



The Single System for Sport
“Joint Ways of Working Seminar”

May 2006 – Center Parcs

Event Report and Recommendations



Rationale

The Yorkshire and East Midlands regions are committed to working in partnership with key strategic agencies responsible for the delivery of Sport and physical activity.

The regional Plan for Sport – ‘Change 4 Sport’ identifies the need for key agencies to sign up to, and work within the single ‘Delivery System for Sport’.

The young people's agenda is a constantly changing environment there is an ongoing need to check and challenge. The Joint Ways of Working Conference was a cross regional event to bring together key strategic agencies and deliverers

Both Yorkshire and East Midland regions have some measurable successes of working in partnership, but as the Young People agenda extends and broadens, the delivery system can become fragmented and unclear, there is an ongoing need to consolidate this, by a check and challenge process of the services we provide, and bring together those delivery agencies responsible for them.

The Joint Ways of Working Conference in May 2006, provided for a ‘selective audience’ to develop a more cohesive approach to services to Young People.

The Conference looked at three main elements of within the Young People and Sport Agenda.

Strategy

Innovation & vision for the future of the Single Delivery System for Sport

Development

Learning and Understanding Partner roles & responsibilities

Delivery

Ways of Working

Three conference elements

Strategy/Development/Delivery

Strategy Aim:

- Innovation and Vision for the future of the delivery system for sport.

Strategy Outcomes:

- Improved understanding of each partners priorities
- Increased awareness of the potential to support and impact on achieving each others priorities
- Improved understanding and recognition of more effective working practice to support and impact on achieving 'common priorities'

Delivery Aim:

- "Ways of Working" Moving strategy and development into effective working practises.

Delivery Outcomes:

- Leadership – Vision, values, conduct of 'leaders'
- Policy and Strategy – Documents & targets
- Communications – Internal, external
- Working – Roles, responsibilities, structures, implementation
- Standards – Customer care, service standards
- Data sharing/ intelligence – Culture, range of data, use of data, improvements

Development Aim:

- Sharing, Learning and Understanding Partner Roles and Responsibilities.

Development Outcomes:

- Increased understanding of each partner's roles and responsibilities within PE and school sport
- Improved understanding of the developmental process within partner organisations/ agencies
- Improved understanding and recognition of more effective working practice to support and impact on achieving 'common priorities'

Key Findings and Common Themes

Standards:

- Lack of opportunity for disability and minority sports.
- Equity and inclusion of opportunity.

Resources:

- Capacity Levels
 - County Sport Partnership staffing
 - Facilities
 - National Governing Bodies local staffing
 - Time
- Funding
 - Sustainability in relation to short term funding packages
 - Lack of investment in School Club Links
 - Under investment in communities and lack of funding into delivery system
 - Investment into local infrastructure
- Competitive nature of funding
 - Funding outside the delivery system ie: Big Lottery
- Sharing and maximising resources

Performance Measurement:

- Duplication of data collection and management
- Robust data
 - Quality and Quantity
 - Common systems
- Timing of data reporting back
- Shared targets
- Regular reviews
- Common and robust monitoring tools

People Management:

- Partner agenda's and priorities
- Levels of expertise
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Partnership dynamics
- Leadership skills at all levels
- Up-skilling workforce
 - Club development
 - Attracting external funding

Policy and Strategy:

- Developing Plans
- Replicate School Sport Partnership network for Higher Education and Further Education (FESCO)
- Action plans in isolation

- Develop shared ownership – one strategy for delivery (join them up)
- Sharing development plans at local level
- Sustainability in relation to short term funding packages
- Clear vision of County Sport Networks
- Whole Sport Plans to local level – School Club Links

Leadership:

- Agenda's and priorities
- Network of communication
- Access to decision makers
- Leadership linked to accountability
- Cascading leadership
- Leadership skills at all levels
- Up-skilling workforce
 - Club development
 - Attracting external funding

Partnership Working:

- Sharing targets effective joint working
- Uniform approach to work together
- Common systems
- Structure
- Template
- Multi agency service level agreements
- Understanding of role of County Sport Partnership set against PSA targets
- Collaboration verses competition

Communication:

- Lack of co-ordination within communication
- Other agencies priorities and outcomes
- Duplication of data
- Common system
- Capacity issue
 - Geographical
 - Community Sport Networks
- Assumption of need ie: NGBs
- Respect and trust
- Turning outcomes of meetings into actions
- Cascade information to relevant partners
- Overload of information – National Governing Bodies into School Sport Partnership's

Recommendations

- **Commitment to establish key groups and forums, which will achieve the outcomes and contribute to ongoing development with the County Sport Partnership area.**
- **Completion of the Ways of Working Action Plans by all Counties**
- **Agreeing key actions and targeted outcomes**
- **Defining clear lead responsibility in priority areas**
- **Report back to the Regional Sports Board twice per annum**
- **Commitment by the Regional Sports Board portfolio lead to monitor progress of the Ways of Working Action Plan**
- **Develop a 'Partnership Agreement' signed by key partner/ agencies to deliver the joint ways of working action plan**
- **Production of best practice case studies from each County Sport Partnership area to be posted on relevant national sport websites**

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