

Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday, 29 January 2019

Sport for Change: A new grant scheme for Physical Activity and Sport

Item number	8.2
Report number	
Executive	
Wards	
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Executive Summary

It was agreed on Tuesday 11 September 2018 at the Culture and Communities Committee to bring back a specific report on establishing a new grants scheme for voluntary sports organisations to support new work in areas of deprivation.

It is fully expected that the new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for the city shall have a strong focus on reducing inequalities.

The thinking behind this report is that Edinburgh has an impressive range of sports clubs. From athletics through to water polo we have some of the finest sports clubs in the country. We want these clubs to take up the challenge of engaging in areas of deprivation.

This report sets out the rationale for the introduction of a new grants scheme and covers the recommended financial limits and some key conditions.

Sport for Change: A new grants scheme for Physical Activity and Sport

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve the continued work on the creation of a new grants scheme totalling £500,000 per annum in the first three or four year cycle.
 - 1.1.2 Request a further report in two cycles on options for securing the funds required including the possible contributions from across Council Service areas and from partner organisations.

2. Background

- 2.1 It was agreed on Tuesday 11 September 2018 at the Culture and Communities Committee to bring back a specific report on establishing a new grants scheme for voluntary sports organisations to support new work in areas of deprivation

3. Main report

- 3.1 Edinburgh is a wonderful city but it is also a city of contrasts. It is like no other city in the country. Almost one in four Secondary School places is in the fee paying independent sector. By contrast over 1 in 5 experience child poverty. Life expectancy in our wealthiest areas is 21 years higher than in the poorest parts of the city.
- 3.2 There is clear evidence arising from the Active Schools programme (that now holds a history of over ten years) and the Sports Hub initiative that children and young people living in areas of deprivation do not receive the same sporting offer as their counterparts in other areas of the city. See comparison of activities in Appendix A. We have recently commenced the process of tracking pupils who receive free school meals and this is providing tangible evidence that poverty is linked to participation in sport and physical activity.
- 3.3 There are however, a number of very good initiatives such as the Spartans Community Football Academy, The Crags/Boroughmuir Blaze(basketball) and Harmeny Athletic Club that show if a project is well managed, sufficiently resourced and given a period of significant time this deficit can be addressed and very positive

outcomes can be achieved. This scheme seeks to build on this success and bring this to similar neighbourhoods.

- 3.4 The existing Physical Activity and Sport Grants scheme generally provides grant awards ranging from £500-£3000. This is a very welcome scheme and well appreciated by sports clubs and community organisations in the city. It allows clubs to try a new development or expand their membership by either establishing a girls section or providing the likes of a summer holiday programme. It occasionally allows for purchase of specialist equipment or enhanced storage capacity and it also targets some groups with special needs or protected characteristics.. It does not, however, allow clubs to properly engage in areas of deprivation over a significant and sustained period of time.
- 3.5 As cited in the previous report (dated September 11, 2018) we consider the grants to cultural organisations to be an impressive example of support to many aspects of creativity in the city. The grant are also distributed to thirty five different organisations (Culture and Communities Report March 2018). This range of awards is indicative of the breadth of the work. This approach is not replicated for sport.
- 3.6 In order to tackle the challenges children and young people living in areas of deprivation face in terms of regularly engaging in sport and physical activity we believe we need to introduce a grants scheme that allows our top sports clubs to actively engage in these areas of city allowing for curricular and after school sessions and very importantly the establishment of satellite clubs directly linked to the main home base of these clubs. The selected clubs could also be part of a larger consortium approach with either a University, an Independent School and a third sector organisation. We consider that this partnership approach should be encouraged. We may also wish to support work with targeted groups that have protected characteristics (eg, BAME, Disability groups).
- 3.7 We recommend the creation of a new grants scheme totalling £500,000 per annum in the first three or four year cycle. This would allow for a series of grants ranging from say £25,000 (for example; a single part time coach delivering a specific sport plus some operational support costs) through to a maximum of £100,000 for a more sophisticated team approach involving multi-sports and physical activity plus the necessary operational support. Partnership funding particularly for aspects of the larger projects may be forthcoming.
- 3.8 Transport is a recognised barrier and there may be a more creative solution to this on a city wide basis rather than addressing it neighbourhood by neighbourhood.
- 3.9 It is important to recognise this is a steep challenge. Careful assessment of the projects likely to succeed is imperative. Not all sports coaches and/or sports clubs have the necessary resilience and experience to succeed in a setting that is likely to involve challenging behaviour and related difficulties that might arise from poverty and difficult family backgrounds. We therefore recommend that regular and thorough assessments of the approved programmes are carried out at six month intervals throughout the first eighteen month period and should progress or the

impact prove to be limited the project funding would be withdrawn. A different project would be then be considered for that particular neighbourhood.

- 3.10 A Grants panel consisting of Council Officers, sportsotland, individuals from charitable organisations, sports clubs and the wider world of sport plus elected members would oversee the Awards process. A Council Officer would ensure the necessary monitoring and evaluation of the 'sport for change' programmes is carried out.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Children, young people and families living in areas of deprivation and targeted groups receive an enhanced delivery of opportunities within their communities and existing barriers to participation are reduced.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Work is required to progress and explore what possible commitment there will be from partners across the city to contribute to a single fund that could be deployed to support the delivery of ambitions within the new Physical and Sports Strategy for the city .Any Council contribution to that new fund will come from within existing resources.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This report and the potential impact of successful partnership approaches can positively affect the ambitions in the Council's Business Plan around health and wellbeing and tackling inequalities.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Equalities and tackling inequality is expected to be a top priority in the proposed Physical Activity and Sport strategy for the period 2019-23.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no adverse impacts in relation to this report

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The approach to creating a new physical activity and sport strategy for the city focusses on direct engagement and consultation with key partners, sports clubs and other community organisations. An on-line consultation is also underway.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 N/A

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11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Activity Comparison of Schools

Activity Comparison of Schools

