

Agenda Item	<b>8</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 13/16</b>

**Gaelic in Community Sports Activities in Partnership with Comunn na Gàidhlig, Iomain Cholomchille and Highlife Highland Health and Well-being**

**Report by the Director of Care and Learning**

**Summary**

This report informs Members of two national sports activities which specifically focus on language usage and acquisition along with the skills used to undertake the sports activities.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 With the Council's current Gaelic Language Plan, **Theme 1 'What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities'** within the enabling actions it states that *'support the football competition, Cuach na Cloinne and investigate the possibility of a national schools Shinty competition'*.
- 1.2 The Gaelic Team work closely with Comunn na Gàidhlig on Cuach na Cloinne (The Children's Cup) a national football competition, which is a very well established national Gaelic event on the youth sporting Gaelic circuit.

**2. Cuach na Cloinne**

- 2.1 Cuach na Cloinne creates an opportunity for young people from schools across Scotland who attend Gaelic Medium Education to meet and compete against each other and combines their Gaelic linguistic and footballing skills in an inclusive and entertaining manner.
- 2.2 The event develops the young people's linguistic skills as the competition is held entirely in Gaelic. It also helps create positive peer relationships in Gaelic Medium Education schools across the Country.
- 2.3 The 2016 Cuach na Cloinne competition, was aimed at P4-7 pupils in Gaelic medium and nationally 50 teams from 28 schools participated.
- 2.4 In the Highland Council area, 21 teams from 12 schools participated in Cuach na Cloinne.
- 2.5 The regional competitions were held in Lewis, Uist, Skye, Inverness, Ardnamurchan and Glasgow with the successful teams from these regional competitions qualifying.
- 2.6 This year, the national finals were held at Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abair (BSGL) and Shawbost Primary School on the Isle of Lewis picked up the Trophy, with Portree Primary and Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (BSGI) being 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

### **3. Cupa Iomain na h-Òige. Shinty Cup Competition for GM Pupils**

- 3.1 Iomain Cholumchille (St Columba Shinty Competition) is working in partnership with the Highland Council and Highlife Highland to organise a national Shinty Event for P4 – P7 Gaelic Medium Pupils from schools across Scotland.
- 3.2 Cupa Iomain na h-Òige (Youth Shinty Cup) is a pilot project and if successful, will be held annually in the Highland Council area. The aim is to develop the project further and to extend and run a similar event for Secondary pupils who are studying Gaelic, as there is a need to provide sporting activities for Secondary pupils who are developing and enhancing their linguistic skills.
- 3.3 The event will take place on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 on The Eilean Park in Newtonmore. The event will be held entirely in Gaelic.
- 3.4 Cupa Iomain na h-Òige has received support from Bord na Gàidhlig, Iomairt Cholumchille. The Highland Council will sponsor the trophies and medals, which will include an additional trophy for the Team utilising Gaelic during the competition. This work will be further supported by the Highland Council Gaelic Team.
- 3.5 FilmG, who are currently supported by the Highland Council, will liaise with the event organisers as they wish to include a sports category within the 2016-17 FilmG Competition.
- 3.6 A Facebook page has been set up and information has been distributed to schools across Scotland and Iomain Cholmchille can provide assistance to help reduce schools' travel costs. Priority is given to school teams who will be travelling the furthest distance.
- 3.7 In partnership with the Gaelic Team, this initiative is being developed by a Gaelic teacher, who is an experienced shinty player.

### **4 Implications**

- 4.1 There are currently no implications

#### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to comment on two national Gaelic language, sporting events, which take place in the Highlands:

- the ongoing Cuach na Cloinne competition; and
- and the progress made in relation to developing and supporting the Cupa Iomain na h-Òige.

**Designation:** Director of Care and Learning

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