COMMUNITY SPORT IN SCOTLAND - A MISUNDERSTOOD LOST CAUSE?

Many Questions and a Few Answers?!
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Scotland - same population size as Scotland - an hour away due west

Comparisons of politics, economy and culture

How do support level nationally and locally?
SCOTLAND POLITICS

- Referendum in 2014 on becoming an independent country - opportunity to reflect on sports policies and practices
- Definition of sport including Physical Activity; PE; Physical Recreation; Elite & Performance; Community Sport
- This presentation will concentrate largely on Community Sport
5 AREAS TO CONSIDER

- Balance in spend between elite and community sport
- Government Policies - Physical Activity/PE/Community Sport
- Challenges of Implementation
- Sport in Scotland and the community
- Research and Measurement
- Practical suggestions for discussion
Scotland one of the big spenders on elite sport and on sports events
Scotland in the lower league of spenders on community sport
Scottish local councils spend most of the budget on facilities management and in physical recreation
Goverment Policies

- Physical Activity
- Compulsory PE
- Active Schools
- Community Sports Hubs
- Legislation on sport very limited
- Accountability and Discussion - where is it?
IMPLEMENTATION

- Audit Scotland Report - translating national policy into local action; leadership on physical activity; robust monitoring and evaluation
- 32 Local Councils enduring and facing unprecedented cuts - but should: Support the wellbeing of the citizens; and provide adequate and appropriate sports facilities in the community
- THE BIG CHALLENGE OF INEQUALITY
Governance and purposes of community sport do matter
Is sport part of community life?
Is sports participation being measured- to understand the complexity of participation?
Have we forgotten about the potential to play a role in developing a sense of belonging to the extended families of clubs?
Voices of the volunteers?
RESEARCH & MEASUREMENT

- Serious concerns about investigation and research
- Scottish Household Survey - no questions about the context
- Scottish parliament Inquiries - far from independent
- Recent Audit of School Sports Facilities
PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Clarify the purposes of sport in the community and sport in schools
- Measure and Investigate participation and work with MEASURE
- Bring down the costs of participation - particularly for young people
- Consistently develop and support the “social capital” of sport
- Establish a community sport “think tank”