

## Active Schools: Evaluation of Phase Two, 2008 – 2011

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### Education, Children and Families Committee

15 March 2011

#### Purpose of report

- 1 To inform Committee of the achievements of phase two of the Active Schools programme and outline plans for phase three

#### Main report

- 2 The purpose of Active Schools is to motivate and offer all school-age children and young people opportunities to engage in physical activity and develop active and healthy lifestyles. It does this by providing a range of sport and activity programmes during and after school and in the community.
- 3 In its second phase, Active Schools placed particular emphasis on involving 'hard to reach' groups (including teenage girls, traditional non-participants, black and minority ethnic children and young people, children and young people with a disability, and children and young people from areas of socio-economic disadvantage), developing a network of volunteers and building links from schools to sports clubs.
- 4 During this phase, Active Schools has also been reorganised so that now most Coordinators work with a high school and its feeder primaries. This has helped to achieve consistency across the programme and aid children's transition from P7 to S1.
- 5 During the period from August 2009 to July 2010 over 12,500 children and young people per term took part in Active Schools and 39 different activities were available. At the same time, 350 volunteers were recruited to support the programme. Every primary and secondary and most special schools in the city offer an Active Schools programme.
- 6 Over the same period, Active Schools created pathways for children and young people from schools to 111 community clubs, covering 35 activities. 12 disability inclusion courses were delivered to 163 people. In the primary schools 51% of participants were girls; in the high schools it was 46%.

- 7 The total cost to the Council from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011 was £690,000 which is just under 26% of the full cost of the programme. **sportscotland** contributed £1,971,000 over the same period.
- 8 Schools, children and young people, parents and partner organisations all acknowledge that Active Schools brings many positive benefits and much added value. A recent departmental review of Active Schools in Edinburgh, which reported in January 2011, found that it had a 'very good' impact on service users. The report highlighted that Active Schools:
- considerably increases activity levels and provides a range of sports and physical activity that would otherwise not have been available and could not have been developed by schools. Moreover, Active Schools Coordinators provide a familiar, personal link for children which supports their engagement in the programme;
  - helps children and young people increase and improve confidence, behaviour, concentration, teamwork and social skills;
  - plays a significant role in supporting children's transition from primary to secondary school;
  - offers opportunities for wider achievement for otherwise disengaged and marginalised young people which positively raises their profile within school;
  - makes an important contribution to learners' outcomes and experiences within Curriculum for Excellence, particularly cross-curricular Health and Wellbeing;
  - has developed strong working relationships with Physical Education (PE) specialists and departments in almost all schools;
  - has established effective and valued partnerships with a range of other providers and organisations which bring substantial collaborative gain.
- 9 Active Schools offers a successful and highly valued and valuable service to Edinburgh's children and young people. **sportscotland** has confirmed that funding for the Active Schools programme will continue for a further four years, until March 2015. For this forthcoming period, Active Schools will concentrate on consolidating its successes to date and also look to develop school sport, particularly competitive sport, on a cluster and neighbourhood basis.

### **Financial Implications**

- 10 From April 2011 to March 2015, **sportscotland** will invest £2,871,040 in Active Schools. The Council's contribution over the same period is expected to be £1,161,970 (assuming a 2% annual increase in staff salaries). This is just under 29% of the total running cost of the programme.

### **Environmental Impact**

- 11 There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report

## Recommendations

12 Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and request an update on phase three of Active Schools in March 2013
- b) Note that the Council is committed to maintaining funding for Active Schools until March 2015. (Subject to future budget agreement.)

**Gillian Tee**  
Children and Families

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Appendices	None
Contact/tel/Email	John Heywood 556 4254 john.heywood.2@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	4 Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens 6 We live longer, healthier lives
Background Papers	Active Schools: Sustaining the Achievements of the Active Schools Programme, May 2009