

# Sport England North East Newsletter – November 2005

## **QUEST**

Quest, the UK Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure, is a structured approach to continuous improvement. It helps organisations to better manage people and resources. Sport England North East went through its second cycle independent external assessment on 6th and 7th October 2005 and achieved a 'highly commended' award.

Judith Rasmussen, Sport England North East Regional Director, said, "I'm absolutely delighted with the score. It is a testament to the hard work of all the team and our commitment to continuous improvement. I would encourage partners in the region to sign up to Quest as it provides an excellent means of assessing performance, judging progress and planning and implementing improvements in the context of national industry standards".

## **PARTICIPATION SURVEYS**

Sport England has launched two participation surveys – 'Taking Part' in July 2005 and 'Active People' in October 2005. 'Taking Part' is a continuous household interview survey into culture sector activities including sport, the arts, heritage, libraries, etc. It will continue for 3 years and provide national and regional information on the levels of, the social context for, the benefits of, and the motivations and barriers to participation. Initial results should be available towards the end of 2005.

The 'Active People' survey is a year-long telephone survey into levels of participation in sport and active recreation of the English population aged 16 years and over. It involves a sample size of 354,000 and will be repeated in 3 years time. The survey will provide information at local authority level and initial results should be available by Spring next year, with the final results published in November 2006.

## **NORTH EAST SPORTS AWARDS**

It's that time of year again! Once again, we're asking you to nominate the clubs, coaches, volunteers and others that you think have made an outstanding contribution to sport in the region. Without these talented and dedicated individuals, sport would not be the same. So get your thinking caps on, and help give them the recognition they deserve by putting them forward for an award at the North East Sports Awards 2005.

The closing date for receipt of nominees is **14th December 2005**. The nomination form is available on the Sport England website at [www.sportengland.org/northeast\\_index.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/northeast_index.htm)

## **2012 GAMES**

The announcement on 6th July 2005 that London's was the successful bid for hosting the 2012 Games was great news. The 2012 Games are set to be the biggest, most exciting sports event that we will experience in this country. And it's not just London that will benefit – North East England has many reasons to be looking forward to the Games.

Structures and organisations are being established right across the country to maximise the benefit of the successful bid and work is going on in the region. The Nations & Regions Group (NRG) was set up by the London bid team to ensure that the benefits of, involvement in, and support for the bid were felt across the whole country. The group is set to continue and the regional representative is Tim Cattle-Jones, Chair of the Regional Sports Board. Through this group, information will flow to and from the regions to keep people involved and identify areas for action.

### **EQUALITY STANDARD FOR SPORT**

Sport England are one of the first organisations in the country to commit to achieving “The Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport”. Together with a number of National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England aim to achieve the first 2 levels of the standard (Foundation and Preliminary) by April 2006.

The Standard focuses on developing your organisation and the services it provides to ensure planning and consultation with under-represented groups. A key part of the standard is to develop an Equality Action Plan and to review all policies. For further information refer to [www.sportengland.org/the\\_equality\\_standard.pdf](http://www.sportengland.org/the_equality_standard.pdf)

### **REGIONAL EQUALITY IN SPORT CONFERENCE**

With collaboration between the Regional Equity organisations, Sport England and the County Sports Partnerships, the first regional conference to discuss the equality issues facing sports development policy makers is taking place on 18th January 2006.

Open to all sport and health development professionals or providers of sport and physical activity opportunities who are keen to widen participation, the Conference takes place at Durham County Cricket Club in Chester le Street. To receive information please contact Barbara Lightfoot, Business Support Officer at Sport England North East 0207 273 1675 or email [barbara.lightfoot@sportengland.org](mailto:barbara.lightfoot@sportengland.org)

### **FUNDING**

Sport England’s mission is to increase participation in sport and physical activity by at least 1% every year to 2020. We want to support organisations who share our commitment to increase the number of people regularly playing sport and undertaking physical activity. Funding is available through the Sport England Community Investment Fund and this will be determined in the region by the Regional Sports Board. It is an open application process so any organisation that meets the eligibility criteria can

apply but we do urge you to make yourself familiar with the regional priorities for funding and consider to what extent your project meets those criteria. The level of funding available has reduced significantly and therefore only those projects that contribute to regional priorities and Sport England’s business objectives will be considered for funding.

Further information is available on our regional web site at

[http://www.sportengland.org/northeast\\_index/northeast\\_get\\_funding/north\\_east\\_regions\\_priorities\\_for\\_funding.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/northeast_index/northeast_get_funding/north_east_regions_priorities_for_funding.htm)

For those without access to the web site please contact 0191 384 9595 and a fact sheet will be sent to you.

### **FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTEERING IN SPORT – TOWARDS 2020**

The Framework for Volunteering in Sport is due to be rolled out next Spring following a consultation process. It will provide a vision for the future of sports volunteering and help sports organisations support their volunteers. The three-month consultation period starts at the end of November. This will be an opportunity for all sport organisations and volunteering/VCS infrastructure organisations to have their say. More details will follow.

The Framework for Sports Volunteering:

- Will affect every level including individual volunteer, local, regional and national;
- Will provide navigation and introductions from sport to the volunteering / voluntary sector and vice versa;
- Will be published on a website and provide a single place for sports volunteering to come together; and
- Will be written from the volunteering perspective.

### **SINGLE SYSTEM FOR SPORT**

The Single System for community sport is the key intervention for the next three years to help us achieve our objectives. Sport England is committed

to help people “start, stay and succeed”, which will only be possible if the sports system is developed and fit for purpose and if capacity is built within the system to enable progress to be made.

At the heart of the Single System are County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) providing strategic coordination and planning, performance measurement and marketing and communication. Based upon local authorities, the Community Sports Networks will influence and develop policy at a local level and work with CSPs to unite those partners with an interest in sport at a local level - bridging the school/community transition, building partnerships and leveraging investment. We are currently on target to have all four CSP's 'Fit for Purpose' by March 2006 and are currently meeting individually with all local authorities on the establishment of CSN structures.

#### **ASSET UTILISATION**

The need to ensure maximum return from investment is a constant issue of concern for all sectors. Asset Utilisation is a new approach to assess facility performance, working initially with a number of facilities that have received Sport England Lottery capital funding. The approach will assess to what extent the facilities have delivered the outputs and outcomes indicated as part of grant applications under former Sport England funding programmes.

15 projects have already been identified in the first phase of the work and another 15 will be identified later in December 2005, contributing to the 300 projects that will be targeted nationally. The approach is part of Sport England's ongoing work embedding the importance of monitoring and evaluation into operational activity, so that the benefits and impact of participation in sport and physical activity can be clearly evidenced.

#### **AWARDS FOR ALL – NATIONAL LOTTERY GRANTS FOR LOCAL GROUPS GRANTS AVAILABLE £500 - £5,000**

- Now is a good time to apply to Awards for All (England) as the budget has been increased,

enabling more applications to be funded.

- Don't wait until the launch of the new £10,000 programme next year, as there will be increased competition and it is expected that most of the awards will still be under £5,000.
- Awards for All are committed to continuing high standards of customer service for award applicants and recipients and applicants should get a decision within eight weeks of submitting a complete application.

Awards for All have made some changes to their procedures to ensure the money goes to groups who really make a difference in their communities. If you do apply, you must follow these requirements closely so please be aware.

Application forms can be obtained by telephoning 0845 600 2040 or from their website at

[www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)

#### **THE IMPROVEMENT AGENDA**

In response to the new Comprehensive Performance Assessment arrangements for top tier authorities - unitary authorities and county councils – that were confirmed by the Audit Commission in October, Sport England has recently seconded Ian Simon from Chester-le-Street Council to act as the region's Local Government Improvement Manager.

The post, which is for 2 days per week until March 2006, will work with and support those responsible for sport and physical activity in local authorities to both prepare for the new approach to the CPA with particular reference to the “culture block” and to also increase awareness and understanding of the TAES (Towards an Excellent Service) model of self-improvement.

If you have any initial thoughts on the type of support which would be most helpful to you, Ian can be contacted on **0191 389 0986, 07771 838335** or at [ian.simon@sportengland.org](mailto:ian.simon@sportengland.org)

#### **REGIONAL SPORTS BOARD UPDATE**

Tim Cantle Jones, Chair of the Regional Sports Board is very happy to welcome three new Board

Members over recent months, Helen Weston, Roger Tames and Melville Speding.

The Board continues to meet on a regular basis and at a recent Away Day discussions were held regarding the Investment Strategy for 2006/07, the impact of the Olympics in London within the region and the opportunity it will provide, the emerging single system for community sport and developing an infrastructure to support grass root sport ensuring that we have well structured clubs, qualified coaches and volunteers to provide increasing opportunities for people to participate within sport.

Sport England will be investing a further £75m into the regions and National Governing Bodies of Sport to help develop talent and boost participation over the next three years. This investment is in addition to the £315m four year funding announcement at the beginning of the year for National Governing Bodies of Sport and has become possible due to increased Lottery ticket sales.

The additional funding will be invested directly at grass roots level to get more people on the ground across the sporting system, funding coaches and helping with the identification and development of talented young people.

The Minister for Sport Richard Caborn welcomed the additional investment and said, "I am pleased that Sport England is committing additional money to the regional network and to National Governing Bodies, because that is exactly where it will make a difference. In terms of increasing grass roots participation there is no better mechanism for delivering sensible, effective investment than through the regional network and that is because they have their fingers on the pulse of what local communities need in terms of access and opportunity to play sport. More money to our National Governing Bodies will go to helping identify and nurture our future Olympic and Paralympic champions".

Work will be carried out in the forthcoming months with key partners to work up detailed proposals for the investment and this new funding, along with funding already available for the Regional Sports Board, will make a significant difference over the coming years to the development of sport in the region.

#### **FEEDBACK**

If you would like to make any comments about the style or content of this newsletter, or have any items you would like to contribute to subsequent issues, please send them to

[northeastnews@sportengland.org](mailto:northeastnews@sportengland.org)

