



**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL OSC**

**SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN THE  
BOROUGH'S SCHOOLS**

## **BACKGROUND**

Members of the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at the meeting on 3 December 2014, requested that a Scrutiny Sub-Committee be set up to scrutinise Sport and Physical Activity in the Borough's Schools.

Membership of the Sub-Committee was agreed as Councillors Bennett, L Chesterman (C), Cook and Thomson.

The purpose of the scrutiny was to see whether the sport and physical activity offered by schools encouraged young people to participate and whether the use of the Schools Sports Partnership improved the offer and participation.

## **SCOPING**

The first meeting of the group was held on 17 February 2015. At this meeting the Sub-Committee discussed the scope of the exercise.

Members felt that further information was required before the scope of the exercise could be agreed and the following research was agreed:

1. Contacting all of the schools in the borough to ask about sport and physical activities that they offered and to find out whether they were involved with the School Sports Partnership.
2. Contacting winners of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Awards to find out about their experience of sport and physical activities at their schools.
3. To look at the work of the Schools Sport Partnership.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Members compiled some questions for the schools, a copy of which can be found at Appendix A.

Members also compiled questions for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award winners, attached at Appendix B.

A meeting was held on 14 August to consider the responses with the intention of drafting a list of witnesses and questions for the two meetings scheduled for October.

**At this meeting it became clear that the responses from the schools and those from the Queens' Diamond Jubilee Award winners had provided some extremely useful information. Furthermore, officers at the County Council had identified some data which could assist in this review.**

**Members felt that, in order to scrutinise the topic fully, they wished to collect data on the Public Health actions to address obesity in young people and on the effectiveness of the new QDJA scheme.**

**It was agreed that a review should take place in twelve months at which time it would be decided whether to re-instate the scrutiny using the data collected and the new information as it became available.**

## QUESTIONS TO THE SCHOOLS

**Question 1** – Does your school take part in the Welwyn Hatfield Schools Partnership and/or The School Games Competitions?

St Michael's C of E Primary School	Yes
The Ryde School	Yes
St John's C of E Primary School	Yes
Creswick School	Yes
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	Yes

**Question 2** – If your school is not part of the Sports Partnership, what other provision do you made for sports and physical activity both in curriculum and outside curriculum times?

St Michael's C of E Primary School	n/a
The Ryde School	n/a
St John's C of E Primary School	n/a
Creswick School	n/a
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	n/a

**Question 3** – Do you feel as a school that you are meeting the Government's requirements with regards to the PE and sport premium for schools?

St Michael's C of E Primary School	Yes
The Ryde School	Yes
St John's C of E Primary School	Yes
Creswick School	Yes
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	Yes – this is through additional clubs and the

	<p>Staying Active lunch time club as well as one hour PE lessons in years 1-6. Physical activity is also an option on a Friday afternoon as part of the Golden Time system.</p> <p>Years 2,3 and 4 also have 8 swimming lessons throughout different times of the year.</p>
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**Question 4** – Does the provision you make remain constant throughout the year, or is it seasonal?

St Michael's C of E Primary School	Constant
The Ryde School	Constant
St John's C of E Primary School	Constant
Creswick School	Constant
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	Constant Each class only gets 8 swimming lessons per year

**Question 5** – Do your students take part in activities outside of school? If so, please provide details of these if possible.

St Michael's C of E Primary School	<p>Yes</p> <p>Datchworth Rugby Club</p> <p>Gym club at Marriots</p> <p>Various football clubs, eg Welwyn Pegasus</p> <p>Swimming lessons and club (Stevenage)</p>
The Ryde School	At least two sports clubs offered after school plus football/netball matches and other tournaments.
St John's C of E Primary School	Gymnastics, badminton, riding, swimming, football, martial arts, netball, athletics, cycling
Creswick School	Brownies, cubs, beavers, tennis clubs, swimming clubs
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	Irish dancing, badminton, netball and football

**Question 6** – Does your school provide after-school clubs that relate directly to sport and/or physical activity? Please provide a list of any organisation that runs that activity.

St Michael's C of E Primary School	Yes Teachers run: Netball and outdoor athletics Outside Providers run: Football – Stevenage FC Gymnastics – Rising Stars Golf – Tony Wolfson
The Ryde School	All for Sport, Game On, Mill Green Golf Club
St John's C of E Primary School	Gosling Tennis County Badminton
Creswick School	Tennis, football, netball, street-dance, athletics, rounders, gymnastics, fencing, football skills
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	Premier Sport sun some of the after school clubs and the lunch time Staying Active club John Stobo runs badminton club after school

**Question 7** – Is there a difference in take-up of sport and physical activity between boys and girls?

St Michael's C of E Primary School	No
The Ryde School	No
St John's C of E Primary School	Sport/activity dependent but fairly equal
Creswick School	Boys go to football club Girls go to netball club There are a few exceptions and the clubs are open to both Fencing club is a new club which is attended by both boys and girls
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	No

**Question 8** – Is there an age at which students' interest in sport and physical activity reduces?

St Michael's C of E Primary School	No
The Ryde School	No
St John's C of E Primary School	No
Creswick School	No
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	No

### **QUESTIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE AWARD WINNERS**

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Winners were asked the following questions:

1. When did you first become interested in your sport/physical activity?
2. What made you choose the particular sport/physical activity?
3. Did your school have any impact on your choice?
4. Did your school support you in your choice?
5. Did/do you participate in any other sports/physical activities?
6. Have you any comments to make about the sport/physical activity offered by your school?

The responses are shown on the next page.

Below is a summary of the responses from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Winners:

1. Ages ranged from 5 to 10 years old.
2. Parent or sibling played  
Teachers got me interested  
Tried the activity on holiday  
Wanted to beat sibling
3. 4 people said that the school **did not** impact their choice  
2 people said that the school **did** impact their choice  
2 people said that the school had **some** impact
4. 6 people said that their school **had tried or were** supportive  
2 people said that their school **was not** supportive
5. 7 of the 8 respondees took part in other sports or activities
6. "Only outdoor sports offered"  
"Huge selection of sports offered"  
"A lot of sport was offered and students were encouraged to take part"  
"A range of sports was offered but only sports that catered for a lot of participants"  
"The school was supportive"  
"I was not encouraged or developed"

## OBSERVATIONS

- 1 The schools that did respond provided some useful information and it was apparent that a lot of good work was being done by them to provide a wide variety of sport and physical activity for their students.
- 2 Approximately 50% of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award winners responded and it was apparent that **much of their** success was due to their own efforts, support from their families and, **in some cases**, support from their school.
- 3 The responses also indicated that the interest that they had in a sport began between five and ten years of age, often because a family member played.
- 4 Information may be available from the County Council which, should this topic be revisited, may be helpful in providing background to the review.
- 5 Some of the schools expressed an interest in attending a meeting to provide more information and to answer questions from the sub-committee. Members will be pleased to extend an invitation to them should the topic be revisited.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That no further work be done on this topic at this time.
2. That a review of the outcomes from Public Health projects on obesity in young people be undertaken in twelve months.
3. That a review of the effectiveness of the revised Queen's Diamond Jubilee Awards scheme be conducted in twelve months, particularly in relation to encouraging children into sport via "beginner" grants.
4. Subject to the outcomes of the two items above, the sub-committee will decide whether to reconvene in order to pursue this topic. The decision will be based on all of the information available and consideration of whether the sub-committee could formulate recommendations that might be welcomed and adopted by the schools and/or the Schools Sports Partnership.

## THE NEXT STEPS

A copy of this report will be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 5 January 2016 and then to the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2016.

To undertake the reviews as detailed in this report.

## FINALLY

The Sub-Committee expressed its thanks to the schools and to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Awards winners who took the time to respond.

### Appendices

- A Notes from the meeting held on 17 February 2015
- B Notes from the meeting held on 23 June 2015

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Hertfordshire Child Health Profile
- Physical Activity E-Update
- Start Active, Stay Active
- Sport and Health: a review of UKactive's Steps to solving inactivity
- Sport and the Economy: generating a return on investment
- Papers from the Herts Sports and Physical Activity Partnership
- Press cuttings about the Olympic legacy
- Where next for local delivery of the Olympic legacy and community sport?