

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9 March 2011
3.	Title:	Scrutiny Review of PE & Sport in School
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive

5. Summary

In late 2008, the Regeneration Panel and Children & Young People Services Panel jointly commenced a review to examine performance in schools against the LAA target NI 57; the target was introduced by the previous Government to measure the number of pupils participating in 2 hours of sport per week. In the financial year 09/10, this was updated to measure up to 5 hours of PE & Sport being offered to young people. The latter target was broken down into two elements:

- 2 hours curriculum time plus 1 hour in after school clubs on school site;
- 2 further hours offered outside of school in a range of settings as defined by the Youth Sport Trust.

The review was originally commissioned by PSOC and led by the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel with membership from Children & YPS Scrutiny Panel. At this time, Members concerns hinged around two related factors: a possibility of the Council not achieving their NI57 target and the consequent negative impact on the Council's CPA/CAA score carrying financial implications; secondly, the impact on the health, fitness and obesity levels of children across the Borough.

On completion, the review was submitted to the Regeneration Panel and then to PSOC on 30th April 2010 to consider the recommendations. The review was fully supported by PSOC; however it was not submitted to Cabinet pending the election in May 2010.

The subsequent change of Government has meant a fundamental shift in national policy around school sport. Initial Government announcements in respect of funding arrangements signalled the likely end of the School Sport Partnerships. Shortly before Xmas however, a reduced level of funding was reinstated, with a more statement pledging support to maintain 450 (SSP) posts across the country. However, despite a revision of funding levels the focus of SSP's will fundamentally change under Coalition policy.

The scrutiny review group reconvened in November 2010 to revise the recommendations in light of the above changes to funding & structure of the SSP's.

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current (and ongoing) situation faced by the School Sport Partnerships and to present a revised set of recommendations to support the PE & School Sport Scrutiny Review for consideration by Cabinet. These are attached as Appendix 1.

A hard copy of the review report is available in the Members Room.

6. Recommendations:

- i) That the *revised* recommendations associated with the review are considered;**
- ii) That Cabinet determine what action they wish to take, if any, in light of the findings of the review and the changes to the funding regime for School Sport Partnerships.**

7. Proposals & Details

The original review had two key objectives:

- to examine to how many schools in Rotherham are providing PE & Sport for 5-19 yr olds in line with the NI57 indicator within the context of the Government's Public Service Agreement and;
- to look at what factors define high quality PE and the circumstances enabling or hindering the provision of PE & Sport in school.

Performance in Rotherham

The review sets out the level of achievement in Rotherham as measured by NI57 as part of the LAA agreement. The original targets for Rotherham were set at the lower end of the annual % bands proposed by the previous Government; these reflected improvement culminating in a 10% increase over the 2008 baseline of 78% within 3 years.

In Rotherham, as at 08/09 data, we were achieving 86%, with Rotherham's agreed target for 2010 being 88%. The 09/10 result for Years 1- 11 (ages 5 –16) was 93%; if years 12 & 13 are added into the percentage take-up, the figure reduces to 89%.

These results are indicative of the commitment from Rotherham Schools Sports Partnerships to working towards increasing PE & Sport within the school curriculum.

Benefits of PE & Sport in School

The benefits to young people when participating in PE & Sport on a regular basis are well documented. These can be summarised into four main areas;

- Increased involvement in a **healthy, active lifestyle**
- **Leadership skills** that can be transferred to everything they do
- Increases in **positive behaviour**
- Increased confidence and self-esteem, leading to better **attitudes to learning**
- **Citizenship qualities** – many young people involved in sport become involved in volunteering opportunities

Factors that hinder the delivery of PE & Sport in school

The review found a number of areas that influenced the take up of young people in PE & Sport within the school environment:

- Limitations of data collection reflecting actual performance; these include the inability of the data to reflect quality as defined by the Government, and the inclusion of theory lessons¹ and unstructured changing time in the data;
- Curriculum timetabling, commitment and culture from within the school to focus on the importance of PE & Sport;
- The lack of skilled PE teachers at Primary School level;

¹ Government Guidelines state that theory lessons can be included in the PESSYP data/3 hours of PE & Sport

- Children disengaged from PE & Sport for family, social & financial reasons;
- Transport to events, facilities and other schools for competition: issues include availability, cost of purchase or hire of transport and the on-cost to pupils.

Changes in National Policy

Up until March 2011, the national annual funding supporting all facets of school sport will have been £162 million; £122million directly into school sport partnerships with the additional £40 million supporting coaches & Further Education Colleges.

However, in June 2010, funding from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the National Lottery was allocated to establish a nationwide School Games tournament to boost the numbers of young people taking part in competitive sport across the country – this announcement indicated a change in emphasis in relation to school sport – as follows:

- Lottery Reform – plans to increase sports’ share of lottery returns from 16% - 20% ; it is estimated that funds of £50 million will be raised for sport from this source;
- Structural reform – proposals are being developed to bring together UK Sport, Sport England and Youth Sport Trust under one roof but maintaining their separate roles;
- School Sport - the Secretary of State has made it a top priority to deliver a renewed emphasis on competition both within & between schools. Work is underway to deliver an Olympic & Para Olympic style school sport competition;
- Elite/World Class Sport – consultation is underway with those sports bidding or planning to bid for major events with a view to bringing forward a specific Major Sports Event Bill designed to make it easier to win & host major events.

In November 2010, The Observer ² reported a decision to cut the full budget and end all ring fenced funding for school & college sport partnerships from 31st March 2011. At this time, it was unclear whether funding would be redirected to schools funding through their delegated budget or whether the withdrawal of funding was absolute.

Grave concern was expressed by many parties with an interest and commitment to continuing the work of the Youth Sport Trust and the school sport partnerships. In her letter to Michael Gove MP, Baroness Sue Campbell states³, “the whole School Sport Partnership network is committed to increasing competition. However it is also committed to ensuring that those young people who do not enjoy team sports are provided with opportunities to engage in an activity that they can pursue throughout their lifetime. This investment in young people’s well being, as well as their sporting prowess, is essential to a healthy nation and a vibrant economy.”

In December 2010, Gove reconsidered his decision and announced a revised national funding plan for school sport. Essentially, this is as follows:

² Observer Saturday 20 November 2010

³ Chair of the Youth Sport Trust – Baroness Sue Campbell – 29 October 2010

- For the current academic year - £47 million until August 2011 for the continued running of SSP's;
- For academic year 2011/12/13 - £65 million to support SSP's/School Sport Co-ordinators or allow secondary schools to release a PE teacher for one day a week over the next two academic years.
- Thirdly, focusing on those children who are least active, the Department of Health is to provide up to £6.4 million to embed Change4Life Sports Clubs in secondary schools and extend this model into primary schools.

On 9th February, Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, announced the Government's commitment to a new strand of school sport funding to support the delivery of the nationwide School Games initiative. This announcement formed part of a keynote speech in which the Secretary of State outlined the government's vision for school sport.

The Secretary of State pledged further funding support from his Department and the Department of Health to pay for 450 new roles to work three days a week as School Games Organisers. Schools will have the option to add to this funding and potentially increase the days worked by the School Games Organisers.

The role of the new School Games Organisers will be to establish the School Games in their areas, supporting as many schools as possible to set up intra- and inter-school competitions and link schools to clubs. It is hoped that many existing Competition Managers and Partnership Development Managers will apply for or transition into these roles, building on already established work.

The School Games is made up of four linked levels – a diagram is attached to this report as Appendix 2. The Youth Sport Trust is continuing to work with the Government, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport to develop these plans further, and is currently operating pilot schemes in nine areas.

Local Level

Rotherham currently has two School Sport Partnerships; one based at Rawmarsh Community School & the other at Wickersley Comprehensive. Both are designated specialist sport colleges. Rotherham also has specialist sports colleges based at Thrybergh Comprehensive and Abbey School. The Partnerships and specialist schools have received total funding of £3,513,329.00 over the 3 years 2008 – 2011. A breakdown of current funding (2008-11) between schools, colleges and competition managers can be seen at Appendix 3.

It is the view of the review group that despite reductions to national funding and an increased focus on competition, the Council should take every opportunity to support and encourage the continuation of the work developing in Rotherham. Given that the strategic lead for the Public Health Agenda will fall to the Local Authority, it gives an opportunity to ensure the convergence of physical activity & children's health & well being.

A key theme linking the revised recommendations is to urge Members to recognise the value of the Partnerships in relation to supporting the achievements of young people in school and having regard to the Every Child Matters Agenda.

The key benefits of maintaining a sport partnership structure are:

- The partnership would be the major vehicle for monitoring the delivery of high quality PE and Out of School Hours Learning PE;
- A programme is designed to help reduce the incidence of obesity, short term in children, long term the adult population;
- The programme supports the development of Healthy Schools;
- The programme works to ensure the delivery of high quality inter school competitive opportunities;
- The programme creates a vehicle for efficient delivery of Continued Professional Development related to PE and School Sport.
- Supports and encourages higher levels of attainment, attendance and behaviour in schools
- To create a 'Rotherham Sports mark' for all schools to achieve as a measure of their engagement in PE and School Sport.

8. Finance

The production of the report is financed from the Scrutiny budget although the recommendations of the review will have financial implications subject to the consideration of Cabinet.

However, Members will need to give consideration to the impact of the reduction in Government funding for the partnerships, on the health, well being and fitness of young people in Rotherham and the costs associated with this.

Members should also note that Government changes regarding funding will have implications for the number of staff resources employed within the School Sport Partnerships. The team currently consists of two Partnership Development Managers and 12 School Sport Co-ordinating Officers based across the two Partnerships and providing coordination of PE & Sporting activities to the Boroughs' secondary & primary schools.

Directly relating to the SSP agenda, is the Healthy Schools Team who also co-ordinate physical activities through the TAKE 10 programme. This team will be reduced from 5 consultants & 8 project workers to two consultants only (from March 2011), having a further impact on the overall momentum of PE, Sport & physical activity in our schools.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Government supports the continuation of competition through their 'Olympic Schools' programme; however this is likely to be determined locally and led by schools. The review group believe that schools will need continued support and advice to achieve Rotherham's Corporate Priorities. In removing the LAA Agreement Indicators and reducing SSP funding, the continuation of PE & Sport is at risk owing to the opportunity for some schools to opt out of the current level of activity.

We await the publication of the Government's Education White Paper and the clarification locally regarding strategic decisions/funding and further announcements on the detail for the Governments new programme for sport in schools – both of

which will affect resources available to carry out the recommendations in the PE & Sport Scrutiny Review.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Community Strategy

Under its theme 'Rotherham Alive', the strategic link to this review states "the gradual improvement in life expectancy is increasingly threatened by the growing problem of poor lifestyles, including smoking, low levels of physical activity, poor diet and an increase in alcohol intake - the latter three impact on levels of obesity.

Corporate Plan

Making sure no community is left behind

- A healthier start in life for children.

Ensuring quality education for all; ensuring people have opportunities to improve skills, learn and get a job.

- Increasing the number of children doing well in school, particularly primary schools

What we will do

- Concentrate efforts on primary schools to improve the achievement of children aged 5-11, and support babies and pre-school children to play and be ready for learning

Helping to create safe and healthy communities

- Continue to work with our partners to develop and improve the way we deal with anti-social behaviour
- Improve the health of children and young people by providing a range of opportunities for active play e.g. Clifton Play Park/Skate Park.

What we will do

- Work with partners to make sure people have opportunities to take part in sporting activities

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Sport England, Youth Sport Trust, PE & Sport for Young People - PE & Sport Strategy for Young People.
- Observer/Guardian – 20 November 2010
- BBC Website
- Rotherham School Sports Partnerships

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