

SCHOOL GAMES REVIEW
NOVEMBER 2016 - UPDATE

Sporting Future recognised the contribution of the School Games programme but signalled that the time was right to review the future priorities of the programme.

Government and Sport England, working with the Youth Sport Trust as the current delivery partner, will assess the effectiveness and future priorities of the School Games, ensuring that it is appropriately positioned within the wider context of the new strategy for sport. This will take place before the Level 4 Finals in 2016.

Sporting Future (Dec 2015)

Sport England established a task and finish group to complete the review working in three distinct phases; desk top review, consultation with partners and others; and the formation of recommendations.

On 10 August 2016 Sport England published the Executive Summary, which concluded that the School Games is well placed to make a strong contribution to delivering the five strategic outcomes set by Sporting Future and the ambitions of Sport England's strategy, Towards an Active Nation. The report set out a number of recommendations in order to maximise the value and impact of the School Games.

Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust have met with Government Departments to plan implementation of the recommendations. These are now underway and will be monitored by the School Games Project Board. An annual report on the progress towards fully implementing the recommendations will be included in the Government's annual report to Parliament on Sporting Future.

The following table set out each of the 17 recommendations and provides a succinct update regarding each as of **November 2016**.

Recommendation 1

Update the vision and mission for the School Games to clarify the competition levels to avoid confusion around progression and to ensure the games maximises the impact against the five Sporting Future outcomes.

- New vision and mission established
- Actions being undertaken to further circulate and raise awareness of updated vision and mission
- Content publicised for School Games Organisers and others at SGO Summit (10 Nov 2016)
- **Action completed**

Recommendation 2

Formats, guidance and training support across all levels of the School Games will be refreshed to ensure they fully support the ambitions of 'Towards an active nation' and in particular:

- engender a sense of competence;
 - promote enjoyment regardless of youngsters' level of ability; and
 - avoid negative/bad experiences of competitive school sport.
- Principles being incorporated into all existing documents and resources
 - School Games sports formats to be refreshed (by summer 2017)
 - Principles built in to support programmes/guidance for School Games Organisers and Local Organising Committees (by Easter 2017)
 - Content publicised for School Games Organisers and others at SGO Summit (10 Nov 2016)

Recommendation 3

Volunteering opportunities across all levels of the School Games should be further strengthened to ensure better pathways to enable children to continue volunteering after they leave school and to maximise synergies with Sport England's new volunteering strategy.

- Sport England and Youth Sport Trust to develop volunteering guidance and disseminate (January 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 4

In order to increase the number and diversity of children participating in the School Games and as guided by Sporting Future call for more effort and resource to be devoted to those not currently participating in sport or physical activity:

- ensure better utilisation of digital technology and social media; and
- expand the opportunities for personal best challenges.
- Youth Sport Trust developing a digital platform aimed at young people not currently participating
- 10 schools recruited and receiving initial briefings. Pilot work to begin from Jan 2017 onwards
- Evaluation to be completed and inform future developments (by summer 2017)

Recommendation 5

Clarify and set expectations for competition calendars (for example, the number of sports, the number of leagues and so on).

- Scoping options for competition expectations underway
- Youth Sport Trust carried out scoping with consultation groups including; Local Organising Committees, National Governing Bodies of Sport, and School Games Organisers
- Testing options with School Games Organisers (Feb 2017)
- Approach confirmed (Mar 2017)
- Networks to be informed and upskilled (Apr-Jul 2017)
- Implementation (Sept 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 6

Building on best practice, ensure all County Festivals inspire sustained participation through delivering aspirational events which include an exhibition/fair promoting local community sports clubs and activities to improve transition between school and community sports settings.

- Participation pathway question built in to L3 development plans for 2016/17 academic year (Aug 2016)
- Sport England discussing with CSPN who will consult with County Sports Partnerships (Nov-Dec 2016)
- Consideration of best practice for community exit routes (on-going)
- Implementation (Sept 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 7

The LOC guidance should be updated to maximise the impact on the five Sporting Future outcomes.

- LOC guidance being updated and new content collated (by Mar 2017)
- New best practice focussed guidance to be issued and implemented (Apr 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 8

The LOC lead, CPD and networking programme should be refreshed to focus on sharing effective practice plus how best to impact on the five Sporting Future outcomes.

- Consultation with LOCs (CSPs and LYG) underway, including detailed content at SGO Summit (10 Nov 2016)
- Implementation of good practice sharing programme (Apr 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 9

Evolve the School Games Mark to include criteria which rewards schools for;

- involving their pupils in planning and delivering the competition offer; and
- supporting exit routes for their pupils into community activities.

- Evolved criteria for 2016/17 developed (Nov 2016)
- Finalise and launch 2016/17 criteria (Jan 2017)
- 2016/17 application window opens (May 2017 onwards)
- Continued evolution and updating of School Games Mark (Sept 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 10

High level KPIs should be established for SGOs, reported on, published and used as part of their performance management. This should be embedded as an award condition.

[Please note – these largely mirror Recommendation 5]

- Award condition added in new grant agreement for SGO hosts (Aug 2016)
- Scoping options for KPI expectations underway
- Testing of options with SGOs (Jan-Feb 2017)
- Approach to be confirmed (Mar 2017)
- Networks to be informed and upskilled (Apr-Jul 2017)
- Implementation (Sept 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 11

Guidance to be issued to SGOs on how they should separate and promote the free School Games offer from any charged for services. This should be embedded as an award condition.

- Award condition added in new grant agreement for SGO hosts (Aug 2016)
- More specific guidelines to be developed (Jan 2017)
- Testing of guidelines (Jan-Mar 2017)
- Upskill and inform SGO network (Apr-Jul 2017)

Recommendation 12

An SGO Line Manager toolkit should be produced to improve performance management, and professional development offered to maximise the impact on the five Sporting Future outcomes and educational outcomes.

- Compile the offer for line managers (Dec 2016)
- Offer to be publicised and circulated (Jan 2017)
- Implement professional development support (Apr 2017 onwards)

Recommendation 13

In accordance with the call within Sporting Future to drive efficiencies, reduce the reliance on the public purse for those already benefiting regularly from sport drive down the cost of the finals event.

- Work underway by Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust to identify and implement further cost savings whilst maintaining the quality of the competition and athlete experience (underway and ongoing)
- Discussion underway with event host (Loughborough University)
- Organising Committee considering plans

Recommendation 14

The four Home Nations Sports Councils should contribute an appropriate level of funding to the finals event subject to their number of athletes and size of support teams.

- Discussions to take place across Home Countries at senior level (to be completed by Sep 2017)
- Officers to progress operational details for 2017 event (underway and ongoing)

Recommendation 15

Non -Olympic and Paralympic sports should potentially be able to take part in the national finals.

- Review of sports to take place, at which point non-Olympic/Paralympic sports to be considered for inclusion (to be completed by Sep 2017)

Recommendation 16

Ahead of the 2017 finals, review which sports and athletes participate in the event:

- for athletes it should benefit home country or British Team talent pools; and
- for sports it should benefit their talent pathway and competition structures with the finals fully integrated into pathways and structures rather than being a duplication.

Sports already participating within the School Games National Finals who do not meet the above criteria will be given the chance to adapt their participation in the finals.

- Review of sports to take place, at which point other sports to be considered for inclusion (to be completed by Sep 2017)

Recommendation 17

Where appropriate and requested by the sport, other UK school championships or finals could be badged as part of a School Games national finals family of events providing they align with the principle of being part of the talent pathway for the most talented school age athletes (not school teams). This could extend the envelope of this level of the Games.

- Sport England considering process by which this may be implemented (to be completed by Sep 2017)