



**EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**

**ACTIVE SCHOOLS 2011-15**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Education Executive about continuing to support the next four years of Active Schools delivering across schools and communities in West Lothian.

**B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Note the offer of partnership investment from sportscotland of £1,415,760 over the period 2011-2015

The Education Executive is asked to note the content of this report and approve the next 4 years of Active Schools in West Lothian.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Being honest, open and accountable
	Making best use of our resources
	Working in partnership
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	None
<b>III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Annually
	£353,940– sportscotland
	£150,000 – West Lothian Council
<b>IV Consultations</b>	West Lothian Council <b>Sportscotland</b> Culture & Leisure PDSP

## D. TERMS OF REPORT

### 1 Background Information

In February 2003, Blackridge Primary School hosted the Scottish Executive launch of the National Physical Activity Strategy, one of the key documents in Scotland's battle against the increasing levels of inactive, unfit and overweight Scottish people. Active Schools, one of the four areas defined within the strategy, was seen as a key driving force in promoting positive change across primary and secondary schools in Scotland.

Although phase one (2004-07) and phase 2 (2008-11) saw changes to the structure and practices of Active Schools, the constant thread running throughout has remained the fundamental aim "to offer children and young people the opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles, now and into adulthood".

The key outcomes of Active Schools are to:

- Increase opportunities for all children and young people to be engaged in physical activity and sport
- Strengthen pathways to participation and performance through developing sustainable school to community links

### 2 Active Schools in West Lothian

The 13 FTE Active Schools staff which West Lothian currently employs, work across all 11 secondary school areas and have an important role to play in bringing together key local partners to create a comprehensive approach to physical activity and sport. This collaborative approach works towards ensuring sustainable involvement in physical activity and sport for all children and young people in West Lothian.

Over the past seven years, Active Schools has introduced and developed a range of coordinated programmes across West Lothian e.g. TOPS, CPD training, Fit for Girls, Clubgolf, festivals, Champions in Schools etc. This coordinated approach has provided a wider understanding of healthy lifestyles, both in theory and practice.

Figures from termly monitoring returns demonstrate the success of Active Schools through increasing participation figures and in the number of volunteers:

2008-09	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Participation Primary:	2677	2221	3087
Secondary:	1183	1319	792
Volunteers:	46	44	74

#### 2009-10

Participation Primary:	3101	2862	3183
Secondary:	1296	1040	765
Volunteers:	152	94	109

### **3 Active Schools 2011 – 15**

In previous years, Active Schools and Sports Development have worked together in a number of areas, to support both council and local area targets. In this challenging economic climate where services are being down sized, Sport & Outdoor Education need to identify priority areas of work, based on the council's strategic objectives and local needs. Active Schools and Sports Development will focus on an integrated planning approach to ensure Sport & Outdoor Education deliver to schools and communities as effectively as possible. Active Schools and Sports Development will together produce an integrated School and Community Sport plan for West Lothian

2011-15 will also see stronger links and working practices developed with West Lothian Leisure e.g. planning meetings with West Lothian Leisure are already underway to look at Easter and Summer Holiday programmes.

This paper was received positively by members when it was presented to Culture & Leisure PDSP on 16 December 2010.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

The Active Schools Network across Scotland has around 420 managers and coordinators working with schools and communities to help make sure children start active and stay active. Since the launch of Active Schools in 2004 monitoring statistics and independent evaluations have shown Active Schools has made a considerable impact on increasing opportunities for children and young people to participate in physical activity and sport.

West Lothian Active Schools have an important role to play in continuing to bring together key local partners to create a comprehensive, and coordinated, approach to physical activity and sport.

Together with Sports Development, Active Schools will deliver an integrated plan which demonstrates, not only a positive approach to working across three of the key life stages (Early Years, School Age Children, Young People) but will also deliver a quality service which maximises efficiencies to provide a more focussed approach to the delivery of physical activity and sport.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Sheila McEwan, Active Schools Manager, Strathbrock Partnership Centre, 189a West Main Street, Broxburn, West Lothian.

Tel: 01506 774739

[sheila.mcewan@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.mcewan@westlothian.gov.uk)

Alistair Shaw, Head of Area Services

Tuesday 11 January 2011