

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

PARTICIPATION SMIG MEETING

The minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Participation SMIG held on Thursday 15th September 2011 at 1.00pm in Sport Northern Ireland, House of Sport, 2a Upper Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

Chair: Brian McCargo, SNI

**Members: Ross Carr, SNI
Barry Macaulay, SNI
Alan Money Penny, SNI
Jacqueline O'Loughlin, SNI and Playboard
Jim Rodgers, SNI
Fiona Coyne, Irish Sports Council
Ryan Feeney, Ulster Council GAA
Barry Willis, Ulster Branch IRFU
Aubrey Bingham, Disability Sports NI
Gerard Houlahan, Chief Leisure Officers Association
Sharon Lawlor, Department of Education
Ian Bamford, Northern Ireland Sports Forum**

**SNI Staff: Nick Harkness
Paul Donnelly
John News
Jamie Uprichard
Gillian Gilliland**

1 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the second Participation SMIG meeting and in particular the new members to the group – Jacqueline O'Loughlin, Playboard, Sharon Lawlor, Department of Education, Kevin O'Neill, Disability Sport Northern Ireland (represented at today's meeting by deputy Aubrey Bingham) and Barry Willis, Ulster Branch IRFU.
- 1.2 The Chair referred to the recent Boccia World Cup which had taken place at Jordanstown and had been a tremendous success.
- 1.3 The Chair advised that a number of SNI members would be standing down in December 2011 following completion of two terms. This would have an effect on some of the SMIG group membership but SNI were seeking advice from DCAL on the best way to deal with this issue.

- 1.4 The Chair advised that he had attended the Sports Matters Monitoring Group meeting and had given an overview of the work of the Participation SMIG. He stated that he had highlighted that without the assistance of the stakeholders Sport Matters could not achieve all the targets. The Chair requested that if any of the stakeholder groups represented were unable to achieve any of their targets due to a lack of resources etc to let SNI know to enable a case to be built for future funding. Members heard that two main issues relating to Participation had been discussed at the meeting. The first was the issue of SNI's coach development network and the possibility of involving the GAA and IFA's Curriculum Sport Programme coaches into this and a meeting is due to take place with IFA and GAA representatives on 22 September. The second issue related to the target PA3 (by 2011 to establish the baseline for children of two hours of PE to be achieved) and a meeting is due to take place between DE, DCAL, SNI and E&TI on 20 September. S Lawlor advised that she was unable to attend this meeting but would be sending a deputy.

2 **APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Una Duncan, John D'Arcy, Murray Cowan, Colette Brolly (PHA), Michael Boyd (IFA) and Mark Barr (E&TI).
- 2.2 The Chair advised that some organisations had yet to appoint a nominated deputy and requested that these be appointed as soon as possible.

ACTION: All members to ensure that a nominated deputy is forwarded to SNI.

3 **REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2011 were approved as an accurate record and signed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 Item 4.4 – Members noted that Kim Kensett, PHA has now moved to a new role and we wish her all the best. Colette Brolly is her replacement.
- 4.2 Item 5.3 – Members heard that SNI are due to meet with Peter Smyth, ISC in October to discuss developing north/south partnership working on participation in sport.

5 **PARTICIPATION TEAM UPDATE – FOR INFORMATION – SNI/PAR/11/132**

- 5.1 Members received Paper SNI/PAR/11/132 which provided an overview of the work of the Participation Team from May to September 2011. This paper would normally go to the Participation Committee but it was thought that it would be a useful source of information for the Participation SMIG members of what the SNI's Participation Team do.

- 5.2 Members noted areas of work of particular interest including the small grants programme, investment in disability mainstreaming, Activ8 and physical literacy. The small grants programme is due to close on 26 September and it is expected to receive around 400-500 applications with an available budget of £0.5m. This highlights the need and demand that exists within grassroots sport for programmes to happen. In terms of investment for disability mainstreaming, SNI continues to invest in DSNI. In addition, Special Olympics Ulster has just secured cross-departmental funding, including a contribution from DCAL. Members heard that Active8 started two years ago as a social marketing tool for children to be active for at least two hours per day and this has now spun off into a number of programmes including Wild Cats and the Activ8 Eat Well Programme.
- 5.3 The Chair stated that it was good to see ownership of the SMIG developing and requested that for the next meeting Members might consider doing a presentation on their priority areas of work. R Feeney stated that he could give a presentation on the work they are currently doing with the IFA and DE on the Curriculum Sports Programme. It was agreed that SNI would follow up on this and make the necessary arrangements.

Action: GAA, IFA and DE to prepare a short presentation on the Curriculum Sport Programme and SNI to facilitate arrangements.

6 REVIEW OF SMIG ACTION PLAN 2011-15 – MEMBERS UPDATE AND APPROVAL FOR SUBMISSION TO SSMG

- 6.1 The Chair thanked everyone for providing information for the Action Plan. It was noted that SNI staff had met with a number of members regarding the actions contained within the plan to ensure it fully reflected the work being carried out and a draft Action Plan was circulated to members prior to today's meeting. The Chair requested members to provide verbal updates on their particular area.
- 6.2 R Feeney, GAA advised that in terms of levels of activity they had about 90,000 participants this year. However, he advised that one area where they were currently falling down on was the disability work but they had just appointed someone to take this forward. He advised that at present the GAA had 70 clubs undergoing Clubmark accreditation ('Club Maith') and 30 have already achieved this. GAA have also trained 3,000 officers in Club and Volunteer Capacity Programmes and have a further 1,000 target. The GAA are linking with the IFA on this to share resources.
- 6.3 J O'Loughlin, Playboard advised that they are currently working on an initiative of street play and are also working with local councils to close down streets to allow this to happen. This initiative took place over the summer months.
- 6.4 S Lawlor, DE advised that they would be amending their entry in the report as a result of update requests from DCAL in advance of the Monitoring Group

Meeting in October. Ongoing work includes: putting out the DE guidance on two hours PE per week, PA3 curriculum sports programme with IFA and GAA, baseline survey and E&TI survey, electronic survey to all schools about basic facts and figures and what they are doing. As a result of these various surveys DE hope to have a better feel of what is happening.

- 6.5 I Bamford, NISF queried was it possible to try to organise sporting events for children, particularly during school holidays, using school playing fields and facilities which could be publicised by inviting along local sports stars. The Chair advised that the use of school sites was an area that was currently being investigated, work is ongoing with DE and a paper has been produced regarding community use of school sites. It was agreed that what was encouraging was the guidance on PE hours within the curriculum being developed.
- 6.6 G Houlahan, CLOA advised that they are very keen to get involved in health and well-being initiatives across the 26 council areas. He stated that CLOA is moving towards this type of organisation rather than purely recreation and leisure. He advised that CLOA would be able to work closely with PHA on these areas. He also advised that CLOA would be able to feed into the Regional Programme for Active Communities and they are committed to coach education and training.
- 6.7 Members noted that SNI had met recently with the PHA and they are fully engaged with the action planning process. The PHA advised that their objectives dovetail with Sport Matters and they would be putting a specific objective within their corporate and business plans to reflect this.
- 6.8 The Chair advised that he was aware that some members had only recently met with SNI staff and would therefore require more time to input into the Action Plan. The Chair requested that any outstanding responses should be returned to SNI by 23 September. SNI advised that they were seeking members' approval to make the finalised Action Plan available to the monitoring group on 5 October and nil responses following the 23 September deadline would be taken as approval of the Action Plan.

7. PROGRESS REPORTING OCTOBER 2010-SEPTEMBER 2011 – ISSUE OF REPORTING TEMPLATE

- 7.1 Members noted that the progress report covering the period April 2009 to September 2010 was considered at the monitoring group meeting in January 2011. Since then SNI have received two updates, one from DE and one from PHA and are awaiting an update from GAA. This report will be signed off by the Sport Matters Monitoring Group (SMMG) on 5 October. Therefore, any members who wish to have a final input into the document should do so before 23 September.
- 7.2 SNI will be issuing members with a progress reporting template covering the period 1 October 2010 to 30 September. Members are requested to have their returns completed by 11 November.

Action: Members to complete the Progress Reporting template covering the period 2010-2011 and return to SNI by 11 November 2011.

- 7.3 It was noted that the PHA had advised that the reporting periods have been set to dovetail with the SMMG and this was challenging for them to have reporting periods spanning two financial years. SNI advised that these periods were set by the ministerial group but may need to be reflected upon. SNI queried was this causing any other members with difficulties and DE advised that they are going to raise this issue with DCAL as currently they are producing three reports in different formats.

8. PRESENTATION ON THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF SPORT IN NORTHERN IRELAND – CHRIS GRATTAN (SIRC)

- 8.1 Members received a presentation by Professor Chris Grattan from the Sports Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University on the key findings from the Economic Importance of Sport research which was undertaken for SNI in late 2010. It was noted that the completion of this research project represented the successful achievement of the short term Participation target PA2 and that a full copy of the report was contained within members' packs.

- 8.2 The Chair thanked Professor Grattan for a very interesting presentation.

9. PRESENTATION ON BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY – KIERAN HARDING (BITC)

- 9.1 Members received a presentation by Kieran Harding, Managing Director at Business in the Community introducing his organisation and demonstrating how they could contribute to many of the targets and priorities within Sport Matters.

- 9.2 Members discussed how it was difficult for people to participate in sport due to inflexible work practices and K Harding advised that they challenge their members in terms of health and well-being in the workplace and the majority of their businesses were very receptive to releasing people to participate in sport.

- 9.3 SNI advised that they were working with bodies regarding active places and communities. Active workplaces is a very important thing and something as simple as providing showering facilities can make a difference to people's lifestyles. Members agreed that if there were ways to encourage businesses to provide such facilities this would be beneficial. G Houlahan advised that he was aware that the PHA was currently arranging a major campaign on active workplaces. He advised that as a council they struggle to get their own staff to use the leisure centres, despite offering incentive schemes. K Harding advised that BITC were currently working with PHA on active workplaces. G Houlahan stated that closer engagement between BITC, CLOA and PHA on this area would be great.

- 9.4 F Coyne advised that the ISC had been working with BITC in the south and have supported them working with clubs filling in applications for funding and also on the Brand Match initiative which aims to get athletes finishing their careers into the workplace. K Harding advised that BITC are due to launch Brand Match NI. Members agreed that it would be helpful if BITC were to link with NISF on this initiative. S Lawlor advised that there might be an opportunity for BITC to become involved with the use of school sports facilities.

Action: BITC, CLOA and DE to have a follow-up meeting to discuss opportunities.

- 9.5 K Harding advised that he would be reporting back to his Board at the beginning of November to ascertain ways in which they can engage more in the workplace. The Chair suggested that it might be possible to find a way that K Harding could be more involved in the Participation SMIG in the future. The Chair thanked K Harding for his informative presentation.

S Lawlor, R Carr and J O'Loughlin left the meeting at 2.55pm.

10 **PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND – SHAUN CASSIDY (SO)**

- 10.1 The Chair welcomed Shaun Cassidy, Francis Cavanagh and Jo McDade from Special Olympics to deliver a presentation highlighting key areas of work that Special Olympics Ulster are involved in.
- 10.2 Members heard that work was ongoing between Special Olympics and DSNI and a memorandum of understanding was being developed. SO advised that their main challenges in the future included engagement with partner organisations, improving long-term funding sustainability and increasing awareness of the year-round Special Olympics programme.
- 10.3 The Chair thanked SO for their presentation and wished them every success in the future.

A Moneypenny left the meeting at 3.20pm.

F Coyne left the meeting at 3.30pm.

11. **PRESENTATION ON FEEDBACK FROM THE CONSULTATION ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND – MIKE McCLURE (SNI)**

- 11.1 Members received a presentation by Mike McClure, SNI's Countryside Recreation Officer highlighting the key findings from the Access to Public Land consultation carried out in early 2011.
- 11.2 Members noted that this area of work fell within Sport Matters Target PL24. It was noted that 101 responses had been received to the SNI online survey ranging from governing bodies to individuals who are volunteers, two

government departments and five district councils. 93% strongly agree with the principle of self-responsibility and environmental awareness and there was very strong public support for the public land use and legislative change. The majority of respondents felt that legislation was the best way to support landowners.

11.3 Members heard that Northern Ireland has the lowest rights of way per square mile and there was strong agreement that targets should be set and there was a need for a working group to liaise on this.

11.4 SNI advised that there needs to be a strong focus on increasing access to public land for sport and physical recreation (PL24). SNI advised that work was ongoing on a new outdoor recreation action plan which would not be a stand-alone strategy but would align with Sport Matters.

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 The Chair thanked J Uprichard and P Donnelly for the preparation and organisation of the meeting. The Chair suggested that for future meetings the agenda should not be overloaded to allow time for discussion around the table and to ensure presentations were not rushed.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13.1 Members noted the next meeting would be held in January 2012 and the exact date would be advised in due course.

13.2 There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 3.50pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____