

## **The Youth Sports Trust and its contribution to the development of sport in schools.**

**Background.** The Youth Sports Trust (YST) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2001 and registered as a charity on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2001. It succeeded an unincorporated charitable trust established in 1994– the year that the National Lottery came in to being. Up to 2011 its main source of income was from the Department of Education, but following a change in policy (outlined in Michael Gove’s letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 which was recently put on the ABAC website), funds from that source shrank and the biggest funder is now Sport England. Its main objectives are:-

- improving the quality of PE and school sport;
- using PE and sport to inspire learning and achievement of young people;
- inspiring all young people to participate in sport and structural physical activity;
- creating opportunities for young people to lead and volunteer in sport;
- developing sporting talent in young people;

### **Revenue and staff changes from 2010 to 2014.**

**2010.** In 2010 the YST’s total income was £33,404,246 of which £7,000,668 was from Sport England and £17,772,541 from the Department for Education (DfE).

In 2010 the number of full time employee equivalents was 137 and the total wage bill was £5,015,714.

**2014.** In 2014 the YST’s total income was £17,048,997 of which £7,903,617 was from Sport England and £2,503,000 from the Department of Health. Income from the DfE was £550,000.

In 2014 the number of full time employee equivalents was 90 and the total wage bill was £3,844,348. The highest paid employee received c£165,000.

### **Changes to activities from 2010 to 2014.**

From 2003 to 2010 the YST was responsible for managing the **Schools Sport Partnerships (SSP)** programme. Funding for schools and the 450 SSP’s from the Department of Education was £260 million in 2010. The YST grant from this was to enable it to manage the project and produce annual statistics. The ambitious aim of the scheme was eventually to include 21,436 secondary schools and 357 Further Education (FE) colleges. **Ref.1.**

In January 2011 the DfE issued a press release which stated that earlier strategies had been driven by top down targets, undermined by excessive bureaucracy, limited freedom of individual schools to allocate funding and lacked a proper emphasis on competitive team sports. In 2010 these strategies were scrapped and the role of the YST diminished. Annual funding for the DfE’s replacement scheme was reduced to £65million and was to operate for three years up to 2013. One key change was that schools were now not required to provide the YST with data on participation and competition between schools.

More recently additional funds have been made available by the DfE for primary schools. One major step has been to remove the ring fencing of grants for sports’ activities. As a result not all recipient schools provide sporting opportunities because head teachers have discretion to use sport funding for other activities.

In 2014 the work of the YST continued to include a number of schools sports initiatives funded by independent sponsors including:

- Lloyds TSB which sponsors *National Schools Sports Week* and claims to have 6,500 schools and 3 million young people taking part.
- BSKyB *Sports Living for Sport* programme which has been going for 11 years and aims to improve skills and improve educational outcomes. The scheme reached 1,300 schools in 2013/2014 benefitting 34,000 children.
- BUPA’s *Start to Move* programme designed to train teachers has reached 4,700 primary schools.

- Matalan, a long term sponsor which claims to have trained 11,000 teachers in school sports delivery since September 2010. Matalan also sponsor the *yoUR Activity* programme which offers alternative sporting experiences and is claimed to have reached 285 schools.
- Sainsbury *School Games* which the YST delivers on behalf of Sport England. It is claimed that over 17,300 schools participated in 2014.
- The YST also operates a Leadership Academy scheme and a Young Ambassadors programme.

**YST Forward Plans.** With little support now from the DfE, the YST continues to put forward proposals for the future development of sport in schools. In January 2015 it published suggestions for a new set of school sport targets which it deems desirable for school sport to develop further. The key new proposals are:-

1. Make sure every child receives at least 5 hours of quality sport and broader physical activity at school every week including at least 2 hours of high quality PE per week.
2. Provide better initial training in PE for teachers.
3. Ensure every school has a Head of PE or equivalent.

YST is now asking schools to register with them as access to schools through the DfE has ceased. To date The YST has enrolled over 2,300 primary and 618 secondary schools.

**ABAC comment.** Following the forthcoming May 2015 General Election there will be further pressure on Government Departments to reduce budgets. Although the DCMS is the smallest Government Department this should not exempt it from cuts. At the end of 2014 the DCMS conducted an on-line survey requesting views on the efficacy of Sport England and UK Sport. It has previously been proposed that these bodies should be combined and no doubt that possibility still exists. If and when it happens a major re-structuring of many sports NGB's is bound to happen.

The YST , by virtue of its enforced contraction following the withdrawal of DfE funding in 2011 is in a better position to resist cuts. Whether or not it can influence the future direction of school sport remains to be seen.

*Ref: Volunteer coaches required to support latest schools sports plans. ABAC archived article. 10 July 2011. (Go to Section on Coaching, Officials and Insurance.)*