



haringey strategic partnership

for children & young people

AGENDA ITEM 7

MEETING

**Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board
11 September 2006**

TITLE

Haringey Sports Scholarship Programme – Pilot 2006/07

SUMMARY

The Sports Scholarship programme is intended to help gifted and talented young athletes who are residents of Haringey. £25,000 of NRF funding has been identified for the programme in 2006/07. Haringey Council Recreation Services are seeking partners who can add to this sponsorship or provide 'in kind' benefits to widen the value of the scheme. The young people will receive a mixture of financial assistance and help with improving their sporting skills and also help in improving their job market skills.

The programme also links with a number of other projects in Haringey designed to improve the quality and amount of sport and physical activity in the borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The CYPSP is asked to note the contents of the report and for Partners to consider any possibilities for contributing to the programme.

The CYPSP is asked to endorse and support the pilot project, and receive future reports on performance.

LEAD OFFICER(S)

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Introduction

Within the context of Haringey's Children's and Young People Action Plan and Sport and Physical Activity Strategy there is a need for a scholarship programme to give tangible benefits to young athletes who may go on to represent Britain at the 2012 Olympics (and beyond) and/or represent their country in their chosen sport, whilst also stimulating a broadening base of sport and physical activity participation amongst young people.

The identified NRF funding of £25,000 to support this programme in the 2006/07 financial year will hopefully be used to lever in additional funding and 'in kind' benefits to enhance the programme. Recreation Services will be seeking partners in the project to collectively bring in at least £25,000 added value.

The programme has clear links to a number of other projects that Recreation Services are progressing in order to improve the quality and amount of sport and physical activity in the borough. These projects include:

- 'Summer of Sport' in Haringey and the ongoing sport in the community programme
- Accreditation and Procurement of Sports Delivery Agencies Project
- School & Community Football Project
- Junior Active Card
- Facility Upgrade and (Building Schools for the Future) BSF agendas
- London Youth Games (main, mini and disabled)

Outline of the HSS

The HSS will be directed at gifted & talented pupils in schools, who are Haringey residents (and including the higher education environment in the case of disabled athletes). Haringey residents who are schooled or trained outside the borough will qualify.

The HSS initiative will provide:

- Financial, technical and pastoral support for students who wish to combine sport and academic careers.
- The youngsters with skills for the job market; such as coaching and other sports related qualifications.
- The pastoral element of the scheme will focus on employment training aspects to further bolster this aspect of the scheme.
- The scheme can provide up to £1000 per annum of scholarship funding for each student athlete who qualifies for school meals and up to £500 for children who do not qualify.
- It is estimated that on a per annum basis 25 children will qualify.
- In subsequent years, if a scholar still meets the selection criteria, they will be eligible to reapply and in all likelihood would be successful.

The aims of the project are to:

- Retain talented athletes, especially those most at risk from dropping out.
- Support talented young athletes to progress up the performance pathway in their sport and link the scheme with existing national High Performance Programmes, in providing a 'stepping stone' approach.
- Enhance the level of success of talented young athletes at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Enhance the capability of the education sectors to flexibly support and cater for, to an agreed standard, the needs of talented young athletes.
- Assist 25 students per annum (up to 125 until 2012) to fulfil their sporting potential by maintaining a sensible balance between academic life and employment whilst training and competing as a performance athlete.
- Specific targets include:
 - At least 2 athletes from the scheme competes in the 2012 Olympics/Paralympics
 - At least 10 athletes compete for their country (depending on the sport this may realistically be at age group level – rugby league for instance) in their chosen sport over the next 6 years.
 - At least 50% of the athletes represent their county in their chosen sport
 - Support and enhance volunteering by accessing and funding specialist coaching. It will be expected that at least 50% of scholarship winners involve themselves in a minimum of two hours sports related volunteering for six months of the year.

Selection Criteria:

- National governing bodies of sport (and local clubs affiliated to them) and the School Sports Coordinators programme will nominate athletes of the required standard to receive support. A form will be provided for this process.
- The athletes will on the whole be nominated from recognised 'focus sports' with an already reasonable to good profile in the borough – and those sports that are also recognised as part of the government funded 'Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme' (TASS). That is; athletics, women's football, swimming, basketball, tennis, rugby league, badminton, table tennis, netball and a range of disabled sports.
- Other sports recognised by the TASS scheme and those recognised by Sport England will also be given consideration.
- The criteria for selection will effectively mirror the TASS criteria (which differs from sport to sport and is controlled primarily by a specific sports' performance pathway) – but be pitched at those athletics aged under 16 (a wider age range will be considered for disabled athletes).
- The TASS criteria relating to applicants being eligible for a UK passport will not be used to exclude candidates for nomination for the HSS. However a target of 80% of HSS winners should be UK citizens or eligible for UK citizenship.
- Athletes cannot receive the Haringey Scholarship and TASS in the same year. The Haringey Scholarship will hopefully provide the athlete the extra boost to qualify for TASS in subsequent years. Information about TASS at www.tass.gov.uk

- Particular note; will be taken of a potential athlete's financial circumstances and preference will be given to those athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- All athletes will have to compete for Haringey's team in the Youth Games. (unless illness or national competitions intervene on the day of the Games)
- Scholars are awarded up to £1000/£500 subject to academic and sporting progress. The funds will be paid to the providers of training etc rather than directly to the individual.
- Scholars may apply for additional funding in subsequent years and are likely to be successful if they have performed to a good standard and are continuing to show promise. All the other criteria will still apply – although consideration will be given to current scholars who are 16 and 17 years at the discretion of the selection committee.
- Final selection will be made by the 'Scholarship Sub Committee' of the newly convened 'Sport and Physical Activity Board'

Gender and Disability

On a per annum basis:

- Fifty percent of scholars selected will be female
- At least one disabled athlete will be selected who will be involved in a TASS recognised disabled sport.

Other Benefits to Scholarship Holders

- Annual 'Gold' Membership of our Leisure Centre's fitness gyms and swimming pools, providing free access to all leisure centre activities
- Free access to sports specific training facilities
- Access to sports science & sports medicine support services (physiology, nutrition, psychology, performance analysis, physiotherapy, sports massage)
- Access to strength & conditioning coaching
- High performance coaching
- Performance Athlete Life skill workshops
- Coach qualification and other sports related vocational training
- Work and volunteering opportunities

(It is in this area of the programme that Recreation Services will be seeking 'in kind' support from our partners)

Mentoring & Relationship Building

- An integral part of the scheme is to provide a mentor for each scholarship holder.
- The mentor will liaise with academic tutors to ensure that satisfactory progress is being maintained and also with sports delivery organisations in the borough to source unpaid and paid work opportunities.
- There is a small fund available to pay expenses for the chosen mentors.
- Mentors will be drawn from the ranks of Sports Providers in the borough and be vetted by Haringey's Sport and Physical Activity Board.
- Mentors will be CRB checked.

- Additionally opportunities will be factored into the programme for workshops on topics such as Goal Setting, Nutrition etc, hosted by Middlesex University. These workshops will provide structured opportunities for the athletes to meet with their peers and hopefully build mutually supportive relationships.

Administration

Recreation Services will seek a partner to administer the scheme on behalf of the council for a small amount of the overall budget, indeed one of the 'in kind' contributions to this project could be the administration of the scheme. During the pilot year the administration partner will be chosen through an abridged process. If the scheme continues a more thorough process will be activated and the contract term will be for three years.

Monitoring & Review

The monitoring arrangements will be carried out by Recreation Services with the assistance of the administration partner. Clearly basic data (DOB, ethnicity etc) on the scholarship holders will be sought on the application form; other data collected on an annual basis would include:

- The amounts of money spent by each athlete on what particular services
- The amount of 'in kind' value the athlete used
- Any additional sporting/vocational qualifications the athlete gained throughout the year
- The sporting performance of the athlete in the year/s of their scholarship and possibly in subsequent years
- Mentors annual report for each athlete
- If possible reports on school performance for each athlete

An overall annual report will be presented to the SPAB at the conclusion of each scholarship year. The officer charged with writing this report will present the data, draw conclusions and make recommendations to the SPAB about any changes required to the programme in the following year.

Celebrating Sports Scholars

The scholarship scheme will be officially launched in January/February 07 at a high profile event where the successful Sports Scholars where receive a certificate. In year two it is hoped that this event will merge with the proposed 'Haringey Celebrating Sport Award Evening'.

This annual event has been proposed by the North London Sport & Physical Activity Partnership. If the concept is agreed by the four boroughs involved (Haringey, Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest) then significant resources will be allocated to pulling in sponsorship, media interest etc by the Partnership.

Partnership and Sustainability

In order to develop and promote the scholarship programme Recreation Services is/ will be working with:

- The SSCO partnership (PDM – Woodside High School and St. Thomas Moore SSCO partnership)
- Children's Services - Schools
- Governing Bodies of Sport
- A variety of sports delivery agencies in the Borough
- North London Sport & Physical Activity Partnership
- Sport England
- Youth Offending Team
- Local business
- Middlesex University
- CONEL

The objective will be to fund the programme every year until at least 2012. Funding sources for 2007/08 and beyond will be explored and in particular it is hoped that in:

- demonstrating the scheme's worth in terms of sporting success
- attracting significant 'in kind' and monetary support from partners
- developing the scope for a sub regional approach and/or support

That the HSS will be integrated into the Recreation Services budget in subsequent years.

Feedback

As at the end of August a good amount of feedback was received from sports providers, sports clubs, educational institutions, council colleagues and the North London Sport & Physical Activity Partnership.

All the feedback has been extremely positive in tone with some good advice on fine tuning the scheme coming from the North London Sport & Physical Activity Partnership and Skolars.

The scheme seems to have excited sports clubs and Children's Services in particular, for its ability to help young sporting talent in a meaningful way. Many groups and organisations will be keen to receive the nomination form and it is anticipated that the response will be substantial. As such further work will be needed on the selection criteria in order to assure the community of fairness in selection.

Middlesex University and the North London Sport and Physical Activity Partnership stand out as promising practical assistance which will greatly improve the overall 'worth' of the scheme. Other sections of the community will probably need a more individual briefing on the benefits of the scheme in order to reap further 'in kind' and other contributions.

Time Line

August/September 06	Feedback from stakeholders
11 September 06	Presentation to Children's & Young People Strategic Partnership
October 06	Selection of administration partner for pilot year
November 06	Nominations of talented athletes
December 06	Successful athletes contacted: scheme begins
January/February 07	Official launch of programme at a PR event with athletes present to receive Scholarship Certificates
May 07	Mid year review of scheme and interim report - budget for year 2 of scheme confirmed if scheme showing signs of success
October 07	Year two nominations
November 07	Selection of year two athletes and presentation of their certificates at Haringey's 'Celebrating Sport Award Evening'
December 07	First year of scheme completes
January 08	Review of year one and report