

Consultation Questions

QUESTION 1

Are the benefits you would like from the games covered in this paper?

Please provide
comments

Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) would wish to congratulate the Scottish Government on the production of a comprehensive and visionary consultation paper on the benefits and legacy for Scotland from the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014. We note the link within this consultation paper to the government's 5 strategic objectives and the wide variety of stakeholders consulted. This will undoubtedly provide direction for the entire public and voluntary sector in Scotland. SDS is also delighted to note that equity and inclusion are themes throughout this paper and there is a very clear link to the National Sports Strategy, Reaching Higher.

2014 and 2012 offer Scottish sport the unique opportunity to profile sport, create robust sporting pathways, develop sustainable structures and inspire a whole generation to participate and volunteer. As such, it is vital that the Scottish Government ensures a high profile for sport throughout this consultation.

SDS feels that the following areas within the paper are particularly relevant to Scottish children, athletes and players with a disability. These are areas where our Association will be able to support and advise in the run up to 2014:

Wealthier & Fairer:

- SDS welcomes the commitment to attract other international events to Scotland prior to 2014. SDS is currently working in partnership with the Scottish FA and Glasgow City Council to secure the rights to host the European Football Championships for players with Cerebral Palsy in 2010 and the support of the Scottish Government would undoubtedly strengthen this bid.

Smarter:

- SDS acknowledges and supports the commitment to volunteering within the paper and particularly the statement emphasising that individuals with a disability are able to benefit from this process. Disability sport in Scotland engaged a team of qualified and experienced volunteers before, during and after the Special Olympics Games in Glasgow in 2005. This is a resource that could be accessed and utilised for 2014.
- SDS commends the commitment to actively engage and inspire young people with a disability through consultation. SDS would urge the Scottish Government to maintain this commitment to traditionally excluded groups throughout and this would increase engagement in the Games in 2014.
- SDS notes with interest the commitment to develop resources and teaching materials aimed at increasing understanding of and ability to relate to others. SDS would encourage the Scottish Government to make the effort to use this opportunity to raise awareness of the needs and issues of people with a disability within this process. SDS feels that we can make a very real contribution to this initiative in the areas of physical activity including sport. This is a real opportunity to promote and develop inclusion throughout Scottish society.

Healthier:

- SDS supports the drive to encourage Scots to become more physically active. SDS would ask that there is a specific focus on the most inactive within our communities including children and adults with a disability. SDS has less athletes in sports programmes than at any time in the past. This is particularly the case with children and young people with a disability who are often excluded or disengaged from PE, school sport and mainstream sporting opportunities. As part of this consultation process SDS has spoken to other Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport and umbrella sporting organisations. The issue of poor physical literacy and limited school sport remains high on the agenda for all these bodies. This must be a focus for action.
- SDS also notes the intention to promote positive role models during the Games. SDS is fortunate to have a significant number of successful sportspeople with a disability who could become involved to inspire and support a whole new generation of participants. Media support is key to the success of such initiatives and the support of the Scottish Government would be instrumental in this process.
- SDS welcomes the real focus on sport within this section especially the strong focus on the role of governing bodies and the links to the National Sports Strategy, Reaching Higher. The Commonwealth Games are first and foremost a sporting event and while SDS fully appreciates the impact the Games will have on the wider Scottish community, SDS would hope that sport will remain the primary focus and beneficiary of 2014.
- SDS also welcomes the commitment to invest government resources to increase participation and improve performance. SDS hopes this will be linked to the target to increase participation amongst under represented groups and to support investment in a robust sustainable infrastructure for disability sport in Scotland. (Some specific suggestions on how this might be implemented are contained within question 2).
- It is vitally important that the strategic plans and business models of governing bodies of sport, local authorities and all other stakeholders in sport are improved and aligned to meet the demand and expectation generated by the Games. It would be our fervent hope that the needs of children, athletes and players with a disability would be fully represented through an inclusive approach throughout the process.
- SDS fully supports the statement relating to the identification of clear sporting pathways to high performance level sport and hopes that long term resources can be allocated to achieve the development of such pathways.
- SDS also notes the aim is to increase medals on the world stage and in particular the specific targets set for the 2012 Paralympics. These appear to have been set without consultation with SDS and contradict the targets laid out in our current strategic plan, Towards London and Beyond: 2006-2012. SDS would welcome the opportunity to discuss these targets further within the consultation process. For consistency of message throughout the paper it would also be appropriate if when "Olympics" are mentioned that "Paralympics" are also referred to in the same sentence.
- SDS would also hope that the Glasgow 2014 Games set new standards with regards to the inclusion of athletes with a disability. The Scottish Commonwealth Games Team has always been fully inclusive and SDS would hope that Glasgow raises the bar by including more sports, more

QUESTION 2

Is there anything else we should be doing?

Please provide comments

SDS fully supports the aspirational aims and targets within the paper and is hugely enthusiastic at the prospect of being associated with the 2014 Games in Glasgow. SDS are fully supportive of the Games and happy to provide any support or advice that might be considered to be appropriate. However there are a number of deliverables that we feel have to be put in place if Scotland is truly to witness a robust and sustainable legacy emerge from 2014.

- It is the view of Scottish Governing Bodies of sport in general that the issues surrounding physical literacy and school sport must be addressed. There are numerous issues that are particularly relevant to children and young people with a disability. Many are excluded from PE or are receiving an inferior provision to their mainstream peers. Evidence suggests that exclusion also takes place within school sport with transport issues being one of the main reasons. There are also issues surrounding teacher training and ongoing support for pupils with disabilities. SDS would like to see investment in education and training at all levels and a fully inclusive experience for pupils in PE and school sport.

- The consultation rightly identifies a clear sporting pathway as a priority and SDS would support this wholeheartedly. SDS would like to see a commitment from the Scottish Government to the full roll out of the Regional Sports partnership structure in Scotland. From an SDS point of view the pilot scheme has proved to be very successful, has promoted an inclusive approach between governing bodies and local authorities and has provided a much needed link between local participation programmes and national squads.

- Whilst we acknowledge that there will be major investment in facilities through the hosting of the Commonwealth Games, SDS would like to see the issue of community facility provision addressed at this time. Through the consultation process, Scottish sport clearly identified lack of community provision as a major issue and access to school facilities outside curricular time as a priority for action.

- With the commitment to put in place a clear pathway for Scottish sport highlighted in this document, SDS would like to see the Scottish Government ensure that this pathway is fully inclusive and equitable. SDS enjoys inclusive working partnerships with many of Scotland's governing bodies and local authorities but this is not the case in all instances.

QUESTION 3

How can we, individually or collectively, best achieve these aims?

Please provide comments

- It is the responsibility of all of Scotland and particularly Scottish sport to work together to achieve these aims.

- SDS can contribute to this process in a number of ways. Disability sport in Scotland is dependent on a large number of high quality volunteers and coaches all of whom could bring essential skills and experience to enhance this process.

- SDS also has a strong tradition of delivering high quality education and training courses designed to increase awareness of the issues faced by athletes with a disability. This training could easily be adapted to accommodate the volunteer network required for these Games.

- SDS is also fortunate to be serviced by a number of officers and volunteers with specific experience and expertise within disability sport. These individuals would be able to assist, advise and generally add value to the Games experience.

QUESTION 4

Do you have any other comments to offer on what should feature in the final games benefits and legacy plan?

Please provide comments

- If we are to gain maximum benefits from the 2014 Commonwealth Games and build a robust, sustainable and permanent legacy for the future of Scottish sport, investment must start now. Investment must be made in terms of time, people and finance and must be driven through the existing sports infrastructure in line with the National Sports Strategy, Reaching Higher.

- Above all SDS would advocate that inclusion should be paramount throughout all aspects of the Games to ensure a lasting legacy children, athletes and players with a disability from throughout Scotland.

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