

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PARTICIPATION) MEETING

The minutes of the 9th meeting of the Participation SMIG held on Wednesday 27 May at 1:30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT:

- Chair Geoff Wilson - Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI)
- Daniel Jack – (Age NI)
- Colette Brolly - Public Health Agency (PHA)
- Edel Cosgrove – Sport NI
- Sharon Lawlor - Department of Education (DE)
- Claire Overend - Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI)
- Kevin O’Neil - Disability Sports NI (DSNI)
- Alfie Wylie - Irish Football Association (IFA)
- Nick Harkness – Sport NI
- John News - Sport NI
- Gordon Reid - NI Sports Forum (NISF)
- Alan Herron – (Playboard)
- Gerard Houlahan - Chief Leisure Officer’s Association (CLOA)
- Peter Smyth – (Sport Ireland)

In attendance

- Kate McClements (Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure)

1. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 9th meeting of the Participation SMIG and noted Alan Herron from Playboard is replacing Jacqueline O’Loughlin.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Michael Boyd, Linda Robinson and Aideen Exley.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH PARTICIPATION SMIG MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2014

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Chair referred Members to each of the 8 actions from the previous meeting.

4.2 All actions completed, except for action 4:
"NISF to identify what governing bodies are involved with delivering programmes in schools".

4.3 GR noted some good progress but that the action remains ongoing. GR

4.4 confirmed Tennis, Athletics, Swimming, Basketball and Rowing all contribute to after school linkages. He suggested that he will be contacting individuals in Schools and report progress as the next step.

4.5 A discussion followed on pupils levels of engagement and rates of participation in sport. JN noted a negative correlation between pupils rates of participation from primary school to post primary, particularly for girls. It was noted that pupils focus moves from participation in primary schools to performance in post primary.

4.6 Members agreed on the following action:

ACTION 1:

4.7 **Sport NI to work with NISF to assist with a governing body survey to collect information on work in schools. Once completed, SMIG members to discuss research findings and identify opportunities for collaborative working.**

4.8 The chair also asked Members to provide EC with outstanding contributions for inclusion in the draft Sport Matters Action Plan for the period 2015-19.

ACTION 2:

4.9 **Members to forward EC contributions for inclusion in the Sport Matters Action Plan.**

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 a range of initiatives and areas of progress including:

5.3 SPORT NI

NH updated Members on the following work areas:

- Facility Strategy

NI wide facility strategy currently being drafted.

- National Lottery Capital Investment

Investment of £17.5m of National Lottery Funds into sports facilities from 2015 – 2020 split into three different sections (1) Single Facility Fund – providing facilities for single sport applicants. (2) Multi Sport Facility Fund – providing investment for multi facility / multi sports hubs and (3) Performance Facility Fund – providing investment for facilities that combine community usage and high performance usage.

- Disability Sport Action Plan

Sport NI in consultation with DSNI and various stakeholders is coordinating drafting a sector wide Disability Sport Action Plan to bring focussed direction to the development of disability sport across NI.

- Active Communities

In April 2015, the Board of Sport NI approved a future direction of travel for participation priorities through to 2020. The policy, Everybody Active 2020, builds on the success of the Active Communities programme. It is currently in the final stages of consultation.

- Active Clubs

In January 2015, Sport NI confirmed a £4m National Lottery investment in 13 governing bodies of sport and sport umbrella bodies (DSNI & ORNI) to enable and support club development activities aimed at increasing club membership.

- Active Awards for Sport

The programme over the last 12 months invested approx. £1.1m in 182 grassroots sports clubs & community sport projects. Sport NI is currently assessing a further 253 applications and expects to confirm additional investment of £425,000 in June 2015.

5.4 Northern Ireland Sports Forum (NISF)

GR noted NISF are working collaboratively with the Female Sports Forum. He further added the NISF are focusing on marketing and have established an all-party group for Sport at Stormont.

5.5 Playboard

AH advised Members that Playboard have completed a play based

programme in March 2015. He noted a 'good relations' programme which provides opportunities for children, the 'positive playground' aimed at utilising outdoor space creatively and 'outdoor play' training aimed at providers.

5.6 NH noted the 'leave no trace' training provided at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre and offered TNOC as a possible venue for Playboard initiatives.

5.7 Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA)

GH informed Members of the difficulties surrounding RPA including new Councillors lack of awareness regarding sport related work. He expressed the need to lobby the 'value of sport' and for direction from SOLACE. He noted the absence of appointed CLOA representatives across the consortia and the challenge this may have on Sport NI's facility strategy work.

5.8 NH agreed with GH and noted Sport NI's decision to delay the district council facility area reports due to this problem. He also advised Members that he asked SOLACE to confirm their respective CLOA representative to him.

5.9 Sport Ireland

PS noted the rebranding of the Irish Sports Council to Sport Ireland. He informed the group of the 'National Activity Plan' which aligns to the broader 'Healthy Ireland' strategy. PS also informed Members of work surrounding women in sport, people with disabilities and older people and advised of imminent research due to be published.

5.10 He noted the development of community sport hubs in disadvantaged areas and the scope for 8-10 hubs across the country. PS advised on Sport Ireland's promotion of walking as a gateway to physical activity.

5.11 In terms of research PS expressed the need for robust monitoring systems. He noted the 'Irish Sports Monitor' research which measures participation rates bi-annually, the last one being published in 2013, with initial indicators suggesting the latest report will reveal positive results. PS advised of the need to recognise what people gravitate towards. He noted the all-island research on university participation by students.

5.12 The Chair invited PS to present on Sport Ireland's 'National Activity Plan' and work relevant to the Sport Matters targets at the next meeting.

5.13 **ACTION 3:**
PS to present on the Sport Ireland's 'National Activity Plan' and research relevant to Sport Matters participation targets at the next meeting.

5.14 Age NI

DJ advised Members of Age NI's work developing a new strategy, budget, staying well and feeling good. He noted their focus of providing opportunities and support to enhance the independence of older people.

5.15 DJ further added that a regional network in excess of 2000 support groups for older people exists which mirror the council boundaries.

5.16 The Chair noted Alpha and BIFA funding opportunities.

5.17 Public Health Agency (PHA)

CB noted the PHA are continuing to lead on the non-Departmental recommendations within the Fitter Futures framework document and are also producing public facing resources to increase awareness of the CMO guidelines on physical activity for the Adult population.

5.18 PHA is continuing to roll out the Choose to Live Better Campaign which aims to raise awareness of obesity prevention, the importance of good nutrition and of being physically active.

5.19 CB advised PHA are supporting increased participation through a range of investments/initiatives such as Walking for Health, 10,000 steps programme, Couch 2 5K initiatives, Park Run, Green gyms/allotments, outdoor gyms, and cycling programmes.

5.20 In addition, PHA are continuing to support the local H&SC Trust to deliver a range of physical activity training programmes to build capacity within the community and are currently developing and implementing a standardised Physical Activity Referral Programme across Northern Ireland.

5.21 Department of Education (DE)

SL advised that DE adhere to the guidance two hours of PE per week for pupils. She highlighted the C2K resource to engage with young people and video conferencing opportunities which IFA, GAA and IRFU-UB have utilised. SL further added that the C2K service lacks sports coordination.

5.22 NH noted Sport NI's 'Sporting Ambassadors' initiative and offered to check with Sport NI's marketing team whether Sport NI avails of the C2K service.

5.23 **ACTION 4:**
Sport NI to explore opportunities to avail of the C2K service.

5.24 SL informed Members of the 'food in schools' and 'road safety' resource tools. She also noted the GAA and IFA curriculum sports programme targeted at P1-4 classes which is aimed at improving children's physical literacy and fundamental movement skills. Despite the £200k cut the programme will support 52 coaches.

5.25 SL also advised the group of the Community Use of Schools omnibus survey which is due to report in November 2015. She indicated that community use of schools appears principal driven.

5.26 Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI)

CO confirmed to Members that ORNI received funding under Sport NI's Active Clubs programme. She noted ORNI's promotion of walking trails including a 15km trail in Tyrone.

5.27 CO also advised members of the nature/play park opening in Tollymore and Castlewellan. She noted the Castlewellan play park is administered via a service level agreement with Down District Council.

5.28 ORNI have also confirmed 90 new mountain bike volunteers and 150 walking volunteers, with 9-10k people involved in the 'Get Outdoors' weekend.

5.29 PS advised Members of the European Week of Sport during 7-13 September 2015.

5.30 Disability Sports Northern Ireland (DSNI)

KON advised Members of the imminent launch of DSNI's strategic plan. He noted the organisation restructured and refocused its priorities as a result of the budget cuts. KON also highlighted the achievements of athletes with a disability in terms of performance success but noted the difficulty in sustaining athletes performance due to the budget cuts.

5.31 KON welcomed the sector wide disability sport action plan and reinforced the need for more collaborative and joined-up with across agencies.

5.32 Irish Football Association (IFA)

AW informed Members of the 27 primary school coaches, the pilot schools district player programme, FIFA 'live your goals' festival, 1582 children participating in the Nutty Crust event and the success of the U19 Learning Difficulty squad winning the home nations championships for the first time in nine years. AW also advised Members of the IFA's new 'Youth Strategy'.

5.33 The Chair recorded Members congratulations to the U19 team.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT SPORT MATTERS ACTION PLAN 2015-19**

6.1 The Chair asked if Members had any comments on the action plan covering the period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2019.

- 6.2 A discussion ensued on the draft action plan with Members agreeing on the following actions:
- 6.3 **ACTION 5**
Sport NI to pursue explanation from DCAL on why some of the new participation targets dates are historical.
- 6.4 **ACTION 6**
Sport NI to implement a version control on the Sport Matters Action Plan to enable members input going forward.
- 6.5 **ACTION 7**
Sport NI to check if the school survey, last undertaken in 2011, will be repeated.
- 6.6 **ACTION 8**
DCAL to consider merging the adult and children participation targets into one with sub categories for the underrepresented groups to limit duplication in Members returns for the action plan.
- 6.7 The Chair thanked all Members for the contribution to date.
- 6.8 AW left the meeting at 15:50.

7. **PRESENTATION FROM PLAYBOARD**

- 7.1 AH presented on the work of Playboard. He advised Members that Playboard works on a regional basis and delivers a wide range of services designed to strengthen understanding and recognition of the importance of play to children's development.
- 7.2 Following the presentation JN asked if Playboard has an off the shelf schools play policy as a resource?

AH confirmed and agreed to send through.

- 7.3 **ACTION 9:**
AH to email Sport NI Playboards schools play policy template.

- 7.4 KON left the meeting at 16:00.

- 7.5 CO left the meeting at 16:05.

- 7.6 The Chairman thanked AH for his presentation.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 The Chair asked for any other comments from Members. No additional comments were noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting in June 2015.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____