

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

SUBJECT:	Kent School Games
-----------------	-------------------

AUTHOR:	Stephanie Holt - (Head of Countryside, Leisure and Sport Group - Environment, Planning and Enforcement Division)
----------------	--

DATE:	18/04/16
--------------	----------

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The biennial Kent School Games first began in 2008 as a Kent County Council Olympic and Paralympic legacy project to inspire schools and young people across Kent to participate in competitive school sport. The Kent School Games is a multi-sport competition open to all young people aged 4 – 18 in primary, secondary and special needs schools.

Off the back of the success of the Kent School Games, in 2012 the successful **national** annual School Games programme was launched.

Owing to budget pressures, KCC has cut the funding of the Kent School Games from £125, 000 in 15/16 to £100, 000 in this year 16/17 and is proposing to cut the budget further to £50, 000 from next financial year 17/18. This paper seeks to make the case to the SFF for £50, 000 of match funding for a three year period (17/18, 18/19 and 19/20)

The Kent School Games is part of the Kent Schools' legacy programme off the back of the 2012 Games, which the SFF has generously supported via our sister PRIDE and INSPIRE programmes. A separate report on INSPIRE's outcomes will be presented later this year to SFF.

FOR:	
-------------	--

1. Background

- a) Ofsted recognised the importance of competitive school sport in their June 2014 report 'Going the extra mile – excellence in competitive school sport'. Their findings are brought together in their executive summary which concludes that evidence shows that
 - a. "children's education is the poorer if they are deprived of the chance to compete. Children enjoy competition. It pushes them to do better and try harder. Of course, it also carries with it the risk of defeat, but how better to prepare pupils for the setbacks that life will inevitably throw at them? Not every child can or will go on to become a world champion, but every child will experience victories and defeats [in all aspects of their young and adult lives.]"
 - b. "Where competitive sport was undervalued by school leaders... these schools were less likely to be good or better and academic attainment was lower, typically, than in those with better competitive sport."

- c. "We believe that students attending maintained schools and academies deserve the same opportunities to excel as those in the independent sector and want to encourage schools, the government and other organisations to do more to make this happen."
- b) The biennial Kent School Games first began in 2008 as a Kent County Council Olympic and Paralympic legacy project to inspire schools and young people across Kent to participate in competitive school sport. The Kent School Games is a multi-sport competition open to all young people aged 4 – 18 in primary, secondary and special needs schools.
- c) Off the back of the success of the Kent School Games, in 2012 the national, annual School Games programme began (now titled Sainsbury's School Games).
- d) The 2014 Kent School Games Finals saw 6, 350 participants taking part in 65 finals events across 20 days at 12 venues covering 35 sporting activities. The main finals day took place at the University of Kent, Canterbury and Canterbury High School which together hosted 1, 290 participants taking part in nine sports supported by 140 young volunteers. The event was attended by high profile guests including the then Minister for Sport, Tourism & Equalities, an Olympic Swimmer who had been working with our Kent schools through Inspire, and Sport England representatives.
- e) In total, 30, 000 young people took part in the qualifying heats and trials leading up to these 2014 Finals. The heats and trials are managed by School Games Organisers who are principally funded by Youth Sport Trust.
- f) There are four levels to each year's School Games
 - i. Level 1 – Intra School competition. An individual school organises and funds this itself, and /or pays their local School Games Organiser to arrange and stage such competition in their chosen sports. KCC provide some financial support to the SGO network, as well as e.g. branding that can be borrowed. The SGO will charge the school for organising such Level 1 competition
 - ii. Level 2 – Inter School competition. Schools almost all pay their local School Games Organiser by buying into annual inter school sport competitions. Each school typically pays between £500 and £1500 PA, depending how much inter school competition they want to be a part of. This money is received by the organisers of the early (Levels 1 and 2) heats i.e. SGOs. Without these Heats, there could be no Finals
 - iii. Level 3 – County level competition (so called School Games Finals). This is what KCC's annual contribution largely pays for
 - iv. Level 4 is the National level competition and KCC is not involved in staging or funding these, but does play a role in working with national Governing Bodies of Sport to ensure young Kent competitors are part of this competition.
- g) The KCC Sport and Physical Activity Service through the Kent School Games programme has, in recent years, targeted inclusion of schools serving communities with higher health inequalities, and supporting schools to grow

the number of participating pupils with special educational needs. These efforts are particularly paying off with secondary school aged children, where by 2014, 11% of secondary aged participants in level 3 (i.e. County Finals) have stated social, behavioural or emotional SEN (compared to 6.2% of secondary aged population more generally), and 12% of secondary aged participants in level 3 (i.e. County Finals) have stated other SEN (compared to 7.0 % of secondary aged population more generally). Work is underway to determine the impact of these efforts at the Level 2 (Inter School) stages of the Kent School Games for 2016's competition.

- h) The KCC Sport and Physical Activity Service raises up to £25, 000 of local sponsorship per annum to contribute to the staging of the Kent School Games
- i) The KCC budget of £100, 000 PA pays not only for the Kent School Games but the biennial Cultural Celebration
- j) Under the tutelage of the Creative Director since its 2008 inception, young performers from Kent have achieved considerable success and a significant number of young people have changed the course of their lives for the better through this Celebration. The celebration has an ethos that the skills learned when accessing subjects such as music, drama and dance can achieve extraordinary results, similar to their sporting sister programme, in terms of raising self-esteem, improving communication skills, learning to listen and engage, and modifying behaviour. The early auditions and heats are designed to identify and showcase the very best artistic young talent in our county, but also very deliberately to target young people at risk of becoming disaffected and disengaged, and re-engaging them through the Arts, and very specifically this Cultural Celebration. 150 young people on average successfully audition to reach the Celebration evening in front of an audience in excess of 700.

2. **Recommendation**

- a) The Sport and Physical Activity Service has set itself some challenging commercial targets, which has enabled it to meet the reduction in the Kent School Games budget from £125, 000 to £100, 000, as part of an overall reduction in the Service's budget of 70% since 11/12.
- b) The Kent Schools' Funding Forum is kindly requested to consider whether it will match fund Kent County Council's contribution to the Kent School Games of £50, 000 for each of 17/18, 18/19 and 19/20