



Youth Sport Trust

Dear colleague

We write with deeply disappointing news following today's Comprehensive Spending Review. As you may have seen, the Department for Education has announced that they are stopping all direct funding for PE and School Sport. This is devastating for young people and also for the army of dedicated, passionate and committed people throughout the country that have delivered such change for young people in recent years.

The cuts are hard enough to understand given the transformational change that has been created and the incredible results you have delivered. However just 21 months before the start of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, Lord Coe's pledge to use the 2012 Games to transform sporting opportunities for young people is in danger of being lost.

Despite our best efforts in recent months, we are truly saddened that we have been unsuccessful in persuading the new government to continue investment in school sport and to persuade them about the unique delivery system provided by the School Sport Partnerships. Our understanding from the Department for Education is that the last payment to support School Sport Partnerships will be made in February, enabling public funding to continue until 31 August 2011.

More details of this will follow as and when we have access to them. However in the meantime we are absolutely committed to working with you to find a way to sustain the network of School Sport Partnerships, albeit perhaps in a different format with a different level of resource. The change that you have created is respected around the world – our responsibility to young people must be to keep it going.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done to date and for all we know you will do in the future. This network is made up of an impressive group of determined and inspirational people, which many have referred to as a 'movement'. This announcement may mean an end to government funding, but we are absolutely confident that the movement will remain – and indeed grow.

We recognise that this news and all the repercussions it brings are incredibly difficult to understand. As the full implications become clear we will, of course, ensure that we keep you apprised of all developments and in the meantime would encourage you to contact us if you have any additional queries on 01509 226600.

Best wishes

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Chair, Youth Sport Trust

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Building a brighter future for young people through PE and sport