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# Health Impact Assessment of the 2014 Commonwealth Games

## Summary Report

August 2009



Where can I find out more?

For further information contact the Glasgow City Council Corporate Policy Health Team on 0141 287 4460.

The full report can be downloaded from [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)

## Introduction

This is a summary of a full report of the Health Impact Assessment of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. It has been produced by Glasgow City Council working in partnership with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the Medical Research Council at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow Centre for Population Health. It describes the process and the findings of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. It presents recommendations for partners to consider and implement. The recommendations aim to ensure that the health and wellbeing of Glasgow's people can be improved through the Games.

## What do we mean by “health”?

Health is defined by the World Health Organisation as

“a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or ill health”.

HIA reflects this ‘social model of health’. It takes into account that a range of socio-economic factors (such as access to housing, employment and transport) will affect the health and wellbeing of a population and that the greatest opportunity for improving the public's health lies outside the control of the NHS.





## What is Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?

HIA provides a set of tools for looking at how a project or plan affects health. It is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a robust and effective way of helping agencies and communities to think about health. This HIA has allowed partners to identify how the Commonwealth Games might have potential positive and negative impacts on health. Recommendations have then been developed so that:

- > the positive impacts can be maximised
- > the negative ones can be kept to a minimum

## Tackling health inequalities

Although HIA is concerned with the health of the whole community, there is a particular focus on identifying potentially differential impacts across the members of that community. We already know that there are inequalities in Glasgow between different members of the community, based on race, gender, disability, sexuality and economic status. These can have a significant effect on people's health. This HIA has therefore sought to incorporate a strong equalities perspective and to make recommendations which:

- > ensure that inequalities do not widen as a result of the Games
- > propose actions which are sensitive to the different needs of Glasgow's people

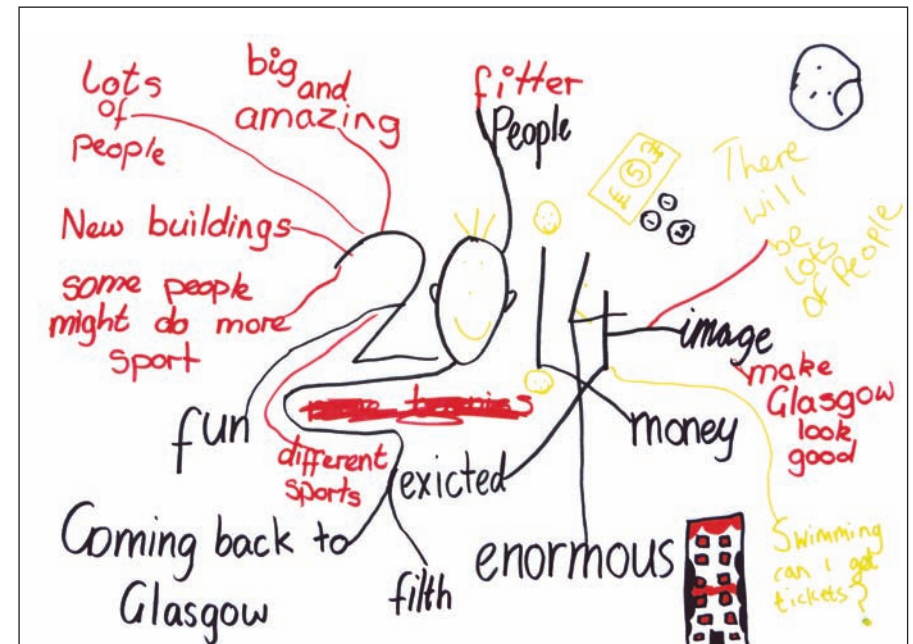


## How was the information gathered?

The HIA process has been guided by a multi-agency steering group. Information was gathered through a number of different methods:

- > A Scoping Event held in August 2008 attended by 120 delegates, which set the boundaries for the HIA, identified potential impacts and provided an opportunity to involve key decision makers.
- > Involving over 3,000 people from Glasgow's communities, working to the National Standards of Community Engagement, allowing people to share their views through the Glasgow Household Survey, a questionnaire and interactive workshops.
- > A review of the evidence on the impact of previous major sporting events.

Information gathered in a workshop with young people, November 2008



## Findings: What are the potential impacts of the 2014 Commonwealth Games?

The potential positive or negative health impacts identified are outlined under 13 key themes. Of these 13 themes, the five which represent the top priorities for Glasgow's people (highlighted in bold below) include 2014 infrastructure facilities, civic pride, image of Glasgow, housing and public space and economy/employment. They are the ones where Glaswegians particularly want to see action from the city's agencies.

The 13 key emerging themes from the HIA (in no particular order) are:

- > **2014 Infrastructure (Facilities)**
- > 2014 Infrastructure (Transport)
- > **Civic Pride**
- > Health and Wellbeing (individual behaviour change)
- > **Image of Glasgow**
- > **Housing and Public Space**
- > 2014 Participation: Cultural and Sporting Events
- > **Economy/Employment**
- > Volunteering
- > Community Safety, Antisocial Behaviour and Crime
- > Community Engagement
- > Sports Development Legacy
- > Environment, Sustainable Development and Carbon Footprint

## Recommendations: What actions should be taken?

For each of the potential impacts, recommendations are proposed. Practical suggestions are presented on how partners might best work to get positive health impacts and to prevent negative ones.

It is recognised that, for many of the recommendations, work has already started or is planned to start in the future. For other areas, the recommendations make suggestions for extending existing action. Some entirely new actions are proposed. The HIA recommendations can be seen as a comprehensive, best practice checklist of actions for consideration.

Importantly, tackling inequalities and continued community engagement were raised under almost all of the 13 themes. These have been addressed explicitly in the full recommendations.

A summary of the recommendations is below:

- > **2014 Infrastructure (Facilities):** New facilities should be accessible to local people and meet their needs in years to come.
- > **2014 Infrastructure (Transport):** Organisers should minimise any possible disruption in the run up to, and during, the Games. The Games should be used as an opportunity to develop accessible and user-friendly transport services and improved transport infrastructure, as well as better signage and an improved integrated ticketing system.
- > **Civic Pride:** A variety of opportunities for wider community involvement should be provided, allowing local people to promote Glasgow's reputation as a friendly city. Commemorative events should be held to celebrate the city's achievements after the Games.
- > **Health and Wellbeing (Individual Behaviour Change):** The Games should be used to increase opportunities for and promotion of healthy eating, smoke-free environments and physical activity (including more opportunities for safer active travel).

- > **Image of Glasgow:** Particular efforts should be made to improve the perception of Glasgow in the run up to and beyond the Games in order to boost both tourism and new business investment. A long term strategy for showcasing local products and businesses should be developed.
- > **Housing and Public Space:** Public space should be designed so that it promotes physical activity and social interaction. People directly affected by the construction of the 2014 village should be involved in the planning process. Housing design should be safe and environmentally-friendly and any disruption during the construction phase of the village should be kept to a minimum.
- > **2014 Participation: Cultural & Sporting Events:** Local people should be involved in the planning and design of events. The opportunities should be varied, accessible and appeal to as wide an audience as possible. A brand logo should be provided for community use to allow for community-led events and initiatives.
- > **Economy/Employment:** Support should be provided for local people to help them access any jobs and training opportunities associated with the Games. Smaller businesses should be supported in bidding for 2014-related work. Clear information should be available to communities on the budget implications of hosting the Games and any impact on services should be minimised.
- > **Volunteering:** Support should be provided for local people to help them access volunteering opportunities and these should in turn be linked to employability programmes. Volunteers should receive out-of-pocket expenses and training, as appropriate.
- > **Community Safety, Antisocial Behaviour and Crime:** The Games should be used as an opportunity to prevent alcohol related problems through licensing and enforcement. The Games also presents a vital opportunity to tackle racism and territorialism through improved cultural awareness. Detailed plans should be developed to minimise the impact of crowds as well as opportunistic crime.
- > **Community Engagement:** A comprehensive community engagement strategy, in line with the National Standards for Community Engagement, should be developed, implemented and independently evaluated.

- > **Sports Development Legacy:** The Games should be used as a key opportunity to increase participation in sports at a grassroots level through increased coaching, improved facilities and supporting the transition from school to club level.
- > **Environment, Sustainable Development and Carbon Footprint:** All Games related projects should be delivered in line with Glasgow's Environment Strategy and Action Plan (including ethical purchasing). The Games should be used to showcase environmentally-friendly practice through all of its developments such as working towards a low carbon community within the Games village by improving recycling facilities (amongst other measures).

## How will we know if the Games have an impact?

In addition to the recommendations, it is suggested that there should be monitoring and evaluation as follows:

- > An evaluation of the HIA process to capture the learning from the experience of carrying out a large scale HIA. This will include the learning from the community engagement exercise.
- > An HIA outcome evaluation, which assesses the extent to which the HIA recommendations are reflected in the legacy plans.
- > A Games outcome evaluation, which would assess the long term impacts of Glasgow hosting the Commonwealth Games.

## Conclusion

This HIA report is offered especially as a resource for those who are involved in planning and delivering a long lasting legacy for Glasgow from the Games. The evidence from previous major sporting events suggests that this is going to be a challenge. But the views of Glasgow's people also show a way for the city to become a leader for legacy. The report concludes on a positive note: Glaswegians are Glasgow's best asset and it is with them that the opportunities for a successful Games in terms of health and wellbeing has the best chance of success.