



11 March 2018

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Sophia Gardens | Gerddi Sophia
Cardiff | Caerdydd
CF11 9SW
T / Ff 0300 300 3111
www.sport.wales
www.chwaraeon.cymru

Dear Nick

Thank you for the opportunity to offer evidence to the Public Accounts Committee regarding the scrutiny of Sport Wales' Annual Report 2016/17. The check and challenge is always valuable to our organisation, and I have read the Committee's Report and recommendations with interest.

Please find enclosed the response from Sport Wales, addressing the relevant Committee recommendations (14, 15 and 16). This is in addition to supplementary evidence supplied to the Committee, outlining a programme of reviews, summarised here as an appendix for convenience.

As you'll know, the way forward for many of the challenges in sport lies in strong collaboration and partnership. That principle is reflected in this response, and I look forward to working with the Committee in future.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Powell
Chief Executive

Sport Wales Response

Public Accounts Committee: Scrutiny of Accounts 2016-17

Detailed below is the response from Sport Wales in respect of Recommendation 14,15,16 from the Public Accounts Committee, Scrutiny of Accounts 2016-17.

Recommendation 14. *The Committee recommends that Sport Wales share the outcome of the evaluation of their Young Peoples Programmes with the Public Accounts Committee for consideration*

Sport Wales Response

We will share the outcome of the external review which is currently underway and will be completed by the end of June 2018.

Sport Wales has provided additional written evidence to the Committee regarding the range of reviews and evaluations undertaken to date on the young people's programmes. These are summarised in the appendix for convenience. The Committee may wish to note that the current review of the young people's programmes and free swimming were planned as part of Sport Wales' business planning cycle and agreed with the Welsh Government as part of our normal evaluation and monitoring work. This was set out in our Business Plan published at the start of the year 2017-18.

The findings from the reviews will be published on the Sport Wales website and shared with key stakeholders and will be used to shape the development of a new Sport Wales Strategy.

Recommendation 15. *We recommend that Sport Wales monitor the impact the promotion of 3G pitches has on access to local authority owned pitches, sharing the outcomes of this monitoring with this Committee, and work to ensure that facilities remain as accessible to all as possible.*

Sport Wales Response

Sport Wales is working in partnership with national governing bodies of sport to monitor the impact Sport Wales' investment is having into 3G pitches. This collaborative partnership between the FAW Trust, Welsh Rugby Union and Hockey Wales has been established to strategically plan and provide expert advice to artificial pitch developments in Wales. An Evaluation Report was completed in March 2017 to monitor impact and a full copy is available if required. The executive summary findings from the report show that:

Key outcomes

“Two years in, the project is achieving its short and medium-term goals. Fourteen projects have been completed and funding has been allocated to a further 22 sites. The case studies and consultation with stakeholders show that the investment had enabled the following outcomes to date:

- *An increase in participation levels with existing users taking part more frequently and new users now becoming involved.*
- *More opportunities for women, girls and juniors.*
- *Coaches observing improved skill levels amongst players and more opportunities for competition and performance development.*
- *A better experience for participants, clubs, and families now able to use good quality facilities and avoiding frequent cancellations of matches and training sessions.*
- *Freeing up overused grass pitches, allowing their quality to be improved, and adopting a more strategic approach to facility usage across a region.*

- *Club hub models offering multiple sport/activity opportunities in a central venue, aiming to draw in families and new users as part of a wider related offer around artificial surfaces.*
- *Avoiding the loss of a facility altogether, or the loss of a specific sport in a region.”*

Sport Wales is also committed to working closely with a range of partners (national governing bodies of sport, local authorities and other providers) to ensure that sports facilities across Wales are available, affordable and accessible to community clubs and groups. In addition to the aforementioned Evaluation Report, there are a number of interventions that Sports Wales has in place to better understand the impact of 3G pitches:

A comprehensive all Wales Sports Facilities database has been established. This includes details of all artificial pitch surfaces, and also natural grass pitches in Wales. The database will monitor changes to the number of pitches available and whether there are any changes in ownership over time.

This database is also informing our evidence base around pitches through a number of analyses including:

- A Facility Planning Model
- Determining SROI (Social Return on Investment) of key built sport facilities
- Work with the University of South Wales to look at accessibility to a range of facilities showing where there is relative under-provision.
- Mapping School Sport Survey 2015 provision data. This work showcases where grass pitches and artificial pitches at schools are open to the public at different times of the day and on weekends.

Sport Wales is a statutory consultee on planning matters relating to changes in playing pitch provision. Sport Wales has a partnership agreement in place with Fields in Trust to advocate the benefits of, and to protect natural grass pitches. There is an ongoing system in place to monitor this work.

The FAW Trust is piloting work with Councils across Wales to devise Local Facilities Plans to set a long-term vision to protect and attract investment in facilities as well as convincing schools to open their facilities for community usage. The principle of opening up school sport facilities outside school hours to meet community need is one that Sport Wales supports.

Recommendation 16. *We recommend that Sport Wales undertake to promote and protect access to all local authority owned sport facilities for all.*

Sport Wales Response

Sport Wales is committed to promoting participation and to encouraging more people to play sport, ensuring everyone can lead an active lifestyle through sport and realise their potential.

Sport Wales will continue to take appropriate action to promote and protect access to all sport facilities in Wales. Although it is the responsibility of each local authority to determine the range, cost and accessibility of sport facilities under their control, Sport Wales will continue to promote and work with the Local Authorities to protect access to facilities.

Sport Wales has undertaken the following work:

- The development of [Facilities for Future Generations: A Blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation in Wales](#) Sport Wales developed this guiding document with support from the sport sector to allow major facility providers - including local government - to strategically plan and manage sports facilities for the long term
- Sport Wales continues to provide ongoing support to Welsh Government as it develops a Sport Facilities Strategy for Wales. This includes an analysis of future facility needs at a community and elite / performance level
- Sport Wales is currently developing a policy on how best to support the effective asset transfer of small scale sports facilities (eg. pitches, pavilions). Often, the management of sports facilities are transferred from local authorities to local community groups and Sport Wales advocates an approach to ensure the transfer creates a sustainable, long term management solution
- Sport Wales provides ongoing advice to The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme to ensure schools develop appropriate sports facilities and to ensure they are accessible to local community groups
- Sport Wales is a statutory consultee on planning matters relating to changes in playing pitch provision. Sport Wales has a partnership agreement in place with Fields in Trust to advocate the benefits of, and to protect natural grass pitches.
- Sport Wales distributes Lottery grants which are used to further develop sporting opportunities on existing facilities, including small scale capital improvement schemes (for example, pitch drainage schemes)

Young People Programmes

1. Dragon Multi-Skills and Sport

Aim of the programme

Dragon Multi-Skills and Sport is the next step on the physical literacy journey after Play to Learn (3-7years). The aim is for young people aged 7-11 years:

- To continue along their physical literacy journey by developing the key physical skills that are applicable to and transferable across a range of different sports.
- To proactively recruit more parents, teachers and young leaders into sports leadership and provide them with pathways into volunteering, coaching, officiating or administration.
- To support community clubs in developing their provision for children aged 7-11 years, strengthening links between clubs and schools.

Formal learning and evaluation

- Local / Regional Management Information Reports: to help inform stakeholders of the provision in their local area; to performance manage staff; report on KPI targets to Welsh Government
- **Dragon Sport Review – Multi-skills – Interim Report (March 2010) by Sue Burgess**
- **Review of Dragon Sport (August 2010) by Arad Consulting**
- **Pilot Evaluation of Dragon Multi-skills (May 2012) by Bright Purpose**
- Independent evaluation (2017) To be completed June 2018

2. Secondary School - 5x60

Aim of the programme

Building upon the early developments achieved through Play to Learn and Dragon Multi-Skills & Sport, the aim is for young people aged 11-16 years:

- To continue along their physical literacy journey by further developing the key physical skills that are applicable to and transferable across a range of different sports and physical activities, as well as reinforcing their positive experiences;
- To support community clubs in developing their provision for children aged 11-16 years, strengthening links between clubs and schools;
- To proactively recruit young leaders into sports leadership and provide them with pathways into volunteering, coaching, officiating or administration.

Formal learning and evaluation

- Local / Regional / National Management Information Reports: to help inform stakeholders of the provision in their local area; as a local performance management tool; and to report on KPI targets to Welsh Government
- Initial pilot phase **review (2006) by InVEST**

- Evaluation of the 5x60 programme: Report on the progress to the Welsh Assembly Government **(2009) by Greenstreet Berman Limited**
- Process Evaluation of 5x60 scheme: Final Report **(2010) by Greenstreet Berman Limited**
- Physical Activity, Extracurricular Sport and the '5x60' Initiative: Leisure Lifestyles and Young People in Wales, **2007-2009 (2011) – PhD Thesis by Anna Leyshon** (Cardiff Metropolitan University)
- Sports Participation amongst 14-21 year olds. How do we encourage young people to stay involved in sport? **(2012) Final report to Sport Wales by Brightpurpose**
- 5x60 Evaluation Report: Linking schools with the community to sustain participation **(2012) by S Wilcox (research project - University of South Wales)**
- School Sport Investment Review **(2015) – internal review by Sport Wales**
- independent evaluation **(2017) To be completed June 2018**

Physical literacy journey

Dragon Multi-skills and Sport and 5x60 are two approaches to supporting a young person's physical literacy journey. They build on the early developments achieved through Play to Learn to enable a continuum of progressive learning.

This recent '15 Year Success story' video reel <https://vimeo.com/211272295> demonstrates the benefits and achievements of our investment in PE and school and community sport.

Case studies

Active Story Time

In June, colleagues in Conwy held 3 days of Active Story Time training for the staff members of the 10 libraries in Conwy, and for 36 healthy preschool settings. Over the 3 days, more than 80 people attended the training that was delivered by Sharon Mason from 'Play Learn Play'.

The aim of the project is to encourage these community settings to introduce a new element in to their current story time. Through bringing books to life by using the puppets and movements we can ensure that the children of Conwy are active, healthy and gaining skills for life. Through supporting these settings to encourage children to get moving, we are ensuring that they have a positive start on their physical literacy journey.

Below is a short video of the training days explaining its purpose. There are several settings already running sessions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc0GoJyhWo>

Young Ambassador-led training for school governors in Conwy

Young Ambassador-led approach regarding School Governor Training on physical literacy and the impact of multi-sport opportunities as part of extra-curricular provision.

This is a new and different approach to try and influence School Governors with responsibility for Health and Well Being areas of the National Curriculum, regarding the understanding, importance and priority given to physical literacy within their schools. (delivered by GOLD Young Ambassadors

on a County wide basis) – also linking this to the LA education services agenda “promoting learner health and well-being “and a KPI focusing on pupil voice.

There has been a positive impact – evidenced in the School Sport Survey results. The percentage of pupils participating in sport on 3+ occasions a week increased from 39% in 2013 to 79% in 2015. There has also been a 19-percentage point increase in pupils feeling listened to.

St Christopher’s SEN School, Wrexham

Leadership and Participation opportunities within a SEN setting

Last year 20 pupils successfully completed the Sports leaders Level 2. The group have gained over 80 hours leadership experience. The pupils themselves persuaded the 5x60 Officer to start the Level 3 course this year. The pupils now volunteer in the community and mentor younger pupils. The pupils also volunteer at the SEN Festivals for Wrexham Junior Schools.

The school is very proud of the pupil’s achievements and how it proves that boundaries can be broken. These Leaders have seen first-hand what is possible to achieve and it has been an amazing journey for everyone at the school.

Tackling Crime, anti-social behaviour and the disengaged, Flintshire

Through working with key partners such as the Drug and Alcohol team, the youth service, education and schools and North Wales Police we have launched an anti-social behavior ‘door step’ club system. The clubs currently run in Hope, Hawarden, Flint, Deeside and Mold. Participation ranges between 15 – 45 per session. We have mainly used football as a vehicle for engagement but have also utilized golf, fitness and the spa in this approach, where through working with clubs, NGBs and providers we have been able to offer a sustainable provision and at an affordable price to encourage further participation.

Young Leaders Pathway

Monmouthshire sports development team have purchased a licence from Sports Leaders UK which will allow them to train every Year 5 pupil on the Play Maker Leadership Award (circa 1000 pupils). The award focuses on developing learner’s leadership skills. Bronze Young Ambassadors will be identified from the Play Makers to lead and advocate sport and physical activity within the school setting.

Active Gwent – Physical Literacy

The Active Gwent region have worked collaboratively to develop physical literacy opportunities across the region. During 2016/17, 500 physical literacy sessions have been established in communities across Gwent. Developing junior club structures across the region has been a focus through up-skilling over 490 coaches and 570 parents on their understanding of how to develop physically literate children and young people.

Active Gwent Positive Futures Programme

Funding: £70k Sport Wales funding matched by Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner

Gwent Positive Futures is a sport based social inclusion programme, using sport as a tool to engage young people in communities identified as 'hot spots' by partners or through referral into alternative education settings. In 2016-17 the programme has engaged over 9,000 young people into sport and physical activity, leading to:

- Increases in sport participation amongst disengaged children and young people;
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour at key times where sport based diversionary activity has hooked in young people;
- Reductions in anti-social behaviour at key periods of the year; and
- Increases in school attendance, personal development and engagement in young people at risk of becoming 'NEETs'.