2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

The new PE & Sport Strategy for Young People forms part of a Public Service Agreement ‘To deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport’.

So we want the Games to energise everything that we do, and inspire every child and young person in the country to participate in more sport on a regular basis. We have already put in place several programmes that will capitalise on the context of 2012:

The UK School Games is a multisport event for the most talented young people in the country of school age. The second UK School Games was held in Coventry in 2007, when 1,300 young people competed in eight sports. The Games will be held each year until 2011 in Bath and Bristol, South Wales, Tyne and Wear, and finally Sheffield.

Young Ambassadors is a network of dedicated young people who act as role models to inspire their peers and promote the Olympic and Paralympic values. 900 Young Ambassadors are recruited annually. They are playing a key part in enthusing other young people about 2012.

The annual National Talent Orientation Camp gives 14-18 year olds from across the UK the chance to discover what it takes to compete at the highest level in five Olympic sports. The camp helps prepare young athletes for the personal, sporting, academic and vocational challenges that lie ahead.

Ability vs. Ability is a resource for schools which we have developed with the British Paralympic Association. The High Quality Curriculum Materials use the Olympic and Paralympic values. Young Ambassadors are recruited annually. They are playing a key part in enthusing other young people about 2012.

We are working closely with our delivery partners, the Youth Sport Trust and POLOP, to help prepare young people to take part in a wider range of sports for more time. We are developing new resources that will support schools in developing their own programmes to help young people achieve their personal best.

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The percentage of 5-16 year olds participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport each week was 75% in 2002, and 85% in 2008. We want to increase this to 90% by 2012.

To deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we want the Games to energise everything that we do, and inspire every child and young person in the country to participate in more sport on a regular basis.
Where we are in 2008

The transformation in PE and school sport has been supported by over £1.5 billion in the five years to 2008. We now have a national network of School Sport Partnerships which covers all maintained schools in England and links them to specialist Sports Colleges – which make up around 10% of secondary schools. This infrastructure has provided opportunities for over 5 million pupils to participate in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week.

The strategy has also created wider opportunities and experiences for them:

• Over 250,000 talented young sports people now receive extra support for their training
• 12% of young people in school are actively involved in sports volunteering and leadership
• A third of all pupils are competing in inter-school events
• 50,000 more children a year are learning to be better swimmers
• Each school is linked to an average of 7 local sports clubs in which 29% of their pupils participate
• Each school is offering an average of 17 different sports
• Young people are now supported by better trained teachers, and over 3,000 professional coaches

Young people have also benefited from improved school sport facilities. Over the last 10 years, 2,450 schools have received funding to enhance their sport facilities, in addition to 3,000 schools that have benefited from Big Lottery investment for this purpose.

What we will do

Our new PE & Sport Strategy for Young People – building on the previous PESSCL strategy – will be informed by the views of children and young people themselves, to help us create attractive, innovative opportunities for them to get engaged with sport, and clear pathways for them to pursue their chosen activities.

Our aim is to create a world class system for PE and sport for all children and young people, which will stimulate and increase their participation in sport, and sustain it.

We estimate that currently only around 10% of 5-16 year olds and around 17% of 16-19 year olds participate in the five hours sport each week that is our ambition for them all. We want to ensure that they develop a lifetime commitment to regular physical exercise and sport.

In addition to the existing work, the Strategy will go further and we will:

• Create new sporting opportunities for young people in the FE sector by appointing FE sport co-ordinators, linked to School Sport Partnerships
• Invest more in coaching in schools, FE colleges and community sports networks
• Create a national network of Competition Managers to work with School Sport Partnerships on inter-school sport
• Provide a more attractive range of sporting activity based on what young people say they want
• Create a national network – one in each partnership – of multisport clubs for young people with disabilities
• Establish a National School Sport Week, championed by Dame Kelly Holmes, motivating young people to take part in competitive sport
• Support Community Sports Coaches and develop high quality coaching
• Increase opportunities for young people in sports leadership and volunteering
• Build better links between schools and community sports clubs

This will bring total Government investment in PE and sport for children and young people, including Big Lottery funding, to more than £2.2 billion since the start of the Strategy.