This paper provides an overview of sportscotland’s involvement in school sport in Scotland including information about the national Active Schools Network, Physical Education, Community Sport Hubs (CSHs) and School Sports Awards.

The sportscotland website also provides guidance on how to get involved in school sport as a volunteer or as a participant. Information and research on the contribution of sport to educational attainment has already been provided to SPice for inclusion in its briefing on this subject being prepared for the Committee.

Active Schools Investment 2015-19

sportscotland is committed to a further four-year investment into its successful Active Schools Network. The national agency for sport will invest up to £50 million into the Network across all 32 of Scotland’s local authorities from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2019, and will continue to develop opportunities available to children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity before school, during lunch, and after school.

The news comes as the Active Schools Network celebrates its 10th anniversary, during which time it has become embedded as part of the fabric of school life.

Throughout the past decade, Active Schools Managers and Coordinators – of which there are now over 400 in Scotland – have recruited and supported a network of volunteers and coaches which has successfully increased participation and provided an increased number and range of opportunities for children and young people.

Crucial to this success is the partnership with local authorities, which contributed approximately £4 million per annum over the past four years to the Network. Local partners have worked together in every local authority area to deliver and provide high quality experiences for children and young people in sport and physical activity.

The latest figures from 2012/13 show an impressive 13 per cent increase in participant sessions compared to the previous year – a rise of more than half a million to 5.1 million. As well as record high participant sessions, there are also record numbers of Active Schools supported sessions being delivered by a record high number of distinct deliverers and volunteers linking to a record high number of sports clubs.
2004 - 2014 Facts and Figures

Ten years on, the network is going from strength to strength, working with local and national partners to give young people access to more sport.

The numbers speak for themselves:

• national network of over 400 Active Schools managers and coordinators working in every local authority in Scotland
• 5.1 million participant sessions in 2012/13 – a 13 per cent increase from the previous year.
• 270,000 activity sessions (a 12 per cent increase), with children having the opportunity to take part in over 100 different activities.
• 19,000 people helping deliver sessions – 85% of whom are volunteers
• 2,423 sports clubs working with at least one school

Background Information – Active Schools Programme

The Programme

The Active Schools network was launched in 2004 with the clear aim of increasing the number of opportunities available to children to participate in sport, before, during lunch, and after school.

sportscotland works in partnership with local authorities to invest in and support the Active Schools staffing network of Active Schools managers and coordinators who work with Primary, Secondary and ASN schools across Scotland. The commitment to deliver Active Schools is integral to the Partnership Agreement between sportscotland and each local authority.

Active Schools has been managed by sportscotland and successfully delivered by every local authority in Scotland since 2004.

Active Schools aims

The Active Schools network aims to increase activity levels of children and young people by:

• ensuring there are more and higher quality opportunities to participate in sport within schools
• building capacity through the recruitment, retention and development of a network of volunteers to deliver sport
• motivating and inspiring children and young people to participate in sport.
Active Schools managers and coordinators:

- Increase the quality and range of sport opportunities offered before and after school and during lunch.
- Develop effective pathways between school and sport clubs to support the transition from school to club sport.
- Recruit, retain and develop a network of volunteers, coaches, leaders and teachers who in turn deliver opportunities in school sport and club sport.
- Increase the number of young people engaging in volunteering as sport leaders and coaches in both school and club settings.
- Increase participation amongst under represented groups including girls and young women and children and young people with a disability.
- Work in partnership with education and sports development staff to ensure Active Schools opportunities are connected to physical education, school sport and club sport.
- Deliver programmes designed to profile sport and motivate children and young people to get involved with London 2012, Glasgow 2014 and the Ryder Cup in 2014. Programmes include Active Girls, Young Ambassadors, Sport Relief and ClubGolf. Support the development and delivery of sportscotland led initiatives including Positive Coaching Scotland and community sport hubs.

sportscotland’s contribution

sportscotland partnership managers work with Scotland’s local authorities and partners to support and develop the Active Schools network by:

- supporting the development of integrated school and community plans incorporating Active Schools
- working in partnership with local partners to invest in and maintain the Active Schools staffing infrastructure
- providing leadership, training and support
- continuing to monitor and evaluate the impact of Active Schools
- raising the profile of Active Schools.

Active Schools supported programmes

Active Girls

Active Girls aims to increase the number of teenage girls participating in PE, physical activity and sport in and around schools. This totals £0.5m each year.

- Three separate physical activity projects (Girls on the move, Fit for Girls and Young dance) were brought together to develop Active girls.
The programme is managed by sportscotland and delivered in partnership with Y Dance, Youth Scotland and Youth Sport Trust.

Community Sport Hubs

We continue to work with local partners towards the target of establishing 150 community sport hubs (CSH) across Scotland. At present 137 of these are operational with 57% of those planned being based in schools. We are focused on supporting each CSH officer to make it happen in their local community and the next officers’ development day is scheduled for 25 February 2015. We are also working with all 32 local authorities to finalise their plan for CSHs from 2015-19.

2 Hours of PE

Delivery of the Scottish Government’s commitment on 2 hours of PE in primary schools, and 2 periods in S1 to S4 is measured annually through the Healthy Living Survey. The Healthy Living Survey results from 2014, conducted in February 2014 and published in June 2014 outlined that:

- **97% of primary schools** are meeting the target of at least 120 minutes of PE to all pupils, **up from 88%** in 2012 and up from 3% in 2004/05. 27 out of 32 local authorities have 95% or more primary schools meeting this target.

- **In secondary schools, 90%** are meeting the target of providing at least 100 minutes of PE to all pupils in S1 to S4, down from 91% in 2012 (just three schools fewer, overall) but this is still up from 46% in 2004/05. 18 out of 32 Local Authorities have all of their secondary schools meeting this target.

sportscotland is investing £6.8 million in local authorities over 2012/13 – 2015/16 to help them to deliver the commitment. Education Scotland is supplementing that with a £4.8 million package of national initiatives designed to increase the support available to schools and teachers. This has included support for a network of 39 PE Lead Officers working across local authorities, the roll-out of the Better Movers and Thinkers physical literacy programme and a PE Grants fund.

School Sport Awards

The sportscotland School Sport Award is a national initiative designed to encourage schools to continuously improve the quality and quantity of physical education and school sport opportunities, within and outwith the curriculum. They also will also encourage strengthened sporting links between schools and the communities around them.
What is the School Sport Award?

It is a new national Award scheme for physical education and school sport that will:

- Recognise and celebrate successful PE & school sport models
- Encourage schools to self reflect and continuously improve
- Put young people at the forefront of the decision making, planning and implementation processes
- Help schools to increase young people’s opportunities and engagement in PE & school sport
- Help schools to put PE & school sport at the heart of their planning, practice and ethos.

Schools looking to take part in the School Sport Award will complete an online assessment tool which will identify if they are at Bronze or Silver Award level. Some schools upon completion of the assessment will achieve a level at which they will be able to apply for Gold.

Go for Gold!

The gold award will formally recognise a school’s achievement in putting quality physical education and school sport at the heart of their planning, practice and ethos. The awards will also highlight and celebrate successful physical education and school sport models across Scotland.

Applying for Gold

We have two assessment periods for the 2014/15 academic year as stated on the guidance notes:

- early applications close on 19 December 2014 and will be assessed in January 2015 with schools being notified in early February 2015
- all other 2014/15 applications must be submitted by 8 May 2015 and will be assessed by the end of May with schools being notified in early June 2015.