

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	25 September 2013
Title:	Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme
Reference:	5133
Report From:	Director of Culture, Community and Business Services

Contact name: Julie Amies and Nicola Wright

Tel: 01962 846029
01962 845163

Email: julie.amies@hants.gov.uk
nicola.j.wright@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this report is to review the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme and propose changes that will make best use of Hampshire County Council funding and provide greater support services for athletes. The review of the scheme was undertaken as part of the Hampshire County Council Olympic Legacy Plan. Data regarding London 2012 Olympians and Paralympians who had received funding and services through the scheme informed the review.

1.2. This paper seeks to

- Report which athletes were supported in 2012/2013.
- Explain how the budget is distributed to the athletes.
- Explain the current structure of the scheme.
- Propose changes to the use of funding and structure of the scheme to make it even more effective.
- Look at the future direction of the scheme.

1.3 A copy of the report was presented to the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee on 11 July 2013, where it was supported.

2. Contextual information

2.1. Athletes from over 70 sports are eligible to apply for the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme to receive funding and support services to help them to progress to world class competition e.g. Olympics, Paralympics, World Championships. The sports eligible are Olympic and Paralympic sports and

the 45 Sport England supported sports. The support varies depending on the level of performance. Athletes who receive over £7500 via the World Class Programme or their National Governing Body of Sport are not eligible to receive funding through the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme. There are five levels of support for athletes depending on their stage in the performance pathway. Level 5 athletes are competing at a county or regional level, levels 4, 3 and 2 are national and international level competitors and level 1 athletes are on the World Class Programme. Full details about the levels of support are provided in Appendix 1.

- 2.2. Applications for 2013 grants opened in September 2012. A panel met in November 2012 to decide on awardees based upon the criteria set by the individual National Governing Bodies of sport in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Sport Hampshire & IOW.¹
- 2.3. Since the last review of the scheme Southampton City Council have contracted out their sports development service to Southampton Solent University. The university is now providing services to Southampton residents directly rather than contributing to the Hampshire County Council scheme. Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight also make their own arrangements.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The £46,100 budget for the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme for 2012/13 was made up of contributions from Children's Services (£17,000), CCBS (£13,100), Policy and Resources (£16,000).
- 3.2. In 2012/2013 Hampshire athletes received between £105-£430 in funding, depending on their performance level (see Appendix 1 for further details). Research by the national charity Sportsaid, which supports talented athletes across the country, found that athletes equivalent to those at level 2 on the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme spent on average £6,438 per year on their sport. Most of this funding is provided by the athletes' families.
- 3.3. In addition to the £46,100 budget a number of in kind and sponsored services have been negotiated to reduce athletes' costs. These include:
 - Free annual leisure centre membership priced on average at £360 worth £97,920 to the scheme.
 - 4 sports science workshops are provided for free by Southampton Solent University. These would normally cost £5,520 annually.

¹ Sport Hampshire & IOW is the County Sports Partnership for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, funded through a variety of partners including Sport England, Local Authorities and National Governing Bodies of sport and hosted by Hampshire County Council. It provides the sports development service for the county in partnership with the County Council.

- 75 annual bus passes at a total value of £55,500 are sponsored by Bluestar, Stagecoach and First bus companies.

3.4. A further £450 was donated by Sovereign Housing Association to help support Hampshire's future Olympians and Paralympians.

3.5. Athletes receiving Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme grants can choose to opt into the fast-track physiotherapy service and have £40 deducted from their grant. All athletes performing at county level or above can buy into the scheme for £60 per year. This is a significant 'insurance' scheme for athletes as one private physiotherapy appointment can cost between £35-£100.

4. Performance in 2012/2013

4.1 254 applications were received for the 2012/2013 scheme. The table below illustrates the number of athletes awarded and the type of support they requested.

Number of athletes	Support offered
217	Monetary grants awarded
1	Offered free access to leisure centres and sports science support but not a grant as she receives over £7500 from her National Governing Body of sport.
218	Invited to access sports science support at Southampton Solent University
199	Free access cards for up to three local leisure centres for training were awarded
75	Annual bus passes awarded
61	Opted into the fast-track physiotherapy service.

4.2 Athletes awarded grants were aged between 11-34 and represented 35 different sports. The breakdown of athletes by sport and local authority area is available in Appendix 2.

4.3 During the course of the year athletes who did not receive a grant and the full support package are able to apply for support services. Nine athletes were awarded the fast-track physiotherapy service and a further 70 athletes were awarded free access to leisure centres for training.

5. Review of the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme

- 5.1. As part of the Hampshire County Council's Olympic Legacy Plan a review of the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme was undertaken including research with supported athletes. Proposals were made to enhance the scheme including providing further funding to provide a more significant contribution towards higher level athletes' expenses and additional investment in developing the support services. An extra £46,100 has been allocated to the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme budget from the CCBS Policy Fund.
- 5.2. The application process for the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme will be moved to the Hampshire County Council online portal for 2014, which opens in September 2013.
- 5.3. The fast-track physiotherapy service has been reviewed extensively to ensure best value. The nature of the service means that it is difficult to predict costs for the year. Consideration has been given in the past to remove the scheme but athletes and their parents value this vital support service and it has been decided to keep it within the scheme.

6. Feedback from athletes

- 6.1. Athletes and their families highly value the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme. The funding as well as the support services help athletes and their families with the high costs of competing at such a high level. Below are a selection of comments regarding the range of services the Council offer athletes. These comments demonstrate the need to develop such services for the future.
 - *'Thank you for your help. We had a very helpful session with a physio. Thanks again, an excellent service!'*
Mother of an athlete.
 - *'A big thank you to you and the HTAS funding committee for awarding my daughter funding again this year. It will be used for equipment and for her extensive travel arrangements attending training and camps.'*
Father England Under 18 basketball player.
 - *'I wanted you to know how much the HTAS support has meant to me. On 13 January I won the British Championships for my group. This is my first national title and I could not have achieved it without the various support I receive through HTAS, so thank you.'*
Athlete.
 - *'Thank you for such a useful evening. Both Danni and her coach Peter found the plyometrics work shop interesting, well run and relevant. The person who gave the nutrition talk was great, very informative & extremely interesting.'*
Mother of an athlete commenting on a sports science workshop.

- *'The grant he had last year from the scheme helped finance his trip - thanking you so, so much.'*
Mother of an athlete.
- *'I would like to take this chance to thank you and everyone associated with the HTAS scheme. It has helped me so much throughout the last four or so years - especially the gym access as I always seem to be put on strength programs! It is great to see that there is support in Hampshire for young and talented athletes.'*
Athlete.
- *'Specific funding with equipment, clothing, travel and competition costs would help considerably. I was grateful of HTAS support but it only just covered my club membership.'*
Athlete.

7. Future direction

- 7.1. The review of the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme and the research into the eight London 2012 Olympians and Paralympians supported previously by Hampshire County Council, revealed a need to slightly re-structure the scheme. All of the eight Olympians and Paralympians were awarded either level 2 or 3 when they had applied to the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme. Therefore it is recommended that:
 - Funding is re-allocated from level 4 to levels 2 and 3. This will allow funding to be targeted at the highest performing athletes who have the most potential to compete in world class competitions. Support services should still be provided to level 4 athletes to allow them to progress. Appendices 1 and 3 illustrates the proposed changes.
- 7.2. During 2012 Sport Hampshire & IOW arranged for a number of athletes to receive public speaking and presentation training to allow them to visit schools to deliver inspiring assemblies to encourage children to achieve their goals and to be resilient to challenges. Given the success of this activity, it is proposed that £10,000 of the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme funding is ring-fenced to pay for athletes public speaking training and expenses for guest appearances. This will develop the athletes' skills and confidence in public speaking and allow them to earn extra money towards their training costs. It will also enable the continuation of athlete appearances in Hampshire schools and within community groups to inspire Hampshire's young people, something that is highly valued by Head teachers.
- 7.3. During the year the Sport Hampshire & IOW team often receive funding requests from athletes for funding towards the costs of competing in specific competitions. Currently the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme is not able to help with these enquiries as all the funding is allocated once a year. It is therefore proposed that a proportion of the funding is set aside to allow for

payments to be made during the year in response to needs of the athletes and their families.

- 7.4. The physiotherapy budget will continue to be closely monitored and steps are being taken to ensure it covers costs. As it is impossible to predict the number of athletes that will get injured, it is proposed that £4,000 is allocated to pay for any potential costs within the physiotherapy budget that are not met by the athlete contributions.
- 7.5. The current agreement with Southampton Solent University provides four workshops per year for athletes. Given their success it is proposed that £5,000 is ring-fenced to grow this service, including the provision of sports science services across the county to ensure athletes in the north of the county do not miss out.
- 7.6. A financial breakdown of all these proposed changes can be found at Appendix 4. In order to streamline the processes involved, it is recommended that the £24,000 budget for public speaking training, appearance fees, sports science support, emergency funding and physiotherapy is transferred to Sport Hampshire and IoW to administer on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

8. Recommendation(s)

That the Executive Member for Culture, Heritage and Countryside approves:

1. The changes to the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme as set out in Appendix 3 and section 7.
2. The £46,100 increase in funding from the Culture, Communities and Business Services' Policy Fund for the next 3 years in the lead up to the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games to enhance the grants and support services provided by the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme.
3. The transfer of £24,000 to Sport Hampshire & IOW to administer the support services including physiotherapy, sports science support, one-off payments for specific competitions and athlete appearances within Hampshire schools as outlined in Appendix 4.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. The report and appendices incorporates the analysis of the available data on the recipients of the funding.
- 1.2. The changes proposed to the scheme are to target the available resources at the athletes in a key stage of their development to deliver the most success from a small investment.
- 1.3. Looking to get best from the resource available and diversifying its use to support reaching a wider audience to develop talent and participation in high level sport for the future.
- 1.4. Funding is awarded based on the level of performance. The criteria does not discriminate on any equality grounds. We do not data monitor certain characteristics that are not relevant to performance.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. This has been considered and is unlikely to make an impact.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

This has been considered and is unlikely to make an impact

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This has been considered and is unlikely to make an impact

Appendix 1

Current Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme structure

HTAS award level	Performance level	Eligible for the following support services
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 5 ranked national performer or a member of a national team • Receiving over £7500 via the National Governing Body of sport or through the World Class Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free access to leisure centres • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 5 ranked national performer or a member of a national team • Competing internationally. • Placed top 5 at a national championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £430 • Free access to leisure centres • Free bus travel card (limited number) • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 10 ranked national performer or member of a national team. • Placed top 10 at a national championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £205 • Free access to leisure centres • Free bus travel card (limited number) • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 15 ranked national performer or member of a national squad. • Placed 15 at a national championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £105 • Free access to leisure centres • Free bus travel card (limited number) • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy
Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of a regional or county team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-track physiotherapy

Appendix 2

Athletes awarded grants and support services in 2012/13

Sport	Number of athletes
Handball	1
Orienteering	1
Volleyball	1
Waterpolo	1
Baseball	2
Basketball	2
Fencing	2
Goalball	2
Rowing	2
Skiing	2
Squash	2
Tennis	2
Tae Kwon Do	2
Boccia	3
Canoe	3
Cricket	3
Cycling	3
Ice skating	3
Triathlon	3
Windsurfing	3
Ice hockey	4
Modern pent	4
Rugby Union	4
Shooting	6
Table tennis	6
Netball	7
Synchronised swimming	7
Hockey	8
Badminton	9
Swimming	10
Judo	11
Gymnastics	13
Sailing	21
Diving	24
Athletics	41
Total	218

Local Authority	Number of athletes
Gosport	4
Rushmoor	8
East Hants	9
Havant	9
*Southampton	16
Fareham	21
Winchester	21
Eastleigh	23
New Forest	24
Test Valley	26
Hart	28
Basingstoke & Deane	29
Total	218

*Southampton athletes will not be supported by the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme in the future. Discussions are taking place for these athletes to be supported by Southampton Solent University.

Appendix 3

Proposed Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme structure for 2014

HTAS award level	Performance level	Eligible for the following support services
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 5 ranked national performer or a member of a national team • Receiving over £7500 from your NGB or through the World Class Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free access to leisure centres • Free sport science workshops • Fast track physiotherapy • Presentation and public speaking training
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 5 ranked national performer or a member of a national team • Competing internationally. • Placed top 5 at a national championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £600 plus further opportunities to receive more funding through community appearances • Free access to leisure centres • Free bus travel card (limited number) • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy • Presentation and public speaking training
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 10 ranked national performer or member of a national team. • Placed top 10 at a national championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £300 plus further opportunities to receive more funding through community appearances • Free access to leisure centres • Free bus travel card (limited number) • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy • Presentation and public speaking training
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 15 ranked national performer or member of a national squad. • Placed 15 at a national championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free access to leisure centres • Free bus travel card (limited number) • Free sport science workshops • Fast-track physiotherapy
Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of a regional or county team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-track physiotherapy

Appendix 4

Proposed Budget for 2013/2014

£46,100	Policy Fund from CCRA new funding
£46,100	Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme existing budget
£92,200	Total

Funding to develop support services

£4000	Physiotherapy contingency
£5000	Sports Science support
£5000	Contingency fund for adhoc 'emergency' applications throughout the year.
£10,000	Appearances fees and training for talented athletes to speak in school assemblies.
£24,000	Total

It is proposed that this £24,000 would be transferred to Sport Hampshire & IOW to distribute throughout the year.

£68,200 to allocate to athletes via grants.

An example of how the money could be allocated to the athletes based on the number of HTAS athletes in 2012.

Level for 2012	Number of athletes 2012	Funding for 2014	Total
1	2	£0	£0
2	46	£700	£32,200
3	108	£300	£32,400
4	81	£0	£0
			64,600.00