

## **Sport England's new direction, and definition of sport for National Indicator 8, December 2007**

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has asked Sport England to develop a new strategy for how they will deliver a world-leading community sport infrastructure of National Governing Bodies, clubs, coaches and volunteers. The new direction for Sport England is to focus more clearly on the provision of excellent sport opportunities from the grassroots up, sustaining and increasing participation and allowing everyone to develop their sporting talents. The new direction is not shifting away from community sport to elite; it is about ensuring community sport is high quality.

The tighter focus on sport will mean that Sport England will not be promoting and funding some activities that they may have supported in the past. To ensure that gaps do not appear, the Treasury is leading a review on physical activity and sport, which will consider Government's approach to this. Work on this should be completed by the end of March 2008.

Government is committed to providing high quality opportunities for people to play sport or get physically active. As such, the definition of sport for the local indicator, and in PSA 21 will be based on a broad definition of sport, as at present.

### **Definition of Sport**

For the purposes of the local government indicator, the definition of sport will remain largely as currently included in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The NI8 definition will be broad; including sport, as well as activities like recreational walking and recreational cycling. Sport England is considering its definition of sport as part of its current strategy review which will report early in the new year.

Although the definition of sport in NI8 will be based principally on the notion of moderate intensity, the indicator will include certain light intensity sports for the 65s and over; indicating Ministers' clear desire to focus on participation amongst all age groups.

Yoga; pilates; indoor and outdoor bowls; archery and croquet are included in the definition of NI8 as they place some degree of physical demand on a participant who is 65 or over.

The Active People survey will continue to provide data at the local level on sport. More information will be provided in due course on the DCMS and Sport England websites.

### **Rationale**

Increased participation in sport and wider physical activity remains a top priority for

Government and forms a key part of our London 2012 legacy ambition.

DCMS has a clear Government lead on delivering sport. We believe a tighter definition of sport will ensure Lottery and Exchequer funding through Sport England will more effectively deliver an excellent sporting infrastructure to underpin increased participation in sport.

Investment in wider physical activity falls to other government departments and agencies who have the policy and funding lead. A cross Whitehall review, led by the Treasury is considering the Government approach to physical activity and sport more generally, and will report findings in March.

### **Public Service Agreements (PSA) and Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSO)**

The same definition will be used in PSA 21 – 'Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities', underlining the important message that sport and physical activity are the responsibility of more than one Government Department.

The DCMS DSOs are still in development.