

The Centre for International Public Health Policy



Response to the Scottish Government's consultation on "Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland"

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CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

Are the benefits you would like from the games covered in this paper?

The aim of increasing sport participation and tackling obesity is laudable, particularly among under-represented groups and disadvantaged communities.

However, one of the benefits which has not been addressed is the issue of safe sport and injury prevention. Safe sport requires information systems to monitor injury and risks of injury levels and sport participation must be accompanied by injury prevention strategies.

In Scotland an estimated one in five non-fatal unintentional injuries in children result from sport or recreational activity and almost a third occur in a place used for sport,

play or recreation. (1) More than half the benefits of physical exercise may be lost through injuries which can result in the abandonment of sport activity altogether. (2) In particular injury rates are associated with socioeconomic deprivation and children from the poorest areas in Scotland have almost double the rate of emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injuries than those from the least poor areas. (3)

References:

- (1) Bromley C, Sproston K, Shelton N, editors. The Scottish Health Survey. Volume 3: Children. Chapter 7. Accidents. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive, 2005.
- (2) EuroSafe – Sport Safety. Joint initiative on sports injury prevention. <http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/wwwVwContent/1EDBAB17BBB092D9C125738400374C9D?opendocument&context=4F5A27582A3C7675C12571810050DCE6>
- (3) Information Services Division NHS Scotland. Unintentional injuries. http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/ui-children.jsp?pContentID=4428&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&

QUESTION 2

Is there anything else we should be doing?

Injury surveillance systems are essential for monitoring injury rates and risk factors and are a necessary adjunct to evidence based community injury prevention initiatives. (4)

Reference:

- (4) Towner E, Dowswell T, Mackereth C, Jarvis S. What works in preventing unintentional injuries in children and young adolescents? An updated systematic review. London: Health Development Agency, 2001.

QUESTION 3

How can we, individually or collectively, best achieve these aims?

Any strategy which aims to improve the sport infrastructure in Scotland must be accompanied by improved injury surveillance and prevention strategies. Good injury surveillance does not deter sport participation. Sweden, Netherlands and Denmark have well established injury surveillance systems which inform intervention and prevention strategies. (5) All three countries have the lowest mortality rates from unintentional injury in children and adolescents in Europe (6) and high levels of sport participation; Sweden has the highest rates in Europe (7) and half the obesity levels of the UK. (8)

In the UK, only Wales has injury surveillance systems. There are also school based sport injury surveillance systems in operation in the USA (9,10) and such a project is currently underway in New Zealand. (11)

Scotland must put in place a comprehensive injury based surveillance system and injury prevention strategy and funding.

References:

- (5) Stone D, Morrison A, Roulston C, and the EURORISC Working Group. Final Project Report of the European Review of Injury Surveillance and Control "The EURORISC Project". Glasgow University PEACH Unit, 2003.
- (6) EuroSafe - European Child Safety Alliance. Report card summary for 18 countries.
<http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/wwwVwContent/l4downlo ads.htm?OpenDocument>
- (7) European Commission – European Opinion Research Group. Eurobarometer special survey, EB60.0, 'Les citoyens de l'union européenne et lesport'. 2003.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_197_fr_summ.pdf
- (8) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. OECD Health Data 2005. How does Sweden compare.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/15/25/34970222.pdf>

(9) Comstock RD, Yard EE, Knox CL, Williams CM. Rugby RIO (Reporting Information Online) high school: Internet-based surveillance of injuries sustained by US high school rugby players. Summary report. 2006.

(10) National Collegiate Athletic Association Injury Surveillance System (NCAA ISS). National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

http://www1.ncaa.org/membership/ed_outreach/health-safety/iss/index.html

(11) Sport and Recreation. Injury Prevention Research Unit (IPRU).

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/ipru/Research/Sport.html>

QUESTION 4

Do you have any other comments to offer on what should feature in the final games benefits and legacy plan?

Scotland has high injury rates particularly in the most deprived groups of the population. Scotland, like England has an abysmal record of monitoring risk factors and injury rates which means that its prevention strategies are largely uninformed and unevidenced. Injury surveillance and evidence based injury prevention are important and vital components of any sport participation strategy. Scotland should not lose the opportunity. Equal attention must be paid to resourcing injury surveillance and investment in surveillance should be commensurate with investment in sport.