



Elgin High School ASG

Active Schools Annual Report 2014-15

Elgin High School ASG

With only three primary schools, Elgin High School ASG is one of the smallest ASGs in the local authority; however it contains the largest primary school by roll in Moray: New Elgin Primary School. The remaining two schools in the ASG are Greenwards and Mosstowie Primary Schools. Elgin has a wealth of different sports clubs and activity opportunities as well as a Community Sports Hub at Cooper Park that is well used. Challenges exist, however, most notably in trying to involve children from a rural school like Mosstowie PS in extracurricular activities when most of them are reliant on the school bus for transport.

Impact of Active Schools

In 2014-15 there has been a significant increase in the number of distinct participants over the past two years. This year we had 712 pupils attending extracurricular activities compared to last year's figures of 641 and 2012's figures of 517. This steady increase over the last few years has in large part been due to the number of participants attending multi-school activities, and should continue to increase over the coming years.

The three main centralised sessions delivered in 2014-15 were badminton, gymnastics and netball with all three sessions at full capacity. The impact this had was higher numbers attending, better facilities to motivate and opportunities to mix with children from different schools - developing not just physically but socially as well. Centralised sessions proved to be the solution to balancing demand with capacity, for example, the Elgin HS ASG netball sessions started due to a demand in all 3 primaries, but with only one coach and no suitable hall space for netball matches in the primary school, using the high school as a venue was the logical solution. The result was approximately 12 P4-7 pupils from the Elgin HS ASG primaries getting to play, with the added benefit of familiarizing them with the high school's facilities and increasing their chances of continuing with the sport when they move up to secondary school. We adopted the

multi-schools approach to good effect in a number of new activities as well, such as Nerf Wars, tenpin bowling and squash, therefore broadening opportunities to try alternative sports.

Deliverers Network

Over the past few years we have worked with Moray College students undertaking the sports coaching and health & nutrition courses. This partnership has been extremely beneficial, for example, by allowing us to run more sessions in individual schools using students on their coaching placements, which they must complete in order to pass their course. Many students attend our training courses to develop their skills further as coaches, and by supporting and mentoring these students we help to develop the future pool of sports coaches in Moray.

A significant part of our network of volunteers is made up of parents. The Active Gymnastics sessions at Greenward's PS were run by two parent volunteers, both qualified and committed to running quality sessions. Both age-group sessions quickly filled-up resulting in a waiting list. In order to meet this demand we supported the coaches in starting an additional term-time session and summer sessions. The club grew from strength to strength and was very popular. Active Schools invested in training for lead coach Tracy Sinclair, who completed her level 2 coach award, with her assistant Cheryl completing level 1. They then took on board a secondary pupil and a child protection officer. Therefore the activity made the transition from a simple block of sessions to a club which runs in accordance with Scottish Gymnastics procedures, is fully sustainable and was one the most well attended multi-schools activities in 2014-15. As a whole the number of our volunteer coaches (including college students and parents) increased from 63% in 2013-14 to 72% in 2014-15.

“I currently coach Gymnastics through Active Schools and have found that I am struggling to keep up with demand. The popularity of sport, and certainly gymnastics, seems to have grown significantly each year that I have been coaching (approx 4 years). I fully believe this interest in sport by young people and their parents is through the hard work of the Active Schools team to effectively promote participation and actively seek out potential coaches in parents, young people and, like myself, ex-coaches.”

*Tracy Sinclair,
Active Gymnastics Coach
(volunteer)*

School to Club Links

In 2014-15 we built on several strong club links from previous years including those with Elgin Cricket Club, Moray Rugby Club, Elgin Eagles Basketball Club, Elgin Golf Club and numerous local dance clubs. Those links continued to strengthen with blocks of afterschool sessions delivered in schools before children progressed onto regular club sessions. For each of these sports we ran different projects in different terms for different year groups and this resulted in an increase in membership, as reported back to us by the clubs. New links were made with Elgin Squash Club, Pinz Bowling Club where 68 pupils attended bowling sessions, and EQ Sports with over 70 children attending their Nerf Wars sessions over a six week period. This was largely due to us arranging taster sessions in curriculum time and our promotional work, such as handing out flyers.

We worked closely with Elgin Cricket Club and Moray Cricket Association (MCA) on a joint Kwik Cricket project for primary schools. The MCA community coach and club coaches delivered four to five weeks of coaching in most Moray primary schools in the lead up to local festivals. From the local festivals the top four schools from each ASG competed in the Moray Kwik Cricket finals at Fochabers cricket ground in Summer term. New Elgin Primary School won the Moray finals and were therefore selected to represent Moray in the regional finals in Perth in which they did very well, coming seventh place overall in Scotland. Their success was driven by the enthusiasm of Neil Nicol, the community coach, and additional coaching sessions with their class teacher and PE specialist. Elgin Cricket Club has reported back that membership has increased again this year after this project.

The attached monitoring report has been produced by Sportscotland on our behalf, and contains the ‘outputs’ of our efforts to create more opportunities for children to get active in 2014-15. This type of report can also be produced for individual schools and may be useful for inspections, for dissemination to parents, or simply for your own information. Please contact me directly if this is something you would find useful.

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Elgin High ASG