

Taking Action on Child Poverty, Welsh Assembly Government

Sports Council for Wales' Consultation Response

The Joint Agreement on Child Poverty	
Are you supportive of the partnership approach in the Joint Agreement?	Yes.
Are there any other activities that provide a means for organisations, where appropriate, to assist the Welsh Assembly Government to take forward the 3 strand approach to child poverty?	<p>The following programmes which are either funded or managed by the Sports Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dragon Sport (in 94% of primary schools in Wales) • 5x60 (in 98% of secondary schools in Wales) • PE and School Sport (it is intended that most schools in Wales will be part of the programme by the end of 2009.) <p>Further information on these is detailed in the 'additional information' section below.</p> <p>The Sports Council also provides grant funding for local organisations wishing to set up local opportunities for children and young people to play sport. Successful applicants have previously included local youth groups, boys and girls clubs, groups set up as part of Communities First initiatives and well as local sports clubs.</p>
Are there any other organisations that should be added to the list of organisations which will be invited to sign the Joint Agreement?	We believe that this comprehensive; however, National Governing Bodies of Sport and the Federation of Disability Sports Wales are third sector organisations might also be interested in signing the Agreement.
Would your organisation wish to sign the Agreement and is there an overarching organisation that could sign on behalf of you and others?	The Sports Council would be happy to sign the Agreement.
The Child Poverty Duty on Public Agencies	
Do you agree with the broad framework that is proposed?	Yes.
Do you have any comments on the proposals for inspecting how public agencies deliver the child poverty duty?	The proposal to monitor the effectiveness of the child poverty duty in line with the inspection of the CYPPs is appropriate. Core Aim 7

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	<p>'not disadvantaged by poverty' should bring together or cross-refer to actions in the other Core Aims of the Plans which are designed to have a particular impact on child poverty.</p> <p>Whilst the priority outcome for Core Aim 7 is explicitly concerned with low income, one of the priority outcomes for Core Aim 4 'play, sport, leisure and culture', relates to levels of participation in these areas and utilises the Sports Council's biennial surveys for the outcome measures.</p> <p>The delivery of much of the Sports Council's work is shared with other organisations. One of our main partners are local authorities. The Sports Council is currently developing partnership agreements between the Sports Council and each of the twenty-two local authorities. They seek to build on existing relationships that have seen the successful implementation of Dragon Sport and 5x60, whilst encouraging new and innovative ways of engaging individuals and communities. It is important for the Sports Council that the local authority partnership agreement (LAPA) is embedded within the local authority's work, which includes the local statutory plans. A multi-agency approach is essential, and the LAPAs will ensure that this happens in a collaborative way. For information, the Sports Council is also developing a suite of measures for the LAPA by which the local authority and the Sports Council can monitor local progress.</p>
Additional Information	
<p>The Sports Council for Wales has a variety of programmes and projects that are pertinent to this area.</p> <p>Strand 1: 'improving life opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people'</p> <p><i>Dragon Sport</i> is designed to offer 7-11 year olds fun and appropriate sporting opportunities. The scheme intends to broaden the sporting interests of children who already take part in sport and to involve children who currently lack such opportunities outside of their school PE lessons. It introduces children to coaching, skill development and appropriate competition using versions of the adult game, modified to meet their needs and skill levels. A portfolio of eight modified sports is used: rugby, athletics, cricket, football, hockey, netball, tennis</p>	

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and golf. Whilst the primary focus of *Dragon Sport* is improving sports provision for 7-11 year olds across Wales, *Dragon Sport* also focuses on recruiting parents and other volunteers as helpers to support the development of after school and community sports clubs.

5x60 is a programme that offers pupils in secondary schools the opportunity to take part in a wide range of physical activities. *5x60* engages with young people who would not usually participate in schools' traditional extra-curricular programme. *5x60 Officers* are based part-time in schools' it is their role to consult with the pupils and timetable a programme of activities that suit their needs. These activities can take place before school, during lunch, after school, and at weekends. Schools with catchments in Community First areas were prioritised when introducing this scheme.

The Sports Council manages the *PE and School Sport (PESS)* programme on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. *PESS* aims to extend opportunities for school sport beyond the school day by improving the quality and breadth of after-school activities for all young people.

There are a number of projects within the *Mentor Allan* programme that encourage young people to participate in making decisions about the delivery of outdoor activities. Such projects include: young people in Pembroke Dock; young disability service users in Flintshire, Wrexham and Cardiff; and a young carers group in Swansea.

Strand 2: 'financial inclusion initiatives'

In order to show the contribution that sport and physical activity can make to wellbeing in Wales across its many dimensions, the Welsh Assembly Government funded the *Regeneration Challenge*. The Sports Council have been charged with delivering projects through the Challenge, using the programme to pilot new and innovative approaches to regenerate communities through sport and physical activity and to facilitate improvements in social outcomes, including increases in physical activity. The Bridgend 'Access to Leisure' project is particularly worth noting:

'Access to Leisure' is a partnership project between Bridgend County Borough Council and the Local Health Board. It aims to remove cost as a barrier to participation by children (and adults). A new discount card for access to leisure facilities in the County Borough has been developed. This is aimed at those households in receipt of housing benefit. Over a twelve-month pilot period, membership will entitle residents to six months of free usage of facilities, followed by six months in which a charge of £1 per family per week will be introduced. The project will test the impact of removing the cost of facility use for many of the poorest in the local authority area. An evaluation of the project is taking place.

Ensuring that people have appropriate skills in place and provide training to help increase skill levels is also important. In addition to providing extra-curricular physical activity opportunities to secondary school children across Wales, the Sports Council's *5x60* programme also provides training opportunities for the older pupils in the school to help deliver *5x60* activities within the school; this will provide

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pupils with a qualification and enable them to contribute to the workforce within and outside of the school.

In terms of physical skills, the *PESS* programme, among other things, develops young people's physical skills and improve their understanding of the importance of health and fitness.

Note:

The Sports Council collects a range of data regarding children's and young people's participation in sport and physical activity. This is collected through two biennial participation surveys (7-11 yrs and 11-16 yrs). The current sample size is c.11,500 per survey. We are able to disaggregate this data by gender, age, and geography. We are currently testing an online approach to data collection which would facilitate a census of schools; previously, however, a sample of schools was derived from the proportion of children and young people who received free school meals to ensure that a range of schools were involved. We also monitor the outputs from our 5x60 and Dragon Sport programmes; similarly we are able to analyse participation based on the proportion of children and young people who receive free school meals. Obtaining such sensitive data at an individual level, however, is fraught with challenges.

The Welsh Assembly Government's *Child Wellbeing Monitor* utilises the Sports Council's population-based surveys to measure participation levels in physical activity, extra-curricular activity, and sports club membership among 7-11 year olds and 11-16 year olds.

The Sports Council operates a number of lottery-funded grants schemes that support the development of sport and physical recreation across Wales. The Sports Council records on its grant management system whether a successful application for funding has come from an organisation located within a Communities First area.