



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales

To those on the attached consultation
list

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Eich cyf / Your ref
Ein cyf / Our ref EDD 4-19-3

Dyddiad / Date 11 June 2001

Dear Colleague,

PE AND SCHOOL SPORT TASK FORCE

I am writing to let you know that the specialist Task Force established in May 2000 to advise the National Assembly on improving the effectiveness and delivery of Physical Education and school sport has now reported to the Assembly. A copy of the report is enclosed for information.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, Jane Davidson AM, has broadly welcomed the report and is making resources available in 2001-02 to take forward a number of the recommendations approved by the Assembly.

The Assembly believes in the importance of PE in schools and recognises the vital contribution it makes to maintaining and improving children's physical health and fitness. For this reason we have ensured PE remains part of the National Curriculum in Wales.

The latest Estyn evidence on standards of PE in schools paints a mixed picture. In primary schools, for example, while the amount of unsatisfactory or poor work has declined over the last 3 years, the amount of very good or good work has declined. In secondary schools, the decrease in unsatisfactory or poor work has also been matched by decreases in very good or good work.

The Task Force Report promotes a common vision for improving standards and helps to point the way forward for the National Assembly, schools, LEAs and all partners involved in providing PE and school sport activities to address the various shortcomings. We do have an aspiration of ensuring that schools provide a minimum 2 hours curriculum time for "effective and meaningful" PE, whilst recognising that extra curricular activities provide other opportunities for providing a wide range of effective school sport.



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ELL 11-01(p.6)

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The New Opportunities Fund are consulting on proposals for the distribution of the £48.75 million available for PE and Sport in Schools in Wales. The

Education and Lifelong Learning Minister believes that it will be important for the Task Force recommendations and the projects supported by NOF to be taken forward in ways which complement each other.

Among the recommendations in the Task Force Report to be implemented by the Assembly in 2001-02 will be the appointment of a National PE and School Sport Co-ordinator who will be responsible for developing and over-seeing implementation of the Report's recommendations as approved by the Assembly, supported by a Steering Group.

A key task for the Co-ordinator will be the development of programmes for Continuing Professional Development in PE for all teachers (Section 2.2 in the Report refers) and the establishment of pilot Curriculum Development Centres (CDC's) (see Section 5 of the Report). We envisage that the pilot will comprise 5 CDC's, one of each of the models suggested in the Report. We will be looking for some of these to be in disadvantaged areas, linked to the Communities First Initiative, where poor standards of health are prevalent but that **nonetheless** are performing well – i.e. schools demonstrating effective good practice in PE and school sport.

You should note that since the revised curriculum took effect from September 2000 following a review, the Assembly has no current plans to make PE a core subject within the National Curriculum (recommendation 1.2.1 in the Report refers). PE already forms part of the National Curriculum and it is already compulsory that it is taught in all maintained schools - in line with the revised PE Programme of Study introduced from September 2000. Similarly, there are no current plans to introduce a specific PE curriculum within Initial Teacher Training (ITT) - although the Report's recommendations at 2.1.1 will be taken into consideration as part of the National Assembly's wider review of ITT to be commenced shortly.

Distribution of the Task Force Report has been limited to LEAs, Sports Governing Bodies and those on the attached list. However, it is available on the Assembly's web-site at www.wales.gov.uk to any schools or individual wanting a copy or by contacting the publication order line on 029 2082 6010. If you wish to comment on the report's recommendations, they should be sent to Angela Powell at the above address [or Email: angela.powell@wales.gsi.gov.uk] by 31 July 2001.

E K DAVIES

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