

29th May 2015

Dear colleague,

**RE: Community Sport Project**

I'm writing to provide you with an update on the Community Sport Project. At its recent meeting the Sport Wales Board reviewed the Outline Business Case and I am pleased to say that there has been strong and unanimous support for the case for change and to develop a world leading approach to community sport in Wales.

**Since the very beginning this work has, and continues to, focus on the key benefits of change to the citizens of Wales: becoming a healthy and active nation where every child is hooked on sport for life; and responding positively to the aspirations identified in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**

Through our on-going consultation with the sport sector there is overwhelming support to introduce a **new, outcomes based investment framework** for all community sport partners and this was strongly endorsed by the Sport Wales Board. This new framework will put the needs of the participant and potential participant at the forefront of our planning. Once introduced all partners will be measured against their contribution towards achieving these **3 key outcomes:**

- to increase the frequency of regular participation in sport - 'Hooked on Sport'
- to target inequalities in participation and provide greater support to those where barriers to regular participation exist
- to develop and enhance the 'Sporting Pathway' so that it provides high quality opportunities for all and allows our most talented athletes to realise their potential.

A **revised model of delivery** will also be introduced alongside this new investment framework. The model will have effective sector collaboration at the heart of its approach, with local, regional and national partners all working together for maximum impact on sport, creating a connected sports sector, something that is missing from the existing delivery model. It will clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner and seek to make best use of their knowledge and skills, and importantly produce a long term, sustainable model.

**Within this new model there is a crucial role for all existing partners as well as an opportunity to benefit from the skills and experiences of new partners and partnerships to help grow sport.**

In summary, the new model of delivery will include:

**National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB'S)**

- An enhanced way of working with NGBs to help grow opportunities to participate in **all sports** at a local, regional and national level.
- NGBs using their sporting insight to strategically target participation opportunities by working in partnership with other sports and Regional Sports Agencies.
- Based on jointly agreed criteria and state of readiness, identified NGBs will be asked to lead the development of a “**whole of sport plan**” across Wales, working towards responsibility for all Sport Wales investment into that sport.
- For those NGBs who currently do not meet the agreed criteria and state of readiness, there will be positive opportunities to grow participation in your sport across areas of Wales via a targeted and demand-led approach.

**Regional Sports Agencies (RSAs)**

- The creation of Regional Sports Agencies, responsible for developing a vision and the strategic planning of community sports development in their geographical catchment, and being the vehicle through which Sport Wales funding is coordinated and commissioned within that geographical catchment.
- Regional Sport Agencies will be responsible for
  - Managing budgets that currently go to individual local authorities
  - Deciding how best to deliver opportunities to participate in sport and activities (either directly themselves or through existing or new partners)
  - Working collaboratively with all other organisations in their area that are involved in community sport.
- Regional Sport Agencies will need excellent leaders and strong governance arrangements that can represent the interests of sport in their geographical catchment.
- Our work to date suggests that the best strategic fit is based on health board boundaries (either individually or combined health board boundaries).

**Further work is planned to determine the exact number of Regional Sport Agencies. This will also allow us to consider our plans alongside any proposed changes to local government.**

**Next Steps**

**We understand the importance of ensuring any structural change to community sport is planned very carefully. Our goal is to introduce the right structure and manage the transition in a considered way.**

Throughout this project we have sought to engage many organisations to help shape and develop our thinking and plan to continue this approach during the next stage of the projects development, maximising the use of the existing Stakeholder Reference Group. Most of our existing partners have endorsed this outcome based approach, and some have also expressed a desire to better understand more detail on how the new delivery model will work in practice. **We have listened to those comments and plan to undertake further engagement over the coming months in order to refine the proposed changes and bring them to life through the development of case studies.** We plan to use the Stakeholder Reference Group to help develop these case studies.

In addition to this, **all our existing partners will be asked to respond to the 3 key outcomes as part of their planning and funding proposals for 2016-17.** This approach will add further evidence and examples of best practice on effective ways to target the 3 key outcomes and better prepare the sector for the proposed changes ahead. **In respect of this project, we are not planning any changes to existing partners funding in 2016-17 unless that is jointly agreed.**

**Going forward, we plan to pilot this work as part of the first phase of a progressive deployment. This will include:**

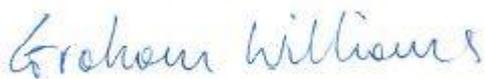
- **Identifying NGB's to pilot "whole of sport plans";**
- **Establishing two pilot Regional Sport Agencies**

**Further information around the structure and timescales of the pilot phase will be made available in September 2015.**

In the mean-time, if you would like to speak to someone about the project please email: [graham.williams@sportwales.org.uk](mailto:graham.williams@sportwales.org.uk)

Since the very beginning this work has, and continues to, centre itself around the key benefits of bold change to the citizens of Wales and I look forward to your continued support and engagement in the process.

Yours sincerely



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**Director of Sport Development**

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