



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
30 OCTOBER 2019**

**SUBJECT: ACTIVE SCHOOLS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
UPDATE**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES &
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to note the progress of Active Schools and Sports Development in Moray during the last academic year and to approve the extension of this Service for a further year in partnership with sportscotland.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (15) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the Council's statutory powers to support activities related to the development of recreation, sport, culture and heritage.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-

- (i) scrutinises and notes the progress of Active Schools and Sports Development in Moray during the 2018-19 academic year; and**
- (ii) approves the extension of the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub programmes from existing budget for a further one year period from 1 April 2020 in partnership with sportscotland at a cost of £170,500, with the potential of continuing this partnership on an annual basis up to 31 March 2023.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Children and Young People's Services Committee on 22 June 2016, the Committee agreed the Physical Activity, Sport & Health Strategy 2016-2023 (para 7 of the minute refers).
- 3.2 Both Active Schools and Sports Development contribute to the implementation of this strategy as well as sportscotland's Corporate Strategy. Moray Council have signed an investment agreement with sportscotland to

work in partnership until 31 March 2020, to deliver shared national and local outcomes. Sportscotland are keen to establish another partnership agreement with Moray Council from 1 April 2020 on an annual basis with the potential for this agreement to continue for a 3yr period up to 31 March 2023.

- 3.3 This report is brought forward at this time to fit with the funding decisions that will be made by sportscotland in December 2019. The Council's decision must be confirmed so that it can be taken into account in the funding decision. This means that a decision is needed on these issues before the Council is able to conclude its financial planning.
- 3.4 The current Active Schools (A.S) and Sports Development (S.D) team comprises of 1 FTE A.S and S.D Manager, 7.8 FTE A.S Co-ordinators, 0.8 FTE Community Sports Hub Officer, 0.4 FTE Macmillan Move More Development Officer and a pool of 29 Sports Coaches and Assistants on zero hour contracts.
- 3.5 A copy of the Active Schools Annual Report for 2018/19 is contained in **Appendix 1** of this report. A summary of the main highlights are as follows;
- 98,672 'visits' from pupils to the Active Schools programme across the academic year
 - 3,885 distinct participants within the programme which equates to 33% of the total school roll
 - Of the 3,885 distinct participants, 1,333 could access free school meals, 29 resided in an SIMD decile 2 area, 828 had an additional support need and 564 had a recorded disability
 - 607 volunteers delivered Active Schools sessions/events Moray wide
 - 77 sports clubs in Moray had links with Primary and Secondary Schools
- 3.6 National Active Schools research resulted in the following qualitative data - 98% of participants feel healthier, 92% feel more confident, 87% made new friends, 76% of secondary participants said their activity was helping them achieve their goals which shows the impact of this programme.
- 3.5 The Macmillan Move More programme in Moray was initially planned as a funded three year project. However due to efficient use of budget throughout these three years, an extra year, albeit with a reduced number of hours, was made possible. This programme is funded by Macmillan and aims to encourage people affected by cancer to participate in physical activity. Over the past year, the main developments of this programme include the following;
- 39 people affected by cancer have been referred to this service. 8 x 12 week blocks of circuit classes were delivered throughout the year in Elgin, Buckie and Keith which is above the target levels identified.
 - A regular Gentle Movement class has been delivered weekly at The Oaks by trained volunteers and a partnership has been developed with REAP (Rural Environmental Action Project) in relation to therapeutic gardening at Maryhill Medical Practice, Elgin.
 - Three volunteers have received a variety of training to help support the Moray Move More programme, with one of the local Health Walks in Elgin now being classified as a Macmillan Friendly Health Walk.

- Raising the profile of this programme is an ongoing priority in Moray as in excess of 2,000 people have been diagnosed with cancer within the past year (does not include those diagnosed more than a year ago). Feedback from participants in the programme has highlighted how beneficial it has been to them physically, socially and mentally.
 - Sustainability of this programme is the focus for the Development Officer between now and the end of the project lifespan (March 2020).
- 3.6 There are currently 4 active Community Sports Hubs operating across Moray in Forres, Hopeman, Lossiemouth and Elgin. This programme is funded by sportscotland and aims to bring together sports clubs and key local partners who want to develop and grow the sports offered in the community. Over the past year, the main developments of this programme have included;
- The 4 Hubs consist of 40 local sports clubs and community organisations with 65 volunteers involved with regular meetings and local sporting developments.
 - Hubs have been involved in raising funds for an outdoor gym, increasing the usage of a pavilion by supporting the creation of new clubs and organising an inaugural running event to raise funds for local sports projects.
 - The Hubs have been managing the Go Live Get Active funding from sportscotland which has resulted in the delivery of mountain bike sessions for women and young girls, a dance leaders course and programme for young leaders, working in partnership to offer golf sessions to disadvantaged young people and the creation a new wrestling club.
- 3.7 sportscotland have been part funding the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub programmes since their inception. A breakdown of the Moray Council and sportscotland contributions to these programmes over recent years is contained in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.8 The sportscotland Board have agreed to in principle investment to support the employment of the Active School Managers, Co-ordinators and Community Sports Hub Officers across Scotland for the period 2019-2023, which equates to a four year partnership with Local Authorities. Although a partnership agreement for a 4yr period has been intimated the financial agreement between sportscotland and Moray Council has only been established on an annual basis due to the Council's financial position.
- 3.9 This agreement in principle is subject to Moray Council sustaining their financial contribution towards these programmes, which equates to approximately 32% of the overall investment. Any reduction in Moray Council contribution would result in a reduction of sportscotland contribution which would result in a reduction in staffing within the Active Schools and Sports Development team.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

In relation to the LOIP, this supports the healthier children focus within the Moray priority to build a better future for our children and young people in Moray. It also supports the development of stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities within the Moray priority for empowering and connecting communities.

In relation to the Corporate Plan, this report contributes to ensuring more of our activities, services and plans are influenced by the communities they service, an improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing and ensure caring and healthy communities.

(b) Policy and Legal

Improving the health and wellbeing of the Moray community through sport, leisure and recreation is not only an integral part of the local vision, but it is also a national priority. In particular, the report aims to fulfil the aspirations of everyone having the opportunity to get involved and participate in sport and stay involved throughout their life, as identified as a key objective in sportscotland's Corporate Strategy 'Sport for Life'. The report also links to the Scottish Government's Active Scotland Outcomes Framework where the vision is of a Scotland where more people are more active, more often.

(c) Financial implications

To retain the existing Active Schools and Community Sports Hub staff/service Moray Council would be required to continue the current contribution of £170,500 annually which would secure the current level of sportscotland funding. Sportscotland have contributed £250,672 towards Active Schools this financial year and have agreed in principle to support this programme for another financial year. If the Council was to reduce or remove its contribution sportscotland would also review their share of the funding and may withdraw from the arrangement.

Over and above this in 2019/20 sportscotland contributed £30,615 towards the Community Sports Hub programme and have agreed in principle to support this programme for another financial year. Moray Council have contributed in-kind costs towards the Community Sports Hub programme annually through line management, computer and phone provision, office space etc.

(d) Risk Implications

If Moray Council does not contribute financially to this service then the risks would include sportscotland withdrawing all their financial contribution to the service which would result in no Active Schools or Sports Development service operating in Moray. The only Sport and Leisure provision then delivered by the Council would be through the provision of Sports Facilities (swimming pools, fitness rooms etc).

Sportscotland also provide additional financial support locally through investments in facilities (such as Moray Sports Centre) and direct to sports clubs, without an Active Schools and Sports Development Service in place it would make the continuation of these investments more difficult.

Removal of the Active Schools and Sports Development Service would have a negative impact on the Fit Life Scheme memberships (and income to the Council) as many families subscribe to Fit Life due to the holiday and children's coaching/activity programmes organised and delivered through this Service.

Local volunteer community sports clubs and physical activity groups in Moray would also be negatively impacted as there would no longer be a support mechanism for these clubs to develop and be sustained long term, therefore the health of our community would suffer.

The Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy for Moray would no longer be implemented as the Active Schools and Sports Development Team are the key drivers of this partnership strategy.

(e) Staffing Implications

If Moray Council do not contribute financially to this service then the staffing implications would result in the loss of the 1 FTE Active Schools and Sports Development Managers post, all 7.8FTE Active Schools Co-ordinators posts, the 0.8 FTE Community Sports Hub Officer post and all 25 Sports Coaches and Assistants (zero hour contracts).

Cessation of the Service would result in redundancy costs due to at least 4.8FTE within the service being permanent members of staff. A number of zero hour contract staff would also receive redundancy payments due to their continual service.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising directly from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

A number of Active Schools and Community Sports Hub projects target protected groups such as the disabled and also individuals residing in socially deprived areas to ensure they receive opportunities to be physically active. The ceasing of these programmes would result in reduced opportunities for these protected groups which would have a negative effect on reducing health inequalities.

As stated in the Annual Report, 34% of our distinct participants in Active Schools last year accessed free school meals, 21% had an additional support need and 15% had a recorded disability.

(h) Consultations

In preparing this report, consultation has been undertaken with the Ian McGregor (Partnership Manager for sportscotland), Vivienne Cross (Head of Schools & Curriculum Development), Tracey Sutherland (Committee Services Officer), Nicky Gosling (Accountant), Rhonda Geddes-Stewart (HR Adviser) and Morag Smith (Senior Solicitor).

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That the Committee notes and scrutinises the progress of Active Schools and Sports Development in Moray during the 2018-19 academic year and approves the extension of the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub programmes from existing budget for a further one year period from 1 April 2020 in partnership with sportscotland at a cost of £170,500 with the potential of continuing this partnership on an annual basis up to 31 March 2023.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: