



**Department for Culture,
Media and Sport**
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
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New Opportunities from The Lottery

Proposals for the New Opportunities Fund

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Summary

1. This consultation paper proposes a number of new initiatives for the New Opportunities Fund. In summary these proposals are:
 - PE and sport in schools;
 - outdoor adventure and other activities for young people;
 - reducing the burden of coronary heart disease and stroke;
 - cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care;
 - palliative care;
 - childcare;
 - transforming communities;
 - Awards for All.
2. We should welcome views on all aspects of these proposals, including in particular:
 - the scope and focus of each initiative;
 - how each relates to the Fund's existing programmes;
 - how the Fund might deliver the new initiatives most effectively and with which partners;
 - how the initiatives might work alongside other relevant programmes tackling social exclusion;
 - the viability and sustainability of projects;
 - the likely level of local and voluntary sector participation; and
 - the benchmarks by which achievements can be measured.
3. We welcome responses from **all** interested parties and those consulted include:
 - charities, voluntary organisations and agencies concerned with health, education and environment issues;
 - sports and outdoor adventure organisations;
 - local authorities and district councils;
 - local education authorities;
 - health authorities;
 - library authorities; and
 - local childcare partnerships.

4. While these initiatives are designed for the whole of the UK, it is proposed that in a number of instances they would be adapted to respond to the priorities of the devolved administrations, such as addressing youth crime and drugs misuse in Scotland, Communities First in Wales and lifeskills training in Northern Ireland. We are particularly interested in views on the proposals for accommodating differing priorities across the UK within the initiatives.
5. Please send comments by 17 January 2001 to:

New Opportunities Fund Consultation
National Lottery Division
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
Email: lottery@culture.gov.uk

If you live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, DCMS will copy your response to the relevant administration. You may if you prefer respond directly to the relevant administration, in which case that administration will copy your response to DCMS, as well as considering your comments itself. The addresses for comments to devolved administrations are:

New Opportunities Fund Consultation
Arts Culture and Sport
Scottish Executive Education Department
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Email: nof.consult@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

New Opportunities Fund Consultation
Culture and Recreation Division
The National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ
Email: culture.recreation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

New Opportunities Fund Consultation
National Lottery Branch
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
3rd Floor, Interpoint
20-24 York Street
Belfast BT15 1AQ
Email: dcalnof@nics.gov.uk

Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1 Barely two years on from its creation, the New Opportunities Fund is already making an impact on the nation's quality of life. Established to support new and innovative projects, the Fund's programmes are making a real difference to communities across the UK. From a healthy living centre for the elderly in Devon to new childcare provision – where none previously existed – in County Tyrone, Lottery money is flowing into projects of great benefit to people and communities. This special investment is additional to continuing Government expenditure on core health, education and environment programmes.
- 1.2 £1.5 billion has been committed to the Fund's existing programmes; a similar amount is available for the next round of initiatives. To get the maximum benefit out of this money, we plan to ask the Fund to target areas where a real step-change in the quality of people's lives can be achieved.
- 1.3 We have identified the areas which we believe would benefit most from this funding. We now invite comments and views on these proposals and how they might be shaped and delivered.
- 1.4 The comments and views received will be taken into account when the policy directions specifying the new initiatives for the Fund are drafted. It is likely that policy directions will be issued to the Fund early in 2001.

Section 2: New Opportunities Fund

- 2.1 The New Opportunities Fund was created by the National Lottery Act 1998 to fund new and innovative projects in health, education and the environment which are additional to core Government expenditure.
- 2.2 Initiatives are proposed by Government and the devolved administrations, subject to widespread consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny. In developing the initiatives to the point where they can be launched, the Fund is required to carry out its own consultations. Final decisions on the development and delivery of initiatives are a matter for the Fund, within the framework set by Government. Initiatives are delivered by a combination of public, private and voluntary organisations, in collaboration with existing providers and programmes.
- 2.3 All Lottery spending is covered by a clear framework of rules and principles designed to ensure that there is maximum public benefit. These can be summarised as follows.

Community benefit and support

- 2.4 Projects must be tailored to local needs and be able to demonstrate their value to the community. They must:
- be for the public good, not primarily for private gain;
 - normally include an element of partnership funding and/or contributions in kind from other sources; and
 - have a clear focus and demonstrate that they are complementary to existing provision.

Viability

- 2.5 All projects must:
- where appropriate, have realistic plans for sustainability beyond the grant period (grants are time-limited); and
 - have measurable and achievable targets for success.

New Opportunities Fund framework

- 2.6 The Fund's initiatives must:
- be additional to Government spending and not a substitute for it;
 - pay particular attention to areas of social and economic deprivation;
 - be established with regard to the principles of sustainable development; and
 - benefit all parts of the UK, with the flexibility to respond to the particular needs of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Section 3: Proposals for New Initiatives

- 3.1 Six New Opportunities Fund initiatives have been launched to date:
- (i) £300m to creating a network of **Healthy Living Centres**, accessible to 20% of the population, by 2002;
 - (ii) £205m for **out of school hours learning**, including £25m for summer schools, and £200m for **out of school hours childcare**, and £20m for combined childcare and learning projects;
 - (iii) £250m to provide **ICT training for teachers and librarians** who need it, and £50m to **digitise content** with a learning focus, to be made available to users of the People's Network and the National Grid for Learning;
 - (iv) £150m to improve **cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care** through promotional and educational activities, the provision of extra equipment, and the establishment and development of collaborative partnerships to provide effective palliative care;
 - (v) £125m to promote **green spaces and sustainable communities** by improving community access to green spaces of educational, recreational or environmental value and supporting small community based projects which encourage local people to improve and care for their environment, including in Scotland the Scottish Land Fund; and
 - (vi) £200m to support the development of **community access to lifelong learning** through a network of on-line centres and community grids for learning. The programme also supports the development of the People's Network, which will create on-line learning centres in all UK public libraries by 2002.

The New Opportunities Fund expects to commit the funding on its current six initiatives by the end of 2003, though it will be funding sustainable projects for some time after this date.

Links between existing and future initiatives

- 3.2 Innovative projects have come forward under the healthy living centres initiative to improve the health and well-being of local people by bringing together coalitions of community health activities and services to work in partnership. We propose that promoting healthy living should also be an important component of many of the new initiatives.
- 3.3 Funding is available to create and develop regular out of school hours learning activities involving half of all secondary and special schools and a quarter of all primary schools around the school day, weekends and in the holidays. £25 million has been specifically dedicated to creating summer school places for 250,000 pupils. We propose to build on this by creating a major new initiative for sports facilities for schools and wider community use, and providing outdoor adventure and other activities for young people.
- 3.4 The childcare programme has an exacting target which means that funding is only for one year in most cases. We propose therefore to extend this programme and to broaden its scope to include pre-school age children in deprived areas.

- 3.5 ICT training programmes currently cover teachers, school librarians and public library staff. We should welcome views on whether the scheme should be extended to LEA home and hospital tuition service teachers.
- 3.6 There is reason to expect that the existing cancer programme will be over-subscribed. We propose therefore to continue it and to extend the overall approach to the other biggest killer diseases, coronary heart disease and stroke.
- 3.7 The green spaces and sustainable communities initiative includes a wide range of activities and themes. We propose to complement these with a new programme of environmental renewal and community regeneration.
- 3.8 We expect that the community access to lifelong learning programme will fund the successful completion of the People's Network in public libraries.
- 3.9 Existing programmes focus strongly on promoting social inclusion and we propose that this theme be continued in the next round of initiatives. Where possible they should operate across institutional boundaries, across the three areas of education, health and the environment, and through partnerships which embrace the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- 3.10 Within the general framework set out in the summary we therefore propose the following new initiatives for the fund. The allocations given are indicative and subject to consultation. There would also be some scope for different parts of the UK to allocate money between initiatives according to their particular priorities.
- £750 million for additional **sport facilities for schools and wider community use**;
 - £50 million for **outdoor adventure and other activities for young people**;
 - £300 million to boost the **fight against heart disease and stroke**, provide extra money for the Fund's existing initiative to **combat cancer**, and provide **palliative care** for adults and children with life-threatening and chronic illness;
 - £200 million for the provision of **childcare places** for children of 0-3 years, together with further support for the over-3s, particularly in deprived areas;
 - £150 million for a programme of **environmental renewal and community regeneration** which would also promote recycling and develop renewable energy sources;
 - An amount to be provided as **small grants for community groups** to support local health, education and environment projects.
- 3.11 With the coming of devolution there is now a clear opportunity for the devolved administrations to propose flexibility in both the programmes that are delivered and the relative levels of funding applied to these programmes. This will allow a better targeting of money towards areas which the administrations themselves identify as priorities. It will enable the New Opportunities Fund to develop further its partnership working with the Scottish Executive, National Assembly of Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 3.12 Details of each of the proposals are given in the following chapters.

Section 4: Opportunities for Young People – PE and Sport in Schools

Why is this a priority?

- 4.1 We have a sporting past of which we can be proud, and we need to take steps to ensure a future which is just as illustrious. In laying the foundations for future sporting success, the first priority is increasing participation in physical education and sport by children and young people. This not only allows children to develop their physical abilities, but also provides them with important life skills such as leadership, team working, social interaction and citizenship. Sport can also help to draw adults into schools, giving them the opportunity to participate and to become more involved in their children's education. Central to achieving all this is the provision of improved school sports facilities. Wider provision, such as facilities for outdoor and adventure activities, can also make an important contribution.
- 4.2 Further Lottery funds would ensure that a step-change in provision of sporting facilities for young people – and for the community generally – was achieved. By funding a wider range and greater number of facilities than would be possible through Government funding alone, this extra money would mean that astro-pitches, swimming pools and outdoor adventure facilities and equipment would no longer be luxuries.
- 4.3 With money from other New Opportunities Fund streams – for example the Green Spaces and Out of School Hours Learning initiatives – going toward projects involving school sport, direct revenue support from Government and the new funding stream proposed here, we would have a package of £1 billion which would bring significant improvements to physical education and sporting opportunities in and around school.

What would be the benefits?

- 4.4 As well as helping to lay the foundations for our future sporting success, and the obvious health improvements, young people are more likely to engage in sporting activities beyond school if they have enjoyed them whilst in education. There are many other benefits to participating in sport: improvements in self-esteem, discipline, team-working skills, responsibility and creativity are just a few.
- 4.5 Sport can contribute to neighbourhood renewal and is particularly valuable in engaging people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and those who feel most excluded.
- 4.6 Sport is important as a leisure and social activity for adults as well as children. It can also play a key role in breaking down barriers to social inclusion and promoting healthy living. Access to school facilities by the community can encourage family learning, provide positive role models for pupils, and can build confidence in adults to undertake other learning activities. A key element of this initiative would therefore be wider community access to the additional sporting facilities provided.

How would it work?

- 4.7 The initiative should focus primarily on refurbishing existing, and building new, indoor and outdoor sports facilities at primary and secondary schools. The types of facility we envisage being funded are playing fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, indoor nets and astropitches. These facilities would be for community use as well as school use and additional to current provision. We would want to see innovative and thoughtful approaches to the improvement of facilities: for example, families of schools sharing facilities. And we would want to see approaches which contribute towards wider quality of life objectives: for example, which promote access on foot, by bicycle or by public transport.
- 4.8 We propose that there also be scope for support for building or refurbishing outdoor adventure facilities, particularly where this would benefit young people who do not currently have ready access to these facilities. These might be LEA outdoor centres for example or facilities run by voluntary and community organisations. Organisations such as scout groups and cadet force associations which make their facilities available for wider use would also be eligible to apply.

How would it be delivered?

- 4.9 The Fund would need to work very closely with the Sports Councils and the Youth Sport Trust and other partners. An element of partnership funding would be required. We envisage professional sport, potential sponsors and local government being involved, with an emphasis on partners providing revenue funding and investing in training for teachers, coaches and those involved in managing the facilities.

Priorities of different parts of the UK

- 4.10 In **England** we propose that priority for funding is given to areas of urban and rural deprivation, including Sport Action Zones, Education Action Zones and Excellence in Cities areas, but they would not be the only areas to benefit. This extra funding for new facilities would have a particularly transformative effect in those schools participating in the School Sports Co-ordinators programme. City academies, specialist colleges and national sports centres would also be eligible for funding. The Football Foundation would need to be involved in channelling funds to projects with a footballing focus, in order to secure partnership funding from football authorities.
- 4.11 The recent sports strategy for England “A Sporting Future for All” announced a fund of up to £150m called “Space for Sport and Arts”, an initiative for primary schools to modernise existing facilities and provide new multi-purpose sports and arts facilities for school and community use. This comprises £75m of Exchequer funding, from the Capital Modernisation Fund, and up to £75m of Lottery money. As part of this £75 million, £25 million from the New Opportunities Fund could make a valuable contribution to this initiative.
- 4.12 In addition, the Government has doubled funding for the School Sports Co-ordinators scheme to a total of £120 million. This new and additional money will establish a network of 1,000 Co-ordinators in schools across the country to facilitate better sporting opportunities and co-ordinate inter school competitions.

- 4.13 In **Scotland** there would be a particular focus on the role of sport in addressing youth crime. There are a number of studies which illustrate the impact of sport-based projects on crime and antisocial behaviour. Research suggests that providing a variety of sporting activities in problem areas of inner cities can lead to significant reductions in the kind of criminal activity which can be associated with some young people: criminal damage, theft, taking cars, minor assaults and drug related offending.
- 4.14 Proposals for a National Strategy for dealing with youth crime are being drawn up by the Scottish Executive for implementation in April 2001. New Opportunities Fund programmes could complement the strategy and provide opportunities to develop the range of services in line with local authority multi-agency children's services plans. Programmes could be available for those who offend, but do not fall into the category of persistent offenders. Delivery would be through voluntary and other agencies participating in locally-coordinated programmes.
- 4.15 Other initiatives to promote more effective links between sport, culture and education, including out of school hours programmes run by schools and education authorities which offer wider experiences to children and young people would also be a significant focus for further development in Scotland.
- 4.16 In **Wales** the initiative has particular relevance to the work of the PE and School Sport Task Force, the Assembly Secretary for Pre 16 Education, and the Healthy and Active Lifestyles Task Force chaired by the Sports Council for Wales. This extra funding would help schools and colleges to build on their existing sporting strengths. Delivery would be through school based bids channelled through LEAs which would make use of the mechanisms already established for existing NOF initiatives for Out of Hours activities.
- 4.17 In **Northern Ireland** priority would be given to the personal and social development of young people through programmes such as Youth Sport and opportunities for cross-community and cross-border exchange group activities. The Fund would need to work closely with the relevant bodies on a partnership basis and take account of the New Targeting Social Need policy which places a strong focus on resources being targeted at tackling disadvantage and social exclusion. Partners could include the Sports Council, the Education and Library Boards and District Councils.

Section 5: Outdoor Adventure and Other Activities for Young People

Why is this a priority?

- 5.1 Secondary school leavers who have no clear idea of what to do at the end of compulsory schooling are far more likely to slip into long term unemployment. At the same time, many of those who do commit to further education, training or a job may also face considerable difficulties in the transition to adult life, particularly if they lack confidence, self esteem or the social skills to succeed.
- 5.2 There is clear benefit in some structured activity, with the addition of specialist advice and guidance, being made available during the summer period after secondary education ends. To this end, we propose to devote an initial sum to fund programmes of activities for school leavers, with the potential to commit further resources in the future.

What would be the benefits?

- 5.3 The overall benefits would be the increased participation in further education, training or a job with training, coupled with a reduction in the numbers of teenagers who have lost contact with education. This would bring economic gains – a more skilled workforce to improve the productivity of the economy – and social gains – more responsible attitudes and better citizenship skills. For the individual participants, the benefit would be greater confidence, team-working, communication and leadership skills.

How would it work?

- 5.4 The programme would be primarily aimed at those most at risk of losing contact with education and training opportunities. The initiative aims to provide a structured programme of activities provided during the summer at the end of compulsory schooling, which would be based around challenging adventure activities, such as sailing, kayaking, mountaineering, rock climbing, abseiling, caving, orienteering and possibly cross country expeditions. But the programme might also include some other challenging activities, such as work experience, community work/volunteering, drama workshops and ICT skills in order to provide a flexible programme that would have elements of interest for all.
- 5.5 It would be backed up by high quality advice and guidance to help participants choose the right path forward into further education, training, or a job/apprenticeship with training. All programmes should have the same objectives and overall outcome, but flexibility is necessary to cater for a variety of needs, and to enable participants to be involved in the choice and planning of the activities. The adventure activities are likely to take place at residential centres, though there must be sufficient flexibility for non-residential activities where participants are unable to stay away from home. Funding might also be used to provide training for instructors.

How would it be delivered?

- 5.6 The most effective delivery is likely to be through local partnerships that can combine to offer the variety of activity required, the residential capacity, the contacts with young people, and the skills in helping them to reach their objectives.
- 5.7 In **England** the personal advisers of the new Connexions Service could be centrally involved. They would, together with schools, identify potential candidates, and help them build on their experience to develop their future learning and careers.
- 5.8 In **Scotland** emphasis would be given to projects which target excluded young people including assisting the fight against youth crime in a manner similar to that described for sport at 4.13 -4.15 above.
- 5.9 In **Wales** local authorities will be obliged under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 to consult a wide range of bodies such as youth offending teams, probation committees, voluntary organisations which provide services for young people, and health authorities. These local partnerships might provide the most effective means for coordinating the delivery of this element of the Fund's programme. Personal advisers from the Youth Gateway service in Wales could also be centrally involved.
- 5.10 In **Northern Ireland**, where account would have to be taken of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, care would be taken with any age limits in order not to reinforce social exclusion. Priority could be given to projects offering Lifeskills training (including literacy and numeracy) to socially excluded or homeless young people and travellers. Outdoor adventure and other activities could also benefit people of all ages suffering from mental illness. Delivery could be through the Education and Library Boards and the Youth Council working closely with Careers Guidance and the network of approved training organisations and voluntary sector.