

THE PRIMARY PE AND SPORT PREMIUM: BREAKING THE CYCLE

News from the APPG on A Fit and Healthy Childhood

The APPG on A Fit and Healthy Childhood's new report calls for the legacy of the Primary PE and Sport Premium Government grant to break a 'cycle of decline' so that:

'Being active and educated in a physical sense is as important and ultimately life-enhancing as being able to read or do maths.'

PESS Premium funding was introduced after the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympics Games and the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, spoke for the nation by saying:

'I will always be proud that we showed the world what Britain can do. I want to ensure that the Games count for the future too and that means capitalising on the inspiration young people took from what they saw during those summer months,' (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/21808982>).

Since then, Primary Schools in England have received over £1.2 billion to drive long lasting, positive change in PE and sport opportunities for *all* primary school children. The APPG report debates the impact of the funding on young people since 2013 and collates evidence from across the sector to consider its future post 2018.

Co-Chair of the APPG on a Fit and Healthy Childhood, Baroness Floella Benjamin said:

'We all remember the magic that united us in 2012 and the PESS Premium was a wonderful way to capture it and impact young people's lives in a meaningful way.'

However, a significant financial investment from the Government merits debate and accountability at the highest possible level and any evaluation of the funding must acknowledge where the opportunities and shortcomings of the strategy have left us.'

Ongoing and increasing concerns today about the present and future state of children's physical and mental health and wellbeing mean that the need for the debate to be heard is now imperative.'

Critical appraisal of the PESS Premium funding has so far been limited and the APPG's report aims to kick-start a necessary process; bringing together evidence from across the sector and considering what a future for the PESS Premium might look like post 2018

Key recommendations call for:

- The Primary PE and Sport Premium to be re-launched under the name of the 'Primary Physical Education and Activity Premium'
- PE to be elevated to Core status within the curriculum
- A sustainable School Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan, setting out a long-term commitment to harnessing the potential of PE within

the curriculum; joining up the work of relevant Government Departments and providing sufficient funding to give schools certainty over future investment and planning

- Schools to be held to account for the way in which they adhere to DfE PESS Premium spending guidance and the effectiveness of their spend
- Qualified teachers to become core deliverers of primary PE, supported (but not replaced) by a wider workforce
- Explicit guidance to be given to schools and Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers on the role of the wider workforce in primary schools and the identification of qualification level needed to work within and outside the curriculum in a school context (i.e. play providers, sports coaches, teachers, leisure and fitness instructors and health professionals)
- Government Guidance should state that Early Years age groups qualify for PESS Premium funding

The report was sponsored by the Universities of Winchester, Kingston and Sheffield Hallam. The University of Winchester's Vicky Randall said:

'Through the Primary PE and Sport Premium, we have had the opportunity to impact positively on the lives of all young people.'

To ensure a sustainable legacy for future generations to come, the recommendations within this report are clear.

Physical Education must be valued for its educational worth and taught by highly competent teachers. We welcome a review of the funding, with a greater emphasis on the accountability of public money and the unique contribution that Physical Education and physical activity have in our schools.'

Lead author Helen Clark added:

'If legacy of the London Games is as important to the nation's children as the nation's Government tells us that it is, that Government has a duty to each and every child.'

The 2012 Olympic Games was a beacon of hope for the future of our country. For that beacon to be eternal, the legacy of the PESS Premium must be to ensure that we all accept and most importantly, understand, that being active and educated in a physical sense is as important and ultimately life-enhancing as being literate and numerate.

This is an opportunity to break the cycle.'

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