

Key Themes:

- **Clubs** are at the heart of community sport
- **Volunteers** are the life-blood of clubs: clubs need to have the capacity to create and support volunteer opportunities; **employer-supported volunteering** would create a great opportunity for clubs in need, to have access to more volunteers. Worth considering **volunteers' motivations**?
- **Prevention agenda**: committee should consider the idea of a **proportion of the health budget** being put to sport since physical activity is the top indicator of health
- The committee should take a **cross-agenda approach** to sport and see it as part of a wider picture – **consult with other committees and interest groups**
- The importance of **physical literacy** from a young age is key in instilling the habit of sport for life
- **Top quality physical education** is a massive part of this
- Important to try and **combine skill-sets of youth workers with those involved in sport** to encourage participation of those harder to reach
- Government must achieve right **balance between club level community sport and its support at elite level**
- **Community planning vital** part of community sport – **community empowerment** can enable this
- **Accessible and affordable facilities** vital to encourage participation, both individual and via clubs
- **2014 Legacy – legacy should be long-standing** not just immediate post-Games.
- For legacy to be delivered **clubs must be well-equipped** to cope with increased participation – comes back to **volunteer focus**.
- The **school estate** needs to be maximised – **especially in rural areas**
- **Access to and from sport after school** must be looked at. Should work with those involved in transport. Again especially important in rural areas.

Summary of discussion:

Q1. from Rhoda Grant (MSP)– what are the committee's thoughts about community sport?

Ans. Nigel Holl (Athletics):

- Sports clubs are at the heart of communities and are the key drivers in sport
- We need to make sure they are accessible and grounded in the community with the right support
- They should be community-embedded, localised and provide an obvious pathway for participation

Ans. Charlie Raeburn (Independent Consultant):

- Main rationale in participation not always physical activity but culture, learning the habit of activity from a young age

Ans. Kim Atkinson (SSA)

- 13,000 clubs in Scotland
- Club members participate more frequently and for longer
- Physical activity key indicator of health
- Need to look at certain proportion of health budget going to sport, same way active travel already does so
- Importance of cross-cutting agenda
- Community planning has a key role
- Importance of physical literacy from a young age

Ans. Christine (Robertson Trust)

- Most of the Trust's money is directed to young and inactive people
- Relationships the important thing
- Making sure skilled youth workers engage with kids (and are trained in sport skills too)

Stuart Younie (VOCAL)

- Local authority perspective – club and voluntary aspects are key
- Importance of clubs creating a sense of belonging and creating welcoming opportunities for volunteers
- Aspirations from 2014 should deliver a more active agenda, including targeting adult participation initiatives too

John Howie (NHS)

- Importance of having easy, affordable access for all

Q2. From the Convener (Duncan McNeil MSP) – How does the committee influence the agenda? What should it focus on? What are your comments on the report?

Ans. George (VDS)

- Worth questioning the motivation of people who volunteer
- Important that after 2014 enthusiasm for volunteering remains and measures are in place to make sure this happens

Ans. Morag (Winning Scotland Foundation)

- Need to think about the future vision for volunteering
- What about employer-supported volunteering?

Ans. Nigel Holl (Athletics)

- Committee Report focused on 2014 Legacy
- Need to be questioning long-standing effect over 10 years
- There's a capacity challenge for clubs to deliver legacy
- They need enough volunteers to cope with demand
- The challenge is in engaging at grassroots level
- Remember that main motivation to get involved in sport is socialising

Ans. Gavin (SDS)

- Difficulty in getting volunteers involved as people are cautious of working with disabled athletes

- There has been confusion over what inclusion means
- A lot of work needs to be done in making clubs truly inclusive

Ans. Charlie Raeburn

- Purposes of community sport should reflect community development
- Participation needs to be measured
- Focus on bringing down the costs of participation
- Establish a community sport think-tank?

Ans. Stuart Younie (VOCAL)

- There's an emphasis on the Legacy agenda, make sure it's long-term
- Importance of sustaining levels of investment in sport
- VOCL and COSLA working together on this
- A great deal of money is tied up in maintaining facilities, important to ensure investment in people alongside this

Ans. Scott (Equalities Commission)

- More to be done in terms of equality groups and their participation

Ans. Kim Atkinson (SSA)

- Recognition of importance of club-level sport
- Importance of inclusion training
- Continue progress with the school estate
- Enormous opportunity to get people involved in sport
- More work needed on the prevention agenda
- JogScotland model could be replicated, funding needs to be continued
- Enabling and empowering people
- Employer-supported volunteering – flexible working hours as a solution to helping organisations really in need of volunteers
- Advocating cross-agenda work
- Need to consider barriers to after-school activity, especially transport. Need to remember importance of planning policy alongside this.

Ans. Christine (Robertson Trust)

- Committee needs to agree some outcomes and actions
- Increasing community ownership and management important
- Handing over responsibility can be positive
- Would be useful to enable groups to monitor the effect they have

Ans. Morag (Winning Scotland Foundation)

- Ownership important in community setting
- Human capital is key
- Example of Hillforts (?) rugby club
- Clubs need skills

Ans. Gavin (SDS)

- Following last Games there was a big improvement in the perception of disability sport
- At the moment people feel under-prepared to work with disabled people

- Need clubs and Gov bodies that are fully inclusive
- Inclusionary training must be part of tertiary teacher training

Ans. Stuart (VOCAL)

- Importance of balancing Gov resources between performance and community sport
- Worth thinking about role models and who the right ones are?

Ans. Nigel Holl (Athletics)

- Danger in putting too much pressure on early-achievers?
- Quality PE is key

Ans. Charlie Raeburn

- Facility access key
- Balance between community sport and elite sport key

Ans. Kim Atkinson (SSA)

- Community sport and elite sport in same continuum

Q3. From Dennis (MSP) – What about facilitating opportunities in rural areas? Access?

Ans. Stuart Younie (VOCAL)

- In role working for local authority works with rural areas a lot
- Access to and making use of school estate is key
- Travel and transport is an issue

Ans. Charlie Raeburn

- Travel in rural communities is a big issue

Ans. Nigel Holl (Athletics)

- Clubs centred in urban areas can influence in rural areas
- Outreach approach can work to cater for smaller areas

Ans. Kim Atkinson (SSA)

- Should make the most of Scotland's great Outdoor Access legislation to open up participation

Ans. Christine (Robertson Trust)

- Worth noting that they receive more funding applications from rural areas than urban

Ans. John (NHS)

- Should be encouraging use of local resources – especially primary and secondary schools
- Potential to maximise school estate

Q4. From the Convener – whose job is it to get the inactive, active?

Ans. Stuart Younie (VOCAL)

- Not just one person or body's job
- Important to have the right people on the ground
- Deprived communities – people with youth work skills but without sport skills and vice-versa. Need to bring this skillset together
- Great work being done here by people like Street Games

Ans. Kirsty (Robertson Trust)

- Also discussed importance of merging sport and youth worker skill sets
- Mentioned potential plans for an Academy being formed at the Emirates