

## REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 AUGUST 2019

### ACTIVE SCHOOLS – CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP

#### 1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

**1.1 Consider the achievements of the Active Schools Aberdeenshire programme, as outlined below and in Appendix Two.**

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Council introduced the Active Schools programme in 2005. The programme aim is to support people to lead longer and healthier lives. This will be achieved by encouraging young people to take part in sport and physical activity sessions, developing leadership skills and supporting a healthier lifestyle. This is achieved through:
- Encouraging a culture of participation in sports and physical activity from primary school, ensuring our young people have the best chance to lead longer, healthier lives
  - Increasing the number of young people participating in sport and physical activity
  - Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers
  - Developing strong links through schools to local clubs and groups
  - Improving the range and quality of coaching and physical activity in community club programmes
  - Encouraging leadership and peer mentoring by Young People
  - Targeting pupils who have traditionally reduced their level of physical activity as they move through secondary school
- 2.2 In April, 2018, Full Council approved a new Sport & Physical Activity Strategy, driven by the corporate priorities. The Active Schools programme is a significant contributor to achieving the aims and objectives within these strategies from both Culture and Sport, improving the health and wellbeing of our school-age children through participation in sport and physical activity, helping to break down barriers and developing new friendships. The team also foster and support the development of lifelong skills, providing opportunities for young people to obtain nationally-recognised sports qualifications and the **sportscotland** Young Leader (Ambassador) scheme, where participants are involved in a wide range of opportunities which foster development and leadership skills.

Active Schools Aberdeenshire supports volunteering, including peer-to-peer volunteering. The programme also contributes to the employability agenda, with participants often moving into paid coaching roles and employment within the local sports centres as they progress through the programme. The strengths of Active Schools Aberdeenshire, and its contribution to delivering

on the Sport & Physical Activity Strategy action plan, are scrutinised in regular and ongoing reviews of both the Active Schools programme and the strategies.

### 2.3 Key strengths of the Active Schools programme are:

- An increase in community capacity to deliver quality Active Schools sessions.
  - 95% of directly delivered sessions, 898 in 2018/19, are now undertaken by volunteers (7% higher than nationally). 875 new extracurricular clubs have been developed in Aberdeenshire.
  - An increase in the quality of staff delivering sports and physical activity service delivery through a structured Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for both staff and volunteers.
  - In 2018/19, there were 388 qualified volunteer deliverers running sessions through Active Schools.
  - In 2018/19, 28% of the school-age population were taking part in Active Schools activities.
  - Equalities – there have been 138 participants from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile one, 2041 children with a defined disability, 1522 with ASN and 71 looked after children participating in Active Schools activities.
- Successful focus on engaging with young women.
  - Currently 47% of the total participation sessions at secondary level were by girls (this was 46% in 2017), who traditionally have not participated to the same degree at this age as boys. This is attributed to Active Schools coordinators targeting this group and ensuring delivery includes a range of opportunities including the traditional (girls' football) to the innovative (cheerleading / Zumba).
- Developing future sector leaders and supporting transition pupils have been key areas of work.
  - An example of a structured programme is the 'I Can Lead' initiative, where senior phase pupils have the opportunity to attend a variety of training courses and then volunteer within Active Schools activities in Aberdeenshire.
  - The transition programme supporting pupils moving from P7-S1 gives them the opportunity to participate in sporting activities and at the same time get used to other pupils and the academy – evidence has indicated this has reduced anxiety and stress associated with moving from primary to secondary and allowed social relationships to be built, reducing the possibility of mental health problems.

2.4 Strong links with **sportscotland** endorsed within a rolling four-year partnership agreement, outlining the key areas for development, and including both their commitment to support Active Schools and our commitment to deliver a high-quality programme which develops the young people of Aberdeenshire.

2.5 The programme has enjoyed significant success in promoting participation in physical activity amongst Aberdeenshire young people:

Area	2017/18 participation figures	2018/19 participation figures	Increase (%)
Total participation by young people	220,927	207,044	-6.9%
Individuals receiving training in sports and physical activity skill areas	688	622	-9.5%
Number of school – community sports club links	162	171	5.5%

**Note 1: Due to staff gaps (maternity, illness and staff leaving) and challenges around recruitment of volunteers to train & deliver activities in certain areas, there has been a reduction in participation.**

- 2.6 The Active Schools Team has proven to be very popular, with both primary schools, secondary schools, volunteers, and teachers across Aberdeenshire. An infographic with further detail is included at Appendix 2. A short video showcasing a small section of the work is available, and can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/doW49oZn130>
- 2.7 Each year, the team re-evaluates the priorities within each School Cluster to ensure the local programme is meeting the need and demand within the local community, and supporting schools with wider agendas i.e. resilience, life skills, and health & wellbeing.

Some examples include:

- Passport Scheme – children who attend Active Schools activities gain points and these turn into physical activity rewards e.g. free swims, so they are encouraged to participate in physical activity
  - First Aid – supporting primary school children to gain first aid life skills
  - Positive Mind Set – developing a positive mind set for pupils via sport to allow them to develop, achieve and improve resilience
- 2.8 The Active Schools programme attracts considerable partnership funding from **sportscotland**, which is agreed in four-year cycles. The current agreement was formally completed on 31 March, 2019. It is recommended that the Committee agrees that the Council should enter a further agreement, which would run through to 31 March, 2023. The agreement includes provision to cease the agreement annually, dependent upon future budget decisions.
- 2.9 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Their comments have been incorporated and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

### 3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this matter under Section E.1.1b of Part 2A, List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance.

#### 4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 The gross expenditure for the Active Schools programme is anticipated to be £1,006,425 in 2019 /20 and, of this, £636,311 is direct funding from **sportscotland**, £210,000 is from existing revenue budgets and the balance comes as contributions from each school. This figure will change over the 4-year agreement period, particularly reflecting any future changes in staff costs (confirmed on 13 March, 2019). If this report is agreed, **sportscotland** has committed to provide financial support of £636,311 per annum for the next four years.
- 4.2 An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 1 and no impact has been identified.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level –
- ACORP 001- Budget Pressures, in that there is a risk that income targets may not be reached if action is not taken to adapt the pricing strategy.
- The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level –
- ECSSRS004 – supporting inclusive and healthy vibrant communities in that further significantly increased prices carry the potential of creating a barrier to access to healthy lifestyles for some participant groups.

**Laurence Findlay**

**Director of Education & Children's Services**

Report prepared by Stephen Brown, Acting Sport and Physical Activity Manager  
Date 10/05/19

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1: Social Enterprise approach to managing culture and sport facilities	
Service	Education, Learning and Leisure
Section	Live Life Aberdeenshire
Title of the activity etc.	Active Schools, Celebrating Success
Aims of the activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the achievements of Active Schools to date and agree a future partnership.</li> </ul>
Author(s) & Title(s)	Stephen Brown
Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment.	
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant feedback</li> <li>• Partner feedback</li> <li>• Statistical monitoring figures</li> <li>• <b>sportscotland</b> monitoring and continued support</li> </ul>
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working groups with managing staff (team leaders)</li> <li>• Staff Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing customer feedback</li> <li>• Partner feedback</li> </ul>
External data (census, available statistics).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmarking with other authorities</li> <li>• <b>sportscotland</b> monitoring and analysis</li> </ul>

Other (general information as appropriate).	Employment opportunities Volunteer opportunities
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Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	None identified

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:

Stage 5: Are there potential impacts on protected groups? Please complete for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	Yes			
Age – Older			Yes	
Disability			N	
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			N	
Religion or Belief			N	
Gender – male/female			N	
Pregnancy and maternity			N	
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			N	

Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			N	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			N	

**Stage 6: What are the positive and negative impacts?**

Impacts.	Positive (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)	Negative (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on those with protected characteristics you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	Increased opportunities for young people to participate in sport and physical activity, promotion of the health and wellbeing agenda	
	Increased opportunities for integration, participation, employment skills across all pupils.	

**Stage 7: Have any of the affected groups been consulted?**

If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?	Not directly – Discussions with Heads of Service within Education have taken place and the proposal is strongly supported. Ongoing communication is taking place with Head Teachers in all Aberdeenshire schools.
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**Stage 8: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?**

These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Mitigating Steps	Timescale

Stage 9: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups?

<p>These should be included in the action plan.</p>	<p>Positive continued communication with Schools,</p>
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Stage 10: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?

<p>The paper is focussed on maximising the opportunities for all pupils across Aberdeenshire to participate in a healthier lifestyle, gain valuable skills through volunteering and form strong relationships with peers and role models. The Active Schools programme is universal and offered at no cost to participants throughout Aberdeenshire.</p>
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Stage 11: What equality monitoring arrangements will be put in place?

<p>These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).</p>	<p>Service will monitor participation and pupil involvement on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><b>Sportscotland</b> monitoring and benchmarking will continue throughout the duration of the agreement.</p>
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Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

<p>Please complete the appropriate box/boxes</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.</p>
	<p>The scheme is offered and available to all pupils across Aberdeenshire, there are no direct costs to participants and aside from taking part, volunteering opportunities are also offered.</p>	
	<p>2</p>	<p>Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.</p>
	<p>N/A</p>	
	<p>3</p>	<p>The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen</p>
	<p>N.A</p>	

\* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

Active Schools is offered throughout Scotland and the uptake and involvement from participants and partners within Schools has been excellent throughout Aberdeenshire. The continuation of the scheme will provide those currently at, or those about to reach school age with a four further years of opportunities.

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Education, Learning and Leisure		
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Live Life Aberdeenshire		
	3) <b>Authors:</b> I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Stephen Brown Position: SM – Sport and Physical activity Date: 21/05/2019 Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name:		
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: John Harding Position: HoS LLA Date: 21/05/2019	Name: Position: Date:	
	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee. E.g. Social Work and Housing Committee.			Date: 21/05/2019
	7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: eia@abdnshire			Date:
(Equalities team to complete) Has the completed form been published on the website? YES/NO			Date:	

Action Plan

Action	Start	Complete	Lead Officer	Expected Outcome	Resource Implications



Monitoring data for the 2017/18 academic year

**221,000**  
PARTICIPANT  
SESSIONS\*



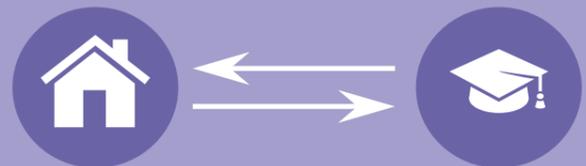
**10,200**  
DISTINCT  
PARTICIPANTS

**ON AVERAGE 21 VISITS PER PARTICIPANT**



**13,700**

ACTIVITY SESSIONS



**115**

CLUBS LINKING WITH SCHOOLS

**948** DELIVERERS



**95%**  
OF WHOM ARE  
VOLUNTARY



**897**  
VOLUNTEERS



Find out more about Active Schools at [sportscotland.org.uk](http://sportscotland.org.uk)

\*Participant Sessions are the "visits" pupils have made to activities.

