Support for Community Sport

Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council

Question 1: What is being done to support volunteers in community sport?

Volunteers in sport can access a wide variety of support available through local and national, professional and volunteer-led, sport-focused and generic-volunteer agencies. More needs to be done to join this work up to prevent unnecessary duplication and increase awareness of relevant training opportunities available through non-sport focused programmes.

Question 2: What are the barriers facing volunteers?

To overcome the barriers facing volunteers there needs to be cultural changes: (1) large organisations need to increase support for workforce volunteering; (2) volunteer opportunities need to be more short term with clear exit routes; (3) a young image of volunteering needs to be generated; (4) access to support is visible and well promoted.

Question 3: What examples are there of good practice to encourage and maintain volunteers in community sport?

sportscotland’s Young People’s Sport Panel is evidence of a successful campaign but demonstrates how organisations in sport take an isolated approach in recruiting volunteers. Sport needs to take a sector based approach to reach a wider market and ensure volunteers declined for one opportunity in sport are sign-posted to another.

Question 4: How can the contribution of local sports clubs be quantified for: (i) the preventative health agenda and (ii) communities?

(i) Quantifying the number of participants in sports clubs and then charting an increase directly coinciding with a decrease in health related issues and costs would help provide statistical evidence.

(ii) Sport will strive to find ways to statistically support its case but there must also be an acceptance by Local Authorities and other agencies that not all positive work (especially projects with long term goals) can be demonstrated through statistical evidence.

Question 5: What role does, or should, Community Sports Hubs play in encouraging sport in local communities?

An effective Community Sports Hub should help de-clutter the sporting landscape by providing the local community with one central contact, replacing multiple contacts for multiple clubs/sports. This will empower the
Community Sports Hub to deliver a more effective message promoting sport.

Question 6: Given reducing public expenditure, what examples of innovative joint working between clubs and public bodies exist to make the most out of funding?

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS FESTIVALS 2011

In 2011 the annual series of Primary School Sports Festivals took place organised by Dunfermline and West Fife Sports Council in partnership with member clubs, Fife Council’s Active Schools, Fife Sports and Leisure Trust and supported by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust.

Nearly 2000 pupils from 32 local schools took part in the long established series, probably the most extensive in Scotland, which ran from March to December, involving 7 sports (athletics, badminton, bowls, cricket, hockey, pop lacrosse and tennis) offering a mixture of indoor and outdoor competitions for P3 to P7 pupils. Wherever possible national rules and programmes used by each sport, for example, the Fun in Athletics format, were adopted. Some pre Festival training sessions were held at schools using club coaches to familiarise the children with the rules and improve their playing and athletic skills.

A more comprehensive coaching programme has now been introduced for 2012.

Several competitions eg. Athletics, Hockey, Cricket and Pop Lacrosse were used as qualifying events for Regional and/or Scottish events and our schools gave a very good account of themselves.

Local clubs provided all the coaches, referees and officials and where necessary, the equipment, while some High School pupils involved in sports studies were recruited by Active Schools to assist on the day. In addition Sports Development encouraged students on their Sports Education Course to lend a hand and gain valuable practical experience at these Festivals and during the Sport For All Festival in September.

All pupils received the now traditional participation certificates plus free swim vouchers supplied by the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust. Presentations were made at each event or at the award winning school whichever was most appropriate while the local press coverage was excellent throughout the year.

Points were awarded to each school for participation, with the first three placed schools gaining extra points leading to the annual Sports School of the Year Award. The Sports Council held the Annual Sports Awards Ceremony in February 2012 in the Glen Pavilion when the results of the 2011 Festival series were announced.
Representatives from the three medal winning schools joined approx 200 other guests at the ceremony where main stream athletes in eight other categories also received awards. The presentation to the three award winning schools was repeated at each school later. An additional category targeted at smaller schools has been be added for 2012.

**Question 7: What are the three most important issues regarding sporting facilities at a local level?**

There is one major issue regarding local sports facilities – access. This can be broken down into: (1) opening up community facilities; (2) Providing cost incentives for well-run clubs; (3) local authorities need to provide a clear pricing structure and booking system for all facilities.

**About Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council**

**Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council, established in 1967, is Scotland's second oldest Sports Council serving the local community for 45yrs**

Local Sports Councils provide an independent voice for local sports clubs, regardless of size or sport. Clubs represent a significant proportion of the local community so by unifying under the Local Sports Council important issues affecting local sport can be raised with the local authority.

Local Sports Councils also support their member clubs by being visible in the local community and playing their part in encouraging people to get physically active. This can include distributing funds to clubs (including teams, individual athletes and coaches), holding events, facilitating workshops, acting as the quality checking agency for local sports clubs and developing links with Active Schools to create pathways from schools to clubs.

**Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council**
**21 August 2012**