

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PARTICIPATION) MEETING

MINUTES

The minutes of the 5th meeting of the Participation SMIG held on Tuesday 26th February 2013 at 1:30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT:

Barry Macaulay, Chair (Sport Northern Ireland)
Brian Delaney (Sport Northern Ireland)
Gerard Houlahan (Chief Leisure Officer's Association)
Kevin O'Neill (Disability Sports NI)
Alan Herron (PlayBoard)
Gordon Reid (NI Sports Forum)

In attendance:

John News; Jamie Uprichard; Paul Donnelly, Conleth Donnelly (all Sport Northern Ireland)
Ian Richardson (CTC)
Stephen Patterson (Sustrans)

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 5th meeting of the Participation SMIG and updated the group on progress against the 26 high level targets. In summary, 6 targets were achieved, 16 were on track for achievement and 4 were on track but with some delay or uncertainty.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Shane McCullough, Gerry Campbell (both SNI), Colette Brolly (PHA), Fiona Coyne (Irish Sports Council), Gerry Kelly (SkillsActive) and Michael Boyd (IFA).

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE FOURTH PARTICIPATION SMIG MEETING HELD ON 25th SEPTEMBER 2012

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING & CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 The Chair requested that DE update the group on the latest status of the PA3 research, particularly regarding the Education and Training Inspectorate's visits.

Action 1: DE to provide an update on the final stage of the PA3 research to enable the group to discuss actions that could be taken forward individually and collectively.

- 4.2 The Chair also updated members on correspondence received from SkillsActive noting their thanks for being invited onto the group; and the

Rainbow Project who provided an update on their work regarding sports participation by the LGBT community.

Action 2: *The Chair requested that Sport NI write to the Rainbow Project thanking them for their report.*

- 4.3 Brian Delaney suggested that the group should consider inviting other organisations who can make a significant contribution to the Participation targets onto the SMIG. It was noted and agreed that AgeNI would be able to make a positive contribution to target PA11.

Action 3: *Sport NI to write to the Chief Executive of Age NI asking the organisation to join the Participation SMIG.*

5. MEMBER UPDATES

- 5.1 The Chair invited members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that had been undertaken (since the last meeting) by each of the representative organisations which contributed to the implementation of Sport Matters.

- 5.2 Members heard of capital developments by district councils; increased levels of participation in duathlon/ triathlon; outdoor play programmes and play sessions focussing on community connections; and Pathfinder – Sport NI’s new participation investment programme.

- 5.3 Kevin O’Neill noted that Northern Ireland had experienced its most successful Paralympic Games, with 5 athletes winning 7 medals. He highlighted increased levels of demand and pointed out that additional resources were required if the 6 percentage point increase in participation amongst people with a disability (PA10) is going to be achieved.

6. PRESENTATION BY SUSTRANS HIGHLIGHTING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PARTICIPATION TARGETS

- 6.1 Stephen Patterson, Regional Manager of Sustrans delivered a presentation highlighting the organisation’s contribution to Sport Matters by making the local environment safer and more attractive for walking and cycling.

Action 4: *Sport NI to arrange a meeting with Stephen and Sustrans Research & Monitoring to discuss how their contribution can be included when reporting progress against the Sport Matters targets.*

Action 5: *Sport NI to contact DRD, who have responsibility for the Active Travel Strategy with a view to joining the Participation SMIG.*

Action 6: *Sport NI to share the Active Travel Strategy with all members.*

7. PRESENTATION BY CTC, THE NATIONAL CYCLING CHARITY

HIGHLIGHTING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PARTICIPATION TARGETS

- 7.1 Ian Richardson, Cycling Development Manager at CTC, the national cycling charity delivered a presentation highlighting the organisation's contribution to Sport Matters. Over a two year period there have been 28 CTC member bike clubs developed increasing levels of participation within 10 to 20 year olds.
- 7.2 The Chair thanked both Ian and Stephen for their informative presentations.

8. PL23 – DISCUSSION ON HIGH PERFORMANCE FACILITY NEEDS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 8.1 John News presented a discussion paper related to the Places target PL23 and the provision of high performance facilities across Northern Ireland. It was noted that such facilities also provide an opportunity to increase levels of participation in sport and physical recreation. Furthermore, Sport NI was also in the early stages of consulting on a high performance capital investment programme.
- 8.2 Gerard Houlahan requested engagement with district councils (through CLOA) regarding this new facilities programme and regional facilities strategies that are in the process of development. I was acknowledged that the facilities strategies would provide the 'groundwork' for identifying sports facility need and it would be important to super impose this on Northern Ireland's need with respect to demand from high performance sport.

Action 7: Sport NI to engage with CLOA during consultation of its new high performance capital programme.

9. PA6 - PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION ON SPORT NI'S PROPOSED ACTIVE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

- 9.1 The Chair informed the group that he had updated the Minister at the last SMMG meeting that the target PA6 was unlikely to be achieved. Research undertaken by Sport NI in May 2012 highlighted that the majority of school children over the age of 8 don't have the opportunity to participate in 2 hours of extra-curricular sport. Considering the research, Sport NI has developed an Active Schools Programme which aims to offer schools the opportunity to receive investment for extra-curricular sporting opportunities. John News delivered a presentation on the proposed pilot Active Schools programme.
- 9.2 It was acknowledged that the target PA6 should be rated as Red as it is highly unlikely to be achieved within the target timeframe (2014). It was also agreed that Sport NI should write to DE requesting consulting on further actions or activities that would contribute towards increasing levels of extra-curricular sport offered by all schools in Northern Ireland.

- 9.3 Given that Sport NI had established a baseline for the provision of extra-curricular sport, it was agreed that this survey should be repeated to provide the measurement for this target. The group discussed the wording of the target and agreed that it would be more realistic to concentrate on a percentage point increase from the 2012 baseline. This would be agreed following engagement with DE.

Action 8: SMIG Chair to meet with DE in terms of progressing PA6.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Paul Donnelly informed members that the next progress reporting exercise (highlighting members' contribution to Sport Matters over the period October 2012-September 2013) would commence in August 2013.
- 10.2 The group acknowledged that there was a lack of qualified coaches within sport and this low supply will have a detrimental impact on future participation levels.

Action 9: A coaching representative should present at a future Participation SMIG meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The Chair suggested that it may be beneficial for all 3 SMIGs to come together for a joint meeting in September/ October 2013. Members will receive confirmation of the date of this meeting in due course.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____