

## **CULTURE COMMITTEE CC 02-03 (p2)**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2003**

**Time: 9.00am-12.30pm**

**Venue: National Assembly for Wales**

### **Sports Review: Analysis of Consultation Responses**

On 29 October 2002, the Chair of the Culture Committee invited various organisations and individuals to submit their observations and recommendations in order to assist the Committee's policy review of participation in sport, looking particularly at the barriers faced by specific groups in the community. The key points from the responses are given below. Attached at Annex A is a table summarising the individual responses. One response was marked as "confidential" to Committee members and not for the public domain. This has not been included in the summary and will be circulated separately to Members. Annex B summarises the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality submissions. At Annex C is a summary of the main points which have emerged from the oral presentation sessions.

### **Summary of responses**

#### **Barriers to participation**

##### **Women and girls**

- May not be comfortable in mixed gender activities
- Child care issues
- Safety issues
- More professional support needed
- Shortage of female coaches and referees, and lack of role models

##### **Young people**

- Availability of transport
- Cost of transport and facilities
- Conflict of interest with other forms of entertainment

- Insufficiently trained PE staff to promote less traditional sports at school
- Not enough provision / resources / facilities to encourage participation at an early stage

## **Ethnic minorities**

- Language can be a problem in some areas
- Lack of role models
- Policies to target ethnic communities
- Lack of understanding of cultural differences, e.g. costume, mixed sex,
- Lack of community facilities

## **Disabled people**

- Lack of specialist equipment
- Cost and availability of suitable transport
- Shortage of trained volunteer support
- Access issues

## **Older people**

- Daytime access to facilities (dual use facilities)
- Transport issues
- Shortage of trained volunteer support
- Safety issues relating to evening participation

## **Socially disadvantaged groups**

- Rural deprivation
- Cost of transport and facilities
- Access issues (dual use facilities)
- Awareness of facilities
- Lack of amenities in their community

## **Access and Participation**

Could be increased for all of the above groups by the provision of:

- Improved transport in the rural areas
- Subsidised fees and charges
- Subsidised governing body membership fees
- More outreach sports development programmes in rural areas
- Promotion of free Come and Try events

- Consultation with the community

## **Volunteers**

Support for volunteers could be improved through:

- Subsidised training fees for sport and recreation qualifications
- Paid volunteers in targeted areas of deprivation and training in child protection issues
- Recognise and value their efforts through awards, etc

## **Infrastructure and facilities**

- Good quality facilities need to be located to serve the needs of the local community
- Dual use facilities to maximise participation levels sited on or next to secondary schools in all main towns
- Good car parking provision
- Need all weather surfaces to encourage year round participation

## **Major events**

- Have an impact on raising profile and on participation levels in certain sports for a short period during and after the event
- Needs a solid infrastructure in place to continue the build on this interest

## **Elite sports**

- Elite sports that have huge media coverage, like rugby, can have an impact on participation levels
- Minor sports that do not have the same level of media support need help to raise their profile and image to increase participation levels

## **ANNEX B**

### **Summary of Commission for Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities Commission submissions**

#### **1. SUMMARY OF CRE CONSULTATION: "SPORTING EQUALS"**

NB This document only relates to England

- Ethnic minorities are poorly represented at decision making levels and are overlooked by sports development officers and coaches
- Sporting Equals works with various sports governing bodies to develop policies to promote racial equality
- CRE hope to encourage more ethnic minorities to participate in sport, leading to representation at coaching, administration and management levels.
- Racial Equality Charter for Sport has been signed by leaders of sport to remove racial discrimination. It aims to welcome and protect all employees and spectators from racial harassment and encourage individuals from all communities to become involved in sport.
- Benchmarks have been developed for national governing bodies/sports organisations to plan and achieve racial equality.
- Cash grants between £500-£5000 available to fund specific projects supporting community activity. In addition, "Sportsmatch" is a government-funded organisation which matches cash raised from other sources on a "pound for pound" basis, to fund sport for ethnic minority groups.

## 2. SUMMARY OF EOC CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Number of key differences highlighted between men and women re: participation in sport:

- Time-women with family commitments [perhaps as well as work commitments] have less time and opportunity to participate.
- Money-sports such as aerobics [mainly participated in by women] not considered sports so don't get local authority funding-increasing cost for participants. Also many more women than men have low paid jobs.
- Lack of appropriate facilities-women more likely to use indoor sports facilities, not as readily available. Also not always childcare available.
- Different patterns and rates of participation-activities pursued vary. Also lower participation in older women, those in lower social classes and those living outside cities.
- Access, safety and security-sports centres often located outside cities in areas which are harder to access or less safe for women. These problems are compounded for women with disabilities, older women or women with children and those living in remote areas.
- Representation in decision making-women under-represented in sport and sport-related organisations.
- Coaching-less women being encouraged into coaching.
- Differences in motivation to participate-e.g.. young men more competitive whereas married women more interested in health and fitness.
- Women more than men tend to take children with them so sometimes a problem with lack of facilities.

- Frequently, women from ethnic minorities prefer single sex activities.

Possible solutions include:

- Wider availability of childcare at leisure facilities.
- Wider range of activities to be made available.
- Affordable rates for participation, childcare and family activities.
- Design facilities to be safe and secure and more convenient to access via public transport or on foot. Specially provided transport may also be an option.
- More emphasis on attracting women into coaching. Develop a policy whereby a coach of each sex works in partnership [especially where coaching children].

## **Gender Audit/ Gender Budgeting**

EOC and Sports Council for Wales undertaking a joint "gender audit" on participation in leisure centre activities in particular. This is a pilot study being carried out within Wales and the rest of the UK. The aim is to examine different ways in which the leisure budget benefits men and women. Revenue and expenditure levels will be investigated within a selection of leisure centres and compared against levels of participation in different activities provided by the centres to highlight any inequalities in the way expenditure impacts upon the participation of men and women and where possible, increase usage of facilities.

## **Mainstreaming Sport and Leisure**

Those involved in managing/implementing programmes/policies need to apply gender equality considerations so that the different needs and situations of men and women are taken into account in designing/implementing programmes. If gender is not addressed, policy intervention will be less successful in attracting women to the sector.

## **Good Practice Examples**

- "Active Australia"-National Participation Framework-goal: to increase the number of participants in physical activities. Not exclusive to women but one of key principles is access, equity and importance of addressing needs of specific groups. Includes specific resources aimed at parents and educators of girls.
- "New South Wales State Plan for Women 1999-2002"-encourages and supports the full involvement of women and girls.
- "UK Lottery Sports Fund"-organisations that operate discriminatory policies are ineligible for funding. A commitment to equity must be demonstrated and the application form seeks information regarding, amongst other things, the number of men and women who

will use the facility.

## **ANNEX C**

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Committee Meetings**

#### **Health and social issues in relation to participation in sport**

- Cost to the NHS
- Lack of activity in young people leading to later problems
- Lack of activity generally due to "labour-saving" devices
- Raising community awareness/"spirit"
- Low level of good health in Wales as a whole-sport not high on the agenda of health authorities in Wales
- Ways of promoting sport/exercise re: women, elderly, socially disadvantaged groups

#### **Disabled sport [only in relation to the deaf]**

- Lack of funding for deaf competitors in major games/events
- Closure of residential deaf schools limits pool of deaf athletes
- Lack of sporting opportunities for deaf children at school
- Access to community leisure facilities restricted to the deaf

#### **Young people and sport [esp. via schools participation and support]**

- Young people less active nowadays than previously
- Levels of encouragement differed from school to school
- Same levels of facilities required throughout Welsh schools
- Role of Dragon Sports in schools

#### **Future staging of major events**

- Ryder Cup 2010-impact on Welsh economy [tourism/raising international profile]
- Ryder Cup 2010-impact on participation in sport in Wales

#### **Role of Commonwealth Games Council**

- Problems re: funding of the Welsh team at the Games

### **Role of local authorities in sports provision:**

- Non-statutory function but felt important to the community
- Many facilities old and now require re-furbishment
- Costs remain a barrier to some even with reduced fees-look at free access
- Stronger role for SCW required
- Concerns re: over-reliance on lottery funding-Wales disadvantaged compared to England [per capita funding]
- Recruitment and retainment of volunteers proving difficult due to added responsibilities

### **Items briefly touched upon in Committee Meetings**

#### **Elderly people and sport [i.e. comparisons with Finland]**

- Targeting 40-60 year olds who did too little exercise
- Marketing of such a campaign and funding
- Success of project measured in terms of increase in exercise

#### **Elite Sports [i.e. Nigel Walker's presentation]**

- Support from teachers at school level required to encourage pupils and promote sport
- Competition, support and training vital-UK behind US re: support/financial help
- Commonwealth Games Council should be run as a professional body-fundraising issues.
- Media plays important role in promoting elite athletes

### **Items not touched upon in Committee Meetings**

Young women and girls' participation in sport [Minister's report in plenary]

Ethnic minorities' participation in sport

Deprived communities' participation in sport

Role of private fitness sector and its impact on sport in general

Relationship between key stakeholders in sport and public/private/voluntary sectors