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Minute of the meeting held in the Scottish Parliament.

## PRESENT

Alison Johnstone MSP, Liz Smith MSP, Stewart Harris, Lee Cousins, Kim Atkinson, Catherine Ronald, Dougie Arneil, Charlie Raeburn, Julie Mason, Ronnie Sloan, David Matthew, Maureen McGonigle, Sharon Clough, Derek Sangster, Stew Fowlie, Hugh Hall, Liza Linton, Jim McIntosh, Rick Kenney, Colin Rennie, Diane Cameron, Malcolm Gillies, Denzel Darku, Morag Arnott, Gillian Barclay, Oliver Barsby, Ian Barnes, Gareth Brown, Jim Fleeting, Paul Fletcher, Maurice Donohue, Laura Forster, Jane Harvey, Grant Jarvie, Suzanne Laing, David Laing, Garreth Lodge, Jacqueline Lynn, Bob McFarlane, Steve Paige, Sarah Pryde-Smith, Pam Scott, Stephen Somerville, David Steers, Lois Marshall, Colin Millar, Gavin Macleod, Suzanne Hargreaves, Drew McFarlane, Ian White, Jennifer Sancroft and Ron Sutherland.

## APOLOGIES

Fiona McLeod MSP, Patricia Ferguson MSP, Margaret Ann Fleming, Scott Hastings, Stevie Neilson, Keith Irving, Cameron Watt, Brian Walker, David Watt, Bruce Crawford, Ian Findlay, Michael Chisholm, Kenny Stewart and Duncan Hamilton.

## **Previous Minute of meeting dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014:**

Minutes were approved.

## **Matters Arising:**

None.

Liz Smith MSP apologised to those present for the slightly later meeting time – this was due to a timing change for a stage 3 bill.

Liz introduced the topic, recognising its importance and informing the Group that a Parliamentary debate had already been held on this subject.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER – DREW MCFARLANE, HEAD OF YOUTH SPORT, SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Drew McFarlane presented on the Scottish Government's Youth Sport Strategy: "Giving Children and Young People a Sporting Chance: A Draft Strategy for Scotland" which strives for a Scotland that is "the best place in the world to grown up actively".

He indicated the various timelines involved in the consultation process, which was due to close on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014. He urged CPG attendees to get involved and feed into the process.

Jacqueline Lynn (**sportscotland**) gave a summary of the Young People's Sport Panel's involvement in the production of the draft strategy, explaining that the document had very much been driven and supported by the Panel.

Key opinions from the Young People's Sport Panel included a want for greater opportunities for young people including those hardest to reach, a sporting system made up of great people and great places and one that makes sport and the opportunities available to young people, more high profile.

The Panel summarised under the following headings:

### OPPORTUNITIES

- The relationship between Education Scotland and **sportscotland** was noted as an important one
- The quality of sport and PE teaching at school is hugely important
- It was agreed that in particular there was room for improvement around school sport competitions.

### PEOPLE

- Teachers and coaches of sport should have the right skills to work with young people

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- Equality and Inclusion are key
  - Learning development and CPD are very important in supporting the right people.

## PLACES

- Great places are key
- Community Sports Hubs – can act as a home for physical activity and health and the wider agenda
- Access to the school estate – **sportscotland** now has national data to support the better planning and programming and therefore overall use of school estate facilities.

Drew concluded outlining that the final Strategy would be published in Spring, with the consultation report being produced by the end of March. He asked that people don't view the publication of the Strategy as the end of the process, rather, the Strategy will continue to evolve with input from various partners. He closed by reading out the consultation questions to CPG attendees, prompting discussion.

## Round Table Discussion/Q&A

Liz Smith MSP introduced the other panel members:

- Stew Fowlie, Chief Operating Officer, Scottish Student Sport
- Colin Millar – Young People's Sport Panel
- Suzanne Hargreaves – Education Scotland
- Gavin MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Disability Sport
- Malcolm Gillies, Chairman, Inch Park Community Sports Club
- Denzel Darku, Scottish Youth Parliament.

Liz then opened discussion by asking how the Scottish Government will get the Strategy out to interested parties once it is final.

Drew explained it would go out through the obvious streams in sport (SGBs, **sportscotland**, etc) as well as youth organisations and that it'd be available on the Scottish Government's website.

Morag Arnott of the Winning Scotland Foundation questioned whether the Strategy was too sport-focused and not activity-based. She saw a gap in it not mentioning parents and also in its lack of linkage to other related policies.

Malcolm Gillies of Inch Park Community Sports Club responded, agreeing that reference to parents was notably missing. Particularly as it's more difficult to reach children if parents aren't engaged. There is an opportunity to change the culture of participation in sport.

Morag continued, suggesting that if parents were more engaged from an early stage then it'd be more likely that they and their kids would get involved in sport. He also highlighted the priority to reach out to young people that are not currently engaged in sport.

Denzel Darku of the Scottish Youth Parliament suggested that parents' enthusiasm of taking children to sport reduces when school academic pressures increase – they see this as more important; parents need to better understand the importance of sport.

Alison Johnstone MSP gave the example of the Scottish Athletics' scheme (Club Together) where there was a liaison system that encouraged volunteer parents to chat to other parents when dropping off kids and asked them to get involved in clubs.

Jacqueline Lynn commented that Hubs provide a real energy and a linking point for parents to become involved.

Liz Smith MSP questioned whether there were any other community sport initiatives that worked in engaging people.

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Diane Cameron of Senscot commented that she works with an organisation that does activities very locally in South Lanarkshire which focuses on sport at a very local level. She explained that organisers make sure kids are really engaged to the point that it's hard for parents to say no! She suggested that clubs need to make an effort to be welcoming to parents so that they are comfortable sitting having a coffee and relaxing.

Liza Linton (RYA Scotland) noted the lack of reference to resourcing in the Strategy and questioned how it is planned that funds will be leveraged.

Stew (Scottish Student Sport) mentioned the importance of integrating and linking policies to increase their chance of success, particularly in regard to resourcing. He also questioned the definition of the term community in the Strategy – he noted the lack of reference to colleges and universities in the document. Further, he highlighted the importance of transition points at different stages of life and how these could better be connected to support continued participation in sport.

Gavin Macleod (Scottish Disability Sport (SDS)) explained that the Strategy provided a great platform to promote explicit messaging and the sport inclusion model. SDS continues to work with 30 SGBs in linking their model to the Curriculum for Excellence. He noted the massive opportunity in bringing resource from health as part of the preventative spend agenda. Gavin outlined the huge benefits to young people with a disability in being involved in sport, including: confidence, competence, health and even increased life expectancy.

Maureen McGonigle (Scottish Women in Sport) noted the need for a different approach that requires to be taken to engage girls.

Gareth Brown (Scottish Youth Parliament) asked how the Scottish Government plans to engage with the Youth Parliament and other young people's groups in implementing the strategy. He noted too the unique needs of carers and other excluded groups.

Drew (Scottish Government) explained that the Scottish Government would continue to work with all partners in implementing the Strategy as it's very much a shared agenda.

Colin shared the involvement of the Panel in developing the Strategy. He urged young people to get involved in the vacancies which will arise on the Panel shortly and added his support to the Young Hub Leaders programme.

In regard to the issue of engaging girls, Lois Marshall (Youth Scotland) commented on the importance of girls' leadership and how successful youth groups are in working with excluded groups – sport should take advantage of the skills people (such as youth workers) have in effectively engaging harder to reach groups.

Jennifer Sancroft (Judo Scotland) shared the work Judo Scotland is undertaking with some of the uniformed youth organisations to great benefit.

Charlie Raeburn suggested that there was serious support for extending the curriculum day for young people to connect with school and community.

Suzanne Hargreaves (Education Scotland) commented that policy or strategy make no difference unless you look at resourcing it in communities. She suggested an increasingly joined up approach is required. She proposed that if it takes a village to raise a child, perhaps it takes a community to make an athlete?

Denzel informed the Group that he is the chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament's Sport and Recreation committee. The main issues raised at the last of these meetings included: female sports – stereotyping and publicity; identifying role models; how you get young people who've moved into employment back into participating in sport; the cost of facilities as a barrier and how we can promote young people as an asset within communities.

Derek Grieve (Scottish Government) highlighted that the Strategy shouldn't be viewed in isolation and that its implementation will involve engagement at various levels. The aim is to normalise being active.

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Suzanne Laing (Inch Park) suggested that the Strategy was preaching to the converted and the need was more for engagement more widely e.g. youth associations etc and reaching out to young people who are not currently involved in sport.

There was overall agreement around the importance of involving young people in volunteering and the skills that doing this via sport, can add to enhance future employment opportunities. Both Colin and Stew gave positive accounts of the benefits and breadth of this.

Gavin (Scottish Disability Sport) commented that sport for young people should be about positive experiences, education and inspiration – he suggested that the Paralympics and Commonwealth Games will help drive this and in particular, the inclusion agenda but that the education environment remained the priority.

Liz Smith MSP thanked all speakers and thanked attendees, before closing the meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014.

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