**Primary Premium – CSPN Internal Position Statement & Action Plan**

**Sept 2017**

**Purpose**

To encourage the prioritization, agree network approaches and facilitate continuous improvement of the CSP role in supporting the primary premium. Initially for discussion and agreement within the network, it will also be used to inform wider stakeholder engagement and communications, as well as the CSPN national team role and action plan related to the Primary Premium.

**Background / Current situation**

Following the Election in May, the Government has confirmed that the primary PE and sport premium will double as planned, funded from the new Sugar Levy, from September 2017, meaning approximately £320m nationally (circa £16,000 per school, an average of over **£8m per CSP area!)** is being invested into primary school PE & sport annually to 2020 (assumed, current spending review period). This is a very significant investment, it is **more than Sport England invests into grassroots sport!**

Sport England recognizes the importance of this and invests £2.4m annually into CSPs to support schools in utilising the funding to maximise impact, and also invests into the CSPN national team to support the network in delivering their tasks, as well as coordinating the mapping. Sport England have confirmed funding for CSPs for the year ahead and CSPs have recently had their plans approved. However, Sport England have fed back that they feel there is a need for improvement in CSPs in this area of work, for example in areas such as insight and understanding of schools challenges, impact measurement and targeted support for schools, and have asked CSPN to regalvanise efforts and drive higher standards.

CSPN also represents the network at the cross Governmental Ministerial Board for PE & School Sport, attended by Ministers from DfE, DCMS and DH. National partners come together to consider how schools are utilising the funding and develop appropriate support, however collaboration between the partners is limited.

The Government Childhood Obesity Strategy launched in 2016 further raised the profile of children’s activity levels and the primary premium and tasked CSPs with more effectively coordinating the local offer. This helps raise the profile of CSPs, but also provides risks if we are not seen to deliver effectively on this expectation, or schools and suppliers are not satisfied with support required.

In 2017 the SGO task list has been revised to support the messaging and advice to schools to achieve the target of 30 active minutes per day in school.

**Position statement / Recommended Action - To Re-prioritise Primary Premium**

Given the significant investment the doubling of the primary premium funding represents and the opportunity it presents to make a real impact on levels of activity amongst children, together with the strategic importance of this work to Government and Sport England, there is a significant responsibility on CSPs and potential reputational risks if we are not seen to respond strongly.

We therefore believe that this work should move up on our priority list as a network accordingly. We should take stock and refocus effort to address some of the difficult challenges and seek to drive increased impact.

We have begun work on determining our approach and an action plan to maximise the network impact on this area of work as set out below;

1. **Make it a high priority** – Both for the CSPN National Team and Board, and to engage CSP Chief Executives and Boards to ensure this work is **given a high priority** **in each CSP.** We also propose to re-position this work – which is often presented as a ‘programme’, to a more **strategic role** closely aligned and complementary to the emerging new ‘Primary Role’, as it requires CSPs to influence and broker, and address inactivity, within the school environment, which is an important part of whole system change.
2. **Headline Position** - Whilst some commentators are critical of the Primary Premium policy, **we are supportive**. Our insight suggests that most schools are using the funding appropriately, and it is enhancing provision. However given the other pressures schools face we believe there are significant risks and we strongly advocate that DfE **increase accountability and measurement**, including reinforcing the need for good quality web reporting of spend and impact, as well as other measures such as incorporation in ofsted inspections, to ensure all schools maximize the use of the funding, and we are able to drive and demonstrate the impact of the funding.
3. **Advocacy & Influencing** – we will support CSPs to make a concerted effort to advocate the value of physical activity in schools and effective use of the funding with schools and key stakeholders, aligned to the wider Primary Role of CSP. Whilst CSPs don’t want a policing role, we encourage CSPs to be stronger in holding schools to account and drive good practice and impact across their area, and we will provide guidance to CSPs in this area. We will target those schools that our insight suggests are not currently maximising the impact of the funding, and will target other key influencers, including **Multi-academy trust management and School Governors**. We will highlight how Ofsted are inspecting the use of the funding, and **any new accountability measures** introduced by DfE once details are released, and offer support to any schools that are found to be not meeting expectations. We will advocate the proposed sampling to be targeted at those schools with inadequate web reporting. Finally, we will explore with DfE the roll out of a **national awards scheme** linked to local CSP schemes, to celebrate good practice.
4. **Re-shape the Mapping** – we will seek to re-shape future mapping phases, to become more of a **local planning tool** rather than national reporting process, including a greater focus on a granular understanding of schools and shaping supply, and a supply-demand assessment. We will also make the links with the active lives children survey, and advocate dfe build an expectation of schools to cooperate as part of the primary premium funding conditions.
5. **CSPs as neutral broker & ‘First stop shop’** – we will reconfirm and promote the role as adviser and broker between schools and providers. We will provide guidance for CSPs on best practice and what is deemed acceptable in terms of more proactive partnerships and delivery. We will then position CSPs as the **‘First stop shop’** to simplify advice for schools, acting a signposting service to relevant sources of support and resources to meet schools needs. We will seek DfE and partners to promote this in their guidance. We will encourage and support CSPs to strengthen their links and profile with their schools, and be less reliant on intermediaries.
6. **Coordinate and Champion the local offer –** we will meet the expectations of the Childhood obesity strategy by more effectively promoting the local offer, including the national roll out of an innovative **new supplier hub**. We will take measures to **Champion external suppliers** and challenge the negative narrative that often surrounds such providers.
7. **Driving Quality assurance** – we will seek strategic support and resources to enhance quality assurance measures, building on current coachmark schemes, sector kitemarks, and linking into the Duty of Care report recommendation for a new coaching license, and the CIMSPA qualification framework for childrens coaches. We will advocate an improvement focused support package for suppliers and training and resources for schools in managing external providers.
8. **Impact measurement** & sustainability– we will support schools and CSPs to improve impact on attainment and wider child wellbeing measures, and find ways to demonstrate sustainable impact at school level, across a CSP area and nationally.
9. **National Partnerships** – we will strengthen national partnerships with key provides and strategic agencies. For example UK Active kids and AfPE.
10. **CSP Coaching funding –** finally, we will highlight the risks to Sport England of the potential loss of coaching resource in CSPs on this area of work.
11. **Enhanced support** – The CSPN National Team and CYP workstrand group will provide enhanced support to raise standards of delivery across all CSPs, highlighting good practice, and driving key areas of work set out in this paper.

We are developing an action plan, to be agreed with Sport England to move this area of work forwards.