LEISURE AND SPORT – ACTIVE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

1. Reason for Report
This report seeks Members' approval for the continuation of the Active Schools initiative for a further three years across Dumfries and Galloway, subject to written confirmation from sportscotland of the external funding.

2. Report Summary
2.1 At the Education and Community Services Committee on 23 March 2004 Members;

- Agreed to the implementation of the Active Schools programme within Dumfries and Galloway as detailed within the report;

- Noted that the Council's match funding for the programme was already in place through the Quality of Life funding allocation and;

- Agreed to the recruitment of one Active Schools Manager, eleven Active School (Primary) Coordinators, and the continuation of sixteen part-time (0.2FTE) Active School (Secondary) Co-ordinators.

2.2 A significant amount of work in relation to the development of Active Schools across Dumfries and Galloway has been developed and implemented since this date. Details of the work undertaken by the Active Schools team can be found at section 10 of this report.

2.3 The report outlines proposals for the continuation of the Active Schools programme beyond its initial period of just over three years, which ends at 31 March 2008. This will require Members to agree to continue their current commitment to the scheme of £157k per annum, for a further three years.

3. Glossary of Terms
AESLT - Annandale and Eskdale Sports and Leisure Trust
HMIE - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education
INEA - Inspection of Education Authorities
NPAF - National Priorities Action Fund
PPP - Public Private Partnership School Development Programme
sportscotland - Scotland's national governing body for sport
SSMT - Schools Service Management Team
SSS Act 2000 - Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000
TOPS - Youth Sport Trust Physical Activity initiative
4. **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

4.1 note the success of the initial phase of the Active Schools programme, due to end on 31 March 2008;

4.2 note the minimum annual contribution of £433k from sportscotland which, subject to written confirmation from sportscotland, is available for a further three years starting 1 April 2008, subject to the Council making a continued commitment of £157k per annum; and

4.3 agree to commit £157k per annum for three years with effect from 1 April 2008, funded from monies currently within the National Priorities Action Fund.

5. **Corporate Plan Links and Contribution**

5.1 The development and delivery of Leisure and Sport activities within the community clearly links to the three key themes of Enterprising and Learning Communities, Inclusive Communities and Safe and Healthy Communities as detailed in the Dumfries and Galloway Council Corporate Plan 2004 – 2007.

5.2 Whilst the Council’s new Corporate Plan is not yet agreed, the continuation of Active Schools will continue to positively contribute towards meeting the objectives of the Council, its vision and values.

6. **Resources / Value for Money Assessment**

6.1 The Active Schools initiative was developed for an initial period of just over three years covering financial years 2004/05 (part), 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08. Over this period, the Council’s contribution of £470,250 has enabled us to draw down external funding through sportscotland of £1,430,750.

6.2 Following the outcome of the Scottish Government Spending Review, officers have been in discussion with sportscotland and are now awaiting written confirmation that the funding for Active Schools will continue for a further three years. Whilst still being finalised, the funding package is expected to require a continuation of the Council’s commitment of £157k per annum, which will attract a minimum contribution of £433k per annum from sportscotland for the same period. These figures are based on an expected annual inflationary increase in sportscotland funding. However, sportscotland is presently negotiating an increase in external match funding from Scottish Government in order to further enhance and develop the Active Schools programme. Regardless of whether the external funding increases, the Council’s required contribution will remain at £157k. This report recommends that Members agree to commit £157k per annum for three years, with effect from 1 April 2008, from monies currently within the National Priorities Action Fund.

6.3 During the past twelve months, the Active Schools Manager, together with appropriate members of his team, have presented Active School progress reports to each Area Committee across Dumfries and Galloway. These reports have been extremely positively received, the detail of which can again be found at section 10 of this report.
6.4 As an integral part of the Leisure and Sport Service, the Active Schools programme was included within the Best Value Assessment of Leisure and Sport, which was undertaken during 2006. The results of the Best Value Assessment were presented to the Education and Community Services Committee on 26 September 2006. A further report in relation to the progress of the Leisure and Sport Improvement Plan was presented to the Education and Community Services Committee on 23 October 2007. The Best Value Assessment of Leisure and Sport, together with the two aforementioned Committee papers, recognised the excellent work undertaken by the Active Schools initiative across Dumfries and Galloway. The Best Value Assessment also acknowledges the excellent value for money that the Active Schools initiative brings as a result of the significant external funding drawn down from sportscotland in order to implement the initiative.

6.5 During the INEA (HMle) local authority inspection in November 2006, the success of the Active Schools programme was highlighted. The report recognised "very good liaison between Schools Services and Leisure and Sport has resulted in increased participation by young people in physical education and activity".

7. Risk Assessment
7.1 The continuation of the Active Schools initiative will enable the Leisure and Sport Service to deliver the outcomes as detailed within the Leisure and Sport Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway 2006 – 2010. In addition, the Active Schools initiative positively contributes towards the following Scottish Government priorities:

- "Scotland’s Health, a challenge to us all" published by the Scottish Executive 2003,
- "Developing Health Promoting Schools in Dumfries and Galloway" (2003),

7.2 The recently signed Concordat between Scottish Government and COSLA confirmed that the ring fencing of the National Priorities Action Fund will be removed for 2008/09. There is therefore a risk that the current level of NPAF will not be available to School Services to fund this £157k commitment for the three years from 2008/09.

8. Authorities and Legal Implications
8.1 The SSS Act 2000 introduced a duty on Education Authorities to seek continuous improvement in relation to all aspects of the Education Service. It is, therefore, an expectation that both those staffed based in schools and those who are centrally deployed will collectively play their part in securing this continuous improvement, with particular reference to the HMle Report.

8.2 The Active Schools initiative is an integral part of the Leisure and Sport Service and as such features prominently within the Leisure and Sport Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway 2006 – 2010, which was agreed by Members at the Education and Community Services Committee on 25 April 2006.
9. Consultation
The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments incorporated:-

- Corporate Director for Corporate Services
- Director of Finance
- Area Managers
- Schools Services Management Team

10. Background
10.1 As a Leisure and Sport regionwide initiative, the Active Schools programme has been developed and delivered across all areas of Dumfries and Galloway. This includes the Annandale and Eskdale area where other elements of the Leisure and Sport service are provided, on behalf of the Council, by the Annandale and Eskdale Sports and Leisure Trust. The Active Schools initiative within Annandale and Eskdale has been delivered by and is the responsibility of the Council's own Leisure and Sport team.

10.2 The strategic objectives of Active Schools are:

- Increased sport and physical activity participation amongst school aged children, with a focus on inclusion.
- To create a national network that will allow all 32 local authorities to effectively support the delivery of Active Schools.
- To develop and strengthen links with a wider partnership network, at national and local level e.g. health, education, transport, community and voluntary sector.

10.3 Active Schools is developed through:

- Investing in local authorities which have a corporate approach, across education, sport and health, to the development of physical activity and sport.
- Investing in people – Active School Coordinators (Primary and Secondary) and Active Schools Managers.
- Investing in tools of engagement/national resources – TOPS.
- Investing in infrastructure – facilities.
- Influencing Big Lottery funding and supporting the implementation of PPP plans.

10.4 With the support of sportscotland, a comprehensive monitoring programme of the Active Schools network in Dumfries and Galloway has been ongoing. The following information highlights the significant numbers of children taking part in physical activity and sport through the comprehensive extra curricular and lunchtime sessions related to Active Schools.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACADEMIC YEAR</th>
<th>PRIMARY PARTICIPANT SESSIONS</th>
<th>SECONDARY PARTICIPANT SESSIONS</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>45,379</td>
<td>97,107</td>
<td>142,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>228,104</td>
<td>93,773</td>
<td>321,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>228,917</td>
<td>81,909</td>
<td>310,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>502,400</td>
<td>272,789</td>
<td>775,189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures for 2007/08 academic year are not yet available.

The above sessions include a vast range of contrasting activities from dance, cheerleading, indoor rowing and lacrosse to more traditional sports. Furthermore, Active Schools Coordinators at primary and secondary level are now embedded within the school culture and through established local partnerships have taken forward a number of exciting projects increasing opportunities for school aged children to adopt active and healthy lifestyles. Examples of these have included;

10.4.1 The Active Schools programme being an integral element to Dumfries and Galloway Council’s nationally endorsed mainstreaming approach to Health Promoting Schools. Evidence of collaborative working with Active Schools Coordinators is required as part of the quality improvement planning cycle audit tool for schools.

10.4.2 A pilot study from the Active Schools National Evaluation, taking a sample of local pupils, identified an increase of 14% for primary pupils achieving the national recommendation of 60 minutes activity per day, rising from 56% to 73%.

10.4.3 An Active Schools project team has been established, comprising all key partner agencies of Leisure and Sport, Schools Services, NHS Dumfries and Galloway and sportscotland, to support and manage implementation of the programme.

10.4.4 Active Schools Coordinators (Primary) are key members of the multi-agency Integrated Community School cluster groups developing the health and well-being agenda across school clusters.

10.4.5 Developing a strong partnership with Scotland’s National Youth Dance Agency ‘Y Dance’ to provide innovative dance opportunities for young people, particularly girls. Over 400 youngsters accessed week long dance workshops during school holiday periods and 39 school teachers and Active Schools Coordinators attended Y Dance in-service training workshops to ensure sustainability.

10.4.6 Establishing the ‘Community Sports Leaders Award’ in six secondary schools, which allows senior pupils to achieve a nationally recognised sporting qualification through the PE programme. Over 70 pupils have benefited from this initiative and are then required to volunteer to support Active Schools activities within the primary sector to complete the award.

10.4.7 During academic year 2006/07, Active Schools Coordinator (Primary) recruited a total of 41 volunteers from across the community to support the delivery of physical activities within the primary sector.
10.4.8 A number of targeted initiatives have been developed to increase the participation of girls and inactive children in physical activities. This has included the nationally recognised 'Girls in Sport' programme in Stranraer which received £1400 revenue funding from the Big Lottery Fund and was recently showcased at the Scottish Health Promoting Schools Conference.

10.4.9 Establishing strong partnerships with the senior football clubs in Dumfries and Galloway including a comprehensive Queen of the South school visit programme which involved 69 primary schools and over 3,000 children during 2006/07. Gretna FC have continued to support the innovative ‘Lets Get Active’ programme in Annandale and Eskdale with senior players working with Active Schools Coordinators to offer family activities for less active children. Stranraer FC have also developed a strong community focus working with local schools and developing relationships with Active Schools Co-ordinators.

10.4.10 A playground leaders programme now operates across the region tutoring upper primary pupils to lead playground games for the lower primary during breaktime. To date in excess of 1,000 pupils have been trained as playground leaders.

10.4.11 Developing stronger links between schools and local sports club to ensure a pathway exists to continue participation. Key examples include Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club, Wigtownshire Rugby Club and Thornhill Tennis Club.

10.4.12 Establishing district PE partnerships comprising Active Schools Coordinators, PE specialists and Sports Development Officers to ensure coherent planning and avoidance of duplication for delivery of physical activity opportunities.

10.4.13 During 2006 and early 2007, Active Schools progress reports were presented to each of the seven area committees where all of them ‘noted and/or welcomed the progress made in delivering the Active Schools programme’ in their locality.

11. Staffing Implications
11.1 The Active Schools programme, as proposed, will result in the continued employment of:

- One Active Schools Manager
- Eleven Active School (Primary) Coordinators (employed on SJC terms and conditions)

11.2 Following the national Active Schools evaluation, a key barrier highlighted for future progress was a lack of available time for secondary coordinators. A national review group was established to consider this issue and, as a result, it is proposed that the current delivery mechanism within the secondary school sector be changed to ensure a more flexible and cost effective approach is adopted. This change will be driven at national level by sportscotland and it is proposed that staff delivering the secondary model will now be employed on SJC terms and conditions of service, rather than on teachers’ terms and conditions. sportscotland is currently negotiating with Scottish Government for increased resources to expand the secondary programme and any additional cost associated with developing the secondary model will be met by external funding and will not require a further financial contribution from local Councils.
11.3 It is also proposed that the Council builds on the success of Active Schools over the past three years at local level by developing a more efficient, economic and effective management structure, based on a decentralised model. This will see the senior Leisure and Sport Managers in each geographical area taking a responsibility for managing the Active Schools programme to ensure continued integration and coordination at local level. The existing Active Schools Manager will continue with a strategic lead for Active Schools but will also take responsibility for certain aspects of wider Leisure and Sport service delivery in one geographical area.

Richard Grieveson  
Operations Manager – Leisure and Sport  
Date of Report: 27 November 2007  
File Ref: L/LSSMT(1)(5)(5) CC/0001

Stewart Atkinson  
Group Manager Community Services  
Education, Social Work and Community Services  
Woodbank, 30 Edinburgh Road  
DUMFRIES, DG1 1NW

Background Papers:

1. Report dated 2 March 2004 – Active Schools considered at the Education and Community Services Committee – 23 March 2004;


14. "Scotland’s Health – A Challenge To Us All" published by the Scottish Executive in 2003;
