

Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland - a consultation paper

Summary

- i. The British Red Cross welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation document. We have responded to questions on which we have experience or expertise.
- ii. The Red Cross has experience in delivering volunteer capability, particularly in first aid, during the Manchester Commonwealth Games; the Special Olympics in Glasgow 2005; the UK School Games held in Glasgow in 2006 and sending specialist volunteer teams to the Olympic Games in their host cities.
- iii. We welcome the initiative to increase the communities' participation in sporting programmes and see this as an opportunity to ensure paid and volunteer coaching staff are equipped with the skills to perform simple first aid.
- iv. We are pleased to see that the learning of CPR for 15,000 games volunteers is included in the document, however we would like to see the insertion of "basic first aid skills" rather than just CPR.
- v. Learning first aid doesn't necessarily mean taking a long course and gaining a certificate, the basics can be learned in a couple of hours.
- vi. We believe that there are opportunities missed within the document regarding the important contribution the voluntary sector can make in both delivering a *wealthier and fairer* and a *safer and stronger* Scotland.
- vii. The Red Cross would like the opportunity to address the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee to present our ideas, areas of expertise and expand on our comments made in this consultation document.

Background on the British Red Cross

1. The British Red Cross helps people in crisis, whoever and wherever they are. We are part of a global network that responds to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies. We enable vulnerable people in the UK and abroad to prepare for and withstand emergencies in their own communities, and when the crisis is over we help them to recover and move on with their lives.
2. The British Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which comprises:
 - 2.1. The International Committee of the Red Cross
 - 2.2. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and
 - 2.3. 186 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide.
3. As a member of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the British Red Cross is committed to, and bound by, its Fundamental Principles. These are: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.
4. As an auxiliary to the UK Government, we work in support of the emergency services at major incidents, and support people at fires and smaller emergencies. We provide first aid services at public events and promote first aid education and training.

Response of the British Red Cross to the Consultation

1. Are the benefits you would like from the Games covered in this paper?

The British Red Cross is encouraged by the initiative of the Scottish Government to consult the community about the lasting legacy the Games can bring to Glasgow and the people of Scotland. We have responded to sections in the consultation paper that we believe require further comment.

Smarter

- > The Red Cross welcomes the recognition that skills learned through acting as a volunteer at the Games allows participants to be better educated, more skilled and more successful.
- > Our Inclusive First Aid programme reaches out to groups of people that traditionally may not receive first aid training. We see this as an opportunity to satisfy the goal of *“Using Games volunteering opportunities to encourage hard to reach and long term unemployed groups organised into social activity”*, (page 24).
- > Further, our Refugee and International Tracing and Messaging Service (RITS) based in the centre of Glasgow could be a source for volunteers who fit the criteria of *“people from ethnic minorities benefiting from the experience of volunteering”*, particularly (but not limited to) language skills.
- > We would encourage the Games Organising Committee to consult with RITS and our disability support service for young people with physical disabilities in order to meet the goal of *“Increasing children and young people’s participation in civic life and expand their influence on local and national decision making”* with specific reference to *“... engage and inspire young people from minority groups and young people who are less likely to participate or who have specific needs”*.
- > There should be recognition that voluntary groups already using networks of skilled volunteers in everyday activities could be stretched during the Games period. This could be alleviated by the development of partnership funding to organisations to aid in the recruitment, training and retention of volunteers, creating a lasting legacy of a volunteering culture in Scotland.

Healthier

- > The British Red Cross welcomes the initiative to explore the possibility of training the 15,000 volunteers in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (page 35).
- > However, volunteers may need to deal with health emergencies other than ones requiring resuscitation. We would ask the Committee to consider stating, *“basic first aid skills, including keeping yourself safe, calling the emergency services, the recovery position, CPR and dealing with bleeding and shock”*.
- > Learning first aid doesn’t necessarily mean taking a long course and gaining a certificate, the basics can be learnt in a couple of hours.

- > This would result in a legacy of volunteers and community members who are more able and confident to respond in a wider range of crisis situations, building the resilience of Scottish communities.

2. Is there anything else we should be doing?

We believe that throughout the document, there could be more reference to and recognition of the skills and benefits to the Games' legacy that the voluntary sector brings to each of the five key strategic objectives and their national outcomes. Examples where we have expertise appear below:

Wealthier and Fairer

- > There is no mention of the voluntary sector's ability to tender for contracts; the document refers only to businesses and social enterprises, (page 14).
- > The voluntary sector could contribute to the Games, by providing different services that would allow for voluntary organisations to share in the benefits of the Games legacy.
- > When people volunteer, they gain new skills as well as confidence and this can have a positive effect on more and better employment opportunities for the people of Scotland.

Healthier

- > We welcome the initiative to increase the participation in sport and improve performance. This initiative will require a programme to recruit and train paid and volunteer coaches, (page 36).
- > Coaches are often expected to be the person to deliver first aid if there is a small-scale emergency during training sessions or the playing of sport, particularly at amateur level or with children.
- > We believe that along with the legacy of a professional infrastructure of paid and voluntary coaches, there should be a legacy of coaches who can deliver basic first aid with confidence if and when the need arises.
- > We believe first aid can be tailored for coaches relative to the specific injuries likely to occur to their chosen sport. For example, rugby coaches would learn first aid skills in order to respond quickly and confidently to potential neck injuries.

Case Study One:

Irish Football Association Coaching Course

The Irish Football Association (IFA) recognized the importance of having first aid skills contained in their coaching courses. Each Level One Coaching Award candidate must complete 24 guided-learning hours with a tutor, which includes a certified IFA Child Protection Course and an IFA/British Red Cross First Aid Course.

Francis Sanderson, First Aid Services Coordinator for Northern Ireland developed the first aid course in conjunction with the IFA and has delivered the training to more than 950 volunteer

coaches. The first aid element of the course has been specifically designed to promote injury prevention and cater for injuries or first aid emergencies specific to football players.

Safer & Stronger

- > There is no mention in this section of the importance and role of the Voluntary Sector in delivering a safer and stronger Scotland (page 44).
- > There are many multi agency partnerships that exist with the voluntary sector that could enhance the delivery of the objective “*the police and fire services gain more experience preparing for major events*”.
- > Building on these partnerships in preparedness for the Games would leave a lasting legacy of community resilience, particularly if exercises were carried out in partnership with Category 1 Responders.
- > The case study below is a good example of a multi-agency partnership that resulted in volunteers utilising their skills to ease the burden on hospital emergency departments. We believe this initiative could easily be adapted to fit the needs of the community during the Games.

Case Study Two

The Nite Zone. First aid eases the load on NHS Emergency Departments

Red Cross volunteers, trained in advanced first aid skills and life saving techniques provided first aid outside Glasgow central station during four weekends over the Christmas period of 2007. Two or three Red Cross first aiders were stationed at Gordon St on Friday and Saturday nights between 9.30pm and 5.30am at a Mobile Medical Unit. They dealt with a number of incidents including a suspected heart attack, broken bones, vomiting and open wounds as well as referring other cases to hospital.

The scheme was set up at the request of Glasgow City Council to reduce the pressure on accident and emergency departments and the Scottish Ambulance Service at a busy time of year for medical practitioners.

Ninety-six people attended the Nite Zone with sixty people being treated by either British Cross first aid volunteers or Ambulance Officers. Twenty-five people were referred to hospital and eleven people did not require treatment.

Over four weekends, the mobile medical unit eased the burden on emergency departments by dealing with 71 cases onsite.

3. How can we individually or collectively best achieve these aims?

- > We would welcome the opportunity to meet the Games Organising Committee to expand on the ideas and comments presented in this paper.

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