving them a sound start in sport. The Sports Council believes that voluntary and community groups, involving a diverse range of members, may potentially offer a means of increasing quality sporting participation.

The Sports Council commissioned this audit of the use and potential use of sport by non-sports specific community and voluntary groups. The remit of this research was to:

- provide an overview of sporting practices in community and voluntary groups which target young people;
- identify the human, physical and financial resources of youth oriented voluntary and community groups involved in sport;
- identify what role sport may play in promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and improving community relations; and
- identify if youth oriented voluntary and community groups would like to provide sporting opportunities to their members using the Sports Council supported practices.

Methodology

A cross-section of the community and voluntary groups in Northern Ireland that target young people was identified and surveyed by telephone using a structured questionnaire. The sample included community and voluntary groups:

- from different geographical locations across NI;
- of varying socio-economic backgrounds; and
- ranging in size and type from umbrella organisations to small independent localised community groups.

In total 100 (10% of total population identified) telephone interviews were conducted, which was representative of the total number of community and voluntary groups that focused on young people in Northern Ireland.

Following an analysis of the telephone questionnaires five face-to-face consultations were conducted. These consultations were conducted to elicit more detailed

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qualitative data on how the Sports Council can best work with community and voluntary groups, which target young people, to support and develop sport.

Results of Telephone Survey

The respondents varied in size and nature of activities from small independent community groups to larger umbrella organisations. The geographical area covered by the respondents was all of Northern Ireland including both rural and urban locations. In addition the respondents were from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

A wide range of sports is currently provided by 65% (65 out of 100) of the respondents to their members. Of these respondents that facilitate sport the majority do not have any dedicated staff or financial resources. However most would own or have access to equipment ranging from basic to more sophisticated. The 28% who do have staff resources specifically for sport have varying degrees of sports qualifications specific to different sporting activities.

14 of the 35 respondents who do not facilitate sport would be interested in facilitating sporting practices, while the remaining respondents (21 out of 35) do not consider sport to be suitable for their type of group or organisation.

The majority of the respondents who provide or facilitate sporting practices considered sport to be either significant or very significant in relation to promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and improving community relations.

There was a very positive response to using the Sports Council as a means of support in providing sporting opportunities to its members. Human resources were ranked highly as an important area where support would be needed.

Overall the level of enthusiasm for discussion by the respondents during the telephone consultation was high, indicating a positive sign for the development of sporting activities within this sector. The high level of additional comments that were given by respondents highlighted this enthusiasm. The additional comments also indicated a need for promotion of the Sports Council to the community and voluntary sector, particularly in relation to the dissemination of information on the functions of the Sports Council and areas of support offered.

Results of Face-to-Face Consultations

Community and voluntary groups consulted clearly saw themselves as different from sports clubs in two distinct ways. Firstly, these organisations did not focus exclusively on sport; rather sport was only one of a range of mechanisms they used to engage with young people. Secondly, they focused on the development of the whole individual rather than on acquiring/developing specific sports skills. Sport was used to help individuals develop and gain a broad spectrum of social and interpersonal 'life skills'. This latter point raises the question as to whether there is a need to explore

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further if sports clubs necessarily diverge from this. While sports clubs largely focus on the acquisition and development of sports skills, can we not ask the question is a wider range of skills/values being taught?

Respondents were aware of the existence of the Sports Council but, while they all indicated an interest in taking part in a pilot project, most lacked detailed information on what the Sports Council could offer. Respondents suggested the Sports Council could use a range of mechanisms to make contact with local organisations but the most effective means was possibly by making links with parent/umbrella organisations.

Barriers to sports development included finances and transport but culture and a dependency on volunteers was also cited. Respondents saw a role for the Sports Council in supporting them to become a mechanism for sports development by providing qualifications for their staff, advice and information.

Conclusions and Key Issues

In overall terms, the study of the community and voluntary sector with a focus on young people showed a high level of interest in the use of sport and the work of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland. The review indicates that there is potential for the Sports Council to develop its presence within this sector and to offer assistance in the provision of sporting activities for young people.

An important factor to consider is that the groups and organisations within this sector have a wide range of remits. It is apparent that sport is only one of a range of mechanisms that this sector uses to engage with young people. Therefore the aims and objectives of these groups in terms of what they want to achieve with the youth is important for placing sport in context, namely to focus on the development of the whole individual rather than on acquiring/developing specific sports skills. Sport is used to help individuals develop and gain a broad spectrum of social and interpersonal 'life skills'.

The review highlighted sport as significant for young people in relation to promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and improving community relations.

In relation to the community and voluntary sector, some indications for future policy making by the Sports Council have been identified in this review. These are outlined below.

Given the fragmented nature of this sector and the large numbers of groups involved communications and links between the Sports Council and this sector should be through umbrella organisations or partnership organisations.

Given the nature of this sector and the extensive use of volunteers, assistance with human resources should be a matter of priority for the Sports Council. This was highlighted in the review with 75 % of respondents (56 out of 74) either ranking this

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first or second in order of importance. This complies with existing objectives of the “Strategy for the Development of Sport in Northern Ireland (1997-2005)” document.

As contained within the Strategy the vision for sport is to develop and sustain a vibrant sporting culture enriching the quality of life for people in NI. The document establishes the vision, aims and major priorities for the development of sport. Part of the document sets out the actions and plans that are intended contributions to realising the vision. One of the aims of the agenda is to enable as many people as possible, and especially young people, to take up sport. Within this aim the document details that one of its actions is to provide training for the community sector to support the development of sport.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland (the Sports Council) has recently facilitated the development of Northern Ireland's first ever strategy for sport. The Strategy's vision is to develop and sustain a vibrant sporting culture enriching the quality of life for people in Northern Ireland.

Traditionally the Sports Council has concentrated on developing sport with dedicated sporting bodies. However over the last three years the Sports Council has begun to develop sporting opportunities with a broader range of voluntary and community groups. For example, the Sports Council now works closely with Upper Springfield Trust and Shankill Partnership.

As a result of this recent work and the Sports Council's commitment to New Targeting Social Need, it has become increasingly noticeable that there is a large network of groups with whom the Sports Council has ever only had minimal contact and for whom, potentially, sport is or could provide a valuable outlet in their work.

The Sports Council is charged with increasing quality participation in sport by all people in Northern Ireland and with giving them a sound start in sport. The Sports Council believes that voluntary and community groups, involving a diverse range of members, may potentially offer a means of increasing quality sporting participation.

The Sports Council commissioned this audit of the use and potential use of sport by non-sports specific community and voluntary groups. The remit of this research was to:

- provide an overview of sporting practices in community and voluntary groups which target young people;
- identify the human, physical and financial resources of youth oriented voluntary and community groups involved in sport;
- identify what role sport may play in promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and improving community relations; and
- identify if youth oriented voluntary and community groups would like to provide sporting opportunities to their members using the Sports Council supported practices.

1.2 Structure of the Report

- Section 2 details the research methodology that was employed in the completion of this report;
- Section 3 details the quantitative and qualitative results from telephone interviews;

- Section 4 details the results from face-to-face consultations; and
- Section 5 contains our conclusions and recommendations for the way forward.

2. METHODOLOGY

This section highlights our overall methodology for conducting an audit of the use and potential use of sports by non-sports specific community and voluntary groups. Given the diversity of organisations within this sector those groups working with young people were targeted as the Sports Council places particular emphasis on this sector.

2.1 Introduction

Our overall approach comprised the following linked stages:

- **Stage One** - Project set-up and questionnaire design
- **Stage Two** - Pilot Study
- **Stage Three** - Telephone Survey
- **Stage Four** - Face-to-face Consultations
- **Stage Five** - Analysis of results
- **Stage Six** - Final report detailing the findings of the research.

The survey and sampling methodology are detailed below.

2.2 Telephone Survey

A representative sample of community and voluntary groups that specifically target young people was compiled using the Sector Net database compiled by the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA). The Sector Net database provides a list of over 3,000 community and voluntary groups in Northern Ireland. From this list NICVA was able to provide us with a refined list of all groups that specified young people as its target audience. This resulted in a list of over 300 groups which, using random sampling (every third group on the list was contacted), was used as the basis of our survey. This method of sampling ensured that a cross-section of youth oriented community and voluntary groups was identified. In total 10% of the target population (100 respondents) was surveyed by telephone. This was a representative sample comprising community and voluntary groups:

- from different geographical locations across NI;
- of varying socio-economic backgrounds; and
- ranging in size and type from umbrella organisations to small independent localised community groups.

A structured questionnaire was used comprising of a mixture of closed and open questions to enable qualitative and quantitative data to be collected.

Appendix I contains a copy of the questionnaire and **Appendix II** contains a list of respondents.

Survey findings were coded and analysed where appropriate using our in-house SPSS analysis package. Qualitative findings were also analysed and interpreted and form an integral part of the research findings.

A pilot study was undertaken to ensure that the questionnaire met the objectives of the review in terms of eliciting the correct types of information.

The purpose of the survey was to elicit information on the following:

- Sporting practices provided or facilitated by the organisation;
- Current practices for the delivery and management of sport;
- The human, physical and financial resources involved;
- The role sport may play in promoting personal and social development;
- The role sport may play in alleviating anti-social behaviour;
- The role sport may play in improving community relations;
- Whether the organisation would like to provide sporting opportunities to their members using the Sports Council supported practices;
- Which Sports Council supported practices the organisation feels would benefit them in promoting/achieving their objectives; and
- The organisation's willingness to embrace Sports Council supported practices for the development of sport.

2.3 Face-to-Face Consultations

Following an analysis of the telephone questionnaires five face to face consultations were conducted. These consultations were conducted to elicit more detailed qualitative data on how the Sports Council can best work with community and voluntary groups, which target young people, to support and develop sport. The issues covered in this stage of the research included:

- Comparison between sports clubs and community or voluntary groups facilitating or providing sporting activities.
- Objective of groups regarding use of sport;
- Resources;
- Role for the Sports Council for NI;
- Promotion of the Sports Council;
- Barriers to community or voluntary groups becoming a delivery mechanism for sport; and
- Factors for the development of sport in their club.

3. RESULTS OF TELEPHONE SURVEY

3.1 Introduction

100 community and voluntary groups that specifically target young people were contacted by telephone and surveyed using a structured questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire and a list of respondents are located in Appendix I and II respectively. The results of the survey are detailed below.

3.2 Results

Overall, the willingness to participate in the survey and the quality and breadth of answers that were provided by the respondents indicated a high level of interest in the study being carried out.

3.2.1 *Nature of the Group*

Respondents were asked to outline the nature of their community/voluntary group. The types of groups contacted included:

- Youth Clubs
- Local Community Groups
- Advice Services
- Preservation/Environmental Groups
- Drop in Centres
- Charity Organisations
- Arts and Cultural Groups
- Playgroup Service
- Training/Consultation Services
- Church Groups
- Scouting Group
- Young Adult Centre

3.2.2 *Groups Targeted*

78% of respondents specifically targeted the young people. Of the remaining 22% that targeted sectors other than youth, those most frequently targeted were the 17 to 25 age range (39 %). See the following table for details.

Sectors Other than Youth Targeted by Respondents

Other Sectors	Frequency	Percentage
17-25 Age Range	15	39
All Ages	10	26
Adults	4	11
Elderly	3	8
Disadvantaged Groups*	3	8
Middle-aged Women	2	5
Pre-school	1	3
Total	38	100

*Disadvantaged groups include homeless, unemployed and women

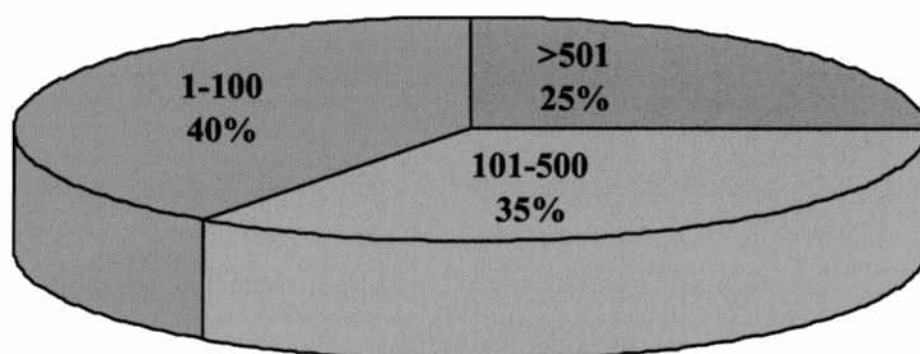
3.2.3 Catchment Area Covered by the Group

The most frequent catchment areas to be covered by respondents are Belfast City Council (36 respondents) and Northern Ireland (16 respondents) as a whole. 18 out of the 26 local authorities were named individually as catchment areas for respondents.

3.2.4 Numbers of Youth/People Involved

When questioned about the number of people that the respondents worked with in their catchment area 43 of the 100 respondents gave answers. The most frequent number of people that organisations were involved with was 1-100 people (40%). A breakdown by size is shown in the pie chart below:

Numbers of Youth/People Involved



3.2.5 Sporting Practices Currently Provided by the Respondents

65% percent of the respondents do currently provide sporting practices to their members. The sports offered range from football and swimming to orienteering and gymnastics. Football (18%), snooker/pool (7%) and basketball (6%) were main sports provided or facilitated by the respondents. Full details are given in the following table.

Sporting Practices Provided or Facilitated by Respondents

Type of Sport	Frequency	Percentage
Football	36	18
Snooker/Pool	14	7
Basketball	13	6
Swimming/Water Sports	12	6
Netball	12	6
Volleyball	11	5
Unihoc	9	4
Games/Board games	9	4
Outdoor Pursuits	9	4
Tennis (and table tennis)	8	4
Canoeing	8	4
Five aside Football	7	3
Orienteering	6	3
Dancing	5	2
Expeditions	5	2
Rugby	3	1
Youth/Junior Sports Club	3	1
Bowling	3	1
Fitness Suite/Weights Room	3	1
Gymnastics	3	1
Hill-walking	3	1
Keep Fit	2	1
Cricket	2	1
Boxing	2	1
Darts	2	1
Other*	15	7
Total	205	95**

**Total is less than 100 due to rounding

*Other answers include rounders, performance sports, gaelic, shooting, ice-skating, skittles, trampolining, cross country, circuit training, Duke of Edinburgh, outward bound courses, hockey, hurling, karate and badminton

3.2.6 Dedicated resources

The respondents were asked if they had any dedicated resources for sport in terms of staff, finance (budgets) and equipment. As illustrated in the table below the majority of the respondents do not have any dedicated staff or financial resources (72% and 71% respectively). However 66% of the respondents do have sports equipment resources.

Resources Available for Sporting Activities

Type of Resource	Percentage of Group With No Dedicated Resources
Staff	72%
Budget	71%
Equipment	34%

3.2.7 Staff

In terms of dedicated resources the majority of the respondents (72%) do not have any dedicated staff resources specifically for sport. Of the remaining respondents (28%) who have staff dedicated (but not necessarily exclusively) to sport, there are a wide range of qualifications as shown in the table below.

Sports Qualifications

Type of Qualification	Number of Responses*
Sports qualification (not specified)	14
Football/Soccer	7
Boxing	4
Outdoor pursuits	4
Canoeing	2
Netball	2
Fitness Instructor	1
Trampoline coaching	1
IFI football coaching	1
Badminton	1
Physical Education teachers	1
NVQ in Coaching	1
Mountaineering	1
Volleyball	1
Aerobics	1
Camogie	1
Shooting	1
Deerstalking	1
Total Number of Responses	45

*multiple responses

3.2.8 Budget

The majority of the respondents (71%) do not have a dedicated budget for sporting activities. The respondents who did have a budget did not specify any values but a number of responses given would indicate that the budget was quite small. Responses included:

"...budget set aside for footballs and board games"

"...budget set aside... mainly for boxing"

"...included in youth budget"

In addition 6 respondents did cite that they received grants for sporting activities.

3.2.9 Equipment

66% of the respondents cited that they had dedicated sports equipment resources. From the responses it was evident that the types of sports equipment varied significantly. Of the respondents who did not have any dedicated sports equipment 9

of the 33 respondents use other facilities such as local schools. The table below highlights the types of equipment the respondents stated they had.

Range of Equipment

Type of Equipment	Frequency
None	23
Sports (e.g.team, fitness)	21
Basic (e.g. balls, bats, nets)	9
Recreational (e.g. snooker table, darts)	8
Specific (e.g. canoes, clay pigeons)	6
Total	67

3.2.10 Reasons for No Interest in Providing or Facilitating Sport

Of the 35 respondents who did not currently provide or facilitate any sporting practices 14 respondents would be interested in providing sport, 20 respondents would not and one respondent was not sure. The reasons for not wanting to facilitate sport are detailed in the following table.

Reasons for No Interest in providing or Facilitating Sport

	Frequency
Nothing to do with sport/wish to focus on main priority	12
Lack of resources/money and funding	6
Headquarter body	1
Sport not suitable for members	1
Total	20

3.2.11 Significance of Sport

78 respondents indicated the significance of sport in relation to their group and **promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and in improving community relations**. In all three factors at least 85% of these respondents considered sport to be either significant or very significant. See the following table for details.

Significance of Sport

	Promoting Personal & Social Development		Alleviating Anti-social Behaviour		Improving Community Relations	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Very Significant	49	63	35	45	33	42
Significant	25	32	36	46	36	46
Neither Significant or Insignificant	2	3	6	8	5	6
Not Significant	2	3	1	1	3	4
Not Very Relevant					1	1
Total	78	101*	78	100	78	99*

*Total is greater than/ less than 100 due to rounding

3.2.12 Reasons for Answers

In order to investigate further the significance of sport on a number of social benefits, the respondents were asked to expand on the reasons for the above answers. In overall terms the respondents gave very positive responses as to the social benefits of sport. Respondents gave multiple responses, therefore the total will not equate to the table above.

In terms of responses, it is important to understand that the information provided is qualitative in nature and therefore should not be used as a gauge for scientifically representing the total population targeted in this audit. Given the diverse nature of comments given, we have collated the responses under certain generic categories for clarification purposes.

3.2.13 Personal and Social Development

In total 145 different responses were given in relation to the significance of sport in promoting personal and social development. The most frequently cited reason was that sport promotes teamwork or team-building skills (27 out of 145 responses).

Other popular reasons given for sport promoting personal and social development included the improvement of: -

- Social / interpersonal skills;
- Self-esteem;
- Health and fitness; and
- Interactive skills.

A breakdown of the responses given is detailed in the table below.

Significance of Sport in Promoting Personal and Social Development

Response	Frequency
Promotes Teamwork/ Teambuilding Skills	27
Improves Social/Interpersonal Skills	16
Builds Confidence/Self-esteem	15
Improves/ Promotes Health & Fitness	12
Encourages and Develops Interactive Skills	11
Gain a Sense of Achievement and Success	7
Gives Young People An Activity To Get Involved In	6
Motivates People to Leave their Own Area and Mix Elsewhere	5
Develops Character	5
Brings People / Communities Together	4
Builds Friendships/ Relationships	4
Encourages/ Promotes Competitiveness	4
All-Inclusive	3
Develops Discipline Skills	3
Teaches Respect and Tolerance/ Accept Losing	3
Encourages Intellectual Development/ Develops Thinking	3
Develop Skills, e.g. Leadership/ Goal Setting Skills	3
Something/ Someone to Identify With	2
Can Address Different Issues Through Sport	2
Other Answers*	10
Total	145

*Other Answers Include:

- Ethos is cooperation not competition
- Develops dedication / commitment
- Promotes Sportsmanship
- Instructors get to know young people better
- Provides enjoyment

- Motivates
- Give young people the opportunity to try something new
- Can sometimes be too competitive and negate personal development
- Competitiveness can be poor if taken out of context
- Only promotes personal and social development if used correctly

3.2.14 Importance of Sport in Alleviating Anti-social Behaviour

In total there was 90 responses given in relation to the significance of sport in alleviating anti-social behaviour. The reasons given were varied, however the most frequently cited responses were that sport relieves boredom and provides a focus for the young people (15 out of 90 responses). A breakdown of all the responses given as to how sport is important in alleviating anti-social behaviour is detailed in the table below.

Importance of Sport in Alleviating Anti-social Behaviour

Response	Frequency
Relieves Boredom and Provides a Focus	15
Is Productive/Constructive, Acts as a Diversionary Activity	13
Provides a Venue/Gets Young People off the Street	11
Chance to Use Excess Energy/ Channel Energy Positively	9
Provides an Opportunity to De-Stress/ Channel Frustration	7
Provides Discipline	5
Develops Confidence/ Self-esteem	4
Supervised Activities Enables Leaders to Monitor Young People	3
Discourages Anti-Social Behaviour (Drinking/Smoking etc) through Health Promotion & Getting Young People Away From Interface	3
Engenders Sense of Responsibility	2
Gives Young People Space to do Their Own Thing	1
Young People Forget About Other Issues when Playing Sport	1
Other Answers*	8
Negative/ Not Relevant Comments**	9
Total	90

*Other Answers Include:

- Offers respite
- Safe way of using leisure time
- Encourages people to assess their own behaviour through looking at others
- Brings people together through team games
- Alleviates the mundane work they have to do sometimes on the programme
- If involved in corporate activity, can combat anti-social behaviour
- Sport overcomes individualistic tendencies and behavioural difficulties
- Gives sense of camaraderie

**Negative/ Not Relevant Comments:

- Some young people don't have an interest in sport

- Most sport places close at 10-10.30 pm and it after this time that anti-social behaviour begins
- Young people need to be motivated by sport otherwise it won't alleviate anti-social behaviour
- Football can bring out anti-social behaviour so it needs to be managed correctly (2 responses)
- Only positive if used correctly
- Not significant to this organisation (2 respondents)

3.2.15 Importance of Sport in Improving Community Relations

In total 74 responses were given with regard to why sport is significant in improving community relations between young people. The two most frequently cited reasons for its importance were that sport involves interaction from different communities/religions based on ability or interest and not who individuals are (19 out of 74 responses).

The other being that if sport is managed well it can enhance or improve community spirit and relations. (16 out of 74 responses). A total breakdown of the responses is given in the table below.

Importance of Sport in Improving Community Relations

Response	Frequency
Sport Involves Interaction from Different Communities/Religions – Based on Ability/ Interest, Not Who They Are	19
Enhances/ Improves Community Spirit/Relations(If Managed Well)	16
Breaks Down Barriers/ Cuts Across all Divisions	8
Group is Cross-Community Focused	7
Emphasis on Team Playing Removes Emphasis on Community Background	3
Allows Young People and Adults to Interact	2
Gives Young People Exposure to Different Cultures and Views	2
Other Comments*	6
Not Relevant/ Significant to Organisation	5
Negative Comments**	4
Total	74

*Other Comments Include:

- Many other factors influence the significance of sport in improving community relations
- Sport builds bonds, get to know people in the area
- The young people get support from the community through the football team
- Uses any methods to improve community relations
- Sport improves self awareness and awareness of the community

****Negative Comments Include:**

- Emphasis is placed on personal needs first
- Community programmes and other means are used instead of sport
- Competitive sport can destroy/ hinder community relations if conducted poorly
- Non-competitive sports are better than competitive sports as these can widen barriers

3.2.16 Using the Sports Council as a Means of Support

96% (75 out of 78 respondents) of respondents would consider using the Sports Council for Northern Ireland as a means of support in providing sporting opportunities to its members. Two respondents stated no because they would be unable to make use of the support at the moment, while the remaining respondent was not sure.

3.2.17 Areas of Support Offered by the Sports Council

Respondents were asked to rank four areas of support offered by the Sports Council in order of importance. Human resources was ranked highly as an important area where support would be needed with 74% of the respondents either ranking this first or second in order of importance. Financial support (36 out of 76 responses) was the area of support most frequently ranked first, however there was a number of comments made that indicate that although it may be ranked first, finance would be most useful if part of a wider package of support. Support materials was the least frequent area of support that was ranked first (4 out of 75 responses). See the table below for full details.

Areas of Support offered by the Sports Council Ranked in Order of Priority

Areas of Support	First		Second		Third		Fourth		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Financial	36	47	19	25	10	13	10	13	76	98*
Human Resources	25	33	31	41	14	19	5	7	75	100
Support Materials	4	5	12	16	25	33	34	45	75	100
Advice	12	16	12	16	27	36	25	33	76	101*

*Total is greater/ less than 100 due to rounding

3.2.18 Other Comments

There was a high number of respondents who gave other comments when asked (49 comments in that being cited). This high response would indicate positively to the Sports Council in terms of interest from the community and voluntary sector in relation to the importance of sporting activities.

17 respondents cited that they would like more information from the Sports Council, the types of information requested included information on the functions of the Sports

Council, available funding and types of human resources. Of these 17 respondents 5 had cited the need for the Sports Council to increase its promotional and marketing activities to the community/voluntary sector as they were not fully aware of the functions of the Sports Council. One other respondent who had dealt with the Sports Council in the past however was aware that other community and voluntary groups *"don't know about the Sports Council's services ...and need to become more aware."*

Only 4 respondents indicated they had dealt with the Sports Council previously. However all three respondents had enjoyed working with or had successful links with the Sports Council in the past.

On the other hand, 3 respondents stated that they have had difficulties in the past regarding funding from the Sports Council. 1 of the 3 respondents cited the reason being that because they *"deal with a wide variety of sports and not one specifically ...and that the Sports Council is more likely to deal with you if you focus on one sport"*. One respondent did not give a reason while the remaining respondent considered the Sports Council to have an *"elitism"* approach to funding.

5 respondents gave comments regarding the perceived lack of support that the Sports Council provides to community or voluntary groups. These comments included:

"...lack of recognition of the significant role which sport plays in young lives."

"...do not often give funds unless you are dedicated to one particular sport."

"...distant from community and voluntary groups...need to get on the ground as far as community groups are concerned."

"...too targeted to schools and not community groups."

"...more related to formal sports such as football leagues."

Other comments in relation to the promotion of the Sports Council included:

"...the Council needs to be more proactive and make personal contact – not through letters but personal visits."

Overall 5 respondents made specific comments stating that they were pleased that the Sports Council was taking an interest in the voluntary/community sector.

A breakdown of the comments given by respondents is shown in the table overleaf.

Other Comments

Response	Frequency
Would Like More Information On the Sports Council	17
Need to Target/Improve Links/ Give More Funding to Community Groups	5
Pleased to See Sports Council Conducting This Research	5
Have had Difficulty in the Past in Getting Funding From the Sports Council	3
Pleased with Past Encounters With Sports Council / Have used Sports Council in Past	4
Interested in Further Dealings/ Support From Sports Council	2
Finance is Important/ Would Like Financial Support	2
Other Comments	9
Negative Comments	2
Total	49

3.3 Summary of Telephone Survey

The respondents varied in size and nature of activities from small independent community groups to larger umbrella organisations. The geographical area covered by the respondents was all of Northern Ireland including both rural and urban locations. In addition the respondents were from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

A wide range of sports is currently provided by 65% of the respondents to their members. Of these respondents that do provide or facilitate sporting facilities the majority do not have any dedicated staff or financial resources. However most would own or have access to equipment, ranging from basic to more sophisticated. The 28% that do have staff resources specifically for sport have varying degrees of sports qualifications specific to different sporting activities.

14 of the 35 respondents that do not provide or facilitate any sporting practices would be interested in providing or facilitating sporting practices, while the remaining respondents either do not consider sport to be suitable for their type of group or organisation.

The majority of the respondents considered sport to be either significant or very significant in relation to promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and improving community relations.

There was a very positive response to using the Sports Council as a means of support in providing sporting opportunities to its members. Human resources were ranked highly as an important area where support would be needed.

Overall the level of enthusiasm for discussion by the respondents during the telephone consultation was high, indicating a positive sign for the development of sporting activities within this sector. The high level of additional comments that were given

by respondents highlighted this enthusiasm. The additional comments also indicated a need for promotion of the Sports Council to the community and voluntary sector, particularly in relation to the dissemination of information on the functions of the Sports Council and areas of support offered.

4. RESULTS OF FACE TO FACE CONSULTATIONS

4.1 Introduction

Face-to-face consultations were carried out with five organisations. A list of respondents is located in **Appendix III**.

4.2 Results

The results of the discussions are detailed below.

4.2.1 *Comparison with Sports Clubs and Community Organisations*

Most of the respondents acknowledged there were some similarities between sports clubs and community organisations facilitating or providing sports. No organisation had a specific sports-only remit and all emphasised that sports provision within their organisations was only one of a range of interventions/activities provided for young people.

The pervasive view was that sports clubs focused on the acquisition and development of dedicated sports skills while their youth organisations were about the holistic development of the individual.

One respondent suggested there was some degree of overlap in that sports clubs also taught core values such as teamwork and responsibility. Another respondent suggested that the difference between sports clubs and youth organisations was that sports provision in community/youth groups offered a balance between the social and the competitive aspects. Comment was also made between the limited resources available to community organisations compared with sports clubs that could offer professional coaching.

4.2.2 *Objectives: Skills versus Values*

All respondents indicated sport provision within their organisations was used to promote life skills and values rather than sports skills per se. All the respondents/organisations had different remits in working with young people and sport was used as only one of a several interventions in meeting their organisations' aims.

One respondent commented that sport was a '*fun and challenging way*' of meeting their organisation's aims of '*promoting the spiritual, mental and spiritual development of people to take their place in society*'. Another respondent, working with socially excluded youth, commented that '*sport is a flexible medium in working with young people*'. Two respondents indicated sport was used for the holistic development of the individual and promotion of 'life skills'. One respondent commented that his organisation, while providing a range of sports (some to competition level), was about more than teaching the actual sports skills. He emphasised three important concepts, these being becoming a good citizen, playing

within the rules and acceptance. Values mentioned included teamwork, responsibility and commitment; working with others, fairness, discipline and motivation.

All respondents suggested sport was used to help build confidence and help young people to mix with other young people. One respondent also emphasised that sport was used to teach young people how to set goals and, more importantly, how to cope with failure. Two respondents also commented that sports provision in their organisations had a health aspect and was used to promote a sense of physical well being.

4.2.3 Resources: HR Assistance, Advice, Finance

Respondents indicated a range of support required depending on their specific organisations. Two respondents would like to obtain qualifications for their staff/volunteers and two commented that '*finances always help*'. One respondent has worked with the Sports Development Officer from the Greater Shankill (as part of a cross community initiative) with great success and would like this facility to be available on a more regular basis to her organisation. One respondent has received a significant Sports Lottery grant that will support the development of sports in their area. This organisation indicated it would like an initial audit indicating where it currently is especially in relation to coaching and would like support from the Sports Council in how to overcome the lack of local resources in their area. One respondent highlighted the importance of up-to-date advice being made available from the Sports Council.

It is important to note that particular organisations may not approve of the concept of the lottery on ethical or religious grounds and so will not apply for lottery funding. Sports lottery may not be an appropriate means to provide financial support to youth/community organisations.

4.2.4 Role for the Sports Council

All respondents indicated they would be interested in participating in a pilot project of the Sports Council. One respondent qualified this by suggesting that the Sports Council would need to be both flexible and supportive and any project should continue to offer back-up support as/if required for a period after the pilot ends.

4.2.5 Promotion of the Sports Council

All respondents were aware of the existence of the Sports Council and two had had some direct contact. However one respondent admitted to lacking knowledge about the Sports Council and its available resources.

Respondents suggested the Sports Council could use a range of mechanisms to contact groups directly eg telephone, email, and letter. Four respondents suggested the Sports Council should make direct contact with their umbrella organisation that could then disseminate information as/when appropriate. One respondent also suggested that information coming from their parent agency would carry greater credence.

4.2.6 Barriers to Community and Voluntary Organisations Becoming a Delivery Mechanism for Sport

Respondents suggested a variety of barriers to their organisations becoming a delivery mechanism for sport. Three respondents mentioned lack of appropriate finance but other factors also came into play here. Three respondents indicated transport was a barrier as was dependency on volunteers. Two respondents mentioned a culture/psychological barrier ie people's views and ideas on sports prevented them participating.

One respondent raised the issue of smaller more independent organisations linking up with more structured organisations. The changing nature of funding has impacted on grass-roots community organisations. Some organisations will/have willingly embraced partnerships with quasi/semi government organisations as they accept it is necessary if they are to continue their services. Other organisations are reluctant to engage in partnerships at all as they feel it diminishes their grass-roots/community heritage. A third group will become affiliated with a larger organisation where they share mutual aims and also in order to access funding more effectively and but will retain their uniqueness and community background by delivering a service tailored to their specific community.

4.2.7 Factors that will Develop Sport in their Organisation

Respondents indicated a variety of factors that would develop sport in their organisation with three respondents suggesting access to qualified instructors. One respondent indicated that outdoor centres in Northern Ireland were quite good although it is necessary to have appropriate finances to pay for trips. Another respondent indicated that having dedicated access to a Sports Development officer would help her organisation. One respondent in receipt of sports lottery funding said that a proposed new sports hall would have a very positive impact on sports development. He also indicated that sport would develop if it was linked to the needs and wishes of young people and also if it provided for all. He acknowledged youth organisations can facilitate the elite and provide competitive level sports but they should provide for all. This would have two advantages; sports provision for all would provide a vital social aspect and secondly would bring young people in and so engender a culture of people participating in sport.

4.3 Summary of Face-to-Face Consultations

Community and voluntary groups consulted clearly saw themselves as different from sports clubs in two distinct ways. Firstly, these organisations did not focus exclusively on sport; rather sport was only one of a range of mechanisms they used to engage with young people. Secondly, they focused on the development of the whole individual rather than on acquiring/developing specific sports skills. Sport was used to help individuals develop and gain a broad spectrum of social and interpersonal 'life skills'. This latter point raises the question as to whether there is a need to explore

further if sports clubs necessarily diverge from this. While sports clubs largely focus on the acquisition and development of sports skills, can we not ask the question is a wider range of skills/values being taught?

Respondents were aware of the existence of the Sports Council but, while they all indicated an interest in taking part in a pilot project, most lacked detailed information on what the Sports Council could offer. Respondents suggested the Sports Council could use a range of mechanisms to make contact with local organisations but the most effective means was possibly by making links with parent/umbrella organisations.

Barriers to sports development included finances and transport but culture and a dependency on volunteers was also cited. Respondents saw a role for the Sports Council in supporting them to become a mechanism for sports development by providing qualifications for their staff, advice and information.

5. CONCLUSIONS & KEY ISSUES

5.1 Conclusions

Overall the community and voluntary sector, which mainly targeted young people showed a high level of interest in the use of sport and the work of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland. The review indicates that there is potential for the Sports Council to develop its presence within this sector and to offer assistance in the provision of sporting activities for young people.

An important factor to consider is that the groups and organisations within this sector have a wide range of remits. It is apparent that sport is only one of a range of mechanisms that this sector uses to engage with young people. Therefore the aims and objectives of these groups in terms of what they want to achieve with young people is important for placing sport in context, namely to focus on the development of the whole individual rather than on acquiring/developing specific sports skills. Sport is used to help individuals develop and gain a broad spectrum of social and interpersonal 'life skills'.

The review highlighted that sport is significant in relation to promoting personal and social development, alleviating anti-social behaviour and improving community relations within the youth sector.

5.2 Key Issues

In relation to this sector, some indications for future policy making by the Sports Council have been identified in this review. These are outlined below.

Given the fragmented nature of this sector and the large numbers of groups involved communications and links between the Sports Council and this sector should be through umbrella organisations or partnership organisations.

Given the nature of this sector and the extensive use of volunteers, assistance with human resources should be a matter of priority for the Sports Council. This was highlighted in the review with 75 % of respondents (56 out of 74) either ranking this first or second in order of importance. This complies with existing objectives of the "Strategy for the Development of Sport in Northern Ireland (1997-2005)" document.

As contained within the Strategy the vision for sport is to develop and sustain a vibrant sporting culture enriching the quality of life for people in NI. The document establishes the vision, aims and major priorities for the development of sport. Part of the document sets out the actions and plans that are intended contributions to realising the vision. One of the aims of the agenda is to enable as many people as possible, and especially young people, to take up sport. Within this aim the document details that one of its actions is to provide training for the community sector to support the development of sport.

APPENDIX I

Questionnaire for Telephone Survey

CAPITA

Name of Contact :

Position :

Group :

Telephone :

Address :

Hello, my name is from Capita Business Services Ltd. We have been appointed by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland to carry out an audit of the use, or potential use, of sport by your group.

I should be grateful if you would agree to spare a few minutes to answer some questions – it will take no longer than 10 minutes and all your responses will be treated as confidential.

1. Could you please outline the nature of your community / voluntary Group

CAPITA

2. Is your Group specifically targeted to any one particular group within the Community ?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes, please specify : -

3. What catchment area does your Group cover ?
(Probe in terms of geographical area or population)

4. Does your organisation /group currently provide or facilitate any sporting practices ?
(Please tick)

Yes ☐

No ☐

If YES please go to Question 5

If NO please go to Question 7

IF YES TO QUESTION 4

5. What type(s) of sport does your group currently provide or facilitate ?

Aerobics
Athletics
Badminton
Basketball
Bowling
Cricket

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Darts
Fishing
Football
Golf
Hockey
Horse Riding

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Martial Arts
Rugby
Squash
Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

CAPITA

If Other please specify : -

6. What dedicated resources does your Group have to provide or facilitate your sporting activities in terms of :-

Equipment

Finance/Budget

Staff: Numbers

Sports Qualifications

IF NO TO QUESTION 4

7. Would your Group have an interest in providing or facilitating any form of sport ?
(Please tick)

Yes ☐

No ☐

If YES go to Question 8

If NO ask for reason

CAPITA

Reason for NO Response

8. Using the following scale could you please indicate what significance you consider sport has, or would have, on the following factors in relation to your Group ?

(Read scale, please tick and probe for reasons)

	Not Relevant	Not Significant	Neither Significant nor Insignificant	Significant	Very Significant
i) Promoting Personal & Social Development					
ii) Alleviating Anti-social Behaviour					
iii) Improving Community Relations					

Reasons for Answers

i)

ii)

CAPITA

iii)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and assisting us with
our research

APPENDIX II

List of Respondents - Telephone Survey

Respondents to Sports Council Questionnaires (Telephone Survey)

	Contact	Name of Organisation	Position	Address	Telephone
1	Mr Peter Burns	Belfast Youth and Community Group		1-5 Donegal Lane, Belfast	01232 244640
2	Carol	Community Circus School	Programme Manager	University Road, Belfast	01232 236007
3	Mr Nicky Conway	Belfast Central Mission		Grosvenor Hall, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast	01232 241917
4*	Mr Samuel McCready	Ballymacarrie Youth & Community Project		49 Orpen Road, Belfast	01232 612793
5	Mrs Pauline Buller	Aghalee Village Hall Mgt Committee		6 Lurgan Road, Aghalee, Craigavon	01762 323622
6*	Mr John Thompson	Ballyarnett Racecourse Society		Racecourse Road, Derry	01504 354040
7*	Ms Anne Graham	Ballybean Women's Centre		34 Ballybean Square, Dundonald	01232 481632
8	Mr Jim Rutherford	Ballymoney Youth Outreach Trust	Leader In Charge	30 Victoria Street, Ballymoney	012656 66931
9	Ms Iris Matthews	Ballymore Open Centre		24 Madden Road, Tandragee, Armagh	01762 318789
10	Ms Mavis McCune	Ballybean Youth Club		34 Ballybean Square, Dundonald	01232 483905
11*	Ms Angela Hayley	Ards Art Centre		Townhall, Newtownards	01247 810803
12	Alice Cairns	Jubilee Girls Club	Full Time Youth Worker	14 Clonower Park	01232 452537
13	Martin McBride	Westrock Young	Young Men's Worker	141-143 Falls Road, Belfast	01232 236669
14	Patrick McMahon	Omagh Boys and Girls Club	Leader-in-Charge	32A Brookmount Road, Omagh	01662 243772

	Contact	Name of Organisation	Position	Address	Telephone
30	David Gardiner	Challenge for Youth	Manager	40-60 Edward Street, Belfast	01232 236893
31	Mr Bill McClinton	KGM Community Council	Youth Worker	Knocknagoney Drive	01232 761432
32	Mr Tommy Reilly	Community Centre		Knocknagoney Drive	01232 761432
33	Margaret Montgomery	Jenny's Youth Projects		Armagh	01861 515910
34*	Fiona McFall	Glenluce Care Ltd	Cover Support Worker	17 Glenluce Walk, Belfast	01232 760055
35	Elaine Robinson	The Family Centre		14-15 Jasmine Derry	01504 347515
36		Drumree Community Trust	Senior Community Development Officer	3 Ashgrove Road, Portadown	01762 334522
37*	Clare	Down & Connor Youth Council	Office Manager	68 Berry Street, Belfast	01232 232432
38	Colm McKeever	Westside Project	Project Manager	471 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DD	01232 245858
39*	Sister Kathleen Savage	Youth & Parent Resource Centre		25A Ardoyne Road, Belfast BT14 7HX	01232 729131
40*	Mr Andrew Scott	Gillygooley Youth Community & Dev Assoc	Chairman	Aughnamoyle House, 41 Gilcooley Road, Omagh, BT78 5PP	01662 242895
41	Susie Spence	Inner East Youth Project	Receptionist	The Base, 143 Albertbridge Rd, Belfast	01232 460707
42	Monica Burns	Mornington Community Project	Project Manager	117 Ormeau Road, Belfast	01232 3130911
43	Mr Denis Paisley	Old Warren Youth Initiative		171 Avonmore Pk, Lisburn, BT28 1NE	01846 604984
44	Ms Colette Ross	Magnet Youth Adult Centre		81A Hill Street, Newry	01693 69070
45*	Ms Paula Keenan	First Key (NI)		301 Ormeau Road, Belfast	01232 669022

	Contact	Name of Organisation	Position	Address	Telephone
46	Mr Brian McLaughlin	Foylehill Environment Group		Kildrum Community, Derry	01504 263087
47	MS Kathleen Deighan	Errigal Youth Activities Club	Chairperson	Comber Park, Garvagh	01266 558682
48*	Sister Barbara McArdle	Euro Children		151 Falls Road, Belfast	01232 330758
49	Mr Hugh Casey	Shankill (Lurgan) Community Projects	Company Secretary/Director	Mount Zeon House, Edward St, Lurgan, BT66 6DB	
50	Jacqueline Kilfeather	Southern Traveller Early Years Partnership		Moylinn House, 21 Leganory Centre, Craigavon, BT65 5BE	01762 349012
51	Greg Donnelly	Step Community Services	Managing Director	335 Finaghy Road North, Belfast BT11 9DT	01232 203403
52	Michael McAlinden	St Peters Youth Club	Chief Worker in Charge	17 Innisfayle Crescent, Bangor, BT19 1DT	
53*	Jeanette Murray	Young Help Trust		23-31 Waring Street, Belfast, BT1 2DX	01232 560120
54	Denise Bermingham	Ardoyne Youth Club		Old Beltex Mill, Flax Street, Belfast, BT14 7EJ	01232 351482
55	Jonathon Caldwell	Go Kidz	Director	The Rock Centre, North Boundary Street, Belfast	01232 312351
56	Jackie Chalk	NICHS		547 Antrim Road, Belfast	01232 370373
57*	Maureen Hetherington	Right to Hope	Treasurer & Director	C/o Derry City Council, 98 Strand Road, Derry	01504 365151
58*	Clare McKeever	Divis Women's Stretch Personal Dev Group	Organiser	Ardmoulinn Place, Belfast	01232 242551
59	Liz Sheppard	Gaol Turrent Community Centre	Secretary	Fountain Street, Derry	01504 263346
60	Mr Doug Smith	Youth Initiatives	Business Manager	128B Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6AH	01232 663710

61	Francis Fortray	Catholic Boy Scouts Foundation NI	North Field Development Officer	Enterprise Crescent, Lisburn,	01846 844788
62*	Julianne	Carrickmore Youth Club	Co-ordinator	Main Street, Omagh	01662 761310
63	Andrew Askin	Deenby Youth Club	Leader	84B Oaktree Drive, Antrim	01849 428517
64	Lynda Gibson	Vine Community & Advice Centre		227 Crumlin Road, Belfast BT14 7DY	01232 351020
65	Ken Gillespie	Belfast County Scout Council	Chief Executive	109 Old Milltown Road, Belfast	01232 492829
66	Pauline McQuillan	Armagh Youth Resource Centre	Youth Development Worker	38 Scoth Street, Armagh	01861 510838
67	Mr Leo Foy	Youth Information Centre		81A Hill Street, Newry, BT34 1DG	01693 68132
68*	Mr William Osborne	Voluntary Service Belfast		70-72 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6AF	01232 200850
69	Ms Martina Storey	Strabane & District Initiative for Youth	Development Officer	Melvin Hall, Bridge Street, Strabane, BT82 9AE	01504 885498
70	Georgina McClintock	Sion Mills Community Association	Chairperson	Sion Mills Community Hall, Main Street, Strabane, BT82 9XD	01662 659896
71	Brian O'Callaghan	St Oliver Plunkett Youth Club	Youth Worker in Charge	Culaville Road, Crossmaglen, BT35 9AQ	01693 868107
72*	Sonia McElvoy	NI 2000	Education/Events Coordinator	16 Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Belfast	01232 403779
73	Linda McFall	Larne Community Care Centre	After School Co-ordinator	5a Doric Way, Antivaille, Larne	01574 273362
74	Billy Greer	First Step Drop in Centre	Project Manager	116 York Road, Belfast	01232 744040
75	Ann Marie Moran	Youthscape	Centre Leader	31 Rainey Street, Magherafelt	01648 301834
76	R Gorman	British Association for Shooting & Conservation	Director - NI	The Courtyard Cottage, Galgorm Castle	01266 652349

Respondents - Face to Face Consultations

Contact	Name of Organisation	Position	Address	Telephone
Ms Frances Fortay	Catholic Boy Scouts Foundation NI	North Field Development Officer	Enterprise Crescent, Lisburn,	01846 844788
Mr Patrick McMahon	Omagh Boys and Girls Club	Leader-in-Charge	32A Brookmount Road, Omagh	01662 243772
Ms Lynda Gibson	Vine Community & Advice Centre		227 Crumlin Road, Belfast BT14 7DY	01232 351020
Mr Bill McClinton	KGM Community Council	Youth Worker	Knocknagoney Drive	01232 761432
Mr Colm McKeever	Westside Project	Project Manager	471 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DD	01232 245858