

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE
13 March 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Active Schools (Sgoiltean Beothail)

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report asks Members to approve a proposal that would restructure Active Schools staffing to meet the expected income grant from **sportscotland** while maintaining the current financial contribution from Highland Council.

The report further asks Members to approve the grant offer of funding from **sportscotland** to Highland Council for Active Schools for the 2008-2011 period.

This report also highlights the work of Active Schools Co-ordinators following a very successful first four years of a funding partnership to develop opportunities for young people to be physically active, take part in sport and live healthier lifestyles in all areas of Highland.

1. Introduction and Background to Active Schools

- 1.1 Highland Council entered into a partnership with **sportscotland** and NHS Highland in 2003/2004 to develop Active Schools. The programme built upon the successes of the one day a week Secondary School Sport Co-ordinators programme which has been operating successfully in all 29 Highland secondary schools since 2000.
- 1.2 The Active Schools Co-ordinator staffing network covers all 186 primary schools, 29 secondary schools and schools with Additional Support Needs (ASN) through a workforce of 26 full time Active school Co-ordinator posts (primary), 29 Active Schools Co-ordinators one-day-a-week (secondary). In addition there is an Active Schools Co-ordinator part time post for ASN schools based at Drummond School and an Active Schools Manager post.
- 1.3 Active Schools staffing has provided opportunities for all children to become more active and live healthier lifestyles in all 29 Associate School Groupings (ASG) through both universal and targeted provision and has linked well with Health Promoting Schools and worked with community groups and clubs to develop and promote opportunities for physical activity and sport.
- 1.4 Highland Council has been discussing with **sportscotland** the funding package available to continue Active Schools for the next 3 year period.

2. Review of the first 4 years of Active Schools

2.1 Active Schools is a Scotland wide initiative. Many examples from within the Highland Active Schools programme have been regarded by **sportscotland** as best practice and examples of initiatives have been showcased to all of the other 32 Local Authorities.

2.2 The key Active Schools successes throughout the first four years have been:

- More opportunities for secondary pupils to be physically active and take part in sport. A total of **186,245** secondary participant sessions took place in term 1 and 2 in school session 2006/2007. (Figures taken from **sportscotland** monitoring.)
- More opportunities for primary pupils to be physically active and take part in sport. A total of **264,286** primary participant sessions took place in term 1 and 2 in school session 2006/2007.
- All primary 7 pupils receive bi-annual health and fitness checks and advice on where and how to be physically active and participate in sport.
- **1,739** primary volunteers and **715** secondary volunteers delivered sessions in 2006/7 terms 1 and 2. Volunteers recognition and celebration events were held in 7 locations in 2007 as a result of cross community funding from 2007 Highland Year of Culture.
- In excess of **1,000** national governing body coaching places were provided free to volunteers funded through Sport Development, Big lottery, Coaching Highland and area Sports Councils.
- **2,400** primary 4 and 5 pupils have received firstclubgolf tuition in primary schools through active schools and teachers working together.
- **900** primary 7 pupils took part in Celtic games (shinty, golf, football, rugby, curling) in 2007
- In 2007 all **186** primary schools received free Highland games equipment .Schools also received TOPs training, cards and equipment bags, and the Angus daily physical activity book to support activity.
- Better pathways from taught P.E. curricular activities to out of hours provision and links to community groups and sports club programmes have been developed with over **140** clubs linked to primary schools and **50** clubs linked to secondary schools.
- A very wide range of activities is now on offer to young people through active Schools with **28** different activities offered in primary schools and **42** different activities offered in secondary schools.
- More girls are now participating in physical activity and sport and the levels of girls participation is nearing the levels undertaken by boys.
- There have been inclusive and targeted programmes in regeneration areas working in partnerships with clubs and community groups

3. Offer of future funding for Active Schools

- 3.1 Highland Council has been in discussion with **sportscotland** and recently received an offer of funding for Active Schools provision for the next 3 year period.
- 3.2 In 2007/08 Highland Council received up to £958,600 for Active Schools funding from **sportscotland** to support salary costs for the network of Active Schools Co-ordinators.
- 3.3 For the 2008-2011 period Highland Council grant funding from **sportscotland** for Active Schools has been set at £953,930 in 2008/09, £933,640 in 2009/10 and £933,640 in 2010/11.
- 3.4 The available funding for Active Schools is subject to terms and conditions in the partnership agreement set by **sportscotland**. The terms and conditions state that Highland Council must maintain both primary and secondary Active schools provision and employ co-ordinators on APT&C conditions.
- 3.5 As a result of no increase in the available funding from **sportscotland** and the increasing costs caused by inflation and increments on salaries, Highland Council has been discussing with **sportscotland** the use of combined Active Schools posts for both the primary and secondary sector. The proposed changes meet with the **sportscotland** terms and conditions.
- 3.6 Were Members minded to maintain the current level of Active Schools staffing provision at 2007/08 levels an additional funding contribution from Highland Council over the three year would be required of £165,000. However an alternative arrangement avoiding the need for additional expenditure is set out below.
- 3.7 The proposal involves restructuring of current Active Schools staffing. The restructure will sustain Active Schools for the next 3 year period without any additional funding and maintains Active Schools in all primary, secondary and additional support needs schools.

4. Proposals to restructure Active Schools

- 4.1 The following proposal follows consultation with secondary Head Teachers and involves restructuring the existing Active Schools staffing by combining 19 of the 29 Active Schools posts into posts which will serve both primary and secondary schools.
- 4.2 The remaining 10 secondary schools will see a one day a week Active Schools Co-ordinator retained. The criteria for the retention of these posts being based on the largest secondary schools in Highland which have a large number of associated primary schools.

The detail of this reorganisation will involve:

- Retaining 5 one day a week Active Schools (secondary) posts in Lochaber High School, Wick High School, Thurso High School, Dingwall Academy and Portree High School.
- Creating a full time Active School (secondary) post to cover all 5 of the Inverness secondary schools (Inverness Royal Academy, Millburn Academy, Charleston Academy, Inverness High School and Culloden Academy).

In addition the 1 day ASN post in Drummond School will be retained and all Active Schools Co-ordinators will be moved over to over to APT&C conditions.

- 4.3 The restructuring will be managed through the normal redeployment procedures.
- 4.4 The reorganisation will also allow operating budgets for each associated school group to be used to target girls, children with a disability, black and ethnic minority and inactive children throughout Highland and provide activities for them locally as set out as one of the key outcomes within the terms and conditions of the Active Schools offer. This is a significant improvement in terms of developing capacity to target these groups.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications for Members to consider as this restructuring of active posts will release savings within the overall budget to cover the additional inflationary and incremental costs for the next 3 year period.

6. Recommendation - Members are asked to:

- 6.1 Note the successes of Active Schools in its first 3 years.
- 6.2 Approve the suggested restructuring alterations to:
- Combine 19 of the full time Active Schools (primary) posts to include the one day a week secondary provision in their remit.
 - Retain 5 one day a week Active Schools posts for the following secondary schools: Lochaber High School, Wick High School, Thurso High School, Dingwall Academy and Portree High School.
 - Create an Active Schools (secondary) post to cover the Inverness secondary schools.
- 6.3 Agree the offer of funding from **sportscotland** for the next 3 years.

Signature:



Designation: Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Date: 03/03/08

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Appendix 1

Key contribution of Active Schools 2003/04-2007/08

1. The Active Schools programme broadened the base of participation, promoted healthy lifestyles and increased the range and number of physical activity and sporting opportunities.
2. The Active Schools programme targeted all young people with the slogan **'more children, more active, more often'/'nas pailte, nas beothail, nas trice'** with the aim of developing opportunities for young people to be physically active for at least an hour a day .
3. Active Schools developed activities to increase participation through the following themes:
 - i. Active travel
 - ii. Active Play
 - iii. Active Clubs
 - iv. Active Curriculum
 - v. Active Communities
4. Active schools Co-ordinators are and have been developing planned programmes which will make the links between the curriculum, out-of-hours, community and club physical activity and sport. The key successes throughout the first three years being:
 - More opportunities for young people to be physically active
 - Better pathways from P.E. to out of hours activities and to community and club programmes
 - More variety in the range of activities on offer to young people
 - More girls participating in physical activity and sport
 - Free coaching places provided for volunteers
 - Inclusive and targeted programmes in regeneration area
 - Better school club links.
 - Health and fitness checks for all primary 7 pupils
 - External funding brought into Highland to support playground improvements, equipment and resources for schools and clubs.
5. Opportunities have been created and develop for young people to walk and cycle to school, be more active in play, provide a wide range of clubs in the out of hours times and during holiday periods, support teachers deliver a range of curricular physical activities, festivals and sports and develop and support communities to provide a wide range of community based physical activity and sporting activities.
6. Active Schools Co-ordinators have been supporting schools to achieve Health Promoting Schools status and Eco school green flag status.

7. Opportunities have been created for young people to achieve leadership qualifications through, playground leaders ,young leaders awards, sports leaders awards .In many cases these leadership awards have lead on to volunteering opportunities and young people have been obtaining, millennium volunteers awards and Duke of Edinburgh awards as a result .
8. Training and supporting community volunteers through the TOP sport and TOP play programmes has been carried out in every community resulting in free TOPS cards and bags in each school or community group trained..
9. Young people in schools have been encouraged to join local sports clubs and through the clubs gain financial support through the 8 area Sports Councils grant scheme which distributes grants for achieving excellence, coaching, club development festival and events.
10. Links to the Area Institute of Sport have been strengthened and through the early stages of talent identification potential future champions made aware of the pathways to performance at the Highest level in preparation for major events such as the 2012 Olympics and 2014 Commonwealth Games.
11. Sports partnerships with National Governing Body staff in Highland has brought NGB officers working closely with Active schools and Physical Education staff to provide joint training and sporty development opportunities. Active Schools staff work in partnership with the following NGB development Officers; shinty, golf, cricket, athletics, disability sport, rugby, football, curling, snow sports and swimming.
12. Throughout the Year of Highland Culture mini Highland Games events, Celtic Games volunteer recognition events and 'try a new sport' were the main focus for active schools throughout 2007 and a legacy of events has been built into the sporting calendar.
13. Active schools implementation plan (2003-2008) embedded targets set by the Highland Council Corporate plan, ECS service plan and FHC2 Children's service plan. Locally within Highland ILC school development plans, community learning plans each active schools co-ordinator developed an action plan to meet both corporate and local priorities.
14. An Active Schools Steering Group has met quarterly to report on progress towards the agreed outcomes of the programme. The steering group is represented through Highland Council, **sportscotland**, Volunteering Highland, Health Promoting Schools and NHS Health Promotion.
15. A rigorous monitoring and reporting mechanisms have been put in place to evaluate the success of the programme in improving the health and well being and physical activity levels of children in Highland Council.