

## Community Access to Schools- the way forward

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### Education, Children and Families

21 June 2011

#### 1. Purpose of report

To provide an update on progress to improve Community Access to Schools.

#### 2. Background

The last report to the Education, Children and Families Committee regarding Community Access to Schools was approved on 25 January 2011. This report highlighted solutions to overcome the logistical and financial challenges surrounding enhanced community access to secondary school buildings out with school hours and recommended the implementation of standard charges for sports access across the City. Previously all schools had set their own charges based on local circumstances. In addition, committee asked for further work to be undertaken to explore the possibility of Edinburgh Leisure managing school facilities, using the PROSCI, or other change management processes. The report approved on 25 January was referred to the Culture and Leisure Committee meeting on 25 April accompanied by a report from the Director of Corporate Services on the same subject. The Culture and Leisure Committee requested a further report on progress by June.

#### 3. Main Report

- 3.1 This report provides an update on action which has been taken to improve community access to school sports facilities. The report highlights in particular the excellent progress which has been made with the introduction of community based sports hubs in three secondary schools (complementing the extensive sporting provision already available in 8 community high schools). It also sets out the Department's future strategy for rolling out community sports hubs to other secondary schools across the City to increase participation in

sports activity. Recommendations are made concerning how best to proceed with improving community access to schools.

- 3.2 Significant progress is being made in opening up the facilities in schools for community use. Data gathered for City's secondary schools shows that in the year to 31 March 2011 770,000 individual participants took part in sporting activities in secondary schools outwith school hours. The challenge now is to further increase access at the weekends and during holiday periods and in those schools where community access has traditionally been low. These figures exclude adult education classes and non sporting access.
- 3.3 Following the committee decision of 25 January, the Council has implemented a number of important changes necessary to enable enhanced community opening:
- A standard pricing structure for club access is now approved and operating in all secondary schools.
  - Clubs now pay a standard fee regardless of whether they use school facilities during week day evenings, at weekends or during holiday periods with the proviso that Head teachers have retained discretion to negotiate revised rates where groups may find themselves in financial difficulty.
  - Budgets have been provided to Head Teachers to open facilities for longer than at present in the evening, at weekends and during holiday periods where there is demand for them.
  - In house marketing materials to assist with community access to schools have been developed and work is in progress with booking arrangements to offer access in a more customer focussed way. This is further discussed later in the paper and examples of the marketing materials developed are appended

### **Community Sports Hubs**

- 3.4 The Council, in partnership with Sports Scotland and Edinburgh Leisure, has now turned its attention to the development of Community Sports hubs. The Colinton Road Corridor pilot is being managed by Edinburgh Leisure and offers an opportunity to work together on improving access to local schools for sports activities. The Inch Park Community Sports Hub is being managed by the Inch Park Community Sports Trust. The schools' element of the initiative is initially being piloted in three schools operating on two sites, and will enable the excellent and long standing relationships which exist between schools and many sports clubs across Edinburgh to be used to further develop sporting access. The Community Sports Hub initiative sits very

comfortably with the objective of maintaining integrated management of the curriculum and schools while meeting the needs of communities. The success already being delivered with this strategy, which importantly is replicable within existing budgets and staffing resources, is set out below.

- 3.5 The introduction by the Scottish Government through the National Agency **sportscotland** of the concept of Community Sports Hubs complements the desired outcomes of the CATS initiative. Community Sports Hubs work in partnership with the local community to develop pathways for sporting excellence and increase the number of people, from primary school pupils through to older adults, participating in sport and physical activity, encouraging them to adopt more active and healthier lifestyles.
  
- 3.6 The introduction of this initiative across all three schools has seen a significant increase in clubs involved in both extra-curricular activities and holiday programmes. It has also included new coach education programmes, leadership programmes with senior pupils, free Midnight League Football and a range of other special events including a National launch at Forrester/ St Augustine's by Basketball Scotland and the Scottish Justice Minister. The largest of these events was in May 2011 when the 'The Kids of Steel' triathlon event (swimming, running and cycling) took place at the new campus. This was the first major large scale event held at the Sports Hub and attracted 450 local school children aged between 8 and 13 to a free and fully equipped mini-triathlon event, aimed to give every child an enjoyable experience of one of the UK's fastest growing sports.
  
- Forrester/St Augustine's**  
3.7 In January 2011 (coinciding with the completion of the sports facilities at the new Forrester/St Augustine's joint campus) the schools were designated as a Community Sports Hub. This initiative has been led by the Children and Families Sports and Outdoor Education Unit and a Senior Active Schools Co-ordinator was appointed to lead on the development. The impact of this has been immediate with the number of clubs actively involved in the school rising from eleven to seventeen within a matter of a few months - a 45% increase. The number of Pool and Indoor Games hall participants has risen from a monthly figure of 1,363 in April 2010 to 1,865 in March 2011. The new outdoor synthetic pitches opened for use in January 2011 and for that month the user total was 1,148. By March 2011 this figure had more doubled to 2,420.
  
- Broughton**  
3.8 Broughton High School has also been designated as a Community Sports Hub as it was felt important to also include a single campus site

that can be more easily replicated at other schools in the city. There is a growing number of schools in the city that now benefit from excellent sports facilities and the strategy is now to increase the number of school based Sports Hubs so that more parts of the city benefit from a co-ordinated approach to partnership working, community engagement and high quality sustainable opportunities. The school has already developed an excellent partnership with Spartans and is set to do likewise with other clubs such as BATS RFC and Peregrine Basketball Club. Data received from the school for 2010/11 shows that over 28,000 participants accessed the sports facilities outwith school hours at Broughton during financial year 2010/11 this compares very favourable to the 2009/10 totals of 16,892 a 66% increase. It should be noted that the astro-turf facilities were made available in November 2009 providing a material boost to access numbers.

- 3.9 Once the new Portobello, James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir high schools are completed over 66% of the secondary schools in Edinburgh will benefit from new or fully refurbished sporting facilities. The Department now intends to build on this major investment and to establish two additional 'school based' Community Sports Hubs by the end of 2012. It is also envisaged that this number could double over the period of the next five years.
- 3.10 The strategy is to replicate the Community sports Hub concept in other schools supported by 30 Active schools coordinators who undertake a coordination role in secondary school clusters. This approach has already been adopted with significant success in the Broughton and Forrester / St Augustine's hubs and the model is replicable in other schools.
- 3.11 A significant re-organisation has been undertaken that is now impacting positively on community and club access to all Secondary schools. The Active Schools programme has been reorganised so that majority of Coordinators have assumed responsibility for a secondary school and its feeder primaries. This has proved successful and has resulted in improved communication, cooperation and consistency across the two sectors, and enhanced the transition for pupils from P7 to S1. As reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2011, 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. In primary schools, 51% of participants were girls; in secondary schools, 46% were girls. Over the same period, Active Schools created pathways from schools to 111 community clubs, covering 35 activities. The Active Schools initiative has now been in place since 2004 and as a result a significant wealth of experience and expertise has been developed over the period of the last seven years that is particularly relevant to the challenges of increasing access and ensuring that pathway programmes and other new opportunities are suitable and sustainable in local communities.

### **Marketing**

- 3.12 Marketing strategy has also been developed to support the Strategic vision for community access. This shall include a promotional toolkit for use by schools that is applicable both those city schools with a more limited range of sports facilities and to those who can now offer an outstanding range of facilities for example those now available at the new Forrester/St Augustine's campus.
- 3.13 These materials are designed to:
- provide instant recognition and consistency of approach to sports provision across 23 schools
  - ensure visual clarity i.e. that the council is seen to deliver these services
  - support relationship building between the schools and local clubs
  - be flexible for application to range of materials
  - acknowledge sportscotland funding when required
  - allow the inclusion of school crests/logos when required ( see appendix 2)

### **Integrated Booking system**

- 3.14 Work has progressed on an integrated booking system and a business case is presently being compiled by E Govt to assess the financial and logistical implications. A variety of options are available and consideration is being given to a system which could include pitch bookings as well as booking of school facilities for both sport and educational activities. A further report on this issue will be submitted to committee on completion of the full business case including the preferred option, costs and benefits.

### **3.15 Working with Edinburgh Leisure**

Until now, discussions have focussed primarily on the option of Edinburgh Leisure taking over management responsibility for schools' sports facilities and, as Committee is aware, this proposal has been difficult to take forward in a context of concern from Head Teachers and others about the potential impact on integrated school management, wider community use for non sports activity, and school income. We are now proposing to change the focus of discussion to consideration of: how Edinburgh Leisure can assist in further improving community use of school facilities with particular emphasis on pay and play use by individuals; the development of more effective joint strategic planning of sports provision across the city, taking account of demand pressure in some parts of the city and underutilisation of schools and Edinburgh Leisure facilities in others; and assessment of other models of cooperation, informed by experience in other authorities. As the first phase of this process, we will jointly review the operation of Queensferry High School's partnership arrangements with

Edinburgh Leisure. We have not taken forward the PROSCI change management process at this stage but will use it, or other appropriate change management approaches, as part of the process described above.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5. Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report at this stage but Committee should note that equality impact assessments will be undertaken as part of any changes emerging from the joint work with Edinburgh Leisure outlined above.

#### **6. Environmental Impact**

- 6.1 There is no direct environmental impact other than increase energy use as a result of increased use of schools.

#### **7. Conclusion**

This report highlights progress that has been made in improving community access to the excellent sports facilities in schools by their communities for sports purposes. Benchmarking data for the 23 High schools in Edinburgh shows over 770,000 participants accessed sports provision in the City's secondary schools during 2010/11. This benchmarking data will continue to be gathered for all schools to track progress in future. Steady progress with improving community access to schools has been made. Children and Families has a clear strategy for improving the quality of community sports provision within an integrated school management model, a clear strategy for developing community sports hubs supported by active schools coordinators and a clear vision for clubs and sports pathway programmes. This approach is already delivering benefits with significantly enhanced levels of participation and club engagement at Forrester/ St Augustine's and Broughton and the programme will be rolled out to other schools. The approach being followed will be given a further boost by the delivery of the 3 Wave 3 secondary schools

#### **8. Recommendations**

Education Children and Families Committee are recommended to note the content of this report, and agree to:

- a) extend the community sports hub model to other schools

- b) request further reports on any proposed changes to the management arrangements at Queensferry High School
- c) request a further report on progress in improving community access to schools' sports facilities in due course.

Gillian Tee  
Director of Children and families

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**Appendices**

1. Secondary Schools Number of Participants Accessing Schools for Sports Purposes April 2101/March 2011
2. Sample Marketing Materials

**Contact/tel**

David Robertson, Resources Manager C&F 469 3149

**Wards affected**

All

**Background  
Papers**

City of Edinburgh Council - Secondary School Community Facilities

Appendix 1

School	Total no of participants 2010/11	New or Refurbished Sports Facilities Delivered /Approved	Community High School	Community Sports Hubs	Other Info
Queensferry (1)	33,194		Yes		Pool
Currie (2)	49,730		Yes		Pool and New Games Hall
Balerno	41,705		Yes		Pool
Boroughmuir	6,700	Approved			
Broughton	28,781			Yes	
Castlebrae	12,326		Yes		Pool
Craigmount	75,933	Delivered			
Craigroyston	43,241	Delivered	Yes		Pool
Drummond	17,742	Delivered	Yes		
Firrhill	13,890	Delivered			
Forrester / St Augustines (3)	25,343	Delivered		Yes	Pool
Holy Rood	11,936	Delivered			
Gracemount	8,550	Delivered			
J Gillespie's (6)	40,227	Approved			Pool
Leith (4)	60,982		Yes		Pool
Liberton	16,054				New Games Hall
Portobello (5)	31,949	Approved			Pool
St Thomas of Aquin's	23,550	Delivered			
The Royal High	68,085	Delivered			Pool
Trinity	7,092				
Tynecastle	7,308	Delivered			
WHEC	154,605		Yes		Pool
<b>Total</b>	<b>778,923</b>				

Notes

- Queensferry shut for 6 weeks for sports access during 2010/11
- Currie pool closed for 14 weeks during 2010/11 School closed 2 weeks due to weather
- Forrester and St Augustine's sports facilities are combined and treated as one facility for lets, ie the Community Sports Hub. The outdoor facilities were only released to the schools/Community Sports Hub in January, therefore the usage figure is based on only 3 months
- Leith Academy's Games Hall is closed for exams for a total of 7 weeks during the year. December/January figures low due to severe weather and school closure.
- Portobello pool was closed on the 14th,17th,18th and 19th of February 2011 due to heating problems and the games hall, gym hall and swimming pool were closed from the 29th of November until the 2nd of December 2010 due to bad weather. All these facilities were only partially used on the 3rd, 4th and 6th of December again because of bad weather.
- Estimate





# Do you run a community group or sports club?

**Do you need a venue in the evening or the weekend?**

Then go to [www.xxxx](http://www.xxxx) or call us on xxxx to see if you can use XXXXXXXX XXXX XXXXXX's facilities.

- Now open on Sundays and later in the evenings
- reduced rates
- gym halls and changing rooms
- all weather courts
- good parking and access.

*share the passion*



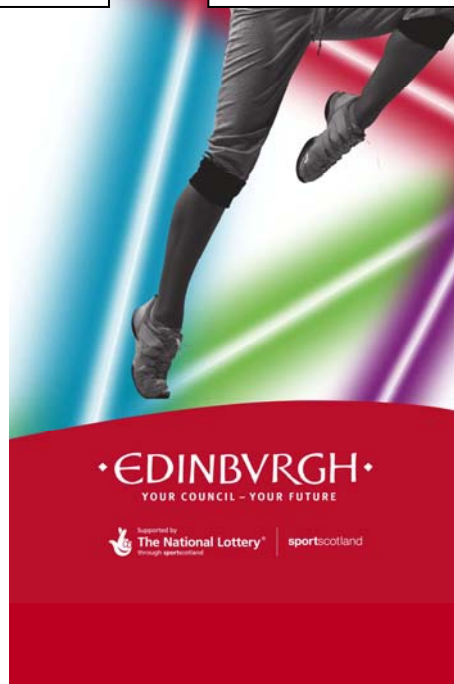
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*share the passion*





# share the connection



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