



FREE BADMINTON AT WALLACE HIGH

CashBack for Communities is the Scottish Government's programme of free activities for young Scots (aged 10-19), which is funded by money taken from the proceeds of crime. **BADMINTONscotland** together with Active Stirling, Youth Services and the Community Safety Partnership are providing free badminton at Wallace High School beginning Friday 26th August from 6 – 8pm.

CashBack aims to expand young people's horizons and increase the opportunities they have to develop their interests and skills in an enjoyable, fulfilling and supported way. At these free sessions all equipment and coaching will be provided, no experience is necessary and all young people aged 10 – 19 are welcome.

Lesley Gallagher, Stirling Community Planning Partnership Manager said: "Stirling Community Safety Partnership is delighted to work with Badminton Scotland to provide another CashBack Sport in Stirling. Basketball, Rugby, Hockey and Football are already available free and are proving a great success. The Partnership welcomes the opportunity to work with our partners in Scottish Government and the National Sporting bodies to add to the opportunities available in Stirling for our young people to spend their free time safely and healthily."

Lindsay Campbell, Sport Development Officer, Active Stirling stated: "Active Stirling are very excited to be involved and support the CashBack initiative in the Stirling area in a bid to use badminton as a diversionary activity for young people. Badminton is a growing sport within the local community and I hope this new session will encourage more young people to enjoy playing badminton now and continue this participation into adulthood".

Anne Smillie **BADMINTONscotland** Chief Executive commented: "It is fantastic we forging these partnerships in Stirling to introduce a programme of free badminton, giving local young people such a positive and fun sport to get involved in. We are committed to working with communities offering this free activity to provide positive sporting opportunities to young people."

Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, Shona Robison said: “The programme of activity to be undertaken by **BADMINTONscotland**, thanks to CashBack for Communities funding, is one which will bring benefits to communities across Scotland. Sport contributes to the health and well-being of young people and this investment is an excellent example of how CashBack can make a positive impact by offering our young people opportunities to be active in a range of activities. By taking funds from crime and putting it back into our communities we are making them safer and helping to ensure our young people lead longer, healthier lives.”

Since its launch in 2007 by Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill, over £40 million has been reinvested back into communities across Scotland through sporting, cultural, youth and third sector organisations. To date, over half a million young people have benefited.

CashBack for Communities is part of the Scottish Government’s commitment to a ‘Safer, Stronger and Healthier Scotland’. The free badminton sessions will provide young people with something positive to do on a Friday Night and there is also the potential for those over the age of 14 to complete a badminton basics course and take their first steps to becoming a coach.

BADMINTONscotland are one of eight national sporting bodies now funded to deliver activities for young people through the Scottish Government’s CashBack for Communities programme. Badminton was successful in attracting a total grant of £336,000 over 2 years until March 2012 which has created new activity in areas affected by crime in 16 local authorities to date, reaching over 2000 young people.

Notes to Editors:

- For more information on the Badminton CashBack Programme please contact: Kirsty Wilmington, CashBack Co-ordinator, **BADMINTONscotland** Tel: 0141 445 1218, email: kirsty@badmintonscotland.org.uk
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- Badminton was successful in attracting a total grant of £336,000 over 2 years until March 2012
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- More information can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/cashback
- All CashBack funded activities for young people can be found at www.youngscotwow.org

- For further information about the Scottish Governments CashBack for Communities programme please contact Christopher Mackie (Christopher.Mackie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or 0131 244 2939)
- For information on the Stirling project please contact Development Officer Lindsay Campbell on 0300 028 0101