

CROSS PARTY GROUP (CPG) ON SCOTLAND'S UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

12.30-14.00 on Thursday 17 September 2015, Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

Note of Meeting

Present:

Elizabeth Smith MSP	Scottish Parliament	CPG Convener
Iain Gray MSP	Scottish Parliament	CPG Deputy Convener
James Adams	Ayrshire College	
Angela Alexander	Ayrshire College	
Emily Beever	NUS Scotland	
Philip Brown	Colleges Scotland	
Susan Brown	Edinburgh Napier University	
Andrea Cameron	Abertay University	
Douglas Chalmers	UCU Scotland	
Julie Clark	University of Glasgow	
Jane Culpan	Queen Margaret University Edinburgh	
Roisin-Alana Di Giacomo	Glasgow Caledonian University	
John Davidson	North East Scotland College	
Stewart Fowlie	Scottish Student Sport	
Raleigh Gowrie	University of Stirling	
Daire Guilfoyle	Edinburgh Napier University	
Ade Kearns	University of Glasgow	
Susannah Lane	Universities Scotland	
Finlay MacCorquodale	Edinburgh Napier University	
Matthew MacIver	University of the Highlands and Islands	
John McTaggart	Ayrshire College	
Jess Morris	University of Stirling	
Ewan Mowat	Winning Students	
Ian Lowe	Dundee Academy of Sport	
Jonny Ross-Tatam	Edinburgh University Students' Association	
Jane Scott	Queen Margaret University Edinburgh	
Marina Sergeeva	Edinburgh University Sports Union	
Alastair Sim	Universities Scotland	
Heather Sloan	Universities Scotland	
Sheena Stewart	Abertay University	
Patricia Swan	North East Scotland College	
Sophie Walker	Scottish Parliament	
Andrew Witty	Colleges Scotland	
James Wilson	Universities Scotland	

Apologies:

Stewart Maxwell MSP	Scottish Parliament
Mary Scanlon MSP	Scottish Parliament
Hugh Henry MSP	Scottish Parliament
Terry Brotherstone	University of Aberdeen
Joanne Buchan	Colleges Scotland
Grant Jarvie	University of Edinburgh
Dr Judith McClure	SCEN
Rob Wallen	North East Scotland College

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Convenor

The Convenor, welcomed everyone to the twenty-second meeting of the Cross Party Group (CPG). The Convenor thanked the organisers of the Game Changer Awards for sponsoring the lunch for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Introduction to the topic of the potential power of sport and education

The Convenor introduced the speakers on the topic of the potential power of sport and education, and told the CPG that copies of the newly published Game Changer Awards Legacy Brochure have been made available to attendees. The Convenor said the Game changer Awards Legacy Brochure is an inspiring production for the legacy of the XX Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Mr John McTaggart and Mr James Adams, Ayrshire College – Sporting Contribution to the Local Community

Mr McTaggart and Mr Adams presented to the CPG on Ayrshire College's Sporting Contribution to the Local Community project, which won the joint silver Game Changer Award in the Sporting Contribution category.

The CPG heard that Ayrshire College's vision is to raise aspirations for all in the college and local community. Ayrshire College sports students coach and assist over 600 young people in eight different activities over a week-long series of events. As a result of this partnership with Scottish Disability Sport, the college is offering a Level 6 qualification in Inclusive Sport Leadership in association with the organisation. This means that the college and students are giving something

back to the community, which is positive for the students, children and other groups in society. Young students with additional support needs have also been taking part in weekly workout sessions at Ayrshire College coached by a group of volunteer HND Fitness students.

The college's flexibility was shown when it provided volunteers to cover a Davis Cup Event after organisers were let down by a company.

The CPG heard that the MEND group (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it!) is a programme for overweight and obese children and their families. This is a great opportunity for parents, children and siblings to exercise together and at the same time gives the HND Fitness students a unique and rewarding learning experience. Three lecturers and five HND Fitness students have teamed up with the NHS to receive training and will now roll out a three-month weight management programme which will benefit staff, students and the wider community.

Other community involvement included a project when the Glasgow Rocks visited East Ayrshire to spot basketball talent in primary schools. Ayrshire College students were on hand to support and coach the pupils for free over a six-week period. An event was held at the end of the six-week period for pupils to compete.

Professor Ade Kearns, University of Glasgow – GoWell in the East End (GoEast)

Professor Kearns presented to the CPG on the University of Glasgow's GoWell in the East End research project, which won a joint gold Game Changer Award in the Research Impact category.

The CPG heard that the project is the only before and after study of a host community of a multi-sports event. GoEast is a five-year long research project into the legacy impact of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games on the residents of the east end of Glasgow. Professor Kearns explained the profile of the East End of Glasgow – six communities that are all different to each other, where employment is low and there is lots of ill-health. On the research timeline, Professor Kearns explained that they are currently in the midst of the study which is running to 2017.

Findings on the economic legacy of Glasgow 2014 in the East End include a reduction in derelict land and 5% of households gained from new jobs found in the area. There was a low progression rate from volunteering and training to employment. Professor Kearns said pathways to employment needs to serve the whole of Glasgow but needs to be scaled up to impact the East End. Looking at the tourism multiplier, there is little in the East End to keep investments because there is nowhere for tourists to stay.

On the physical activity legacy, there have been no good indicators so far showing progress in the East End of Glasgow. Professor Kearns said a small number of people have been inspired to play more sports, but researchers need to repeat the survey to see if that has continued. Pupils at schools in deprived areas play sport, but the research found that their schools offer less variety. Importantly, the more sports pupils try, the more likely they are to find one that they enjoy. On-screen time was

also measured, with one in eight children in deprived areas spending 10 hours of the day on a screen.

On future pathways, Professor Kearns told the CPG that it is important to get more groups, such as the elderly and those with health conditions, to use sports venues and facilities. There needs to be a change in mind-set for people to know that these facilities are there for them, too. Social club and schools are also important. Out-of-school activities are important for learners, but East End children do not have the same transport options as pupils from more advantaged areas, which means the school budget might be put under pressure to provide these.

On the sustainability legacy, the research has found more people are feeling safe in the East End. However, some areas are still unkempt and progress to change this has been slow. Some 60% of people have noticed a difference of activities in the area, so it is important to maintain momentum on the use of derelict land. The image of the area also needs more attention from culture and the arts. The Games changed other people's perceptions of the area – some people were visiting the East End for the first time.

The next steps for the project will be to continue the practice of continuous feedback, keeping the people of the East End in the loop about the impact of Glasgow 2014 on them and their area. Professor Kearns said the team does not want attention on the East End to drop just because the Games have come to an end. There is a need to ensure that the investment in, and attention on, the East End of Glasgow continues.

As the area continues its regeneration following the Games, another indirect legacy impact has been the University of Glasgow's decision to relocate some staff to the Olympia building in the east end. A team of 15 staff covering five of the University's schools and nine of its research centres will share space with staff from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Ms Patricia Swan, North East Scotland College – 2014 Legacy Coaching Schools Project

Ms Swan presented on the college's 2014 Legacy coaching Schools Project, which won a Gold Game Changer Award in the Sporting Contribution Category.

Ms Swan said the project provided a number of benefits for students including qualifications, employment and real experience coaching at schools and clubs. A quality coaching experience was prepared for students to teach to school children. Training certificates were awarded to students from key governing body coaching courses, so that schools had the confidence in what students could deliver to their pupils.

The coordination of the project was a big task for the college and support was provided by the Sport Aberdeen Active Schools team. Some 240 hours of coaching was delivered by the college students with minimal disruption to their teaching timetables. Ms Swan explained that a variety of sports were offered to school pupils, which allowed them to enjoy a broad range of sports and identify what they are good at.

The college can point to a number of coaching legacies from the project including the fact that Club Golf reached its participation target thanks to the student contribution. College students could also enhance their coaching skills through the relationship North East Scotland College has with Aberdeen Football Club. This link could lead to employment for many students.

Further developments from the project include more students articulating from the college to study at Robert Gordon University and a number of students who participated in the project gaining local employment. The college has also had more involvement collaborating with partners for the Aberdeen Youth Games to make a bigger event that can be recreated annually. Students and staff have also taken up volunteer opportunities at large sporting events, including Glasgow 2014. Students from the college have also started to contribute to street sport events in areas of deprivation in Aberdeen, which gives young people positive role models. Finally, in the next session a street gym will start up and give membership to young people who cannot afford gym membership.

Mr Raleigh Gowrie and Ms Jess Morris, University of Stirling – Stirling Disability Tennis Programme

Mr Gowrie and Ms Morris presented on the University of Stirling's Stirling Disability Tennis Programme, which won a Bronze Game Changer Award in the Student Achievement category.

Ms Morris is the Sports President at the University of Stirling and the institution has 53 active sports clubs. Ms Morris said the University has a passion for sport and making access available for all. Ms Morris said the Stirling Disability Tennis Programme was an idea led by two undergraduate students at the University. It started as a one-off event run by students. The programme started with six students taking a disability awareness course and has now expanded with the tennis club of 150 members. The combination of Glasgow 2014 with the Disability Tennis Programme inspired many more disability clubs at the University and there has been year-on-year progress in participation rates. Ms Morris said a brand new club would be starting in September 2015 at the University to bring more people both with and without a disability together to compete on a level playing field.

Mr Gowrie told the CPG that education through sport makes a valuable contribution to social capital and brings agencies together for social good. Mr Gowrie said the University's students have been resourceful and the project has given them opportunities to develop skills and said further thought should be given to how students are best used to deliver this kind of project.

Mr Gowrie said that universities and colleges could look to deliver more social development projects and told the CPG that institutions are key to so much more than just delivering degrees and other qualifications. More research needs to be done to measure the impact of projects undertaken by institutions, with the University of Glasgow's GoWell in the East End project an excellent example of how it can be done.

4. Discussion

The Convenor acknowledged the fantastic work of all the projects the CPG had heard about at the day's meeting.

The Group participated in a lively discussion on issues including the development of school facilities, the role the University of Glasgow is playing in arts and culture in the East End of Glasgow, how you link student sport to local communities, and how to encourage participation of a diverse range of students in sport at colleges and universities.

5. Date and topic of next meeting

The Convener advised the Group that the CPG will next meet on Thursday, 3 December 2015, 12.30 – 2.00 pm in Committee Room 4 of the Scottish Parliament.

The Convener said the meeting on 3 December will explore how well school qualifications prepare students to study at college and university. Speakers will include Sir Andrew Cubie who will talk to the Group about his ideas around the use of gap years.

The Convener welcomed suggestions for future meeting topics from Group members.

The Convenor thanked all of the speakers and attendees for their contributions.

Meeting closed.