

# GLASGOW 2014: A CHILDREN'S CONSULTATION



**By the Children's Parliament  
For Young Scot and  
The Scottish Government**

**June 2008**



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## Thank you

To the children and staff at the following places who contributed so much in their Local Investigation Teams:

- California Primary School, California, near Falkirk
- Caledonia Primary School, Glasgow
- North Edinburgh Children's Parliament Group



## About the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

The Games will be held over 11 days, with the opening ceremony on 23rd July 2014.

There are 17 sports which will be played at the Glasgow 2014 Games. These are: Athletics, Aquatics, Boxing, Badminton, Weightlifting, Lawn Bowls, Hockey, Rugby 7's, Squash, Netball, Cycling, Shooting, Wrestling, Gymnastics, Judo, Table Tennis and Triathlon

There will 6,500 athletes and officials attending the Games

If you want to know more about the Glasgow 2014 Games go to:  
[www.glasgow2014.com](http://www.glasgow2014.com)



## About the children's consultation

In 2014 the **Commonwealth Games** are coming to Glasgow. Young Scot were asked by the Scottish Government to gather the views of children and young people on how Scotland's people can engage with the Games in the run up to 2014, and what the legacy for Scotland having been host should be.

Young Scot asked the **Children's Parliament** to engage Primary School age children in this work.

The Children's Parliament worked with children in 3 locations – Glasgow, California (near Falkirk) and Edinburgh – and established **3 Local Investigation Teams** to explore these two themes of **participation** and **legacy**.

To be a part of one of our Local Investigation Teams children were recruited who have a love, even a passion for some kind of sport – as a participant or a fan. There were 10 children in each Team.

**PARTICIPATION:**  
Being actively involved in something.

**LEGACY:**  
What is left behind for the benefit of everyone.





## About the work of the Local Investigation Teams

Each Local Investigation Team worked in these ways:

- The Children's Parliament team met with each Local Investigation Team for two briefing sessions. The first briefing session was about what the Commonwealth is. The second was about what the Commonwealth Games are all about. After each briefing session Team members were given a task.

Task 1 was to talk about and explore what the Commonwealth is with friends, classmates and family.

Task 2 was to investigate in more detail one of the sports which will be played at the Glasgow 2014 Games.

- Each Local Investigation Team then took part in a full day interactive workshop where, using a combined art drama approach, the Teams were asked to think about how preparing for and having the Games in Scotland can help make Scotland a place which is:

**Healthier:** because more of us are getting involved in sports and doing things together.

**Smarter:** because more of us are learning things about Scotland, about the other Commonwealth countries, about sports, about each other.

**Fairer:** because we want everybody in Scotland to participate equally.

**Greener:** because we want the Games and everything we do before and after to be environmentally friendly.

**Wealthier:** because there are things that we can do that will help attract visitors and businesses to Scotland because it looks like such a great place! The Games can help communities to create work and business opportunities.

- Finally, the Children's Parliament Local Investigation Teams attended an event at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh at which they presented their findings alongside the 'older' young people who had participated via Young Scot. The children spoke about their findings on the themes of participation and legacy and they presented their exhibition which is photographed for this report.



## Capturing views and opinions

The Children's Parliament uses creative and inclusive approaches to engage children in conversations and debates about what matters to them. This means that our team know a lot about children's rights but are also children's workers and artists.

In this project we used drama and visual arts to inspire learning and debate. To represent their thinking about how children, families, communities and schools could be involved in the run up to the Games – and benefit after the Games – the Local Investigation Teams built a model running track on which ideas, questions and challenges were represented. Images from the track are used throughout this report.

The rest of this report looks at **participation** and the **legacy** for Scotland if we use the Games to help Scotland be **healthier, smarter, fairer, greener** and **wealthier**.



## Participation

The Local Investigation Teams imagined themselves to be the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee. Their first challenge was to consider specific ways in which children, families, schools and communities could get involved in the run up to the Glasgow 2014 Games and then at or during the Games in 2014.

**The children propose that *before* the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games:**

### **In School:**

- Athletes should visit schools and tell pupils how they got involved in sport and how they got good at it. They can give advice on how to start up and how to practice and get skilled.
- At school you could learn how to cook healthy food from different Commonwealth countries.
- There should be talent spotters who visit schools and communities to spot children in school who have sporting talent.
- There should be more time and space and after school clubs for children to get involved in sport.
- Through their schools children could help with the design of the stadium and the running track.
- Children could help design costumes for people helping at the games. For example, they could have people in shuttlecock costumes helping out at the Badminton tournament!
- Schools should do projects about the Commonwealth Games so they know that it is coming to Glasgow
- Schools could organise a march and open day in their local area to tell people that the Games are coming. Information could go on school websites and tell people that “the Games are coming and we want you to help!”
- Pupils could raise money so they can go to the Games; and for charities too who will help people get to the Games.
- Pupils can help to design posters and t-shirts.
- Classes should go on a school trip to the places where the Commonwealth Games will be happening.
- School pupils should learn ‘hello and welcome’ in different Commonwealth languages so they can welcome the athletes and tourists.
- Schools can join up with other schools in different villages and towns and cities. There could be parades going from city to city, town to town, village to village – all celebrating the Games.





### Children:

- Should get a Commonwealth Games pack that helps them to find out about the countries of the Commonwealth and the sports that will be played in 2014. There should be quizzes and investigations and projects that children can do with their family.
- Should be awarded a Glasgow 2014 medal if they do something that helps get them and other people involved in the run up to the Games.



### In the community:

- There should be a taster Commonwealth Sports day at your local sports centre. You could go along with your family and try different sports that are in the Commonwealth Games.

### The children propose that *at* or *during* the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games:

#### Children:

- Should be involved at the opening ceremony.
- There should be a children's corner at the games. Children could help to look after the younger children. They could have a children's mini games area where they try out different sports
- Children could help show people around at the games and give people information about the games. There should be an information corner showing footage of older games and giving the history of the games
- Children could give out goody bags at the Games which have things like a map, flags, information about countries and the rules of the different sports
- Pupils could help out in a 'co-operation room' at the Games. This would be a room where people from all different Commonwealth countries could meet, make new friends and try different foods and cultures.
- Learn the anthems and sing them at the Games
- Say hello in all Commonwealth languages

#### In the community:

- Children should have big street parties where every family brings a dish of food from a Commonwealth country.
- You should be able to see the Commonwealth Games on big screens. At every big screen there should be lots of food from countries across the Commonwealth. The parties should have a fun fair atmosphere, with face painting.

## Legacy: Helping Scotland be healthier, smarter, fairer, greener and wealthier

The Local Investigation Teams worked in role, imagining themselves to be the Ministers of the Scottish Government with responsibility for ensuring that the Games themselves are healthy, smart, fair, green and wealth promoting, as well as the proposal that by hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games Scotland and Scotland's people will themselves be healthier, smarter, fairer, greener and wealthier.



## HEALTHIER

Having the Commonwealth Games in Scotland means that there is a chance to get everyone thinking about being healthy. People need to think especially about eating and exercise and being kind to each other.

### The Children's Local Investigation Teams propose:

#### That there should be:

- More sports in Scotland's schools, including swimming pools in schools and more games in the playground.
- More fitness classes for Mums, things like buggy races.
- More adverts that help people to learn about eating healthy
- More classes that help you learn about eating healthy
- Health weeks at school.
- More smoothie and fruit machines in school.

#### That Scottish people:

- Must use bikes more to get around.
- Should do more sports, they are fun.
- Drink more water.
- Brush their teeth.
- Eat more fish and eat less junk food because it makes you fat.
- Do what they can to make other people feel happy. If someone is sad tell them a joke or buy them flowers.
- All these ideas could be turned into slogans that go on big banners all around the Commonwealth Games stadiums.

#### That at the Games:

- There should be healthy vending machines with fruit bars.
- There should be healthy eating cafes, including stalls in the streets that sell healthy food.



## SMARTER

Having the Commonwealth Games in Scotland means that children and adults have an opportunity to learn more about the world. The Games could be a way to get more people going to their Library and reading more. The Games could say it's cool to learn.

### **The Children's Local Investigation Teams propose:**

#### **That there should be:**

- Mini projects about the Games in schools across Scotland.
- Lots of information about the Commonwealth and about the Games at the Library and we should get people reading more.
- Websites so that children and parents can learn at home too.

#### **That Scottish people:**

- Need to read and learn about the Commonwealth and about the Games.
- Need to learn more languages.
- Should think it's okay to learn and not bully people because they want to learn.
- Need to stop bullying and make everybody feel safe; at school children should be able to trust teachers.

#### **That at the Games:**

- There should be a quiet area with choices of books for people to borrow.
- Different countries music should be playing in the background at the Games.
- There should be Co-operation Rooms to meet new people from different countries. In the Co-operation Room you learn about what they eat and different cultures.



## FAIRER

Having the Commonwealth Games in Scotland means that this is chance to talk about fairness, feeling safe and being equal. The Games provide an opportunity to “teach people to be open hearted”.

### **The Children’s Local Investigation Teams propose:**

#### **That there should be:**

- Money for athletes, given to them by the Scottish Parliament, so that they can get good and succeed. They should provide them with water, houses and all the stuff they need.
- A Children’s Commonwealth Games that runs at the same time as the Glasgow 2014 Games.
- More opportunities for boys and girls to play the same sports.
- More time and places for Scottish children to play.

#### **That Scottish people:**

- Need to think more about people who often get left out.
- Need to learn to share things out equally.
- Need to treat children the same and don’t bully them cause of the colour of their skin or hair.

#### **That at the Games:**

- Everybody should know that the Games are a no-bullying zone. Everybody could be wearing T shirts that say people are against bullying.
- All information and signs should be in Braille and in different languages and there should be ways to communicate things to deaf people.
- There should be translators.
- There should be chances to share food and talk about different cultures.
- People who cannot afford to pay for tickets should be able to get in for free. For everybody else prices should be fair.
- Athletes’ families should get in for free.
- There should be lots of retired athletes.
- People who work at the Games should all be paid the same.





## GREENER

The 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland should be Green Games. Being host to the 2014 Games means Scottish people can learn more about looking after the environment. At the Games everything should be good for the environment; including the food that is eaten, the transport that is used, the buildings and stadiums that are built and the energy that is used.

### The Children's Local Investigation Teams propose:

#### That there should be:

- Bins all around Scotland and at the Games to encourage people not to drop litter (or make the fines higher).
- A competition to see who can make up the best eco-song for the Games.
- Gyms at work so workers can get healthy.

#### That Scottish people:

- Should walk to get to school and work.
- Should use bags for life – have to pay for plastic bags.
- Need to grow our own fruit and vegetables so we cut down on bringing fruit and vegetables coming from other places
- Should use more solar energy.
- Need to learn more about the environment and should have websites that tell them what they need to learn.

#### That at the Games:

- All the places where the Games happen should be green.
- All the athletes coming to the Games could be asked to bring a plant or sapling or seeds from their country and these would be planted at a special planting ceremony at the Games. This would create a Commonwealth Games garden and woodlands to be enjoyed forever. The garden would have plaques explaining where the plants come from. The garden could also have stories about plants and animals from each country.
- The houses built for athletes and visitors should have good insulation and use solar energy.
- People should use only electric cars and there should be recycling.
- All the food used should come from Scotland and it should be transported from all over, including the Highlands, by canoes and kept in eco-packaging.
- There should be adverts that go on about making Scotland greener.
- If there are goody bags make sure that they are reusable and not made of plastic. Put seeds for people to take away and plant inside the goody bag.
- Athletes and visitors should use bikes or walk about.



## WEALTHIER

Having the Commonwealth Games in Scotland means that local businesses can be involved in making and selling things. Sponsorship and the promotion of Scotland as a great place to visit are important.

### The Children's Local Investigation Teams propose:

#### That there should be:

- A special tartan for the Glasgow 2014 Games that could be used to make lots of things that can be sold like scarves, kilts, T-shirts and hats.
- Lots of things people can buy that have the logo of the Glasgow 2014 Games.
- Sponsorship from big Scottish companies to help pay for things.
- More sports equipment made and sold in Scotland.
- A new hybrid Scottish car designed especially for the Games. It would have a saltire design on it and the Commonwealth Games logo.
- A new Scottish company created called Highland Green that would sell green products in eco packaging and would have fair conditions for all the workers, including a gym for them at work.

#### That Scottish people:

- Need to make sure that the Games are great so that tourists will come back.

#### That at the Games:

- There should be food from all over the Commonwealth that people can sell and make a business.
- We should sell Scottish food and drinks.
- We should sell new Scottish delicacies that combine traditional foods and food from new communities that have come to live in Scotland.

#### That after the Games the Scottish Government:

- Should try to get more sports events and festival to come to Scotland; like the World Cup or the Olympics.



## OVERVIEW

What will be the legacy for Scotland having been host in 2014? The Local Investigation teams identified that, if all opportunities described in earlier pages of this report are taken to promote participation, and every effort is made to use the Games to help Scotland be healthier, smarter, fairer, greener and wealthier then:

- Scotland will be a country where children are fitter and happier. There will be free swimming for every child. More teachers will be trained and able to teach more children more sports and so children will have fun and get better and better at them. Adults will be able to join in these lessons too.
- More people will learn about healthy eating and restaurants and cafes will have healthier menus too.
- People will live longer.
- There will be free transport for people who can't afford to travel.
- Scottish people will be smarter and more welcoming to visitors from across the Commonwealth and so more of them will visit. More Scottish people will learn and use languages from around the world. Schools will be more fun because of the projects we can do together.
- Scotland will be a much nicer place to stay. The environment in towns and cities will look much greener because we have planted more plants and trees.
- Scotland will be a country where people take care of each other and where people are treated fairly and equally. Scotland will be more kind hearted. When people get involved in Commonwealth Games projects they will get to know their neighbours.



## About the Children's Parliament



The Children's Parliament is supported by the Scottish Government, by partners in Local Authorities and NHS Boards, and by independent Trusts.

The Children's Parliament introduces children to a world of ideas, creating opportunities for thinking and criticism. We work in the community, in schools and with families.

### **CONTACT:**

**Colin Morrison or Cathy McCulloch**

Co Directors:

The Children's Parliament  
New Parliament House  
5 Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH7 5BL

**Tel:** 0131 5589030

**Email:** [colin@tcp.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:colin@tcp.eclipse.co.uk)