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Preface by Kate Hoey



Last year, A Sporting Future for All set out the Government's vision of a sporting nation to be proud of in which the value of sport for its own sake, and its potential as a powerful tool for social, educational and physical well-being would be recognised. Immediately after its publication I established the Sport Strategy Implementation Group to identify what needed to be done to bring the Strategy to life. For the first time in the history of sport development in this country, Government policy-making involved the people who actually work in sport at all levels - in schools, Local Authorities, communities, National Governing Bodies, administrative bodies, sports charities and equity groups. Some of them are great athletes in their own right. All of them are dedicated to the ideal of sporting excellence.

For six months, these individuals gave their time and pooled ideas to come up with a practical and powerful programme of action. They presented their report in December and now, after consultations with other Government Departments and key agencies, we can concentrate on the important work of putting their recommendations into practice.

Last year, I was privileged to witness the terrific performance of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes in Sydney. Sporting success is truly inspirational, and in this plan the Government encourages Governing Bodies to put in place the coaches, resources and structures necessary for competitors to produce more world-beating performances in more sports.

We also value the power of sport to motivate and engage individuals who follow and participate in sport for pleasure. Sport and increasingly popular informal physical activities such as dance, fitness programmes, walking and cycling increase people's sense of well-being and contribute to good health. There is growing evidence that involvement in sport helps to prevent young people from getting mixed up in crime and drugs. In short, sport is good for society. This plan recognises and endorses the key role which sport can play in meeting the Government's wider agenda.

My thanks go to all the members of the Implementation Group for the commitment, energy and expertise they brought to this work. They have made a real and lasting contribution in shaping the opportunity we now have to transform the sporting life of our country.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Hoey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KATE HOEY MP
Minister for Sport



Ministerial Endorsements



Since the publication of the Government's Sport Strategy last year, a lot of work has already begun to improve the opportunities available for all children, whatever their ability, to take part in physical activities. We have already established 84 Specialist Sports Colleges in 59 Local Education Authorities, and 195 School Sport Co-ordinators have started working with teachers in their families of schools to provide more activities for pupils to play competitive sport. Sport is the most popular form of study support. Children surveyed by British Market Research Bureau said their most popular out-of-school hours activity was participating in sport and this was the case for both primary and secondary children.

I hope that this plan for further and continuing action will build upon this good work, and will ensure that increasing opportunities for access and nurturing talent will enable children to have every chance to take part in activities that they enjoy and that will give them health benefits and enjoyment into adult life.

Jacqui Smith MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for School Standards

I welcome the publication of this plan and its overall aim of greater participation in sporting activities at every level.

There are a number of recommendations that have a read-across to the Government's active community agenda. Those relating to social inclusion, community development and the role of sport are particularly to be welcomed, as are those that address the question of volunteers in sport and their training and development. Sporting activities can be a powerful tool in combatting social exclusion and alienation.

Rt Hon Paul Boateng MP Minister of State and Deputy Home Secretary

Sport can have huge health benefits, as can other forms of physical activity. Experts advise that thirty minutes of moderate activity on five days a week can significantly reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke as well as other conditions including some cancers. A Sporting Future for All provides a framework to promote sport as something that can be enjoyed by the many and not the few and complements the NHS Plan and the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease.

Yvette Cooper MP Minister for Public Health



Introduction

1.1 In April 2000 the Government published its strategy for the development of sport over the next decade A Sporting Future for All sets a clear goal for the future: to ensure that every member of our society is offered opportunities and encouragement to play, lead and manage sport. That goal has something to offer to all, whatever their age, gender, race, ability or need. It also provides a broad base for the development of talented performers across all sports

1.2 As the Prime Minister wrote in his Foreword to A Sporting Future for All, "Sport Matters". The Government is committed to the value of sport both in itself and in the wider life of the community. The DCMS social inclusion action plan, PAT 10, provides ample evidence of the role sport can play in combatting social exclusion and tackling the neighbourhood renewal agenda. Fairness for all is at the heart of the Government's plan. Sport should continue to remove barriers and maximise opportunity, to recognise and challenge inequality and to create an environment in which everyone who wishes to participate in sport can do so without disadvantage and discrimination.

1.3 A Sporting Future for All pledged to commission an Implementation Group, drawing on expertise from leading figures in sport education, Local Authorities and the National Governing Bodies of sport. The implementation group was charged with greening practical ways of achieving the Strategy recommendations within a challenging six month time scale

1.4 The group divided into 6 subgroups, and started work in May last year. They presented their report to the Sport Minister and the Minister for School Standards on 13 December at the Oval - the setting of one of the great sporting victories of the year when England triumphed over the West Indies for the first time in 31 years. Their comprehensive action plan represents the most significant sporting manifesto ever seen in the United Kingdom.

1.5 Events have moved fast over the past year and many of the actions recommended by the Implementation Group are already happening. The Government has committed extra resources to school sport, we are focussing on developing a truly world class system for identifying and supporting top UK athletes, and there is a public commitment to train, develop and recognise the dedicated volunteers without whom much community and club sport would never happen. There must be a strong partnership between Government and sport to enable National Governing Bodies to develop higher standards of management and clear, realistic plans for widening participation and developing talent.

1.6 In setting out the Government's plan for sport, this paper endorses the Implementation Group report. It indicates where work is already underway and encompasses other developments such as the announcement of the Government's intention to offer an entitlement to sport and physical education for all 5–16 year-olds, and opportunities for New Deal assistants to work alongside School Sport Co-ordinators. These new measures will complement the Implementation Group work plan. This plan is no quick fix, however. Whilst the majority of the actions detailed here are beginning to happen now or will be set in motion during the next year, a few major pieces of work, such as the compilation of comprehensive Local Authority facility registers, may not be fully operational for five years.

1.7 This action plan is a statement of our determination that sport in education, sport in the community and world class sport should contribute fully to the social and cultural well being of the nation, and of our commitment to creating the right conditions for national sporting success

