



GUIDANCE NOTES

Athlete Support Programme 2010

**For applicants seeking 1 January 2010 start date, applications
will be accepted up until 4.00pm on Friday 23 October 2009**

ATHLETE SUPPORT PROGRAMME – GUIDANCE NOTES

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1. ABOUT 'ATHLETE SUPPORT PROGRAMME'

1.1 Introduction

The draft Strategy for Sport 2009-2019 has identified the following medal target for NI athletes:

"100 medals at the highest level in their sport including European, Commonwealth Games, World and Olympic levels, by 2019".

In working towards this target Sport Northern Ireland is focusing its performance sport resources on strengthening Northern Ireland's support structures (or "pillars") for successful athlete development. This includes:

- supporting athletes during their competitive lifetime and post their athletic career;
- ensuring athletes have access to appropriate scientific and medical support; and
- providing financial support for the development of sports and athletes.

1.2 What is the Athlete Support Programme?

The Athlete Support Programme (ASP) is an investment programme that assists identified talented able-bodied and disabled sports people to develop to their full potential and achieve international sporting success at Olympic, World, European and/or Commonwealth level.

Investment will cover costs in relation to an athlete's or team's training programme as they prepare for major competition. Details of eligible expenditure are outlined at Section 2 of these Guidance Notes.

In making awards to athletes through the ASP, Sport Northern Ireland will work closely with staff at the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland (SINI). For athletes of an appropriate standard, as well as potential financial investment there may be access to:

- support services provided by the staff at SINI or
- support services through the emerging Performer Development Centres (PDC). All places for the pilot PDCs have now been allocated and it is anticipated that no further opportunities will become available until 2011.

2. WHAT COSTS WILL BE FUNDED UNDER THE ATHLETE SUPPORT PROGRAMME?

2.1 Types of financial assistance available

The ASP provides financial assistance in relation to '*sports costs*' and '*living costs*' incurred by athletes as they prepare for major competition.

Sports Costs:

For the purposes of this programme, *sports costs* are defined as those costs incurred during the implementation of an agreed training and competition programme leading to participation at a major international event, e.g. attendance at competitions, training camps etc. The specific detail of eligible expenditure in relation to sports cost is outlined below in Section 2.2.

Living Costs:

Living costs relate to the **essential** personal living costs of an athlete to include rates, rent/mortgage costs, household expenses, food, and pension and NI contributions.

Further details about 'living costs' are provided at Section 7.

2.2 Eligible Expenditure

Outlined below are the typical key sports costs elements of a training and competition programme which Sport Northern Ireland will support. These elements relate to both an individual athlete's training programme and a team programme.

2.2.1 Coaching

Eligible costs include:

- (i) additional costs associated with securing coaching expertise not normally available within an athlete's domestic training programme; and
- (ii) travel, accommodation and subsistence costs of coaches attending residential training camps and competitions.

2.2.2 Personal Training and Preparation Costs

Eligible costs include:

- (i) attendance at residential training camps – including travel, accommodation, agreed daily subsistence allowance and facility fees;
- (ii) membership fees; and
- (iii) international licence costs.

2.2.3 Competitions of a suitable standard

Eligible costs include travel, accommodation, agreed daily subsistence allowance and entry fees.

2.2.4 Sports Science Support

Eligible costs include fees in respect of the following services:

- o Biomechanics
- o Nutrition
- o Performance analysis
- o Physiology
- o Psychology
- o Strength and conditioning and
- o Physiotherapy.

For athletes with access to SINI these services will be available as agreed with SINI staff.

2.2.5 Sports Medicine Support

Individual athletes receiving an award will also have access to up to £300 per annum towards the purchase of appropriate medical and travel insurance.

Sports medicine funding will not be transferable to any other element of the award.

2.2.6 Competition and Training Equipment

Eligible costs include essential items of personal training and competition equipment and insurance for same. The cost of medical aids will also be eligible. This element will normally be capped at 20% of the total award.

2.2.7 Other Costs

Sport Northern Ireland will also consider funding any other reasonable costs which can be shown by the applicant to make a realistic and valuable contribution to the athlete's and/or team's ability to realise the objectives of the performance plan.

Applicants must ensure that goods, services and products obtained represent good value for money.

2.3 Other Services

2.3.1 Access to services at SINI.

Within submissions to the ASP applicants are also invited to make application and provide a rationale for access to services at SINI.

2.4 Funding Levels

The maximum level of financial assistance available will be determined by the performance level of an athlete. An overview of indicative funding levels for the January to December 2010 period is provided below:

	<i>Level</i>	<i>Maximum Individual Award</i>
SENIOR	World Class	£15,000
	International	£9,000
JUNIOR	Developmental	£4,000

Applicants should note that in respect of team applications and when determining the level of award, if any, Sport Northern Ireland will consider the total cost of the overall programme and any other sources of funding. Bearing this in mind, Sport Northern Ireland reserves the right to amend the level of award accordingly.

In exceptional circumstances, Sport Northern Ireland may consider applications in respect of athletes who may not meet agreed minimum performance standards but form part of a specific talent confirmation or transfer programme. Applicants wishing to make submissions in these circumstances must contact and agree with Sport Northern Ireland in advance of doing so.

2.5 Pro-Rata Awards

Under the 2010 Programme, athletes, not having previously met performance standards but who meet the minimum performance standards between 1 January 2010 and 30 September 2010 inclusive, will be eligible to apply for financial assistance on a pro-rata basis, calculated by reference to the date of the qualifying performance.

It will be the responsibility of the relevant Governing Body to notify Sport Northern Ireland if an athlete becomes eligible for support in this way. Requests for pro-rata awards must be submitted to Sport Northern Ireland

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within four weeks of the date of performance. If requests are made after the four-week time frame, allocation of funding (if any) will be calculated from date of request, rather than the date of the performance and **subject to Sport Northern Ireland having budget available.**

2.6 Partnership funding

The National Lottery Act 1998 states that Lottery awards should take account of an element of partnership funding. In the case of ASP, Sport Northern Ireland accepts that individual athletes and applicants contribute much to athlete development over and above the cost identified within training and competition programmes.

Sport Northern Ireland is able to make awards up to 100% in respect of agreed programme elements in recognition of the significant contribution made by individual athletes and their families, coaches, performance managers and other Governing Body personnel.

Applicants will be required to provide details of any other sources of funding, e.g. sponsorship, prize money, Irish Sports Council or UK Sport investment. Sport Northern Ireland reserves the right to request documentary evidence.

2.7 Ineligible expenditure

Sport Northern Ireland will not consider paying the following costs:

- Salaries – of any core programme staff which will include Governing Body employees and performance manager costs
- Any costs associated with the preparation of the ASP application
- Any costs associated with the athlete's and/or team's ongoing domestic training, coaching and competition programme
- Costs deemed by Sport Northern Ireland to be unreasonable or excessive for the purchase of goods or services related to the programme.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Who is eligible to apply?

Individuals are not normally eligible to apply directly to the 'sports costs' element of the ASP.

Applications can normally only be submitted by the relevant Sport Northern Ireland recognised Governing Bodies of Sport, and/or organisations which Sport Northern Ireland recognises represent the interests of a number of Governing Bodies, e.g. the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council, Disability Sport Northern Ireland.

Eligible organisations wishing to submit applications to the ASP must have all of the following in place:

- A copy of the constitution or memorandum and articles of association to include the appropriate anti-doping clause;
- Annual accounts approved by the membership;
- A child protection policy; and
- An equity policy.

Applicants will be required to submit the above information with applications to the ASP.

3.2 Which athletes are eligible for support?

Governing bodies of sport will only be able to make applications in respect of athletes or team members who meet specific criteria as set out below:

- Born in Northern Ireland; or
- Born of a parent (or adoptive parent) born in Northern Ireland; or
- Eligible to compete for Northern Ireland in the targeted competition

Sport Northern Ireland will only consider applications in respect of athletes eligible to represent the Great Britain or Ireland, e.g. at an Olympic Games or European Championships.

In the case of providing financial assistance for athletes preparing for and competing at the Commonwealth Games, funded athletes will be required to be available to represent Northern Ireland.

Applicants must **also** ensure that nominated athletes meet minimum performance standards agreed for 2010 between Sport NI and the relevant Governing Body of Sport.

3.3 Performance Standards

Prior to submitting applications to the ASP, applicants will be required to agree minimum performance standards with Sport Northern Ireland.

In considering performance standards, Sport Northern Ireland will take into account:

- any existing standards used by other Sports Councils for athlete investment decisions and
- the number and standing of the competing countries and athletes.

Once agreed, Sport Northern Ireland will publish performance standards on its website.

The agreed performance standards will allow the relevant Governing Body and Sport Northern Ireland to determine if an athlete is eligible to be considered for funding.

Meeting the minimum performance standards is not a guarantee of any Sport Northern Ireland investment.

Performance standards will be revised on a regular basis as performance standards improve within the sports.

3.4 Eligibility of Teams

Teams will only be considered eligible for funding where:

- (a) the sporting activity can only be undertaken by a team, e.g. rugby, rowing four; and
- (b) the team is already exhibiting success at international level or where international success is a realistic objective within a two-year timeframe.

Applicants should note that Sport Northern Ireland will only consider investing in those team members who meet the criteria outlined in 3.2.

The programme is available to all irrespective of any aspect of social identity, particularly those protected under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

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4. APPLICATION, ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING

4.1 What is the application and assessment process?

The application and assessment process is summarised below:

APPLICATION STAGE

STEP 1: Enquiry received and Guidance Notes issued to governing body.

STEP 2: Governing Bodies (Applicants) agree minimum performance standards with Sport Northern Ireland and these are posted on the Sport Northern Ireland website.



STEP 3: Application Form(s) issued to Governing Bodies to enable an application to be made in respect of eligible athletes and/or teams (ie those who meet the minimum performance standards).

Applicants to submit a single application for multiple athletes. However, in the case of sports with multiple disciplines, e.g. cycling – MTB, road race, time trial etc, Sport Northern Ireland will accept an application per discipline.



STEP 4: Application Form(s) completed and returned to Sport Northern Ireland by the published closing date. Prior to submitting applications to the Programme, applicants are encouraged to discuss the bid with the relevant National Governing Body.



ASSESSMENT STAGE

STEP 5: Assessing officer assigned and assessment carried out against criteria outlined below.

SINI staff members of the wider Performance Team will be involved in the process and will run a parallel assessment process where SINI services have been requested.

Sport Northern Ireland and SINI reserve the right to contact the National Governing Body during the assessment process.



DECISION STAGE

STEP 6: Decision on awards made by Sport Northern Ireland



PLANNING STAGE

STEP 7: Applicant informed, in writing, of decision, including, where appropriate, confirmation of SINI membership.

STEP 8: Successful governing bodies, their athletes and coaches/award managers will be required to meet with relevant Sport Northern Ireland and/or SINI personnel to agree detailed performance plans and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

4.2 How will applications be assessed?

Sport Northern Ireland will make its assessment on the **performance standard of the identified athlete or team**. This will include the extent to which the athlete/team has a proven performance record and/or demonstrable potential to achieve success in international competition.

In particular, consideration will be given to the following:

- The ability of the athlete to have met previously agreed KPIs.
- Date of achievement of best performance result to include an assessment of whether the athlete/team is showing consistent improvement in performance standards.
- An athlete's personal bests (as measured by times, distances, results etc) in comparison to other leading international athletes within the sport/discipline
- The quality and appropriateness of interim performance targets, in particular to determine if they are progressive and will enable the athlete close any gap in performance.
- The level of the athlete's ultimate performance goal, ie position in Olympic Games, World and European Championships, Commonwealth Games, to include an assessment of the number of countries and competitors which are likely to compete in the event and the comparative strength of the competing nations in world terms.

4.3 What happens after decision stage?

Successful applicants will receive formal contract documentation setting out the terms and conditions of award. The letter of offer and associated conditions, if accepted, will form a contract between Sport Northern Ireland and the applicant. Details of SINI services will be confirmed if applicable.

Sport Northern Ireland reserves the right to make a media announcement relating to successful applicants. This announcement may include details of individual athlete's name and town.

4.4 Terms and conditions

Applicants choosing to accept the offer of an award must agree to abide by Sport Northern Ireland's Terms and Conditions. A copy of the general Terms and Conditions can be made available upon request.

There may be Specific Terms and Conditions attached to individual awards in addition to Standard Terms and Conditions. Where this is the case, applicants will be notified when the offer of the award is made.

Athletes and team members will be required to sign an individual Athlete Agreement confirming their acceptance of the award.

5. AWARD MANAGEMENT

5.1 What is the role of the Award Manager?

To assist Sport Northern Ireland undertake assessment of applications and, in the event of an award, manage and monitor the impact of any investment, applicants are required to appoint a named individual as a point of contact in respect of each application.

Sport Northern Ireland will refer to this individual as the Award Manager. The Award Manager will be required to confirm the accuracy of information related to the application and, should an award be made, will be responsible for reporting back to Sport Northern Ireland on the performance of the athlete(s) and/or team members in both the training and competition environment.

The Award Manager will also have responsibility for the submission of all financial claims, receipts and reports.

In line with current Sport Northern Ireland policy, the Award Manager will be required to confirm that no interest exists. Bearing this in mind, Sport Northern Ireland does not deem it appropriate for a relative and/or friend of the athlete (or athletes themselves) to undertake this role.

Sport Northern Ireland would encourage applicants to appoint the sport's National Coach, Performance Director or other suitably qualified governing body personnel to undertake this role.

The Award Manager's activities will be regarded as the applicant's contribution towards the application and therefore this role will not receive any financial assistance.

5.2 How will award payments be made?

Award payments will be made by BACS and the method of payment will be determined by an Applicant's risk rating.

Sport Northern Ireland Internal Risk Rating	Comparable Audit Assurance	Vouching Procedures	Timing
Exceptional	Nil Assurance	100% invoices vouched; or audited statement. All reconciled to bank statements.	Quarterly claims. Actual expenditure must be submitted. No budget payments.

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Sport Northern Ireland Internal Risk Rating	Comparable Audit Assurance	Vouching Procedures	Timing
High	Limited Assurance	100% vouching; or audited statement.	Budget claims quarterly in advance (if requested) and actual claims quarterly in retrospect.
Medium	Reasonable Assurance	Mandatory sampling of at least 40% or audited statement.	50% advance on acceptance of award. Further 40% advance mid year following sample of invoices. Up to 10% end of year following sample of invoices.
Low	Full Assurance	No vouching (reserve right to sample 10%).	90% advance on acceptance of award. Up to 10% end of year following sample of invoices.

Applicants and athletes are reminded to retain evidence of expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the award.

In the event that an Applicant has not previously been subject to a Sport Northern Ireland audit, the Applicant will be deemed to have an 'exceptional' risk rating.

Those Applicants deemed to have an 'exceptional' risk rating may request that Sport Northern Ireland undertakes a financial health check to potentially alter its risk rating. Further detail of what a financial health check will entail is available upon request.

In the event that an athlete or team member defaults on an advance payment and is unable to pay Sport Northern Ireland a refund, the applicant (Governing Body) shall refund to Sport Northern Ireland the amount owing.

Funding will only be paid into a single dedicated bank account and agreed with Sport Northern Ireland in advance of first payment of award.

In line with the payment process outlined above, Sport Northern Ireland will retain 10% of the overall total award until the performance plan has been completed. Final payment of award will then be released when the applicant has furnished the relevant final claim documentation, including a detailed report of performance against targets.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 How will awards be monitored and evaluated?

Monitoring will take place during the award.

As part of the conditions of award, award recipients will be required to furnish Sport Northern Ireland with a report detailing the progress of their athlete(s) with any claims for payment or at least every four months, whichever is the shorter period.

In addition, claims for payment will be examined to ensure expenditure is valid and that the supporting documentation is acceptable for audit purposes.

Sport Northern Ireland also reserves the right to inspect bank statements and other financial reports of the applicant and the athletes.

Applicants and athletes may also be required to participate in any athlete tracking process undertaken by Sport Northern Ireland or its appointed agents. Participation in such a process will be a condition of any award.

7. LIVING COSTS EXTENSION

7.1 What is the Living Costs element of the programme?

In addition to benefiting from sports costs awards, individual athletes may apply to the Living Costs extension of the ASP. This aims to maximise an athlete's potential by providing financial assistance to enable them to train on a full-time or part-time basis.

In the case of living costs, individuals will apply directly for financial assistance.

This element of funding is only likely to be available to a **small** number of individuals who meet specific criteria and whose circumstances have changed or will change significantly so that they can adequately prepare for competition. It is anticipated that those who receive Living Costs funding will fall within the World Class or International categories of the programme.

Only in **exceptional** circumstances will those in the Developmental category be considered for a Living Cost award.

7.2 Who is deemed eligible to apply for Living Costs funding?

Athletes who meet the following criteria will be deemed eligible to make an application to the Living Costs extension of the ASP:

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- The athlete must be in receipt of a current ASP sports costs award **or** the athlete's Governing body must have submitted an application;
- The athlete must show the potential to achieve agreed performance goals within the programme;
- The athlete must demonstrate a change in circumstances to be considered. Examples of these may include:
 - Training either on a full-time or part-time basis
 - Relocation to ensure access to appropriate facilities and/or expertise; and
 - The training programme must significantly reduce the athlete's capacity to meet the costs of their daily living.

The athlete must demonstrate anticipated financial need. Sport Northern Ireland will seek documentary evidence of income and expenditure at time of application.

Sport Northern Ireland may share details of athletes applying for Living Costs awards with the relevant National Governing Body and/or Branch, UK Sport and the Irish Sports Council as appropriate. This will clarify the nature of any other support being provided to the athlete and the level of support required by the athlete to enable them to fulfil their performance programme.

7.3 How much funding is available for Living Costs?

The award is not meant to improve an athlete's lifestyle. It will not cover the costs of new mortgages, business start-ups etc, new cars, debts incurred prior to any award (e.g. loan agreements, credit card bills) etc.

The amount of Living Costs funding will be determined by the level of financial need demonstrated by the athlete. The maximum annual award is likely to be £21,736 (based on the median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in Northern Ireland at April 2008, was £417.60)

In the event of the volume of applications received exceeding the available budget, Sport Northern Ireland reserves the right to base its award on **essential** living costs such as accommodation costs, food and travel.

7.4 Is there anything else to know about Living Costs funding?

Applicants who receive a living costs award are advised that this may have tax implications. Successful applicants are therefore recommended to seek appropriate advice from a tax specialist.

Living costs awards may only be made for a maximum of 12 months.

7.5 How do eligible athletes apply?

Within an application for sports costs, athletes will be required to provide a rationale outlining how they are eligible to be considered for living costs funding. If satisfactory, Sport Northern Ireland will issue relevant documentation.

Applications will normally be considered following the agreement of a sports costs award.

Sport Northern Ireland may permit flexibility in some instances during the period of award, in particular where an athlete's circumstances change to enable full-time or part-time training.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

8.1 General Conditions

It is important that any applicant to this programme has read and understood the contents of the information and guidance booklet. In particular applicants should note the following:

- these guidelines and Sport Northern Ireland's policies on Lottery funding are subject to change from time to time, including variations required to comply with Government directions on the application of Lottery funds,
- Sport Northern Ireland reserves the right to amend, supplement and/or discontinue at its absolute discretion, due to a Government directive or for whatever reason, any or all of the policies, criteria and application procedures set out in this publication,
- Sport Northern Ireland has used its best endeavours to provide clear and helpful guidance for potential applicants to Sport Northern Ireland;
- Sport Northern Ireland, its servants or agents shall not, however, at any time in any circumstances be held responsible or liable in relation to any matter whatsoever or howsoever arising in connection with the development, planning, construction, operation, management and/or administration of individual projects; and

- direct approaches to Sport Northern Ireland members which attempt to influence the outcome of the assessment process will render an application invalid.

All decisions regarding applications are at the sole discretion of Sport Northern Ireland.

8.2 Data Protection Act

Applicants should be aware that information on applications is stored on computer and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, such information is confidential.

All government departments and distributing bodies for Lottery funds share information on projects to enable them to prevent fraudulent applications and to co-ordinate processing of complementary applications.

It should be further noted that any information provided on the application form may be made available to other departments/agencies for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime.

8.3 Freedom of Information

Applicants should note that in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information regarding both successful and unsuccessful applications may be made available to the public via the World Wide Web and a variety of publications. This information will include, amongst other things:

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- the applicant's name,
- the applicant's town
- the amount of funding applied for,
- a summary of the application,
- the amount awarded, if any,
- monitoring information; and
- the duration of the plan.

8.4 Suspected Fraud

Applicants are advised that any materially misleading statements (whether deliberate or accidental) given at any stage during the application process, could render the application invalid and the applicant liable to return any money already paid out on the programme.

It should be noted that all cases of suspected fraud will be referred to the PSport Northern Ireland. This includes falsification of information and misinformation at application stage.

8.5 Complaints Procedure

Sport Northern Ireland aims to ensure that services are provided to our customers' satisfaction, but if you do experience any problems or difficulties do not hesitate to make your dissatisfaction clear to the member of staff you are dealing with. If you prefer, or if you are still not happy you can make a formal complaint using our complaints procedure. A leaflet is available from Sport Northern Ireland by contacting

us on 028 9038 1222 or by calling into the House of Sport.

8.6 Appeals Procedure

An applicant can appeal against a decision of Sport Northern Ireland. A full copy of the appeals procedure will be issued on receipt of a formal written request.

All decisions in relation to funding are made on the principle of merit and as such fully compliant to the principles of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

The following information is available online at www.sportni.net.

- Guidance notes
- Agreed performance standards
- Terms and conditions of award
- Details of eligible organisations
- Details of SINI services.

Should you have any questions regarding the Athlete Support Programme, please contact Sport Northern Ireland as follows:

Athlete Support
Sport Northern Ireland
House of Sport
2a Upper Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5LA
Tel: 028 9038 1222
Fax: 028 9068 2757
Email: athletesupport@sportni.net

Sports Institute Northern Ireland (SINI)

SINI is part of a UK wide networks of Sports Institutes. It works with athletes and coaches in delivering a range of support services which aim to drive up the standards of fitness and competitiveness of athletes¹. The focus is on the application of science, medical, lifestyle and planning best practice for athletes and coaches. Its core purpose is:

"to create an environment that nurtures and leads elite athletes and coaches through the provision of facilities, services and expertise"

In its new model of service delivery for the period 2009-14, SINI will deliver support via 3 programmes.

SINI Major Games Programme - Programmes with athletes managed through day to day interaction with SINI staff. These sports would all be Olympic / Paralympic or Commonwealth Games sports. A full range of services delivered in an integrated manner would be available to those athletes who are full-time. The delivery structure is outlined below:

Services
Athletes training full-time in NI
<p>Integrated Services² to top athletes (Programme management / sports medicine / performance science (physiology, performance analysis, nutrition) / strength & conditioning / performance skills (lifestyle management, psychology)</p> <p>Liaison with Head Coach / Performance Director through SINI High Performance Manager</p> <p>Liaison with coaches of athletes through SINI service staff</p> <p>Annual Service Showcase (technical updates for sports re. advances in service provision)</p>
Athletes remote from NI for blocks of the year
<p>Service Projects³ working with top athletes</p> <p>Liaison with Head Coach / Performance Director through SINI High Performance Manager</p> <p>Annual Service Showcase (technical updates for sports re. advances in service provision)</p>

¹ The term athlete is used to describe a combination of athletes from team sports and individual athletes.

² Integrated services - a full range of athlete support services delivered in an integrated manner during the athlete's time within SINI

³ Service Projects - specific athlete support services delivered in an agreed manner in order to meet project objectives. Projects may focus on one service discipline or involve combinations of service disciplines e.g. physiology + nutrition + sports medicine or performance analysis + psychology

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SINI Support Programme - These sports would receive support from SINI in order to meet specific project objectives. These service projects would be identified and agreed with the Head Coaches / Performance Directors and operate through service level agreements. The projects would target top athletes operating under the direction of the best coaches. These sports would include the 'Culturally Significant Sports' including major field sports and non Olympic and Commonwealth sports that have athletes competing at World or European level. The delivery structure is outlined below:

Services
<p>Service Projects working with top athletes and coaches</p> <p>Mentoring of sport based personnel by experienced SINI service staff</p> <p>Liaison with Head Coach / Performance Director through SINI Athlete Services Manager</p> <p>Annual Service Showcase (technical updates for sports re. advances in service provision)</p>

SINI Foundation Programme - SINI would influence service delivery at the Performer Development Centres. This programme would target young athletes as part of Sport Northern Ireland talent confirmation initiative. These young athletes would be mainly from the individual Olympic and Commonwealth sports and would be recognised as potential future SINI athletes. This programme would help ensure that on entry, future SINI athletes are further developed in terms of their capacities relative to high performance sport. In the first instance key services delivered through this programme will focus on physical preparation and include strength and conditioning and physiotherapy.

Services
Support to Performer Development Centres
<p>Quality assurance will be provided by SINI employing new staff who will deliver at these centres and ensuring that they are appropriately trained and supervised by current and experienced service staff. In addition experienced SINI staff will determine the frameworks and practices that roll out through the performer development centres</p>
Service Delivery to talent programme athletes
<p>SINI will employ and train new service staff to specifically deliver to those young athletes involved in Sport Northern Ireland's talent programmes related to talent identification / talent confirmation and transfer.</p>