

Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Physical Education and School Sport Strategy group

Background:

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games inspired the whole country to enjoy sport and recognise the wider benefits that performing, participating and being involved in physical activity can bring. A real momentum was achieved from the Games that has meant that ensuring a tangible legacy is important to people up and down the country, and most importantly, a legacy that has impact and outcomes on young people.

Government commitment to this is shown by their investment into primary school PE and sport which is unusually characterised by being comprised of funding from 3 departments; Education, Health and Culture, Media & Sport. This is important because it indicates that there is a belief in Whitehall that improving PE and school sport can have an impact in all of these areas of young people's achievements. Indeed, increasingly more research is being published that confirms the link between physical activity and academic achievement, as well as the more obvious health, well being and physical development outcomes.

PE and sport have an important role in raising standards and closing the achievement gap. Schools with strong PE and sport as part of a broad and balanced curriculum have been shown to perform higher academically, have high attendance and good behaviour. High quality provision leads to the development of characteristics such as confidence, determination and resilience, as well as life skills including communication, leadership and teamwork. High quality provision also encourages an interest and positive attitude towards physical activity that leads to life long performance and / or participation with the health and well being benefits this brings.

Therefore, ensuring that all young people experience high quality provision in Physical Education, physical activity and school sport is essential to them leading healthy active lives and achieving their full academic potential.

Equally, the importance of having a strong PE and sport provision is recognised by the current Ofsted framework. Schools cannot achieve 'outstanding' without being able to show that they are developing pupils' physical well being and will be judged 'inadequate' if they can't. Sport is explicitly mentioned as an important part of a school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision, a key part of inspection reports. Similarly, recent announcements from the inspectorate suggest that changes made to the framework in the near future will demand more attention on the balance and breadth of the whole curriculum offer and how this leads to the overall personal development of pupils. For primary schools a key part of the inspection remains on the provision and impact of their additional PE & sport funding. Therefore, an understanding of how to deliver effective PE and sport is also important to school leaders in terms of their accountability processes.

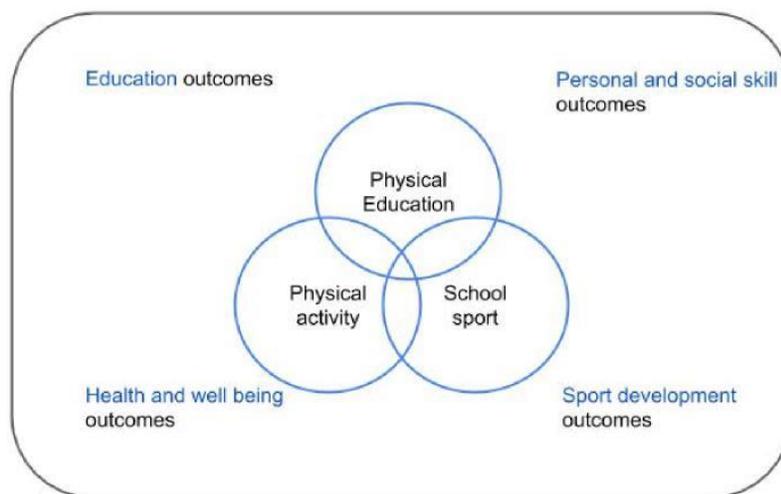
Other areas across the country have proved that when schools work strategically together, they can maximise resources, capacity and expertise and provide greater opportunities for their pupils. It is only through working together that we can ensure that no pupil misses out and truly deliver the range of activities that we want young people to experience. Working strategically also means that we can manage national and regional opportunities appropriately.



Therefore, CSW Sport and the Youth Sport Trust (YST) are keen to provide assistance to schools in CSW to improve their PE and sport offers by supporting the development of a 'PE and school sport strategy group' that will coordinate and develop activities to improve the quality and provision for all young people in CSW.

The strategy group is being developed to be representative of headteachers from primary, secondary and special schools from across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, as well as other key partners including Education Directorates and selected other individuals and organisations. It may need to be linked to other groups such as the CSW 'Local Organising Committee' for the School Games and organisations such as afPE (Association for Physical Education). This school-led structure is important if it is to achieve education and school improvement outcomes as well as health and sport outcomes.

The diagram below shows the range of school improvement outcomes that can be achieved through PE, physical activity and sport:



The agreed purpose of the group:

The group will work together to provide a strategic lead to develop improved educational achievement and health outcomes for young people across CSW through improved PE, physical activity and school sport.

It will coordinate activities and progress an agreed vision and set of objectives that will contribute to:

- * Supporting the development of excellence in Physical Education
- * Providing access to inspiring competition and school sport opportunities
- * Promoting lifelong participation in sport and physical activity

Terms of reference for the CSW PE and school sport strategy group:

- The strategy group will meet termly, ideally in schools, and the venue will rotate between Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.
- Each meeting will include 4 sections:
 - Brief national and regional updates - led by CSW County Sports Partnership and YST but could include other invited individuals / organisations
 - County (Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire) strategy meetings
 - Sharing good practice on a specified issue or topic
 - Planning next meeting - any invited speakers? Which key issue to share practice?
- Administrative and ongoing coordination support will be provided by CSW CSP and YST.
- Each county strategic group is to have a headteacher Chair.
- The role of chair lasts for one year.
- Nominations for these posts will be collated between Dec 2014 and 9th Feb 2015 and individuals will be elected on the February 2015 meeting.
- These posts will liaise with the YST and CSW CSP reps, plan and facilitate the meetings and be the priority point of contact for external agencies when required.
- The overall facilitation of each meeting will be led by the chair of the county group where the meeting is being held.
- The group membership will largely consist of school leaders. However, YST, CSW CSP and the 3 chairs will agree which other individuals and organisations will become full members or be invited to selected meetings.
- School representatives that are not headteachers will be attending directly on behalf of their head / principal teachers. It is expected that they have an appropriate level of decision-making responsibility within the school and attend to contribute their strategic school improvement expertise. The group may consider in the future to get headteachers to formally agree to this when sending representatives other than themselves. This is to ensure that the group remains focused on its strategic purpose and not become a forum to deal with PE / sport programme logistics.
- Each county group can invite additional selected individuals and organisations to their strategy group meetings.
- Each county group will be responsible for reviewing membership regularly and deciding on membership size and makeup for their strategy meetings.
- The agenda for each meeting will be pulled together by the chairs of each local group and YST / CSW CSP reps.
- The group will need to develop a communication / engagement plan.

Each county area will have to develop its own action plan which identifies priorities for development against the overall group objectives and actions / activities to be completed or monitored. Some suggested areas of focus:

1. Improve collaboration and infrastructure
2. Support school and education leaders to understand the benefits of high quality PE, physical activity and sport
3. Develop a clear Physical Education CPD offer and pathway
4. Increase the quality and quantity of competitive school sport opportunities
5. Increase the provision of health-enhancing high quality physical activities for the less active
6. Develop a talent ID and support programme
7. Develop a strategy for supporting schools to recruit quality coaches and deploy them appropriately

Actions may include activities such as:

Improve collaboration and infrastructure:

- Updates from SGO meetings are made to the strategic group each meeting
- SGO areas are mapped against additional 'partnership' offers for gaps to be identified

Support school and education leaders to understand the benefits of high quality PE, physical activity and sport:

- Develop a communication strategy to school leaders across CSW that highlights good practice and educational impacts of PE and sport across the region
- Develop a support package for primary headteachers on utilizing the PE and sport premium effectively

Develop a clear Physical Education CPD offer and pathway:

- Mapping of existing opportunities and publish availability in one document
- Set up PE networks where appropriate
- Identify 'leading practitioners' across the region and facilitate support where appropriate
- Work with Teaching Schools to develop PE development programmes

Increase the quality and quantity of competitive school sport opportunities:

- Ensure all schools in CSW are actively participating in Sainsbury's School Games
- Increase the provision of health-enhancing high quality physical activities for the less active
- Map existing provision and produce document showing opportunities
- Develop programme for identifying least active in CSW and undergo market research with these young people to understand the needs of the group in terms of physical activity

Develop a talent ID and support programme across CSW

- Design a CSW programme that identifies talented athletes and helps support them in their chosen sport, whilst balancing their academic and developmental needs

Develop a strategy for supporting schools to recruit quality coaches and deploy them appropriately

- Signpost headteachers to guidance for the effective recruitment and deployment of coaches
- Provide assistance to schools in interpreting and applying guidelines within the regional context

