LONDON ASSEMBLY

The Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee

London Olympic and Paralympic Games

A sporting legacy for people with disabilities

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

A major reason why London won the vote to host the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games was the stress that London's bid put on the concept of 'legacy'. But that dimension of the Games is something that is easily forgotten.

When most people think about the Games, they think mainly about the few weeks in which the event will actually take place. When people do remember the 'legacy' aspects, they think of promises such as thousands of jobs, world-class sporting facilities, improved transport links, new open parkland, British gold medals, a healthier nation and so on.

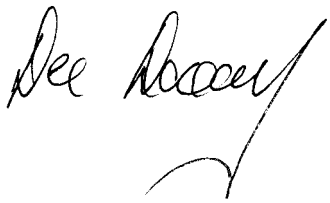
But how many people are aware that London will also be hosting the 2012 Paralympic Games – and that a significant part of the promised legacy will be better access to sport for people with disabilities?

We must therefore ask whether people with disabilities will reap the benefits of the London Games' sporting legacy. As things stand, there is a high risk that they will not.

Access to sport for children with special needs remains disgracefully neglected. They are often sidelined from sports provision in mainstream schools. An inadequate and uncoordinated transport system prevents people with disabilities of all ages from taking part in physical activity. And the absence of a clear pathway to the highest levels of international competition means fledgling talent is lost before it can flourish.

The London Games provide the impetus for change. If we honour the promises made in London's bid, young athletes with disabilities from every borough of London will be representing their country in 2012. And non-elite athletes with disabilities will not be left out but will enjoy lasting access to a full range of facilities in which to take part in the sport or physical activity of their choice.

We have six years to get this right, but the work must begin now.



Dee Doocey AM
Chair of the Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee

LONDON 2012: THE CHALLENGE

We live in a world in which children with disabilities travel in buses for two hours to get to facilities located on the other side of London, with one centre serving children from up to seven boroughs. Because there is no funding for transport, teams are restricted to those children who can make their way independently to facilities. There is huge inconsistency in the levels of support given by London's councils.

There is still no central point of information about the facilities that exist in London, how to get there, and how good they are when you arrive.

And potential Paralympians of the future are being missed – either because teachers are not trained to pick up on their talent, they are deterred by poor facilities and unwelcoming staff, or the support they receive is wholly inadequate.

There is also a very worrying lack of media interest in the sporting achievements of people with disabilities.

LONDON 2012: THE LEGACY

We have the potential to live in a world in which Londoners with disabilities will have access to a full range of facilities in which to take part in the sport or physical activity of their choice.

Whether they choose to participate for fun, or to aspire to the highest levels of achievement, they will be able to find user-friendly information on what's available, where and how to get there. Every facility, whether in a school, community hall or privately run centre, will meet a quality standard for the quality and accessibility of its services and the training undertaken by its staff.

And, when it comes to the Games themselves, talent from across London will have been identified, supported and inspired to represent their country – continuing Britain's unparalleled heritage of Paralympic achievement.

The implementation of our recommendations will make this vision a reality.

OUR OUTLINE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Boroughs should be encouraged to do more to help people with disabilities participate in sport and to share best practice across London**

- **Teachers must be better equipped to teach physical education to children with special needs. We also need to know how much high quality physical education children in all schools are receiving every week**

- **Funding should only be made available to sports clubs that have achieved, or are working towards, accreditation for the service they provide to people with disabilities**

- **Transport for London should set up a travel hotline to help callers with disabilities plan their journey**

- **There should be a one stop shop website for information on opportunities for sportspeople with disabilities**

INTRODUCTION

In a hospital ward just after World War II, a group of badly injured veterans played the first ever game of wheelchair polo.

That experiment at Stoke Mandeville hospital confirmed that sport was a vital tool in the treatment of spinal cord injuries, as well as the development of strength, confidence and self-esteem in people with all kinds of disabilities.

The hospital went on to host the first wheelchair games, timed to coincide with the 1948 London Olympics. Four years later, competitors from the Netherlands joined in and an international movement was born. Now the Paralympic Games is the world's second biggest international sporting event.

As host of the Games in 2012, London has the opportunity to build on its Paralympic pedigree to not only put on the finest show the world has ever seen, but to revolutionise sporting opportunities for people with disabilities.

Research[1] shows people with disabilities are significantly less active than those without. Adults with a disability are 39% less likely to take part in sport than the adult population as a whole. That position has deteriorated slightly since the previous index, which was compiled in 1996. Those who participate least are people with disabilities from black and ethnic minority groups and those who are either in routine occupations or long-term unemployed.

For people aged under 16, the gap narrows slightly, with young people with disabilities 33% less likely to participate in sport than their peers. That represents a slight improvement from the previous index compiled three years before.

Those responsible for delivering the Games are confident that London 2012 can succeed in narrowing the equality gap. Lord Sebastian Coe, chairman of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), declared shortly after London won the right to host the Games: "Our vision for the London 2012 Paralympic Games is to set new standards for services, facilities and opportunities for people with a disability."[2]

Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, told us she was "determined" that London 2012 would motivate more people with disabilities to take part in sport, with Sport England the body charged with making it happen. "This will include greater access to modern facilities and greater awareness and interest in healthier lifestyles. There will also be support, training, new career opportunities for coaches and volunteers, and visibility for sports that are not currently widely played in the UK," she said[3].

Tony Sainsbury, head of Paralympic planning at LOCOG, said that although the committee had no specific sports development function, it took its responsibility to boost activity levels seriously: "We are very conscious in all we do of the social and

[1] *Participation in Sport in England: Sports Equity Index 2002*, Sport England
[2] Sebastian Coe, 25 August 2005
[3] Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, written submission

sporting legacy we have promised to activate as a consequence of London's Host City status," he said.[4]

Although London's bid contained little in the way of specific commitments to people with disabilities, there was a strong commitment throughout the bidding process to increase sports participation among the population as a whole.

Of course, the Games in themselves are not enough to boost levels of physical activity among people with disabilities or any other part of the community. The historical evidence is that no host country can rely on an automatic 'trickle-down' effect[5]. A legacy for community sport can only be created if it is actively and deliberately planned from the outset, and integrated into a longer-term strategy. Otherwise, there is a danger that the long-term benefits will be few, with elite sport the only beneficiary.

If, on the other hand, we succeed, the rewards are great. As well as the obvious health benefits, physical activity promotes social inclusion, breaks down barriers and preconceptions, boosts self-esteem and can become a genuine source of civic pride.

The Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee welcomes steps taken so far to maximise the benefits of the Games in terms of sporting participation. We were pleased to see, for example, the early establishment of the Sport in London Group, whose job it will be to draw up a detailed plan for increasing participation among all groups, including people with disabilities. We urge those responsible for the success of the Games and their legacy to incorporate our recommendations into their earliest preparations. It is only by doing so that we can ensure all Londoners share in the sporting legacy of London 2012 and keep alive our proud and pioneering heritage as the birthplace of Paralympic sport.

This report identifies the key barriers that are preventing London's athletes with disabilities from achieving their full potential. We examine in turn the obstacles created by:

- Inadequate data at a borough level on sports participation among people with disabilities
- Lack of training for teachers in mainstream schools on how to include children with special needs in physical activity
- Sports clubs that do not meet the needs of athletes with disabilities
- A fragmented system of public, community and door-to-door transport services
- The absence of a clear pathway from grassroots to elite activity

We also identify key steps that must be taken now if sports participation among Londoners with disabilities is to increase by 2012.

[4] Tony Sainsbury, head of Paralympic planning, LOCOG, written submission
[5] *Stuck in the Blocks? A Sustainable Sporting Legacy*, Fred Coalter (After the Gold Rush, ippr and Demos, October 2004)

THE PICTURE ACROSS LONDON

In this chapter, we look at how sports participation can better be measured across London, the case for dedicated sports development officers within councils and the role of local area agreements in driving up levels of physical activity.

Measuring performance

How many people with disabilities actually participate in sport across London? Frustratingly, there is no data that gives even an indication of participation levels in each of the 33 councils.

Some progress is being made on this through the Audit Commission's comprehensive performance assessment system, which is evolving over the next two years to include a broader range of indicators for sport and physical activity. Under the new system, councils will be assessed on five sports performance indicators, one of which, equity, includes a measure of facility use by people with disabilities.

"You need a local champion who brings it all together."

London Sports Forum for Disabled People

This will provide a useful insight into the extent to which existing leisure facilities are meeting the needs of the community as whole. However, it is essentially a snapshot of usage of a particular facility over a short period of time and does not provide any information about the actual participation rates among people with disabilities in the area.

More detailed information on participation rates will be available later this year through the Active People Survey, a research tool funded and managed by Sport England involving 1,000 people per borough (of whom only a proportion will have disabilities). This will give valuable information, previously unavailable, about levels of activity among people with disabilities in the borough at the time of the survey. However, the sample size is too small to give statistically valid information on how the participation level among people with disabilities has changed from one survey to the next.

It is difficult to see how the government, through Sport England, can aim to improve levels of physical activity among people with disabilities when they have no means of knowing whether the number of people who are participating in sports in any borough is increasing or decreasing over time.

We understand from Sport England that in order to understand trends in participation rates among people with disabilities, the sample in each borough would need to include at least 1,000 people with disabilities.

We believe there is a strong argument for this data to be collected and the results incorporated into the comprehensive performance assessment. As well as encouraging boroughs to boost sports participation among all their communities, it will be an indispensable aid to the development of sports policy from now to 2012 and beyond.

We would also like to see a guarantee that the survey will again be funded by Sport England when it is repeated in three years time, and that the burden should not fall on the councils who are being assessed.

Sports development officers

At the moment London boroughs take a wide variety of approaches to increasing sports opportunities for people with disabilities.

Of the 33 councils, nine currently employ a sports development officer with a dedicated remit for disability. Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kingston, Redbridge, Southwark, Waltham Forest and Wandsworth all fall into this category, with officers who spend all or the majority of their time on disability.

Eight – Barnet, the Corporation of London, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Islington and Lambeth - have no officer with a remit for disability sport.

The remaining sixteen lie somewhere in between with officers who spend part of their time on disability[6]. However the individual arrangements within this group vary considerably.

The nine boroughs that had a dedicated disability sports officer were significantly better represented by young athletes with disabilities than those who did not.

Some boroughs who do not employ dedicated officer support are heavily reliant on the goodwill of individuals who invest their time and energy on an unpaid basis to ensuring people with disabilities have access to sporting facilities.

Lack of data makes it difficult to gauge the impact of dedicated officers on participation levels. However, anecdotal evidence is backed up by, for example, participation levels in the London Youth Games. The Youth Games are an annual event in which over 20,000 young Londoners compete for top honours in a wide range of sporting competitions. In last year's games, the nine boroughs that had a dedicated disability sports officer were significantly better represented by young athletes with disabilities than those who did not. Those boroughs fielded more athletes with disabilities than those with partial or no officer support (an average of 50, compared to 47 and 38 respectively).

However, it is important not to overstate this analysis, as other factors clearly come into play in determining how many representatives with disabilities each borough is able to put forward. Indeed Lewisham, winner of the 2005 Disability Sports Trophy and one of the boroughs best represented by competitors with disabilities, has only part of an officer's time spent on sport for people with disabilities.

Nevertheless the London Sports Forum for Disabled People made a strong case for the appointment of dedicated officers who can act as local champions, saying they provide a vital link between schools, the community, transport, the voluntary sector and the highest levels of sporting competition:

[6] Figures from the London Sports Forum for Disabled People

"We have examples of those people who are working, not necessarily with a lot of support to them, but delivering some good results. I think if we had that across London we would take a big step forward."[7]

One such example is Southwark Council, which has employed a sports development officer with responsibility for people with disabilities for just over nine years. The officer acts as a catalyst to get a particular activity for people with disabilities up and running, and then steps back to let the club run it on its own.

"Gymnastics, football and swimming were the first three that I set up, and these are all still running well and expanding by the club with little or no support from me. I am just about to start a new trampolining and tennis club that I am running with the clubs."[8]

We believe there is an argument for the appointment of dedicated officers. However, it is on the basis of robust local data collected as part of the comprehensive performance assessment, as detailed above, that boroughs can best determine what works and begin to share best practice. If it can be shown that a particular approach has produced sustained increases in participation, there is a stronger case for duplication elsewhere, perhaps with the support of London 2012 sponsorship funding.

Local area agreements

There is also scope for greater incorporation of sports participation in the local area agreements reached between individual boroughs and the Government Office for London. Of the 17 London councils that have concluded local area agreements, none set specific targets for sports participation by people with disabilities, although some, for example Brent Council, set a target for increasing participation among the adult population as a whole.

There is no reason why local area agreements should not become a major force in the achievement of higher levels of sporting achievement

One of the main reasons sports participation has not featured prominently in local area agreements is, again, that effective measurement is difficult to achieve. As mentioned above, the sample size used in the Active People Survey is inadequate to measure progress over time – data that would be essential to support specific 'stretch' targets for sports participation under local area agreements. However, if Sport England can introduce the more ambitious monitoring mechanism set out above, there is no reason why local area agreements should not become a major force in the achievement of higher levels of sporting participation across the community as a whole.

In conclusion, it is clear that some boroughs are doing a great deal to boost sports participation among people with disabilities in their areas. However, the inadequacy of available data makes it difficult to determine which approaches are most effective and hinders the spread of best practice.

[7] Angus Robertson, chief executive, London Sports Forum for Disabled People, public hearing, 14 March 2006

[8] Glyn Newberry, sports development officer, Southwark Council, public hearing, 14 March 2006

Recommendation: boroughs should be encouraged to do more to help people with disabilities participate in sport and to share best practice across London.

The Audit Commission should revise the Comprehensive Performance Assessment to include a measurement of actual sports participation over time among people with disabilities. London's councils should also consider including targets on sports participation in their local area agreements

THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS

How much physical education (PE) do children receive in London schools – and do the official figures mask significant levels of inactivity among children with special needs? In this chapter we examine the problems involved in teaching PE to children with disabilities in mainstream schools.

Physical education provision

According to the latest figures from the Department for Education and Skills, 68% of schoolchildren in London receive two hours of high quality PE a week, marginally below the national average. For special schools the figure is significantly lower, at 60%[9].

These figures should be treated with caution as they relate only to schools that are members of schools partnerships – at the time of the survey, just over half of all schools in England. The figure for special schools may be particularly misleading as comparatively few special schools are included in schools partnerships - which is in itself a cause for concern - and those that are included may not be representative of special schools across London.

"Schools don't do much in the way of physical activity…I have to pay for everything. Even playgrounds could be made more interesting."

Mother of five-year old girl with special needs who attends a mainstream primary school

We believe the Department for Education and Skills should publish data on the amount of physical education enjoyed by children in every school. This is scheduled to happen in 2007, when all primary, secondary and special schools in 2007 become members of schools partnerships. A full picture of the level of PE accessed by young people is urgently needed, and we would urge the Department for Education and Skills to make this information available as soon as possible.

Sidelining of children with special needs

The last twenty years have seen a revolution in the education of children with special needs. In 1986, only a fifth were integrated into the mainstream schools system. Now, that figure is close to four fifths[10].

That trend, though welcome in many respects, makes it much more difficult to assess the quality and quantity of physical education to which children with special needs have access. It is extremely difficult to identify children with special needs within mainstream schools, and children with special needs who attend these schools may not necessarily wish to be seen as having disabilities. We heard an example from one coach of two children who had the potential to become outstanding wheelchair athletes, but would not attend an event aimed at people with disabilities because they did not wish to be categorised as such.

A separate but related issue is that the integration of children within mainstream schools means that there will only be a handful of children with any particular disability in any one school. The geographical spread of these children makes it logistically very

[9] *2004/05 School Sport Survey*, Department for Education and Skills
[10] Figures from English Federation for Disability Sports

difficult to provide specialist support or to put together teams for the purposes of competition.

It is impossible to tell from the figures above how much PE is received by children with special needs, the vast majority of whom attend mainstream schools. Inadequate provision for children with disabilities would effectively be masked by higher levels of activity among their able-bodied peers. Indeed, unofficial estimates put the percentage of children with disabilities in mainstream schools receiving two hours of physical education at 20% - and even that limited exposure may not necessarily be of a high quality.

"They would ring us up and go, 'Well, how do I include this kid in a wheelchair? We are doing athletics today. What the hell do I have to do? I do not know what to do."

Sports development officer, Southwark Council

There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that children with special needs are sidelined or excluded from physical activity in their schools. The London Sports Forum for Disabled People told us:

"We have a lot of direct testimony from [children with disabilities] and their parents that they do not get many opportunities to do anything physical. They are often left out of PE because it is a big class, they have this complex need and there are health and safety issues and all sorts of barriers."[11]

That view is backed up by parents we spoke to on our visit to the Camberwell Gymnastics Club, who told us that inadequate provision of physical activity in the school day meant they had no choice but to pay for their children to attend after-school clubs.

Teaching PE to children with special needs

Teachers in mainstream schools are not equipped to teach physical education to children with special needs. We were surprised to learn that trainee teachers receive no preparation in this skill. In the Postgraduate Certificate in Education course, trainee teachers receive just six hours' training in how to teach physical education, none of which relates specifically to children with special needs.

Given this lack of preparation, it is understandable that many teachers panic when faced with the prospect of including children with special needs in a physical education class. A sports development officer at Southwark Council told us he had been approached by teachers in precisely this situation:

"They would ring us up and go, 'Well, how do I include this kid in a wheelchair? We are doing athletics today. What the hell do I have to do? I do not know what to do."[12]

The support that can be given to teachers by sports officers, in boroughs that have chosen to appoint to these posts, is invaluable. However, there is a clear need for teachers themselves to be better equipped. We believe the lack of training given to teachers in how to include children with special needs in a physical education class is a real impediment to children accessing the physical activity to which they are entitled.

[11] Angus Robertson, chief executive, London Sports Forum for Disabled People, public hearing, 14 March 2006

[12] Glyn Newberry, sports development officer, Southwark Council, public hearing, 14 March 2006

Until teachers are trained in this skill, either as part of the syllabus for trainee teachers or on a post-qualified basis, children with disabilities will continue to get a raw deal.

We also heard from sports coaches that schools are often resistant to allowing pupils to attend sports events that require time out of daily classes. This is no doubt the case for all children, but seems particularly regrettable when it comes to children with special needs who have a great deal to gain from such activities and may find themselves sidelined from traditional classes.

One impressive example we heard from the London Sports Forum for Disabled People involved a special needs football initiative with four of the professional clubs in London. Of the eight teams which were taken to the national competition, three won first prizes in their categories.

"For those kids, it was some of the most positive things that they have done. Then, they can go back to their school and show the kids who sometimes give them a hard time because they cannot do things that they can achieve and they are very proud of those achievements…it is not taking them out of that inclusive education. It is just giving them another opportunity."[13]

While this is clearly an issue for individual schools to deal with, we believe the benefits to be gained from such activity are so compelling, particularly for children with disabilities, that a degree of flexibility is desirable.

Recommendation: Teachers must be better equipped to teach physical education to children with special needs. We also need to know how much high quality physical education children in all schools are receiving every week.

Specifically, all teachers, whether they work in the special or mainstream sectors, should be required to undergo training in how to teach physical education to children with special needs. The Department for Education and Skills should, as soon as possible, publish data on the amount of high quality physical education received by pupils in all schools.

[13] Angus Robertson, chief executive, London Sports Forum for Disabled People, public hearing, 14 March 2006

THE ROLE OF SPORTS CLUBS

In this chapter we examine how sports clubs can better meet the needs of Londoners with disabilities. Our research suggests it is not a shortage of facilities that is the problem[14], but rather the accessibility of those facilities, the extent to which sports coaches are equipped to support athletes with disabilities, the attitude of staff towards people with disabilities and, crucially, how easy the clubs are to get to – which is tackled in the next chapter.

Clubs in London

The London Sports Forum for Disabled People, in conjunction with the Association of London Government, is in the process of compiling a detailed audit of the sports opportunities open to Londoners.

"Now they're exploding with confidence, they're up for everything…basically because we have provided a safe environment."

Director of gymnastics club, Camberwell

The survey examines provision of Paralympic and Deaflympic summer sports across the capital. Boroughs have still to confirm availability in their areas, but initial estimates put the number of dedicated clubs for people with disabilities across the 26 disciplines at just under 100, with football, boccia and equestrian sports especially well provided for. There are many more mainstream clubs that welcome and accommodate sportspeople with disabilities, particularly in the fields of swimming, cycling, judo and shooting. It is likely that the survey, when it is completed, will identify gaps in provision, for example in wheelchair fencing and in table tennis for deaf people, which the survey describes as "a dying sport".[15]

We welcome these attempts to map existing provision, and would like to see the findings integrated into a central resource guiding athletes with disabilities from grassroots activity to the highest levels of competition (see final chapter, 'Pathways to Excellence'). By making it easier to find out about the opportunities that exist, more people are likely to attend existing clubs, boosting participation levels and the development of competitive structures.

Benefits of clubs

In its visits to two very different sports facilities, one in Camberwell and the other in Leyton, the Committee saw the very impressive results that are being achieved by clubs in London. The director of the Camberwell Gymnastics Club spoke of the change he has seen in the children who attend the special needs class:

"They're doing something they enjoy, learning skills like waiting for others and taking their turn. Now they're exploding with confidence, they're up for everything…basically because we have provided a safe environment."

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[14] In Sport England's *Adults with a Disability and Sport National Survey 2000-01*, only 3% of respondents cited lack of local facilities as a reason not to participate in sport

[15] *Paralympic and Deaflympic Summer Sports – Current Provision in London* (draft), London Sports Forum for Disabled People and the Association of London Government

There are benefits too for parents. As well as giving them the opportunity for a break, watching the class helps them become less protective of their children:

"Parents are scared their children are going to hurt themselves. But the first time they see their kid jumping off a box, laughing and having fun, it helps them to realise they're just like any other kid."

Parents we spoke to reinforced that positive view of the benefits provided by even a single weekly class. The mother of one five year old said:

"It builds up her social skills and makes her strong physically…she likes the structure. And her school is noticing the difference in her stature."

"Sometimes the barriers to participation are real physical ones"
Head of Paralympic planning, LOCOG

Accessibility

The sports facilities inherited by London in the aftermath of the Games should set new standards not only in design and sustainability, but also in inclusiveness. Tony Sainsbury, head of Paralympic planning at LOCOG, told us this will go some way to breaking down the physical barriers that stand between people with disabilities and sporting opportunities:

"Sometimes the barriers to participation are real physical ones – the sporting venue legacy with its accessibility standards will at least erode this inhibitor to some degree."[16]

However, in the meantime, clubs are struggling to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Physical access, the most obvious barrier, has been addressed to some extent by the Disability Discrimination Act which, since 2004, has required service providers to make reasonable adjustments to their buildings to overcome physical barriers to access.

We saw the limitations of this at the Camberwell Gymnastics Club, where the front of the centre was accessible to wheelchair users, but not the gymnasium itself. It came down to the determination of staff and volunteers to ensure children in wheelchairs were able to access the gym, if necessary by lifting them through the door.

Equally, at the Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme centre, which was a model of best practice in terms of disability access, the high performance turf on the outdoor pitch made the ground unsuitable for wheelchair use.

Coaching standards

The quality of coaching is clearly essential, not only to impart specific skills but to provide support and encouragement, and to build confidence.

The desire for support was one of the issues most frequently cited by people with disabilities, and that need was most strongly expressed by those who had not played sport recently.

[16] Tony Sainsbury, head of Paralympic planning, LOCOG, written submission

Of those one in seven wanted someone to advise them on what they could try, given health restrictions. Almost one in ten said they wanted someone either to lead them to ensure their safety or just to keep them company[17].

We welcome the fact that disability awareness is becoming increasingly common in the basic level one coaching courses, although some sports, for example athletics, are more advanced in this regard.

However, we believe that training in disability awareness should be an integral part of the qualification of community coaches, and not simply an add-on. A very good example was set by the London Active Partnership, which indicated that it would only use coaches who can show minimum standards of training on equality. Some councils have taken a similar approach, but it could be replicated by all. The integration of disability training into the qualification of community coaches is something Sport England told us it had already started focusing on and would continue to develop as an essential part of the Capital Coaches community sports coaching scheme[18].

On top of general training in disability awareness, all coaches, whether in the public, private or voluntary sector, should have access to further in-depth training which is specific to the sports they coach.

Staff attitudes

However, the need for disability awareness training is not limited to coaching staff. The skills, background and attitudes of every volunteer or member of staff will shape the customer's experience of the facility, and influence whether or not he or she wishes to return.

The head of sport at Newham 2012 told us it came down as much to the receptionist in a leisure centre as to teachers and community coaches:

Training in disability awareness should be an integral part of the qualification of community coaches, and not simply an add-on.

"In Newham, we have 1.7 million visits to leisure centres. That is a big market… it is absolutely critical to not just focus on the relatively small numbers of people coming through formal sports coaching, but the wider training of people who are working in the leisure industry, because that is where most people are going to access sport.[19]"

Another example put to us was the lifeguard who might see a child with disabilities entering the pool as a health and safety risk, or not have been trained to rescue a person with disabilities who got into difficulties in the water.

Bad experiences, unfortunately, are not uncommon. One in seven people with disabilities surveyed by Sport England said they had a negative experience in sport due to their health problem or disability[20]. Unfortunately, the survey did not reveal how many of these were deterred from continuing to participate as a result of that experience.

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[17] *Adults with a Disability and Sport National Survey 2000-01*, Sport England
[18] Matthew Delaney, director, Sport England London, public hearing, 14 March 2006
[19] Alan Skewis, head of sport at Newham 2012, public hearing, 14 March 2006
[20] *Adults with a Disability and Sport National Survey 2000-01*, Sport England

Mark of quality

There are many clubs across London that genuinely cater for the needs of people with disabilities. However, others do not, and it can be difficult to distinguish the two. Facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities, offer a high standard of sports coaching and general disability awareness among its staff should be easily identifiable.

A number of schemes have been established to allow clubs to promote the fact that they are welcoming to people with disabilities. One of these is the Inclusive Fitness Mark, a Sport England funded scheme that is open to all fitness facilities in the UK. Centres are assessed on a number of criteria relating to accessibility, equipment specification, staff training, marketing and policies and procedures. From the Inclusive Fitness website, it is possible to find the facilities closest to you which bear the mark.

Facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities, offer a high standard of sports coaching and general disability awareness among its staff, should be easily identifiable.

The scope of the scheme is fairly limited, with fewer than a dozen accredited clubs in the capital. Part of that is a lack of awareness of the mark and the benefits of accreditation, simply because the scheme is fairly new. There are also many clubs in London that have applied for the mark and have not yet reached the required standard. Others are likely to be deterred by the £1,500 assessment fee through which the scheme is financed.

We would like to see the scheme expanded to all sports facilities, with the cost of accreditation for public sector facilities being subsidised by Sport England. Accreditation is something every facility in London should have achieved or be working towards. Ultimately, Sport England should make its funding conditional on progress being made towards the standard required for full accreditation. It should also publicise the scheme more widely so that people with disabilities are aware of which facilities near them have made an effort to meet their needs.

Funding

It is vital that facilities like the Camberwell Gymnastics Club are adequately funded so that they can meet the needs of current users as well as the many others who may be inspired by the arrival of the Games to participate for the first time.

At the moment, the class, which takes place in a badly run-down leisure centre gymnasium, has a waiting list of two years. It is achieving impressive results with very modest resources. With improved facilities, more regular classes and the funding needed to participate in competitions, it could achieve a very great deal more.

We would like to see a commitment from the Mayor that grassroots clubs will benefit from the extra sports funding generated by the London Games. Otherwise, young people with disabilities will not have the opportunity to take part, and the opportunity to create a genuine sporting legacy will be lost.

Recommendation[21]: Funding should only be made available to sports clubs that have achieved, or are working towards, accreditation for the service they provide to people with disabilities

Specifically, Sport England should restrict its funding to facilities that have been awarded, or are working towards, inclusiveness accreditation. The scheme should be publicised through links from the websites of Sport England, the London Sports Forum for Disabled People and London's councils.

[21] One London does not support this recommendation

TRANSPORT

The evidence we have received suggests that far from making sports facilities accessible to Londoners with disabilities, the transport system acts as a significant barrier to physical activity.

In this chapter, we look at the transport options open to young people with disabilities who want to access leisure facilities after school, and the role to be played by public and door to door transport for Londoners with disabilities of all ages. Of course, the need for these services goes beyond access to sporting facilities, but the challenges inherent in the current system – and the potential solutions – are universal, regardless of the purpose of the journey.

Transport for young people with disabilities

For mainstream sports, accessing a facility may be a case of getting on a bus to get to a local sports centre. However, the distance to a specialist facility may be much greater, and for some people with disabilities, public transport is not an option.

In the course of informal discussions, we heard of young people who faced a two-hour bus journey to get to a specialist centre. One facility could cater for young people from up to seven boroughs, presenting a logistical nightmare.

School transport, for which a network of vehicles already exists, is rarely a viable option. In practice, school transport is just that – a system to get children to school and back. It does not have the flexibility to accommodate after school activity. That is particularly the case in special schools, which tend to have wider catchment areas and by definition more complex transport arrangements. There is a clear opportunity with the advent of extended schools to provide a more integrated system of access to sports facilities.

"It is just a huge issue… we do end up almost selecting some children to come to the club because you know where they live…you do not want to have to do it, but sometimes it is the only practical way you can actually run a club"

Sports development officer, Southwark Council

Some clubs are able to provide transport for participants, but others say the cost and logistical problems involved make it impossible to provide a reliable service:

"It is not practical…to say we can put on a bus for that club after school, because the 10 kids that might actually want to come to the school club might be in 10 totally different areas of London. Particularly from my point of view, we do end up almost selecting some children to come to the club, because you know where they live, which is very bad. You do not want to have to do it, but sometimes it is the only practical way you can actually run a club."[23]

[22] *Attitudes of disabled people to public transport,* Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, May 2002

[23] Glyn Newberry, sports development officer, Southwark Council, public hearing, 14 March 2006

In many cases, it is lack of transport that causes otherwise viable clubs to close down. This is particularly the case when transport is funded on a short-term basis, for example through the National Lottery, and the money dries up after three years.

Parents, of course, have an important role to play. When we visited a special needs session at the Camberwell Gymnastics Club, which attracts children from as far away as Westminster, although most live locally, we heard the argument that parents should where possible take responsibility for getting their child to the club. This is not only for logistical reasons, but because parents are then more likely then to value the facility and not take it for granted.

However, some provision will still be required in the case of parents who genuinely cannot provide transport for their children. Many parents of children with disabilities may themselves have special needs that prevent them from driving, or could have large families and other care responsibilities to cope with.

Public transport

We believe that services run by Transport for London have an important role in filling the gaps left between private, school and community transport provision – gaps which can, in themselves, act as a deterrent to people with disabilities of all ages taking up sporting opportunities that are available.

The evidence suggests that public transport is a barrier for a significant number of people with disabilities who would like to take part in sports. Almost one in five people with disabilities say they normally experience difficulty with using transport to access sports or leisure facilities, or simply do not make these journeys at all because of poor transport in their areas[24].

It is clear that public transport has the potential to play a much greater role if the barriers faced by people with disabilities who want to use it were addressed. According to the same survey, people with disabilities would be more likely to use public transport if it were more accessible, cheaper, more frequent and staff were more welcoming.[25]

Public transport is a barrier for a significant number of people with disabilities who would like to take part in sports.

Some of the accessibility barriers are being tackled. All buses are already accessible, and around 17% of stations are step free from street to platform. Customer information is also being improved for customers with special needs with audible and visible information being introduced on all trains. Transport for London has also launched an 'individual travel training' pilot, which is designed to give people with special needs the confidence to use public transport.

However, the pace of improvement must be speeded up. By 2012, Transport for London aims to ensure a quarter of all stations plus key Olympic interchanges are step free from street to platform. We believe this target is not sufficiently challenging. It is unacceptable that almost three quarters of stations will not be step free by the time London comes under the global spotlight for its accessibility.

[24] *Attitudes of disabled people to public transport,* Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, May 2002
[25] Ibid

It is also important to bear in mind that step free does not mean accessible to all. A gap exists on most lines between the train and the platform, making the service inaccessible to wheelchair users even if they can reach the platform. This will be addressed as trains are upgraded, and Transport for London is also starting to introduce platform ramps, for example on the Waterloo and City Line.

It is essential that public transport becomes genuinely accessible, opening up the capital to people with disabilities and freeing up door-to-door services for those who really need them.

We welcome the Athletes' London Travelcard initiative launched at the start of July by the Mayor and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as a valuable benefit for elite athletes in the capital. However, unless the issue of access is addressed, the card will be of very limited use to the Paralympians who will be representing Great Britain in 2012.

It is also important to recognise that many of the barriers faced by people with disabilities relate to the way they are treated by staff when they use public transport. Bus drivers are perceived by many people with disabilities as unhelpful and, too often, rude and impatient.

The experience of one mother who struggles to get around London with her 13-year-old daughter, who uses a wheelchair, suggests that driver training could be at the root of the problem:

"All the buses are now supposedly accessible except for the fact that if you have got somebody in a wheelchair and there is a mother with a baby in a buggy, you can't get on to the wheelchair space because the mother with the baby in the buggy will stand there and look at you like you're mad if you ask her to fold it down…bus drivers are not prepared to ask parents to fold down the buggies because they don't want any confrontation."

This is an issue which needs to be tackled alongside improvements to service accessibility.

It is essential that public transport becomes genuinely accessible, opening up the capital to people with disabilities and freeing up door-to-door services for those who really need them.

Door to door services

For people who are unable to use public transport, Dial a Ride, a door-to-door service provided by Transport for London, is a genuine lifeline. In 2004-05, over one and a quarter million trips were made on the Dial a Ride service. Huge demand for its 306 vehicles mean the service is running close to full capacity.

Londoners with disabilities can also make use of the Taxicard scheme, under which they receive a certain number of subsidised journeys in accessible taxis. In 2004-05, around one million journeys were made through Taxicard. However, provision of the service across London is patchy, partly due to a shortage of vehicles. In nine boroughs where taxis are particularly scarce, a complementary scheme called Capital Call, which uses public hire vehicles, has been set up.

The need for coordination

Some of the pressure on door to door services may in time be eased by the opening up of public transport to a larger number of people with disabilities, for example through the individual training programme mentioned above.

But in the meantime, there is a need to ensure existing services are better integrated in order to provide a more effective service for Londoners with disabilities who wish to access leisure or any other service.

In September 2005, the Transport for London board endorsed a new strategy for door to door transport which advocates a single door to door service with a single contact point for users. It also advocated a common approach to eligibility, assessment and application and entitlement across London, as well as standard fares. Implementation is planned for 2007.

The lack of coordination between public and community transport is one of the areas in most urgent need of improvement.

We support integration of door to door services as an essential starting point for the delivery of an effective transport system for Londoners with disabilities. However, we believe better use could be made of vehicle provision elsewhere in the capital. Every borough boasts a number of vehicles, some of them specially adapted for people with disabilities. These may exist within schools, hospitals, local authorities' social services departments or other local community transport schemes. Anecdotal evidence suggests that although there are examples of resources being shared across boroughs and between different organisations, these arrangements are informal and depend on the goodwill of those involved.

Because services are not coordinated as a matter of course, a customer may call Dial a Ride and be told there is no capacity, but have no way of knowing that his or her needs could be met by another scheme operating, for example, in one of the boroughs which has capacity on that day.

It would be logical if the operator who holds information on the availability of Dial a Ride, Taxicard and Capital Call services could also advise on borough and community transport alternatives. With proper training, operators have the potential to become proactive journey planners instead of passive bookers of a single service, and to make a huge difference to the lives of Londoners with disabilities. A similarly integrated system should be available through the TfL website, providing comprehensive up to date information on the transport options available.

The lack of coordination between public and community transport is one of the areas in most urgent need of improvement if sports participation levels are to be boosted among people with disabilities in London. The fact that no one has the necessary oversight of the system as a whole undermines its usefulness for people with disabilities, and may even prevent them from taking up valuable sporting opportunities. We believe this is a weakness that must be addressed.

Recommendation: Transport for London should set up a travel hotline to help callers with disabilities plan their journey.

The line should be staffed by specially trained operators who can advise on journeys across an integrated network of door-to-door, community and accessible public transport. Transport for London should update the Assembly within the next three months on progress.

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

Our success in the London 2012 Paralympic Games is dependent on every one of the building blocks described above – sharing of best practice among boroughs, a better informed approach from schools, more welcoming club facilities and an effective, fully integrated, transport system.

This chapter examines how we can build on these fundamentals to ensure our Paralympic athletes perform to their fullest potential in the 2012 Games.

Identification of talent

It takes up to six years to train a potential talent to the standard demanded by the Paralympic Games. A gifted athlete, identified now, could be competing in London 2012.

"Some… Paralympians have got to the top in their sport despite the system rather than because of it."

London Sports Forum for Disabled People

So how do we get from the identification of talent in playgrounds and community halls around London to the development of the elite athletes who will be representing Great Britain in the 2012 London Games?

We heard that under the current system it was inevitable that talent would be missed and that promising individuals would slip through the net. The London Sports Forum for Disabled People told us:

"Inevitably, there are people being missed. Absolutely, there are people being missed… we talked to some of the Paralympians and they have got to the top in their sport despite the system rather than because of it."[26]

At the moment, there is no equivalent to the well-established pathway that exists for promising able-bodied athletes. As a result, those who are best placed to spot potential talent may not know whom to contact or the level of achievement that is necessary to progress to the next stage.

Teachers are perhaps best placed to identify talented youngsters among their pupils, but at the moment, the structure for that to take place in a systematic way is inadequate. For that reason we welcome the government's recently announced plan to increase the integration of sports for people with disabilities in the School Olympics. Both swimming and athletics for people with disabilities will be represented in the first Games, with plans to add further sports in future years. Sports Minister Richard Caborn stressed the importance of *"a strong structure for disabled and Paralympic sport, from the playground to the podium"*[27].

However, we believe that for teachers to be able systematically to spot talent among pupils with special needs, there must be an easily located central point of information

[26] Angus Robertson, chief executive, London Sports Forum for Disabled People, public hearing, 14 March 2006

[27] Richard Caborn, sports minister, 18 May 2006

on the opportunities that are available and standards required at each level of achievement.

Similarly, parents who suspect their child has a gift for a particular activity should have an obvious port of call for guidance.

Local authorities also have an important role to play in the identification of talent. The community champions described above can support the identification process within schools and provide an essential link to higher levels of competition.

One such officer, at Southwark Council, told us the talented youngsters were not difficult to spot:

"We are finding them in the borough. I have the kids. I know I have kids in my borough that are at that level [and] I know what level they need to be at."[28]

"Much change needs to be achieved relating to pathways for people with a disability and sport if we are to have a lasting legacy after the games."

Chairman of the British Paralympic Association

The role of champions is not, of course, restricted to the identification of talented children. People with disabilities who until recently were promising able-bodied athletes may not be plugged into sport networks for people with disabilities. There is a need for someone with an overview of all parts of the system to ensure people of all ages have access to the opportunities that exist.

That need for coordination is stressed by Mike Brace, chairman of the British Paralympic Association and board member of LOCOG:

"Much change needs to be achieved relating to pathways for people with a disability and sport if we are to have a lasting legacy after the games in terms of more participants, better facilities and easy access to the sports that disabled people wish to take up.

"The diverse disability groups and the lack of joined up thinking with education, leisure and the voluntary sector being separate and unlinked, needs urgent work to provide a comprehensive approach to the teaching of, identification of, linkage of, any person with a disability who wants to participate in sport."[29]

Development of talent

Both schools and councils can support the development of talented athletes with disabilities. That might involve a degree of curricular flexibility to allow a promising young person to attend training events, or opening a pool half an hour earlier so a promising Paralympic swimmer can fit training in before school.

However, there is no doubt that the chief responsibility lies with the national governing bodies to providing a much-needed framework in which disability sports can develop.

[28] Glyn Newberry, sports development officer, Southwark Council, public hearing, 14 March 2006
[29] Mike Brace, chairman of the British Paralympic Association and board member of LOCOG, written submission

As the London Sports Forum for Disabled People pointed out:

"That is where their expertise is. They are the people who prepare people up to the top level for the Olympics. They should be doing more for the Paralympics."[30]

However, governing bodies have been slow to take the lead on this issue. We heard some did not do enough to support the development of elite disability sports, or were too focused on short-term solutions at the expense of longer-term programmes.

The additional funding that has flowed to governing bodies as a result of the successful 2012 bid provides a real opportunity to commit to a programme of investment in elite Paralympics sport, and we would like to see from each body details of what they now plan to do in this regard.

There is a need for a single source of information on the opportunities that are open to aspiring Paralympic athletes in London.

Ultimately, Sport England holds the ultimate sanction against governing bodies that fail adequately to support disability sport, which is withdrawal of funding.

Matthew Delaney, director of Sport England London, told us:

"It is not enough just for [governing bodies] to say what they are going to do around disability and sport. They actually have to prove to us, if they want continued funding, that they are actually delivering against that particular performance indicator, which is around increasing participation, which is around providing opportunity for people with disabilities."[31]

This is a power Sport England must use wherever it is warranted.

For able-bodied athletes who aspire to the highest level of international competition, the route may be long, arduous and ultimately heartbreaking, but at least the route is there. For those with disabilities, the picture is much more blurred, and the path, where it exists, is fragmented.

The lack of a clear pathway is a serious problem when it comes to the development of that raw talent, as it is almost impossible to find out what opportunities actually exist for competition and further advancement.

We think there is a need for a single source of information on the opportunities that are open to aspiring Paralympic athletes in London in order to bring coherence to the system and to ensure talent that could be winning gold in 2012 is not going to waste. It may be that the Sport England website is the best place for this resource, or it could sit elsewhere with adequate signposting from Sport England, the boroughs and the national governing bodies.

[30] Angus Robertson, chief executive, London Sports Forum for Disabled People, public hearing, 14 March 2006

[31] Matthew Delaney, director, Sport England London, public hearing, 14 March 2006

We believe the Greater London Authority-chaired Sport in London Working Group, the body charged with ensuring a sports legacy for London, is well placed to start developing these proposals, in conjunction with Sport England. This is an opportunity for the Mayor to use his strategic leverage to deliver an essential sporting resource for Londoners with disabilities.

Inspiring the Paralympians of the future

It is important not to underestimate the sheer power of inspiration in developing the top sportspeople of the future. We heard from the Camberwell Gymnastics Club how London's successful bid had in itself led to a significant increase in the number of interested phone calls received by the club. Unfortunately, given that the club is already massively over-subscribed, with a waiting list of two years for its classes, there is a risk this enthusiasm will go to waste.

"The country should be proud of these guys… But where was the tickertape parade, the open top bus, the cheering crowds?"
Community sports trust football development officer, Fulham FC

There is undoubtedly an onus on the governing body of each sport to do more to publicise the achievements of participants with disabilities, and on the sports media to cover disability sports much more fully than they have done in the past. This is an area in which the BBC has made progress, but much more can be done.

Susi Williams, Fulham FC's community sports trust football development officer for people with a disability, pointed out that England's learning disability football team won the Global Football Games in Sweden in 2004:

"*The country should be proud of these guys as a lot of work and effort went into them winning the Global Games. But where was the tickertape parade, the open top bus, the cheering crowds? Compare that to when we won the Rugby World Cup and the Ashes. The media hype was incredible. Alas no one knew about it, because the media did not cover it.*"[32]

We were pleased to hear that Sport England plans to expand its Sporting Champions programme, which aims to get sportspeople into school assemblies to inspire young people with the story they have to tell.

However, inspiration need not come only from elite athletes. Both coaches and athletes with disabilities who have achieved success within any community have a motivating story to tell which may arguably be more resonant because it is easier for the person on the street to relate to.

As the head of sport at Newham 2012 put it:

"I am not sure how someone in Newham would relate to Tanni Grey-Thompson. I think they do see her as an inspirational figure. I am not sure that they could relate that to 'Here am I sitting in a wheelchair in East Ham. I want to take part in the Olympic Games.'"[33]

[32] Susi Williams, Fulham FC's community sports trust football development officer for people with a disability, informal meeting, 1 March 2006
[33] Alan Skewis, head of sport at Newham 2012, public hearing, 14 March 2006

Dedicated sports development officers are well positioned to put schools in touch with successful athletes or coaches who live locally. It is through this kind of connection and ongoing support that young people will be inspired to achieve sporting success in their own field.

By inspiring the Paralympians of the future, and establishing a clear pathway from grassroots to elite activity, we will give our athletes the best possible chance of success in 2012 – and improve opportunities for all Londoners with disabilities for generations to come.

Recommendation: There should be a one stop shop website for information on opportunities for sportspeople with disabilities.

The Mayor should take a lead within the Sport in London Working Group – the body established to develop a sporting legacy for London - on developing proposals with Sport England for a single point of information on opportunities and support available for London's Paralympic champions of the future

Recommendations in full

- Boroughs should be encouraged to do more to help people with disabilities participate in sport and to share best practice across London. The Audit Commission should revise the Comprehensive Performance Assessment to include a measurement of actual sports participation over time among people with disabilities. London's councils should also consider including targets on sports participation in their local area agreements.

- Teachers must be better equipped to teach physical education to children with special needs. We also need to know how much high quality physical education children in all schools are receiving every week. Specifically, all teachers, whether they work in the special or mainstream sectors, should be required to undergo training in how to teach physical education to children with special needs. The Department for Education and Skills should, as soon as possible, publish data on the amount of high quality physical education received by pupils in all schools.

- Funding should only be made available to sports clubs that have achieved, or are working towards, accreditation for the service they provide to people with disabilities. Specifically, Sport England should restrict its funding to facilities that have been awarded, or are working towards, inclusiveness accreditation. The scheme should be publicised through links from the websites of Sport England, the London Sports Forum for Disabled People and London's councils[34].

- Transport for London should set up a travel hotline to help callers with disabilities plan their journey. The line should be staffed by specially trained operators who can advise on journeys across an integrated network of door-to-door, community and accessible public transport. Transport for London should update the Assembly within the next three months on progress.

- There should be a one stop shop website for information on opportunities for sportspeople with disabilities. The Mayor should take a lead within the Sport in London Working Group – the body established to develop a sporting legacy for London - on developing proposals with Sport England for a single point of information on opportunities and support available for London's Paralympic champions of the future

[34] One London does not support this recommendation

Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee Members

Dee Doocey, Chair	Liberal Democrat
Bob Blackman, Deputy Chair	Conservative
Tony Arbour	Conservative
Angie Bray	Conservative
Nicky Gavron	Labour
Sally Hamwee	Liberal Democrat
Damian Hockney	One London
Joanne McCartney	Labour

Terms of reference for the investigation:

- What commitments have been made to promote sporting opportunities for disabled people as part of the London Olympic Bid? Do the commitments go far enough?
- Who is responsible for delivering and funding these commitments?
- What plans are in place to deliver the commitments? What are the targets for increasing participation? How are the Commitments going to be monitored?
- How will the plans be implemented? Will they include all disabled people and address issues such as sports promotion and dedicated support in addition to any focus on physical access requirements?
- What do disabled people think of the plans? Do they address the multiple barriers to participation that different disabled people face?

Contact:

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List of those who provided views and information

The following organisations and individuals provided written views and information to the Committee:

London Sports Forum for Disabled People
The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Mayor of London
Sense
Youth Sport Trust
Physically Handicapped Integrated Sutton Youth (PHISY)
Steve Harris, coach
Roding Circle Club Phab
Havering Disabled Sports Association
Special Olympics Great Britain SE Region Ski Group
Greater London Action on Disability
Lesley Adams, school PE coordinator
Royal National Institute of the Blind
Deirdre Yager, mother of child, 10, with autism
Tower Hamlets Council

The following people attended a formal meeting of the Committee:

- Matthew Delaney, director, Sport England London
- Peter Lewis, business manager, business planning and regeneration, Mayor's office
- Angus Robertson, chief executive, London Sports Forum for Disabled People
- Alan Skewis, head of sport, Newham 2012
- Glyn Newberry, sports development officer, Southwark Council

The Committee made site visits to the Camberwell Gymnastics Club in Southwark, and the Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme centre.

Principles of London Assembly scrutiny

An aim for action

An Assembly scrutiny is not an end in itself. It aims for action to achieve improvement.

Independence

An Assembly scrutiny is conducted with objectivity; nothing should be done that could impair the independence of the process.

Holding the Mayor to account

The Assembly rigorously examines all aspects of the Mayor's strategies.

Inclusiveness

An Assembly scrutiny consults widely, having regard to issues of timeliness and cost.

Constructiveness

The Assembly conducts its scrutinies and investigations in a positive manner, recognising the need to work with stakeholders and the Mayor to achieve improvement.

Value for money

When conducting a scrutiny the Assembly is conscious of the need to spend public money effectively.

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