

ITEM 5.1

Children and Families Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit

The Sport and Outdoor Education Unit lead on and contribute to a range of services across the city as follows:

Active Schools

Achievement Awards: Duke of Edinburgh, JASS (Junior Award Scheme Scotland) and John Muir Award

Bikeability (Cycle Training)

Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association

Excursions: Policy and Practice

Outdoor Learning

Physical Education (CPD and targeted initiatives)

Primary School Swimming & Swimming Top Up

Residential Outdoor Centres – Benmore and Lagganlia

School based Community Sport Hubs

Special Events (Be Part of It – Commonwealth Games)

Sports Academy/SFA Performance School

Sports Development (NGB programmes, Coach Education, etc)

Key Strategic Objectives:

Children and Families Service Plan

Strategic Outcome SO2 (Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities)

Strategic Outcome SO4 (Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy)

Plus

Edinburgh's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

'Edinburgh – where being active is a part of everybody's way of life'. This strategy has the following key outcomes:

- **better use of Edinburgh's natural outdoor spaces;**
- **improved use of quality sports facilities, including those of schools;**
- **sustained lifelong participation with a focus on tackling inequalities;**
- **better clubs and community-led initiatives; and**
- **increased visibility for physical activity and sport in Edinburgh.**

Plus

'Reaching Higher': National Strategy for Sport

- A country where sport is more widely available to all
- A country where sporting talent is recognised and nurtured

The Commonwealth Games 2014

BE A
PART
OF IT!
in Edinburgh



• EDINBURGH •
YOUR COUNCIL - YOUR CITY



LEGACY 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES
SCOTLAND



but a change for a lifetime!

'A one day event

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The Glasgow Commonwealth Games in July 2014, promises to be a highly exciting event. The anticipation of Scottish athletes competing in front of a home crowd is sure to inspire many hundreds of children to participate in a new sport.

'Be Part of it' is the message of the Games and with this in mind the Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit have put together a wide range of events that span the calendar year of 2014.

We urge all schools to take part in as many events as possible, to encourage children to join local sports clubs and to embrace the cultural dimension of the Commonwealth that will see us welcome over seventy different countries around the world to Scotland.

Be Part of it
Councillor Paul Godzik



**COMMONWEALTH
GAMES
FACT**

Sir Chris Hoy was awarded Edinburgh's Freedom of the City in 2012 and his Golden Postbox can be found on Hammer Street in Edinburgh's City Centre.

'AT A GLANCE' GUIDE ... TO OUR

Edinburgh Primary School Sports Association (EPSSA)

Throughout 2014 a number of events have been selected to celebrate the Commonwealth Games at which schools will be invited to select a country to represent. These Commonwealth EPSSA Events will culminate in a 'Closing Ceremony' event in December at the former Games venue of Meadowbank Sports Centre.

Racquet Sports Tournament

The City of Edinburgh Council Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit will celebrate two of the most popular Commonwealth sports – Badminton and Table Tennis through a special tournament format at Meadowbank Sports Centre where players will get the chance to play both sports.

Rugby Sevens Series

Rugby Sevens is a fast and exciting sport. It is one of the selected sports in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games with the competition set to take place at Ibrox Park. Our 'Sevens Series' is open to all Secondary School age groups with separate events for S1-4 and an Under 18 competition. A Touch Rugby version for Primary School children will be held at Murrayfield Stadium.

Games @ The Hub Primary

The second annual Games @ The Hub (Primary) will once again give pupils the opportunity to compete against other primary schools in twelve of their favourite sports.

Over 1000 pupils will be invited to play a part in what promises to be a fantastic day celebrating and building up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Games @ The Hub Secondary

A new event for 2014 builds on the success of our Primary event by giving the opportunity for S1-S3 pupils from across the city to participate and compete in various Commonwealth sports.



CITY WIDE EVENTS

Strive to be the best that you can be'

Senior School Commonwealth Games

In conjunction with a number of Secondary School Physical Education departments this senior school event is aimed at giving S4-S6 pupils the chance to get involved in the build up to Glasgow 2014.

Lowland Games – Try Athletics Series

FIVE VENUES, ONE CITY, ONE VISION

We aim to establish an excitement generated by Glasgow 2014 and provide a lasting Athletics legacy. These lowland Games Events will focus on Athletics and the opportunity to create maximum, fun and throw and community clubs across the city.

In the morning PE pupils will compete in a variety of athletic activities and then in the afternoon pupils of all ages in the area will be invited to attend a 'Family Fun' event. This will be an opportunity to attend a festival of sport where there will be an opportunity to take part in fun challenges such as the 'Usain Bolt Sprint Test' and where local clubs will showcase what they have to offer.



LEGACY 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES
SCOTLAND

COMMONWEALTH FACT
Scotland has
previously
hosted the
event twice
in 1970 and
1986, both in
Edinburgh

COMMONWEALTH GAMES FACT

Scotland won nine gold medals in New Delhi in 2010.

Paralympic Experience

This event brings together young people with a physical disability from across Edinburgh and the Lothians, to experience a range of paralympic Commonwealth sports. These include wheelchair basketball, table tennis, badminton, athletics, football, race running/cycling, fencing and boccia, and will be delivered by established disability sports clubs.

CPD sessions in Disability Inclusion Training for sports development staff, teachers, coaches and parents are run alongside the event.

City to City Relay Challenge

Did you know you can travel on and along the canal all the way from Edinburgh to Glasgow?

To celebrate the 2014 games and to extend our city's best wishes to Glasgow we are planning to set up a 'City to City Relay Challenge' whereby some of our school pupils will walk, run, cycle and canoe their way along and beside the canal through the areas of Patho, Linlithgow, Falkirk and Kilsyth and all the way into George Street in the heart of Glasgow.

The Children and Families Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit are busy preparing plans for this exciting event and in the early next year schools shall be invited to nominate pupils to take part in trials to select the various relay groups. Watch this space!

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

School Holiday Multi Sports Camps

Open to all Primary school pupils in P3-P7 these multi sports camps are delivered by our Sports Development Officers and their experienced staff.

Running at various venues across the city, these camps give an excellent opportunity for all to participate in a variety of Commonwealth sports before and during the Games.

Commonwealth Games Series 2014

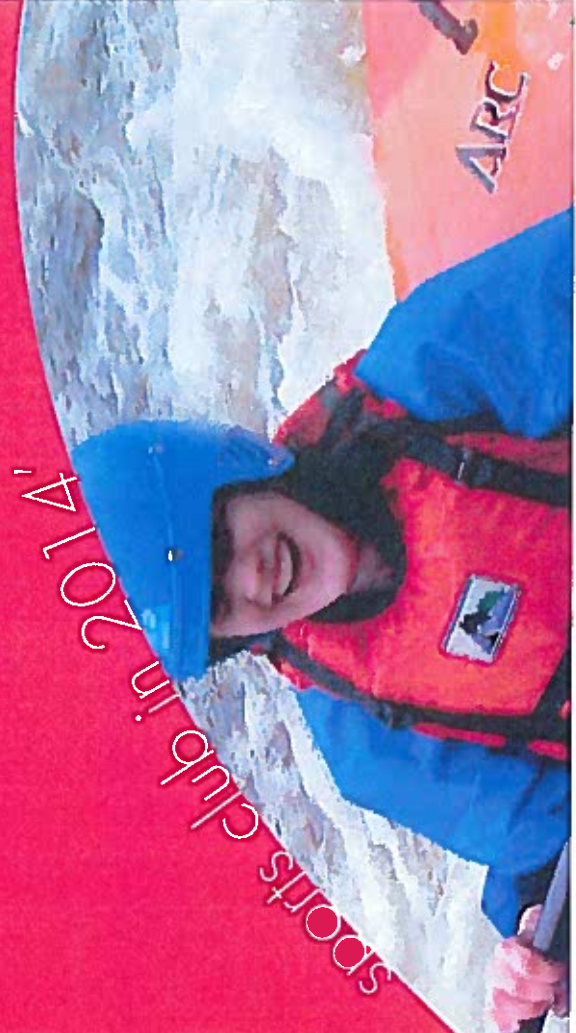
Based at the City of Edinburgh's three school based Community Sports Hubs: Forrester/St Augustine, Broughton High School and The Royal High School the Commonwealth Games Hub Series will once again capitalise on the excitement created pre, during and post Glasgow 2014.

In the months building up to Glasgow 2014 a number of Commonwealth sports, and clubs in all three Hubs will be profiled. A host of 'come and try' events will be available throughout January - June for pupils, parents and residents in the local community to attend.

Post Glasgow 2014 the opportunities continue with Commonwealth Games Hub Clubs where individuals and families, no matter of your age or ability can come along and try a number of different sports every week.

Get yourself along to your local Community Sports Hub and see what's on offer for you.

Sports club in 2014!



'Challenge yourself to join a new

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

Date	Event	Year Group	Time	Venue
Monday 13 January	EPSSA Sportshall Athletics (finalists confirmed)	P6/P7	9.45am - 12.30pm	Meadowbank
Monday 17 March	EPSSA Cross Country Event	P6-S2	9.30am - Midday	Inverleith Park
Monday 24 March	EPSSA Netball Commonwealth Festival	P7	10am - Midday	Meadowbank
Friday 28 March	'Paralympic Experience'	All Age Groups	9.30am - 4pm	Forrester/St Augustine's Sports Hub
Friday 28 March	Rugby Sevens Series	S5-S6	2 - 5pm	Balerno High School
Wednesday 2 April	EPSSA Commonwealth Swim and Dive Gala	P6/P7	9am - 12.30pm	Royal Commonwealth Pool
Monday 28 April	EPSSA Commonwealth Racquet Sports Tournament	P6/P7	9.30am - 12.30pm	Meadowbank
Friday(s) 2, 16, 30 May & 6 June	Rugby Sevens Series	All Age Groups (Secondary)	2-5pm	Various venues
Wednesday 7 May	'Tri-umph' Edinburgh Triathlon	P5-S2	9am - 2pm	Forrester/St Augustine's Sports Hub
Monday 2 June	EPSSA 'Interscholastics' Commonwealth Finals (A Schools)	P6/P7	10am - 2.30pm	Meadowbank
Tuesday 3 June	EPSSA 'Interscholastics' Commonwealth Finals (B Schools)	P6/P7	10am - 2pm	Meadowbank
Wednesday 11 June	Games @ The Hub Primary	P6	10am - 2.30pm	Forrester/St Augustine's Sports Hub
Thursday 12 June	Secondary Commonwealth Games Event	S4-S6	10am - 2.30pm	Forrester/St Augustine's Sports Hub
Tues 17 & Wed 18 June	City to City Relay Challenge	All Age Groups	All day event	Royal Mile, Edinburgh to George Street, Glasgow
Saturday 14 June	THE QUEEN'S BATON RELAY, EDINBURGH			
Jan/Dec 2014	Commonwealth Games Club Series	All Age Groups	Various Times	School based Sports Hub venues: Forrester/St Augustines, Broughton, The Royal High
April, July, August and October	Multi Sports Camps	P3-P7	10am - 4pm	Various venues
Wednesday 23 July to Sunday 3 Aug	GLASGOW 2014 - XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES			
Friday 29 August	Lowland Games - Try Athletics Series	P4 and All Age Groups	10am - 4pm	Liberton High School
Friday 5 Sept	Lowland Games - Try Athletics Series	P4 and All Age Groups	10am - 4pm	Castlebarnie Community High School
Friday 12 Sept	Lowland Games - Try Athletics Series	P4 and All Age Groups	10am - 4pm	Queensberry High School
Friday 19 Sept	Lowland Games - Try Athletics Series	P4 and All Age Groups	10am - 4pm	WVHEC
Friday 26 Sept	Lowland Games - Try Athletics Series	P4 and All Age Groups	10am - 4pm	Craigroyston High School
Wednesday 1 October	Games @ The Hub Secondary	S1-S3	10am - 2.30pm	Forrester/St Augustine's Sports Hub
Monday 6 October	Touch Rugby Festival (Primary)	P6	9.30am - 2.30pm	Murrayfield Stadium
Monday(s) 10, 17 & 24 Nov	EPSSA Sportshall Athletics Heats	P6/P7	9.30am - 12.30pm	Meadowbank
Monday 8 December	EPSSA Sportshall Athletics Finals and Commonwealth Games 2014 Closing Ceremony	P6/P7	9.30am - 12.30pm	Meadowbank
*All dates, times and venues may be subject to change throughout the year				
Pre Games Events Jan-June 2014		THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES		All Year Events
		Post Games Events August - December 2014		



PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES

To help celebrate the Commonwealth Games the City of Edinburgh Council Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit encourage schools to share what they have done to celebrate the Glasgow 2014 Games.

Please tell us, in your own way, what you have done and return with photographs by 1 December 2014 either to:

Commonwealth Games 2014
The City of Edinburgh Council
Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit
Level 1/2

Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9BG

Or by email to:
commonwealthgames2014@edinburgh.gov.uk

The top three school entries shall receive free sports equipment for their chosen Commonwealth sport.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES FACT

Jilly Cooper, who will be looking to medal in Badminton, started her career at Edinburgh's Tall Oaks Badminton Club held at Forrester High School.



Challenge Yourself to try a new Commonwealth sport in 2014!

THE QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

The Queen's Baton Relay is coming to Edinburgh on Saturday 14 June 2014. It is a much loved tradition of the Commonwealth Games and symbolises the coming together of all Commonwealth nations and territories in preparation for the four-yearly festival of sport and culture.

The Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay is the curtain raiser to the XV Commonwealth Games. Over a period of 288 days the baton will visit 70 nations and territories, cover 190,000 kilometres and involve a third of the world's population, making it the world's most engaging relay.

At the heart of the baton is the Queen's Message, inscribed on a parchment handmade in Glasgow using linen and plant fibre.

The message is scrolled and held in a transparent cylinder within a pure titanium lattice-work frame. For the first time, the message forms the visual core of the baton design – illuminated from within by LED lights, yet unbreakable until the Opening Ceremony.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES FACT

The Commonwealth Games are held every four years and the 2018 Games will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Challenge Yourself to try a new Commonwealth sport in 2014!

CITY OF EDINBURGH SCHOOLS SPORTS ACADEMY

The Sports Academy is a training and support programme open to pupils attending Edinburgh Secondary Schools and is designed to assist talented pupils reach their sporting potential.

Featured sports are as follows:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Football (two programmes)
- Rugby

Over the last twelve months more than 80% of our Sports Academy athletes achieved selection to regional and/or national squads.

There are 116 athletes in the 2013-14 programme. The selection process is complete for the current academic year but the application process will restart for 2014/15 in March/April 2014.

Last year saw the introduction of two distinct levels within the Academy programme – the 'Developing Potential' level and the 'Performance' level. The 'Developing Potential' level is for athletes who are either new to the programme or have been with us for only a year. As a general rule of thumb this is for pupils in S1-S3. The 'Performance' level is for athletes who have progressed into East of Scotland and National squads or in the opinion of the Head Coach are extremely close to gaining selection.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES FACT

- Lynsey Sharp, European 800m Champion in 2012
- is part of Edinburgh's Champions in School Programme. Lynsey can still be seen training at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Stadium



Julie Macpherson – Badminton
Julie is a member of both the National Squash and Edinburgh Sports Academy. She has had some outstanding achievements in the last few years, including National Champion at U17 and U19 champion. Julie and her sister, Heather (former member of our Sports Academy), will be representing Scotland at the BWF World Juniors in Hyderabad. Julie has been part of the Sports Academy for three years and attends The Royal High School. She has also won Sports Academy Athlete of the Year award twice.



Choyank Gosain – Cricket
Choyank has really excelled in the last few years, as a result of his passion and focus on training. Within the last season he has become a regular for his club Carlton playing in the senior men's Premiership. He played for the regional squads and was an integral part of the Scotland U17 and U19 squads. He played an important role in Scotland U19's qualifying for the ICC Under U19 World Cup in Dubai in February 2014. Choyank attends Broughton High School and has been part of the Sports Academy programme for the last four years.



Caitlin Michie – Girls Football
Caitlin has performed exceptionally well in the programme. Not only is she a very good performer, but she is also an excellent role model and leader in the group. Her work rate is excellent and her ability to motivate everyone creates a great teaching and learning environment. Caitlin is part of the Regional Performance Squad and has graduated from U14s to U16s. At national level Caitlin has represented Scotland at school and full up U16 and is currently attending a training camp for Scotland U16s. Caitlin attends Broughton High School and has been part of the Sports Academy for three years.



Tia Davies – Basketball
Tia is a very committed, dedicated and respectful young athlete who is always keen to learn and strives to be the best she can be. She is a great team player and is always positive and encouraging to her fellow athletes. Tia plays for the City of Edinburgh basketball club. Tia attends Parkside High School. Since joining the Academy programme she has been selected for the Future Stars regional squad and for the U13 Scottish Girls Squad, where she took on the role of team captain during a trip to Sweden to play against European competitors.

Support a Second Country
For the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Scotland has been invited with our second country, Guyana.

Why not put our name on Guyana by logging on to www.gamescotland.org and get ready to support our second country during the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

This poster is a great encouragement for pupils to try out as many sports as they can throughout the Commonwealth year. Each sport can be stamped or stuck here with points collected for each. At the end of the year, prizes can be awarded to the most successful pupils or classes.

Further information and copies of the Commonwealth Poster can be found on www.gamescotland.org

COMMONWEALTH GAMES FACT

Libby Clegg, who was educated in the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh, will be looking to add to her London

Paralympic medals when she makes her debut in Glasgow in the T12 100m.



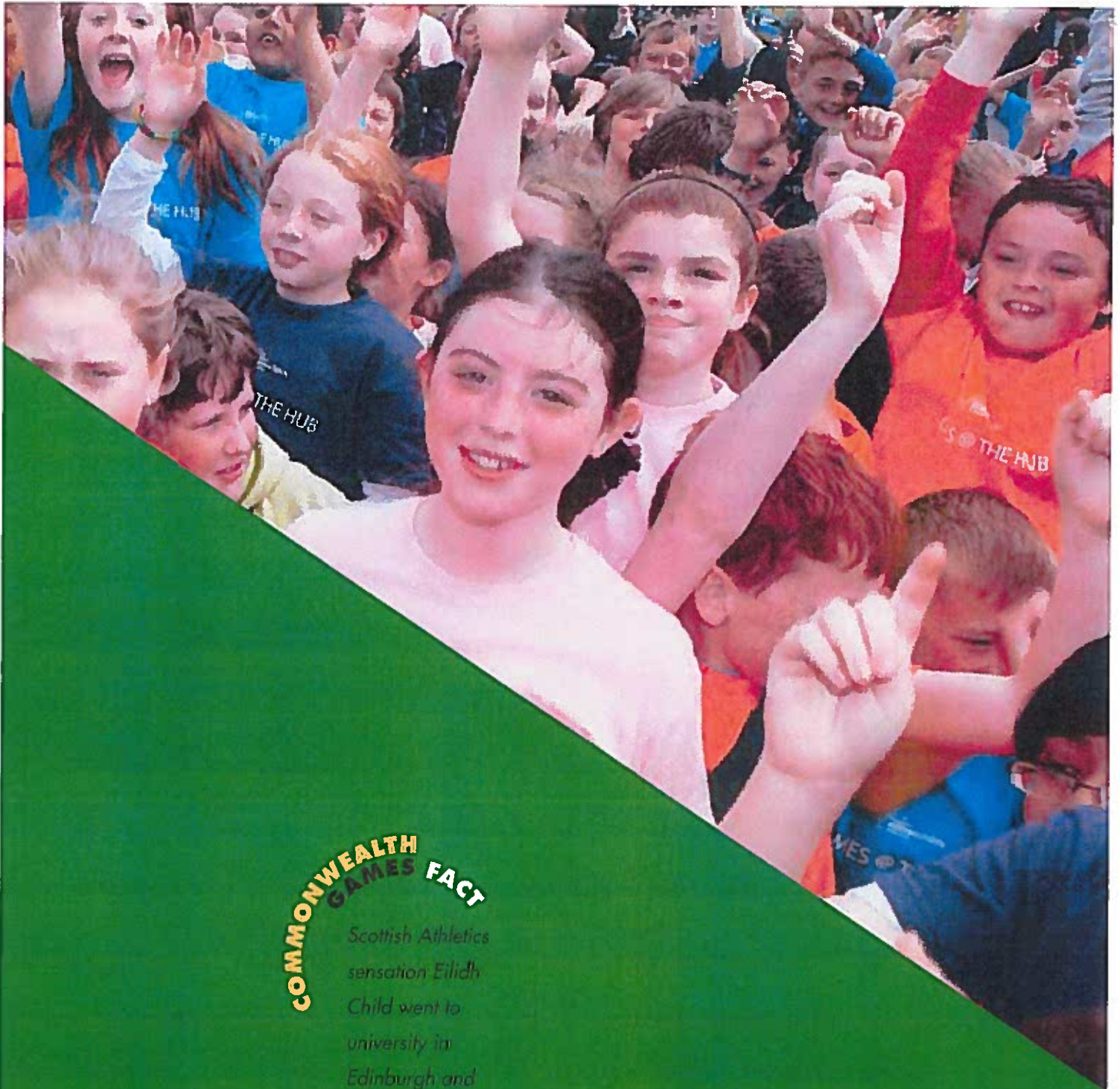
WWW.GAMESCOTLAND.ORG

CONTACT US

For general enquiries on our games programmes please contact:
Robin Yellowless or Mel Coultis
commonwealhgames2014@edinburgh.gov.uk

For details on specific events/projects please contact
EPSSA events: Beth Walker Beth.J.Walker@SPeters.edin.sch.uk
Games of the Hub and Community Sports Hub events:
Mel Berry Melissa.Berry@ea.edin.sch.uk
Sports Academy: Gordon Drummond Gordon.Drummond@ea.edin.sch.uk
Lowland Games Try Athletics Series: Jonathan Wallace
Jonathan.Wallace@ea.edin.sch.uk
City to City Relay Challenge: Barry Hewitt and/or Cliff Smith
Barry.Hewitt@edinburgh.gov.uk
Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk
Multi Sports Camps: Evan Maurice Evan.Maurice@ea.edin.sch.uk
Rugby Sevens Series: Ruairidh Pye Ruairidh.Pye@ea.edin.sch.uk

Children & Families Sports & Outdoor Learning Unit
The City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court, Business Centre 1.2, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG
Phone: 0131 469 3953
Contact the Sport & Outdoor Learning Unit for advice and support on the delivery of quality programmes in your school or community
Follow us on Twitter: @coe_sport

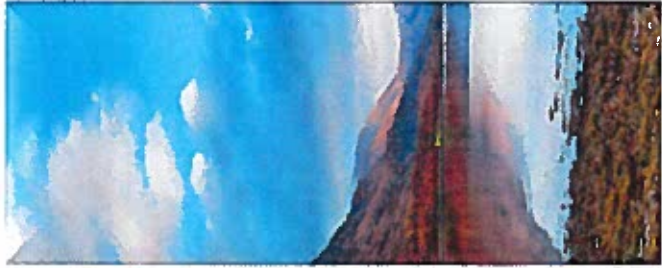


**COMMONWEALTH
GAMES FACT**

Scottish Athletics sensation Eilidh Child went to university in Edinburgh and is a Heart of Midlothian football supporter. Her best football moment... watching Hearts win the Scottish Cup.

Outdoor Learning Strategy 2013 – 2014

Sports and Outdoor Education Unit
Children and Families Department
City of Edinburgh Council



Definition

Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes: learning in the outdoor environment, outdoor play, school grounds development, residential experiences, progressive award programmes, adventure activities, expeditions, team building, leadership training, learning for sustainability, environmental education and nature therapy.

Vision

The journey through education for any child in Edinburgh must include opportunities for a series of planned, quality outdoor learning experiences.

This means:

- All children and young people are participating in a range of progressive and creative outdoor learning experiences which are clearly part of the curriculum.
- Schools and centres are providing regular, frequent, enjoyable and challenging opportunities for all children and young people to learn outdoors throughout their school career and beyond.
- Teachers and educators embed outdoor learning in the curriculum.
- Opportunities are available for outdoor learning in local community settings.

Rationale

Well-constructed and well-planned outdoor learning helps develop the skills of enquiry, critical thinking and reflection necessary for our children and young people to meet the social, economic and environmental challenges of life in the 21st century. It is a key tool for developing confident individuals, effective contributors, responsible citizens and successful learners. Outdoor Learning should reflect the communities in which children and young people live, including experiences in school grounds, the local area, further afield in Scotland, high quality residential experiences and international opportunities. Outdoor learning connects children and young people with the natural world, with our built heritage and our culture and society, and encourages lifelong involvement and activity in Scotland's outdoors.

Key Council Staff

Robin Yellowlees – Service Manager, Sport and Outdoor Education Unit
Cliff Smith – Outdoor Education Development Officer
Barry Hewitt – Principal Teacher for Outdoor Learning
Scott Christie – Outdoor Woodland Learning Development Officer
Fraser Robertson – Awards Officer
Margaret Westwood – Senior Play Development Officer
Louise Caldwell – Play Development Officer
Mark Foster – Community Learning and Development Worker
Ian Ross – Head Teacher of Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres
Graeme Adams – Senior Instructor (Benmore)
Graeme Douglas – Senior Instructor (Lagganlia)






















Local Providers Group

Penny Radway – The Green Team (GT)
Gregor McMeechan – Adventure Edinburgh (AE)
Graeme Morrison – CAPRO (CA)
Jonny Kinross – My Adventure (MA)
Sean Barrie – Bridge 8 (B8)
Matt Robinson – Grounds for Learning (GfL)


























1. Increase the use of outdoor learning as a core context for learning (within the framework of A Curriculum for Excellence).

Aim	Action	Outcome Measure	Lead CEC Staff	Local Provider	Timescale for Delivery	Progress
1.1 Promote outdoor learning to every early years establishment, primary, secondary, special school and CLD establishment in the city.	1.1.1 Establish network of Outdoor Learning Champions who are able to lead outdoor learning in their school communities.	a) An Outdoor Learning Champion in every City of Edinburgh Council educational establishment.	B Hewitt M Westwood		Jan 13 - Dec 13	
		b) Regular updates are issued.	B Hewitt		Ongoing	
		c) Training and networking conference is held once every academic year. - LFS	B Hewitt		Ongoing	
		d) Training opportunities for Lead Teacher and Teaching in Nature programme (GIL)	B Hewitt	GIL	Ongoing	
1.2 Increase staff knowledge, understanding, confidence and experience in outdoor learning.	1.2.1 Deliver high quality CPD training and support in outdoor learning to all interested staff.	a) Yearly calendar of CPD events.	B Hewitt L Caldwell S Christie	GT	Ongoing	
		b) Delivery of appropriate NGB qualifications to staff.	C Smith		Ongoing	
		c) Staff CPD opportunities developed for delivery during residential at Benmore and Lagganilla.	I Ross B Hewitt		Jan 14 - Jun 14	
1.3 Promote the scope and benefits of outdoor learning to senior management and head teachers.	1.2.2 Conduct an audit of current staff and educational establishments to identify current provision and record future development.	a) Audit carried out and provision is mapped and gaps identified.	B Hewitt C Wood		Jan 14 - Jul 14	
		b) Design and implement tracking system for the training and delivery of outdoor learning.	C Smith B Hewitt		Jul 13 - Dec 14	
		a) An in house model is developed and piloted for the training and support of forest schools practitioners in the city.	B Hewitt S Christie		Jan 14 - Dec 14	
1.4 Ensure that council meets outcomes of Learning for Sustainability report.	1.3.1 Introduce a series of pilot programmes that illustrate the benefits of outdoor learning.	a) Royal High outdoor learning demonstration model.	B Hewitt C Smith C Wood	AE	Jan 13 - Dec 14	
		b) Grounds for Learning Project.	M Westwood		Jan 13 - Dec 14	
	1.4.1 Work in partnership with other council departments to support the delivery outcomes from the report.	a) Learning for Sustainability steering group is formed to implement outcomes within The City of Edinburgh Council.	B Hewitt H Stockham C Soper M Wantoch		Jul 13 - Dec 13	

2. Increase the range of opportunities for children and young people to take part in outdoor learning.

Aim	Action	Outcome Measure	Lead CEC Staff	Local Provider	Timescale	Progress	
2.1 Children and young people have the opportunity to engage with outdoor learning out with curricular time.	2.1.1 Provide sustainable opportunities for all children and young people to learn outdoors on a regular basis out with school.	a) Provision of outdoor learning sessions during school holidays.	C Smith	GT B8	Ongoing	  	
		b) Improve capacity to deliver outdoor learning in the CLD environment.	M Foster C Smith S Christie		Jan 14 - Jun 14	—	
		c) Provide advice and support to voluntary sector in delivery of outdoor learning.	C Smith B Hewitt S Christie M Foster		Ongoing	  	
2.2 There is a range of high quality approved providers of outdoor learning across the City of Edinburgh.	2.1.2 Develop a well-trained workforce.	a) Support of the modern apprenticeship programme.	C Smith B Hewitt		Ongoing	  	
		b) Provide advice, training and support to local providers.	C Smith		Ongoing	  	
		c) Continue to develop our capacity to deliver training internally.	C Smith B Hewitt		Ongoing	  	
	2.2.1 Establish, where appropriate, new partnerships to deliver and build extra capacity.	a) Audit of approved providers list to introduce a quality provider mark. – Department to advise based on AHOEC membership		C Smith		Jul 13 - Dec 13	Complete
		b) Outdoor learning providers are engaged to create an accessible outdoor learning network. – Possible partnership with FC		B Hewitt	FC	Jan 14 - Jun 14	—
		a) Core group meets bi monthly with input from other providers.		R Yellowlees B Hewitt C Smith	AE, B8, CA, MA, GT	Ongoing	  
2.2.2 Establish a networking group of key partners.	b) Key partners share knowledge and resources in partnership with the Council to grow capacity in the city.		R Yellowlees B Hewitt C Smith	GT, B8	Ongoing	  	

3. Provide a pathway for progression and increased involvement in outdoor learning and the outdoors.

Aim	Action	Outcome Measure	Lead CEC Staff	Local Provider	Timescale	Progress
3.1 Offer a range of progressive opportunities in outdoor learning that are affordable, accessible and challenging.	3.1.1 Review and develop (in partnership with the Outdoor Centres) Developing Potential programmes and events.	a) Work in partnership with schools, centres and providers to identify possible candidates for programme. b) Programmes are run at least twice a year. Opportunities for residential programmes are explored.	C Smith I Ross	B8 MA	Ongoing	  
	3.1.2 Develop supporting materials for the lead up to and following residential weeks at Benmore and Lagganilla.	a) Downloadable support materials made available to Primary and Secondary teachers to support pre and post residential work.	I Ross B Hewitt	AE B8	Jan 14 - Jun 14	  
	3.1.3 Ensure pathways in adventurous activities are created.	a) In partnership with Active Schools, opportunities for after school adventurous activity clubs are explored and developed. b) Participation in outdoor learning through the CLD environment is supported.	A Caldwell B Hewitt		Jul 13 – Dec 13	  
	3.1.4 Develop School Cluster models for outdoor learning with links to the sports hubs and local clubs.	a) Progressive and regular programme of outdoor learning for pupils from age 3-18, including accredited learning, senior leadership qualifications and links to clubs in the local community.	B Hewitt M Berry R Ure N Russell	AE B8	Jan 14 - Dec 14	  
	3.1.5 Promote outdoor learning as a progressive approach that occurs on school grounds, in the local area, further afield in Scotland, at residential centres and on international experiences.	a) Provide advice and support on the development of grounds for outdoor learning.	M Westwood B Hewitt		Ongoing	  
		b) Encourage and support schools through advice and training to use local area as a regular and accessible learning environment.	B Hewitt S Christie	GT	Ongoing	  
		c) Promote the value and benefit of high quality residential opportunities to schools and CLD.	I Ross B Hewitt		Jan 14 – Dec 14	 
	3.1.6 Work in partnership with local clubs to build capacity and progression in the city.	d) Work in partnership with international unit to enable schools to provide progressive, adventurous overseas experiences.	C Soper B Hewitt		Jan 14 – Jul 14	 
		a) Work with clubs operating within the city and support partnerships between schools, sports hubs, CLD and CEC outdoor centres	R Yellowlees C Smith B Hewitt		Jul 14 - Dec 14	  



















4. Ensure outdoor learning provides options for accreditation and achievement awards for children and young people.

Aim	Action	Outcome Measure	Lead CEC Staff	Local Provider	Timescale	Progress
4.1 Make available and promote appropriate and accredited achievement awards which incorporate an outdoor learning element.	4.1.1 Develop the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award within the City.	a) New centres are developed for D of E delivery. b) Volunteer satisfaction is monitored and improved. c) Current groups are mapped and gaps in provision are explored.	F Robertson F Robertson F Robertson		March 2014 Jan 14 – Dec 14 Jan 13 – Jun 13	
	4.1.2 Increase participation and completion rates for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.	a) Growth of 5% in participation rates year on year. b) Growth of 10% in completion rates year on year.	F Robertson F Robertson	GT GT	March 2014 March 2014	
	4.1.3 Promote and support the Junior Award Scheme Scotland across Edinburgh.	a) A cluster model is promoted and developed with both primaries and secondary schools delivering JASS in partnership. b) Growth of 10% in participation rates year on year.	F Robertson F Robertson	GT GT	Jan 14 – Dec 14 March 2014	
	4.1.4 Support the development of the John Muir Award in the City.	a) John Muir Award leader training sessions held at least twice a year. b) A provider agreement is created to support the administration of the award	B Hewitt S Christie B Hewitt		Ongoing Jan 13 - Jun 13	 Complete
	4.1.5 Support and offer achievement awards with a strong outdoor learning focus (e.g. Go Bike, NICAS, RYA, SOA).	a) Awards are supported and developed across the Department. b) Staff are trained to deliver award programmes.	B Hewitt S Christie M Foster C Smith C Smith		Jul 13 - Dec 13 Ongoing Ongoing	
	4.1.6 Developing leadership opportunities for children and young people.	a) D of E Leadership programme is developed and delivered. b) Qualifications for young people in leadership and coaching through outdoor learning are developed and supported.	F Robertson B Hewitt		Jan 14 – Dec 14 Jan 14 - Jul 14	

5. Promote outdoor learning as a means of working with, and improving outcomes for, targeted groups of young people.

Aim	Action	Outcome Measure	Lead CEC Staff	Local Provider	Timescale	Progress
5.1 Provide outdoor learning opportunities for children and young people with physical and complex social and emotional needs.	5.1.1 Develop CEC centres as providers of outdoor learning interventions.	a) All participants on residential course are fully included in the programme.	I Ross		Jul 13 - Dec 13	--○
	5.1.2 Explore and develop adventure and nature therapy programmes linked with special schools in Edinburgh.	b) Outdoor Learning Champions in special schools receive tailored training to deliver outdoor learning opportunities to their pupils.	B Hewitt	GT	Jan 14 - Dec 14	—
5.2 Provide outdoor learning opportunities for children and young people from challenging socio-economic backgrounds	5.2.1 The development and delivery of the POLE project to support outdoor learning and residential opportunities in the Positive Action primary schools.	a) All positive action schools engage in a affordable residential experience at our centres.	B Hewitt		Jan 13 - Jun 13	Complete
		b) Pupils participate in the JASS and John Muir Award.	B Hewitt	GT	Jan 13 - Jun 13	Complete
		c) Staff engaged in high quality CPD.	B Hewitt		Jan 13 - Jun 13	Complete
	5.2.2 The development and delivery of the Outdoor Woodland Learning project in the communities of Craigmillar, Liberton and Gilmerton.	d) Adventurous after school clubs are delivered in partnership with local providers.	B Hewitt	AE, B8, CA, MA	Jan 13 - Jun 13	Complete
5.3 Provide outdoor learning opportunities for children and young people reflecting the various communities within the City of Edinburgh.	5.2.3 Outdoor Learning opportunities are delivered in the CLD environment.	a) 80-100 CEC staff access free CPD.	S Christie		Jan 13 - Apr 14	Complete
		b) 20 Education Volunteers are trained to increase provision of outdoor learning.	S Christie		Jan 13 - Apr 14	●●●
		c) 32 young people, who are NEET, will access a youth employability programme.	S Christie		Jan 13 - Apr 14	Complete
5.4 Provide outdoor learning opportunities for children and young people within Council Residential Care settings.	5.3.1 Raise the profile of CEC outdoor centres within the diverse communities in the City.	a) Outdoor Learning provision in CLD is mapped and developed.	M Foster		Jul 14 - Dec 14	—
		a) Local community and faith leaders are engaged about the work of the centres.	I Ross B Hewitt		Jan 14 - Jun 14	—
	5.3.2 Specialist groups are established to support outdoor learning.	b) Barriers to the attendance on residential experiences and engagement with outdoor learning are explored and challenged.	I Ross B Hewitt		Jul 13 - Dec 13	—
		a) D of E Groups are developed and supported within faith communities.	F Robertson	GT	Jul 13 - Dec 13	●●●
5.4.1 In consultation with the Council Residential Care settings, a programme of training and support is developed to support outdoor learning opportunities.	5.4.1 In consultation with the Council Residential Care settings, a programme of training and support is developed to support outdoor learning opportunities.	a) Residential care settings are audited in relation to provision of outdoor learning.	B Hewitt		Jul 13 - Dec 13	●●●
		b) Outdoor Learning Champions are identified and support, training and monitoring is put into place.	B Hewitt C Smith		Jun 13 - Dec 14	●●●

6. City of Edinburgh Council Outdoor Centres.

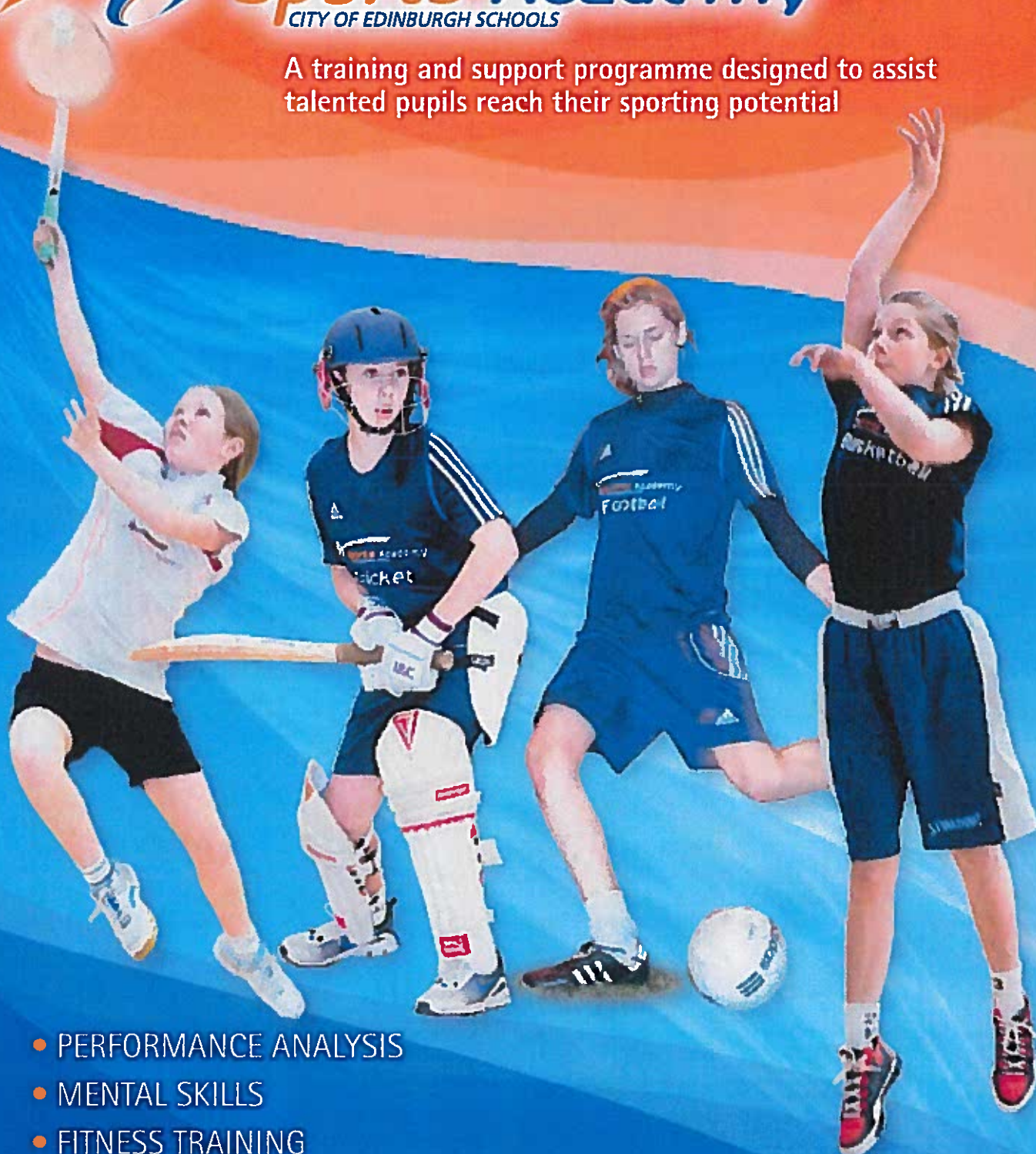
Aim	Action	Outcome Measure	Lead CEC Staff	Local Provider	Timescale	Progress
6.1 Edinburgh Council Outdoor Centres work in partnership to deliver outdoor learning.	6.1.1 Sharing of resources across Benmore, Lagganlia and Bangholm.	a) Staff resources are shared appropriately	C Smith I Ross B Hewitt		Ongoing	  
	6.2.1 Identify what makes CEC centres unique and quality providers of outdoor learning to City Of Edinburgh establishments and promote this within Edinburgh.	b) Specialist equipment and resources are shared between the centres	C Smith I Ross		Ongoing	  
6.2 More City of Edinburgh educational establishments use the facilities at Bangholm, Benmore and Lagganlia.		a) Target schools using other residential providers.	C Smith I Ross B Hewitt		Jan 13 – Dec 14	  
		b) Growth in use of centres by Edinburgh schools based on individual centre targets	C Smith I Ross B Hewitt		Jul 13 – Dec 14	 
		c) Joint outdoor learning marketing strategy is developed.	C Smith I Ross B Hewitt		Jan 14 – Jul 14	 
		d) Direct promotion of our outdoor centres to schools in the City.	C Smith I Ross B Hewitt		Jan 14 – Jul 14	 
6.3 Staff from across the Sport and Outdoor Education Unit work closer together to deliver outdoor learning.	6.3.1 Outdoor Education staff training and networking conference is held once a year.	a) Staff Conference at Lagganlia 2013	R Yellowlees C Smith I Ross B Hewitt S Christie		Ongoing	  
		b) Staff Conference at Benmore 2014				
		c) Staff Conference at Bangholm 2015				



Sports Academy

CITY OF EDINBURGH SCHOOLS

A training and support programme designed to assist talented pupils reach their sporting potential



- PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
- MENTAL SKILLS
- FITNESS TRAINING
- LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT
- SPECIALIST COACHES

Applicants should be entering S1 or S2 in August 2013.

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Children and Families – Sports & Outdoor Education Unit.
Email: sportsacademy@edinburgh.gov.uk



Sports Academy

CITY OF EDINBURGH SCHOOLS

A training and support programme designed to assist talented pupils reach their sporting potential

In the past year over 80% of our Sports Academy Athletes achieved selection to Regional and/or National Squads

The Sports Academy is a programme open to pupils attending City of Edinburgh Secondary Schools and is in line with the new 'Curriculum for Excellence' agenda for Scotland's schools that places the emphasis on pupils creating their own personalised learning plan and reaching the highest possible levels of achievement.

The aim is to assist pupils either achieve or maintain their selection in Regional and National Squads



**2013-14
Badminton
Basketball
Cricket
Girls Football**

All programmes are planned and delivered in full partnership with the National Governing Bodies and are in line with the principles of long term player development. This initiative is 'multi-locational' in that a number of different schools, venues and facilities (including Edinburgh College) are used according to the needs of the different sports and the requirements of the participants.

The programme for 2013-14 includes Badminton, Basketball, Cricket and Girls Football. Our current Sports Development Officers drive these programmes together with the assistance of other high quality specialist coaches in each of the selected sports and additional experts in relation to other aspects of the support programme.

These key people are co-ordinated and monitored by the Academy Director who has overall responsibility for the direction and organisation of the Sports Academy. We shall also put into place mechanisms to ensure pupils achieve the balance between sport and academic life and receive expert advice on areas such as sport psychology and lifestyle management.

A Curriculum for Excellence:

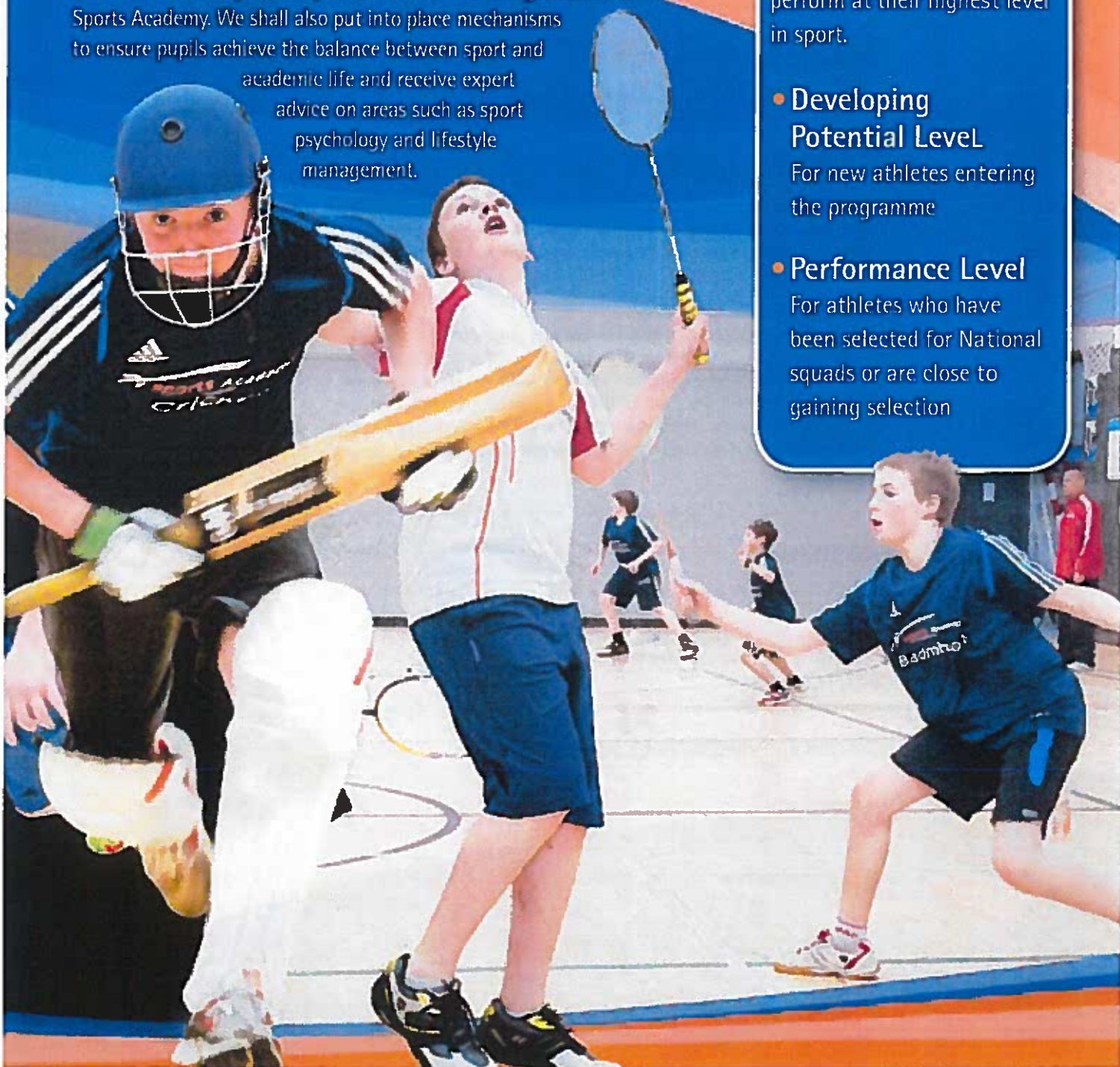
Experiences and outcomes should open up opportunities for learners to participate and perform at their highest level in sport.

- **Developing Potential Level**

For new athletes entering the programme

- **Performance Level**

For athletes who have been selected for National squads or are close to gaining selection





A training and support programme designed to assist talented pupils reach their sporting potential

DEVELOPING POTENTIAL LEVEL

For new athletes entering the programme

PERFORMANCE LEVEL

For athletes who have been selected for National squads or are close to gaining selection

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:
Friday the 26th of April 2013**

SELECTED SPORTS FOR 2013/14

Please note that although in exceptional circumstances we can provide a 'Guest ticket' entry for older pupils, the entry and trial process for all sports is restricted to pupils entering S1 and S2 in August 2013. The selection process takes place over the period May to June each year.

SFA Performance School

The SFA Performance School is only for boys and girls entering S1. Please note that the Scottish FA Performance School is based at Broughton High School and is a curricular programme whilst the other sports programmes take place after school. The trials for the 2013/14 Performance School have already taken place. If you require anymore information regarding the Performance School please email sportsacademy@edinburgh.gov.uk



BADMINTON



BASKETBALL



CRICKET



GIRLS FOOTBALL



SCOTTISH FA PERFORMANCE SCHOOL



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Performance Report - Term 1 August – Dec 2013

Extracurricular Activities

Participant Sessions

The online monitoring system for Active Schools, (ASMO) records the number of 'visits' pupils have made to activities. These figures are indicative of participation and do not record distinct participants. Active Schools Edinburgh recorded **188,426** participant sessions for term 1 which was a **23% increase** on term 1 of 2012, an additional 35,120 participant sessions, of which 50% of the participants were female.

Overall 24% of the primary and secondary school role in Edinburgh took part in regular extracurricular activity provided by Active Schools during term 1. There is a total of 10,833 distinct participants.

Activity Sessions

Activity sessions are recorded in ASMO as 'Activity Session Blocks' which describe a group who meet to take part in an activity. Active Schools recorded 10,806 activity sessions during term 1 which was an increase of 2,636 or 32% compared to 2012.

Coaching and Volunteering

Active Schools supported 679 volunteers to lead or assist in the delivery of extracurricular activity sessions across 46 different sports and activities.

72% of our 937 distinct deliverers were volunteers, which is a decrease of 4% on term 1 of 2012 and 13% lower than the national figure of 85%.

Active Schools engaged with 249 senior pupils in term 1, an increase of 27 pupils from term 1 of 2012.

School Club Links

Active Schools worked in partnership with 152 sports clubs across Edinburgh, providing a school to club link to 117 schools. This is an increase of 22% on last year's figures.

Events

In term 1, Active Schools engaged with 1,189 pupils in various events across the city, 739 pupils were female, (62%). Events included:

- Various neighbourhood Dance Festivals, including Drummond, Forrester and the South
- Hockey Tournament at Craigoyston
- Various basketball tournaments including Portobello, Forrester, and the West neighbourhood
- South Queensferry cluster Cross Country which included St Margaret's from St Augustine's Cluster
- West neighbourhood Netball tournament

ASN Schools

There are 13 special schools across Edinburgh, including Woodlands High School. From these schools 666 primary pupils and 1056 secondary pupils took part in activity across the city, 20% of the special school roll.

How are we doing on cycle training?

Posted on July 16, 2013 by Children & Families

The City of Edinburgh Council has committed to meet the target of training 100% of P6 pupils to Bikeability level 2 by 2016/17. This challenging target will be achieved through the successful partnership working of the Active Schools team with Road Safety, school staff and commercial providers. Bikeability level 2 is cycle training which is taught on-road and teaches children the skills necessary to be able to negotiate most on-road situations.



Pupils from Sciennes Primary getting up to speed

2012-13 has been an exciting year for children’s cycling where as a city we have made significant progress. Mel Coutts, acting Principal Officer for Sport and Outdoor Education, gives us an update on how we’re doing on cycle training.

There are three key projects which have added quality and value to the city-wide programme:

- **Pool Bikes:** Internally, we were able to access sufficient funding to buy bikes for 13 of our 18 primary schools which have positive action status. These schools were able to: safely accommodate 10 new bikes each; commit to annual maintenance of the bikes; and, importantly, commit to annual cycle training for the P6s
- **Bike Sales:** To support schools and pupils we have funding from Cycling Scotland for subsidised bike and safety equipment sales in schools where bike ownership is low. 15 schools have taken advantage of this scheme to date which has provided reconditioned bikes and new safety equipment from the Bike Station to the pupils.
- **Mentoring:** Volunteers are key to the success of cycle training and they need lots of support. By accessing funding from Cycling Scotland we have been able to provide cycle training mentors across all 23 clusters in the city. The mentors have provided a needed boost to volunteer confidence and in turn, cycle training has increased significantly. Active Schools Co-ordinators managed the placement of the mentors.

56 primary schools delivered cycle training in 2012-13 (this is 64%, our target as set out in the Travel Plan was 50%). Over 2000 P6 pupils received training. Training was delivered by parents, teachers, learning assistants, other school staff, Senior pupils, other volunteers and by paid deliverers.



It is hoped that as a result of the training, children will be more confident and safe when taking to the streets by bike, and will feel encouraged to travel actively. This is, therefore, more likely to lead to an inclination towards active travel into adulthood which supports a healthy lifestyle.

In 2012-13, 56 primary schools delivered Bikeability level 2 as follows:

Abbeyhill	Craigroyston	Gracemount	Pentland	St John Vianney
Balgreen	Cramond	Granton	Pirniehall	St Johns
Blackhall	Currie	Hermitage Park	Preston Street	St Margaret’s
Bonaly	Dalry	James Gillespie’s	Prestonfield	St Mary’s Leith

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Broughton	Davidson Mains	Juniper Green	Ratho	St Ninian's
Bruntsfield	Dean Park	Kirkliston	Roseburn	Stenhouse
Buckstone	Duddingston	Liberton	Royal Mile	Stockbridge
Clermiston	Ferryhill	Longstone	Sciennes	The Royal High
Corstorphine	Flora Stevenson	Nether Currie	South Morningside	Tollcross
Craigentinny	Forthview	Niddrie Mill	St Catherine's	Towerbank
Craigour Park	Gilmerton	Oxgangs	St Davids	Victoria
			St Francis	Wardie

For further information on Edinburgh's plans for cycle training, please contact Mel Coutts, Principal Officer for Sport and Outdoor Education (acting): mel.coutts@edinburgh.gov.uk.

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How the Duke of Edinburgh's Award struck gold in 2013

Posted on [January 23, 2014](#) by [Sports & Outdoor Education Unit](#)

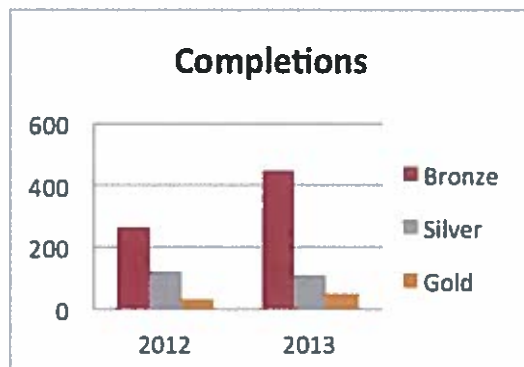
The Duke of Edinburgh Award gives young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfill their potential and have a brighter future. The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit work with young people across Edinburgh encouraging them to enrol and complete each stage of the award which increases in complexity: bronze, silver and gold.



Teamwork!

2013 was one of the most successful years to date for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Edinburgh. Mel Coutts and Robin Yellowlees, from the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit, report on the scheme's progress.

In a continuous growth in enrolment, over 1500 young people registered to participate in the scheme, with over 1000 of those at the Bronze level. To accommodate the increased demand, nine new award groups were established in venues across the city including Morningside United Church and the Edinburgh's Young Carers Project.



There has been a large increase in participant completion rates, especially at Bronze with 447 completing the award, an increase of 68% on the previous year. Significantly, Gold completions were up by 50% compared to 2012. A notable completion was Edinburgh Council Modern Apprentice Euan Morrice, and two of our other Modern Apprentices, Cameron Wood (Outdoor Learning) and Paul Oliver (CLD Youth Work) have also successfully completed the Gold expedition and are on the brink of completing their other sections.



None of these wonderful achievements by young people would have been possible without the time and commitment shown by the 350 volunteer leaders who make the programme achievable by all. Our Awards Officer, Fraser Robertson, looks forward to continued sustainable growth in 2014.



For more information, or to volunteer for the DofE, please contact Fraser Robertson on 0131 551 4370.

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From the Cheviot to Cape Wrath – Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions

Posted on November 21, 2013 by Children & Families

As part of the [Duke of Edinburgh Award](#), candidates must complete an expedition without direct adult supervision. The expeditions become longer and more complex as the young people progress through the bronze, silver and gold awards.

2013 has been the busiest year recorded for Edinburgh groups, with 1,420 participants taking part in expeditions lasting 2, 3 or 4 days. Mel Coutts, acting Principal Officer for Sports and Outdoor Learning, tells us more about how we're doing supporting the young people embarking on their expeditions.



Young people tackle their DofE expedition

[Friends of the Award](#) (FOTA) are a charity who work in partnership with us to support local secondary schools, Open Award Groups and community groups with their Duke of Edinburgh Award delivery. FOTA's Expedition Co-ordinator helps these groups prepare the young people for what is often the most challenging section of their award.



Groups of young people planned and completed their journeys in a diverse array of areas the length and breadth of Scotland from the Cheviot to Cape Wrath, or the Isle of Mull to the Cairngorms. For most, the adventure starts closer to home with just under 50% of expeditions taking place in the Pentland Hills, mainly at Bronze level. Most have been on foot but some groups go out by bike and canoe.



Open Expeditions have also been very popular this year. These are designed as a "Plan B" for those participants who missed their own group's expedition due to illness or personal circumstances. This year 130 participants have

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been taken out, where aside from the usual difficulties faced in the Scottish hills, the young people face the added challenge of quickly making an effective team with a group of strangers.

There has been one Inclusive Expedition programme, giving eight under-privileged young people from the east of Edinburgh the chance to take part in two expeditions, through a partnership with Magdalene Community Centre. This was a great success and our Inclusive Expedition programme will be expanding in future years.

With support from the Council's Awards Officer, FOTA offer:

- Help for Duke of Edinburgh groups to find experienced volunteer instructors to ensure young people's safety on expeditions, and accredited Duke of Edinburgh assessors to recognise their success;
- Advice on expedition safety for Open Award and Community Duke of Edinburgh groups;
- Maintenance of a store of outdoor equipment for low-cost hire by local Duke of Edinburgh groups;
- Provision of a comprehensive training programme for expedition leaders.

Training opportunities

With regard to training, this year 10 candidates were trained to Level 3 certificate in Basic Expedition Leadership (BEL), and 5 of these, plus 4 from a previous training course, completed their qualification in a very difficult assessed expedition in Highland Perthshire. This achievement marks a major commitment from all the trainees and it is really exciting to have 9 new qualified walking instructors ready to start supervising expeditions next year.

Applications are now open for [our next BEL course](#). There are also a series of one-day training courses for Duke of Edinburgh supervisors and assessors which have been very popular.

The next season starts in April 2014, if you are interested in being involved in Duke of Edinburgh Awards as a volunteer, please contact Neil Clements, Expedition Co-ordinator at neil.clements@fota.org.uk or Fraser Robertson, Awards Officer at fraser.robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk.



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How are we doing on encouraging swimming?

Posted on July 30, 2013 by Children & Families

Our partnership with [Scottish Swimming](#) and [Edinburgh Leisure](#) has brought swimming success to thousands of our primary school pupils. Funding from the Scottish Government's Swimming Top Up programme has allowed schools to bring in additional teachers to provide better swimming lessons. This ensures that there is greater support available for weak or non-swimmers. Mel Coutts, acting Principal Officer for Sport and Outdoor Education, gives us an update on how we're doing on swimming.



Pupils enjoying a swimming lesson

Some schools are now showing significant improvement in their swimming assessments. Pirniehall Primary School went from a 27% pass rate in 2011-12 to 73% in 2012-13. Staff at this school spoke of the positive impact of swimming on pupil confidence, self-esteem and teamwork skills; as well as its benefits as a life skill.

Swimming in schools currently links to the first three Curriculum for Excellence Levels: Early, First and Second. The City of Edinburgh Council's recognised standard at which a pupil is considered a safe swimmer is the achievement of the level five certificate. Every child swimming at school works to attain this by the end of primary school. In 2012-2013 the pass rate for this was 62%; an increase from 55% in 2011-2012.

In 2012-2013 85 of our 87 primary schools taught swimming. 64 of those benefited from the Swimming Top Up programme. The City of Edinburgh Council will receive a further £50,000 from the programme over the next 2 years to develop the city-wide programme with our partners Edinburgh Leisure. [Sportscotland](#) manage the funds for the programme.

Alongside Swimming Top Up there are other programmes in place to support swimming in schools.

One example is the [swimming leadership programmes run by some schools](#). These programmes are co-ordinated by Active Schools. In the February break senior pupils work with Edinburgh Leisure tutors to achieve their UKCC level one qualification; a formally recognised coaching qualification administered by [Sports Coach UK](#). During this time they offer free swimming lessons to primary pupils, giving the seniors undertaking the programme valuable coaching experience. Once the pupils have achieved their qualification they are encouraged to volunteer to support primary swimming lessons at their school. This arrangement is cost-free, sustainable and benefits both the secondary and primary pupils.

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Council invests £125K in swimming for families

Posted on [October 10, 2013](#) by [Children & Families](#)

A £125,000 investment by the City of Edinburgh Council is set to make swimming more accessible and more affordable for hundreds of young children and families across the Capital.



Starting from this weekend (Saturday 12 October), a host of measures are due to be introduced over the next two years that will increase swimming provision and access to pools for those who need it most.

The programme includes:

- free swimming during school holidays,
- top up swimming classes for P2-3 pupils,
- free family splash time sessions
- swimming classes for women and children from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities

Councillor Richard Lewis, the city's Culture and Sport Convener, said:

Swimming is a fantastic activity that is not only fun but keeps you fit and healthy too. The purpose behind providing a free programme of swimming is to open up our pool facilities to those that may never have tried swimming before or to encourage parents to take their children along for a fun family swim.

We've worked closely with our partners in Edinburgh Leisure and sportscotland to produce a programme that specifically targets children and adults who need support the most and also benefits the most number of people for the money available. It builds on what was proposed by Splashback and, I believe, goes even further to ensure that children from all over the city have the opportunity both to learn to swim and enjoy it at the same time.

Between Saturday 12 October and Monday 21 October, free swimming for primary school children will be available between 12-4pm in four city pools every day during the school holidays (with some exceptions – see [Edinburgh Leisure](#) and [Wester Hailes Education Centre](#) for details).

The pools are Leith Victoria Swim Centre, Gracemount Leisure Centre, Dalry Swim Centre and Wester Hailes Education Centre.

These free swim session for juniors will be repeated during school holidays until April 2015 and will also include the pool at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre.

Further to this, from January, the Council will also provide additional swimming lessons for P2/3 pupils in eighteen schools designated as 'positive action' schools (where over 40% of pupils are entitled to free school meals). These will be run with Edinburgh Leisure, who will provide additional teaching support to help these children develop early aquatic skills, knowledge of pool safety, and – in many cases – introduce them to swimming for the first time.

Other measure to be introduced next year include:

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- The launch of a 'Family Splash Time' programme, which will provide parents and their children with eight weeks of fun, two-hour, swim sessions.
- Extending the successful 'Female Only Swim' sessions held at Leith Victoria to other parts of the Capital. These sessions are targeted specifically at the BME community where cultural and religious barriers may prevent women from participating in swimming.

The £125,000 funding for accessible and affordable swimming was agreed by the Capital Coalition earlier this year in recognition of Splashback's commitment to increasing swimming opportunities for young people.

Graeme Gardiner, Director of Operations at Edinburgh Leisure said:

We are delighted to be supporting this swimming initiative. We passionately believe in the positive impact that sport and physical activity can have on individuals and communities and we want to inspire everyone in the city to be more active and healthy. This swimming initiative provides a great way of encouraging people to get active and try out swimming.

Read the [minutes from Capital Coalition meeting on swimming](#).

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