

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (SMIG) MEETING

PARTICIPATION SMIG

The minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Participation SMIG held on Tuesday 27th March 2012 at 13.30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT:

Chair: Barry Macaulay, Sport Northern Ireland

Members: Colette Brolly, Public Health Agency
Eugene Young, Ulster Council GAA
Alan Money Penny, Sport Northern Ireland
Gordon Reid, Northern Ireland Sports Forum
Sharon Lawlor, Department of Education
Jacqueline O'Loughlin, PlayBoard
Fiona Coyne, Irish Sports Council

In Attendance: Matthew McDermott, Rainbow Project
Gavin Boyd, Rainbow Project
John News, Sport Northern Ireland
Paul Donnelly, Sport Northern Ireland
Jamie Uprichard, Sport Northern Ireland

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 1.1 Barry McAulay welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting of the Participation Sport Matters Implementation Group (SMIG) and in particular to new members, Gordon Reid (NISF) and Colette Brolly (PHA). In light of the Olympics and Paralympic Games in London taking place in August 2012, the Chairman highlighted that it was important to promote participation in sport and maintain a positive legacy of the games.
- 1.2 The Chairman commented on the changes of personnel within the Participation SMIG and acknowledged in particular the appointment of 3 new members. He also acknowledged the valuable contributions of outgoing members including, the former Chair of the Participation SMIG, Brian McCargo, Una Duncan, Jim Rodgers (all SNI) and Ian Bamford from the Northern Ireland Sports forum.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Michael Boyd (IFA), John D'Arcy

and Murray Cowan (both SNI), Gerard Houlahan (CLOA) and Ryan Feeney (GAA).

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE PARTICIPATION SMIG MEETING HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2011

The Chairman asked Members to consider the minutes from the previous meeting. Collette Brolly highlighted a typo on page 6.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 The Chair assured the group that all actions from the last meeting would be covered in today's agenda except for point 9.4, where Business in the Community (BITC), CLOA and DE discussed the possibility of collaborative working. John News commented on a recent meeting with BITC concerning community volunteering and Olympic and Paralympic Pre-Games Events.

5. SPORT MATTERS ACTION PLAN 2011-15-MEMBER UPDATES

- 5.1 The Chair asked members to provide a short verbal update on the work their organisations have been involved in (specifically relating to the implementation of Sport Matters) since the last meeting.
- 5.2 Jacqueline O'Loughlin commented that PlayBoard have been working with district councils on the implementation of the Executive's Play and Leisure Strategy. Jacqueline reported that 14 district councils had established strategic Play and Leisure partnerships. In addition, the organisation is involved with a number of focused play initiatives focused on addressing Health and Educational outcomes. At a local level Jacqueline reported that over 300 children in North Belfast had participated in a recent event to promote "National Skipping day".
- 5.3 Sharon Lawlor informed the group that a 3 stage survey is underway linked to PA3. As part of the research, ETI will also be conducting inspections at primary schools and out of school sports clubs. Initial findings are expected by the next Participation SMIG meeting in September 2012.

DE

Action: DE to provide an update at the next meeting on the initial findings of the research.

DE has also launched new resources titled Aspire, Aim and Achieve, that will help schools and their pupils to find out more about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through a variety of areas of learning.

Secondly, SNI's advocacy document concerning community use

of schools was introduced by Sharon. She highlights that this document was set in place in order to alleviate fears from schools of introducing their premises to community groups. This document will be available to schools on the c2k website now and will hopefully allow schools to be more welcoming to community integration.

- 5.4 John News, Participation Manager at SNI updated Members on the Active Communities Programme which is now fully functional in all 11 consortia of district councils; investment in Disability Sports NI and Special Olympics Ulster which have contributed greatly to disability sport; the Awards For Sport small grants programme; the development of an Outdoor Recreation Action Plan; and Activ8, the social marketing campaign which has evolved into a brand of SNI, which aims to improve physical literacy in young people.
- 5.5 Fiona Coyne commented on research undertaken by the Irish Sports Council which suggests a positive increase in terms of participation within Ireland.
- 5.6 Colette Brolly stated that the PHA was currently undertaking a review of exercise referrals schemes they commission with a view to standardising schemes across Northern Ireland. An evidence based seminar on older people and physical activity is being held on 28th March with a view to sharing the learning on the importance of physical activity for older people.
- 5.7 Gordon Reid noted that the NI Sports Forum are engaging with governing bodies with a view to providing more detail on the extensive work being undertaken by all sports.
- 5.8 The Chairman thanked Members for their contribution to the Sport Matters Action Plan which was approved by the Sport Matters Monitoring Group (SMMG) in October 2011. He encouraged Members that should they wish to add any additional actions, to forward them to Paul Donnelly and Jamie Uprichard for inclusion within the Plan. It was noted that both the Rainbow Project and CUSAI would also be contributing to the Plan.

6. REVIEW OF DRAFT SPORT MATTERS PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER 2010-SEPTEMBER 2011

- 6.1 Members heard that a draft Progress Report covering the period October 2010 to September 2011 had been produced. The Chair encouraged all Members to feed into this report which would be presented to the SMMG on 18 April 2012.

7. CONSIDERATION OF SPORT MATTERS TARGETS REVIEW

- 7.1 Following a request at the last meeting, Jamie Uprichard

presented a review of the current position in relation to the attainment of the 26 high level targets. A traffic light system was applied to each target and this analysis highlighted that 5 targets had been achieved, 17 were rated as Green - 'on track for achievement', 3 were rated Yellow - 'on track but with some delay' and 1 Red - 'at risk for achievement'.

- 7.2 The group then focussed on the 11 Participation targets and discussed each outstanding target separately. In particular there was considerable debate on target PA6:

By 2014 to provide every child in Northern Ireland over the age of 8 years with the opportunity to participate in at least two hours per week of extracurricular sport and physical recreation.

Discussion focussed on the wording of this particular target and it was noted that it referred to extra-curricular sport and physical recreation *opportunities*. Paul Donnelly informed the group that NISRA's Young Person's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey does not include any questions relating to extra-curricular sporting opportunities. As a result there was currently no measurement tool available in order to provide a robust assessment of progress towards achieving this target.

Sharon Lawlor expressed concern over this target stating that Education could not provide statistics on this subject but was providing opportunities without basing it on substantial evidence. Sharon commented that without baseline information, informed targets could not be set.

Gordon Reid stated that it was important to make parents aware of the extra-curricular sporting opportunities. John News added that all children won't necessarily want to participate in 2 hours of physical activity and therefore it is important that a variety of activities are offered.

The Chairman outlined that extra-curricular sport and physical recreation had to be considered within the school environment as it was extremely difficult to report and somewhat subjective to include informal physical activity.

The Chair asked that SNI staff consider undertaking a small research project in order to provide an assessment of the current levels of extra-curricular sport currently offered within schools in Northern Ireland. In addition, recommendations were welcomed to provide a suitable and robust measurement tool to determine whether this target will be achieved in 2014.

SNI

Action: SNI to develop a research framework to capture levels of extra-curricular sport and physical recreation offered by schools across NI.

8. PRESENTATION FROM ULSTER COUNCIL GAA ON THE CURRICULUM SPORTS PROGRAMME - EUGENE YOUNG

- 8.1 Dr Eugene Young from the Ulster Council GAA delivered a presentation to the group titled "Children Happier, Fitter, Healthier" which provided an overview of the Department of Education's Curriculum Sports Programme which is delivered by IFA and GAA coaches.

The presentation was well received and SNI Vice Chair, Alan Money Penny requested that the presentation be delivered at a future SNI Board meeting. **GAA**

Action: GAA to deliver the presentation at a future SNI Board meeting.

9. PRESENTATION ON ISSUES FOR LGBT PEOPLE IN SPORT – THE RAINBOW PROJECT

- 9.1 Matthew McDermott, Equality Officer and Gavin Boyd, Education Equality Officer delivered a short presentation highlighting the role of the Rainbow Project, issues facing LGBT people in sport and actions that may contribute to the implementation of Sport Matters.

The Chair noted the points made during the presentation and thanked both Matthew and Gavin for presenting to the group. The Chair asked if the presentation could be made available to share with Members who weren't in attendance.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 The Chair made Members aware of a series of Sport Matters road shows that would be delivered across Northern Ireland in April and May 2012.
- 10.2 In addition, the Chair informed Members that a Sport Matters 2012 Newsletter will be distributed to over 300,000 households across Northern Ireland in April 2012, with the aim of raising the profile and public awareness of Sport Matters and encourage further commitment and engagement.
- 10.3 Members heard that the next SMMG meeting is scheduled for 18 April 2012 at the Girls Model School, Belfast.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The next meeting of the Participation SMIG will be held on 25th September 2012 at 13:30.

Signed: B. Macaulay

Dated: 25/9/12