

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
9 APRIL 2008**

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF ACTIVE SCHOOLS IN MORAY, 2008-2011

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the continuation of the partnership with sportscotland in respect of Active Schools until 2011, including the continued part-funding of the Active Schools initiative for this period.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (12) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the Council's statutory powers to support activities related to the development of recreation, sport, culture and heritage.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the continued partnership with sportscotland in respect of Active Schools up to 2011 with the conditions as summarised in para 3.5 and the financial implications as detailed in para 4(c).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Educational Services Committee on 10 August 2005 (para 13 of the minute refers), Members were made aware of the progress of Active Schools in Moray. In particular, Members were informed that this initiative was a venture joint funded by sportscotland and all Scottish local authorities designed to improve children's health through increased physical activity opportunities before, during and after the school day.
- 3.2 Active Schools in Moray has been successful in these aims with up to three-quarters of all extracurricular activity offered to Moray school-aged children being due to the efforts of the initiative. The Active Schools team supports and further develops previously existing activities (such as the Active Schools Primary Cross Country Competition) as well as planning, managing and funding new opportunities.
- 3.3 The Active Schools Co-ordinators have also increased the number and range of physical activity opportunities throughout Moray by establishing successful school-to-community links with sports clubs, such as Moravian Orienteering and the Buckie Rugby Club, and by implementing national activity schemes locally, such as the Clubgolf initiative and the Badminton Sportshall Challenge programme.
- 3.4 It is also noteworthy that the INEA2 report on the Moray Council's Educational Services Department (28 January 2008) recognised the impact of Active

Schools in increasing participation of young people in physical activity by identifying Active Schools as one of the four key strengths in the department.

3.5 An invitation has been received from sportscotland to extend the initiative nationally until March 2011. A copy of this letter is attached as **Appendix 1**. A further letter containing details of the conditions attached to the extended funding is attached as **Appendix 2**. The main elements are summarised below:

- Contracts for current full time staff can now be extended until 2011.
- In order to ensure parity between primary and secondary Active Schools Co-ordinators all secondary co-ordinators will be placed on SJC (non-teaching) conditions. This change will be implemented locally from June 2008 and will allow all co-ordinators to be line-managed directly by the Active Schools Manager.
- A Partnership Agreement drafted by sportscotland and involving consultation with the Moray Active Schools Manager sets out the aims of the initiative for the next three years. A copy of the Partnership Agreement is available in the Members' library.
- The sportscotland contribution to Moray Active Schools for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 will be in the order of £241,000 each year (see para 4 (c) for further detail). Due to salary increments, this will mean an average increase in funding from this authority of £8,049 per year in order for the initiative to continue at current levels.

3.6 An extract of the draft Partnership Agreement detailing the financial commitment by sportscotland and required by the Moray Council is attached as **Appendix 3**.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

Active Schools meets the Moray Council Corporate Plan 2004-2007 objectives of working in partnership to achieve an improvement in the health of Moray residents, and the Educational Services Improvement Plan 2005-2008 activity of promoting health, well-being and respect within all learning communities in Moray.

(b) Policy and Legal

Active Schools is a national initiative developed by sportscotland and is currently implemented in all Scottish local authorities. Locally, Active Schools is a key contributor to the Health Promoting Schools accreditation effort.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The Moray Council's contribution to Active Schools for financial year 2007/08 is £92,851 (sportscotland contribution: £235,360)

To 2011, the projected cost to the Moray Council is:

2008/09	£87,349	(sportscotland contribution: £240,960)
2009/10	£101,254	(sportscotland contribution: £240,960)
2010/11	£114,099	(sportscotland contribution: £240,960)

Since its inception locally, Active Schools has been successful in sourcing external funding to support additional projects and to contribute to overall running costs. This includes approximately £14,500 in 2007/08 from the Big Lottery and smaller sums from other sources (e.g. Scottish Disability Sport, Awards for All, NHS Grampian, Local Community Networks). The Active Schools team will continue to actively source funding to enhance its activities.

The additional contribution of an average of £8,049 per year for this initiative will be met from the departments unallocated element of the National Priorities Action Fund.

In the event of the Moray Council being unable to contribute fully to Active Schools as outlined above, the offer of funding by sportscotland could be withdrawn resulting in the programme ceasing to operate in Moray.

(d) Consultations

In preparing this report, consultations have been undertaken with the following and, where received, their comments have been incorporated within this document:

Educational Services SMT; Nick Goodchild, Educational Resources Manager; Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant; Nicky Gosling, Accountant & Anne Smith, Personnel Advisor

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the continuation of the partnership with sportscotland in relation to Active Schools, including the continued part-funding of the programme until 2011.

Author of Report: John McMulkin, Active Schools Project Manager
 Background Papers:
 Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Education and Social Services Committee/
 9 April 2008/Continuation of Active Schools in Moray 2008-2011

ITEM: 21

PAGE: 4