

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	10 June 2010
Title:	Review of support services for Hampshire's talented athletes
Reference:	1602
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to propose changes to Hampshire County Council's Talented Athlete Scheme, FANS scheme (Free Access to National Sports people), FACS scheme (Free Access to County Sports people) and 4SM (fast track physiotherapy service).
- 1.2. This paper seeks to
 - Explain the need for some changes and make recommendations for the future direction of these schemes. The aim is to provide greater consistency and better targeted support to Hampshire's talented athletes.
 - Highlight the success and benefits of the schemes to Hampshire's talented athletes.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. In order to ensure that the services offered were targeted at the correct people and were clear and easy to understand, a review of the support services offered to talented athletes by Hampshire County Council, was undertaken in March 2010.
- 2.2. Issues considered in the review included: the best use of free access to leisure centres; the most effective use of the fast track physiotherapy service and ensuring that support services are targeted correctly at athletes, at each stage of their development.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Each year £46,000 is distributed once a year to approximately 200 athletes across the county. This is made up of £15,000 from Policy and Resources, £13,500 from CCRA, £13,500 from Children's Services and £2,000 each from Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.
- 3.2. 68 leisure facilities currently provide free annual membership for 271 talented athletes. This in kind contribution is worth approximately £285,000. (£351 annual membership x 3 venues per athlete x 271 athletes- per year. This value is based on the average gym membership price provided by the Fitness Industry Association.)
- 3.3. £9,016 per annum is spent on the fast track physiotherapy service for talented athletes. £8,235 of income is generated by the scheme. By extending the amount of people eligible for this scheme the aim is to at least break even and potentially generate a surplus of income.
- 3.4. 75 annual travel cards are donated by Blue Star, First Group and Stagecoach bus companies. The total in kind value is £44,500.

4. Performance

- 4.1. 293 talented athletes have benefitted from the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme since its inception in 2008. In the last 5 years, 721 athletes have had free access to leisure centres via the FANS and FACS schemes.
- 4.2. The scheme is invaluable to talented athletes. One HTAS member since 2010 said, " I am very grateful for the grant I received from the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme Programme. I used the money to buy new protective gears and the bus pass I got was really a big help as we use the bus going to training three to four times a week. The support I got was enough to boost my confidence and it made it all worthwhile when I won the Gold Medal (British Champion - Cadet under 37 kgs)) in the British Taekwondo Championships last January 2010. Thank You for the Support!!"

5. Other key issues

- 5.1. There are currently 4 different schemes offered by Hampshire County Council: The Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme, FANS (Free Access for National Sports people), FACS (Free Access for County Sports people) and 4SM (fast track physiotherapy). The schemes are available separately and as part of a package, however they have different criteria, which can cause confusion. See appendix 2 for individual scheme criteria.
- 5.2. The current criteria for FANS allows a wide range of athletes to apply. Some of these athletes compete in sports with a limited number of competitors and very few competitions. Many of the sports do not have National Governing Bodies that work with County Sports Partnerships, making it very difficult, if not impossible sometimes to verify a competitor's

performance level. The new structure will focus on sports that Sport Hampshire & IOW works with and age categories where progression to world class performance is likely. Full details of the new structure are shown in appendix 3.

- 5.3. Currently, there is no support for regional performers. This leaves a gap between the support at county level and the support at national level.

6. Future direction

- 6.1. A panel of representative organisations and partners met in March to discuss changes to the support services. The aim of the meeting was to ensure that the services offered support to athletes throughout their development. The main priorities for the panel were to remove any inconsistencies between the schemes and ensure that they were easy to understand and access.
- 6.2. Appendix 1 details the issues that arose from the meeting and the potential solutions to these issues.
- 6.3. A new 6 tier structure which supports talent from county level to world class performance will be used. Each tier offers differing levels of support in response to the different needs of the athletes and the resources available. This will allow the involvement of regional players who have previously been excluded. Appendix 3 shows the proposed new structure and the main changes for consideration include:
- 6.3.1. A revised criteria that allows over 1500 new athletes at county and regional level to apply for fast track physiotherapy care and potentially, sport science support. This would also address the current exclusion of regional athletes from the scheme as well as providing the opportunity to generate income for this important service as well.
- 6.3.2. Removal of the FACS scheme which has been putting a strain on leisure centre resources. In this year, this would affect 63 FACS members who would no longer be eligible for this scheme. These athletes will continue to take part in their respective National Governing Bodies development programmes and will also be able to still access the fast track physiotherapy scheme.
- 6.3.3. A revised criteria that focuses on athletes competing in a senior, open based competition or an age group competition to Under 20's. This would affect 14 FANS members who would no longer be eligible for free access as they do not compete in senior open based competition.
- 6.3.4. 36 sports, currently eligible for the FANS scheme would be removed as they are not supported by Sport England and are not Olympic / Paralympic sports. This would only impact upon 5 current FANS members.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The Hampshire Talented Athlete, FANS, FACS and fast track physiotherapy schemes are extremely well regarded by talented athletes, their parents and coaches. Having administered the schemes for 3 years, it became evident that some minor changes were needed to address inconsistencies between the schemes and the fact that regional athletes were not eligible for support under the existing criteria.
- 7.2. It is important to note that all existing members of the FANS and FACS schemes will retain their membership until their 12 month membership expires.
- 7.3. If the changes proposed are supported, all the schemes can be packaged and promoted as one comprehensive Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme. Furthermore, the application process can be simplified, reducing the current 19 pages to 7 pages.

8. Recommendation(s)

- 8.1. That all support services' criteria are aligned and come under the umbrella term 'Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme'.
- 8.2. That age group rankings will only be accepted up to Under 20s level (or as directed by the National Governing Bodies of sports) and that senior open based competition becomes the criteria thereafter.
- 8.3. That only Olympic, Paralympic and Sport England supported sports be eligible.
- 8.4. That the FACS scheme (Free Access to County Sports people) be removed as it is unsustainable by facility providers.

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hampshire talented Athlete Programme and Olympic Fund	Policy and Resources 5 April 2007

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 Although some athletes will no longer be eligible for one element of this scheme, free access to sports facilities, the assessment shows that there will be no adverse impact on equalities.
- 1.2 Research is being undertaken to make application forms available in alternative formats. Also, a section will be included in the bus application form to find out about accessible buses.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

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

3. Climate Change:

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

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

- 3.2. 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

We aim to help as many of Hampshire's talented athletes achieve their full potential by providing a clear and easy to use scheme that provides a variety of support services.

We propose to put all the support services available from Hampshire County Council to talented athletes under the 'Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme' name and align the criteria for all schemes. The scheme will include funding, free access to leisure centres, fast track physiotherapy, bus passes, school mentoring and sport science support. Eligibility for the various support services can be found in appendix 3.

The FANS (Free Access for National Sportspeople), FACS (Free Access for County Sportspeople) and 4SM (fast track physiotherapy) acronyms will be discontinued as they are deemed confusing.

A new 6 tier structure which supports talent from county level to world class performance will be used. Each tier offers differing levels of support in response to the different needs of the athletes. This will allow the involvement of regional players who have previously been excluded.

County performers will be eligible to apply for the scheme from 11 years old. Currently support is only available for 16-18 year olds.

County performers will be eligible to apply for fast track physiotherapy care and sports science support. Free access to leisure centres will be reserved for performers of national standard and above. In the future, negotiations will take place with leisure centres to work towards discounted access to leisure centres for regional competitors. The rationale for not including this level of athletes at the moment is that there are potentially 1200 county athletes and 450 regional athletes. Allowing all these athletes to have free access would cause a big strain on leisure centre resources and possibly cause them to withdraw their support.

Only Under 12s to Under 20s age group rankings will be accepted. After this, athletes will be expected to compete in senior open based competition. The aim of this is to ensure that only the highest standard athletes, competing regularly, are eligible to apply.

Currently athletes receiving World Class Performance funding are not eligible to receive support through the Hampshire County Council schemes. The proposal is to make these athletes eligible to apply for free access to leisure centres and fast track physiotherapy services. It is believed that these athletes will have a positive influence, as recognisable names who can be used for promotional purposes.

To align all services the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme will support 45 of the 46 Sport England Sports (the 46th is dance, which is covered by the Arts Services' Springboard Bursary Scheme) as well as all Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Appendix 2

Current schemes' criteria

Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme

- Currently ranked in the top 15 in the country or a member of a national team.
- Resident of Hampshire
- Ages 11-25
- Sport England supported sports plus Olympic and Paralympic sports only.

Free Access for County Sports people (FACS)

- Current County Team/Squad
- Resident of Hampshire
- Between the ages of 16 and 18 (inclusive)
- Any sport recognised by Sport England

Free Access for National Sports people (FANS)

- Currently ranked in the top 10 in the country or member of a national team
- Resident of Hampshire
- Any age group
- Any sport recognised by Sport England

4SM

- Current FANS, FACS or HTAS member

Appendix 3

Proposed new structure

If you are:	You may be eligible to receive:	Application form to complete:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving World Class Programme funding or receiving over £4000 from your NGB. • Aged 11+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to fast track physiotherapy • Free access to leisure centres • Invitation to sport science conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-grant application form. (This can be completed throughout the year.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 5 ranked national performer or a member of a national team.* • Aged 11+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £500 • Access to fast track physiotherapy • Free access to leisure centres • Possible access to free bus travel card • Free sport science conference • School mentoring support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a grant and all services, complete the <u>Grant Application Form</u> between 1 September 29 and October 2010 or • Complete a <u>Non-grant application</u> form at any point in the year for free access to leisure centres and physiotherapy care.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 10 ranked national performer or member of a national team.* • Aged 11+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £250 • Access to fast track physiotherapy • Free access to leisure centres • Possible access to free bus travel card • Free sport science conference • School mentoring support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a grant and all services, complete the <u>Grant Application Form</u> between 1 September and 29 October 2010 or • Complete a <u>Non-grant application</u> form at any point in the year for free access to leisure centres and physiotherapy care.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A top 15 ranked national performer or member of a national squad. • Aged 11+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant up to £150 • Access to fast track physiotherapy • Free access to leisure centres • Free sport science conference • School mentoring support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a grant and all services, complete the <u>Grant Application Form</u> between 1 September and 29 October 2010 or • Complete a <u>Non-grant application</u> form at any point in the year for free access to leisure centres and physiotherapy care.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of a regional team with representative honours. • Aged 11-25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to fast track physiotherapy • Sports science support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-grant application form. (This can be completed throughout the year.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A county performer, with representative honours. • Aged 11-25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to fast track physiotherapy • Sport science support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-grant application form. (This can be completed throughout the year.)

*The number and frequency of performances (especially international performances) will be taken into consideration when deciding award levels.