

Presentation of:
Community Use of School Sports
Facilities – Advocacy Document

Places SMIG
Monday 8th October 2012

Introduction:

- The ‘Community Use of School Sports Facilities – Advocacy Document’ has been developed to offer guidance to organisations that can either influence or facilitate community use of school sports facilities.
- Its vision is:
“that schools become the engine to mobilise communities into a culture of participation in sport and physical recreation”

Background:

- In 2009, SNI Active Place Research Report identified a significant shortfall in sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland. The report highlights the valuable supply of sporting facilities within the school estate and suggests that if this infrastructure was opened to local communities, school sports facilities could considerably assist in 'bridging the sports facilities gap' in Northern Ireland;
- SNI in partnership with others has promoted community use for many years, overcoming considerable barriers to successfully deliver capital projects in particular. The last reshuffle of the Stormont Executive presented a rare opportunity to address the barriers to community use with two Ministers representing the same political party;

Background:

- Visits to a number of schools in Belfast, facilitating successful community use, by both the DE & DCAL Ministers, led to a call for the development of guidance material to assist schools in overcoming various issues and barriers in making facilities available for use by local communities;

The work of Sport NI:

- SNI is delighted to bring forward the first guidance material for schools, highlighting various approaches to community use, the core principals of community use, a vision for community use and a number of examples of best practice from across Northern Ireland;
- The Community Use of School Sports Facilities - Advocacy Document has been brought about through the Sport Matters delivery process and is the result of collaborative work between the Department of Education (DE), DCAL, and Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) who have all jointly recognised the many benefits of community use;

The work of Education:

- Given their extensive experience on facilitating community use, DE also requested that the ELB's and CCMS also draft community use guidance material. The Education guidance will seek to provide necessary advice and support that will assist schools in dealing with the many practical issues involved in making school facilities (not just sporting provision) available for wider community use;
- At a previous meeting of the Sport Matters Monitoring Group, DE & SNI agreed that the guidance materials from both organisations, would be complementary. As such the ELB's & CCMS have contributed towards SNI's guidance, whilst SNI is currently contributing to the guidance material of Education;

The document:

- The SNI Board recently approved the Advocacy Document for publication. With the exception of a final proof read and a few minor alterations, the document will be printed and published by the end of October.
- Lets have a look inside...

Thank-you

Any Questions?