

Call for Evidence: Community Use of School Sports Facilities for Young People

January 2026

Krupesh Hirani AM has launched a rapporteurship on behalf of the London Assembly Health Committee into enabling community use of school sports facilities to support exercise and reduce health inequalities for young people.

The investigation will seek to:

- Assess current levels of community access to school sports facilities in London
- Identify the barriers that affect the ability of state funded and private schools to open their sports facilities to youth and community groups outside of school hours
- Investigate how these barriers can be overcome in London to promote young people's access to school sports facilities, especially for those experiencing health inequalities
- Explore how community access schemes should be designed and delivered to support the physical health and wellbeing of young Londoners.

Below is information about the rapporteurship and Call for Evidence, as well as key questions the Rapporteur is interested in hearing about.

Who can submit evidence?

This Call for Evidence is open to all who would like to respond. We particularly welcome responses from schools in London, youth and community groups and from organisations with experience in this area

Why is the Rapporteurship exploring this topic?

The London Assembly investigates issues of importance to Londoners and is the body that holds the Mayor to account.

Physical inactivity is associated with 1 in 6 deaths in the UK and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually, including £0.9 billion to the NHS.¹

In 2023-24, 47.3 per cent of children and young people in London met the Chief Medical Officers' recommended guidelines for levels of physical activity needed to stay healthy.² These activity levels varied significantly between boroughs, ranging from 35.3 per cent in Barnet to 62.1 per cent in Richmond-upon-Thames.

Those experiencing the most pronounced health inequalities, including Londoners with disabilities and long-term health conditions, are most likely to be among the least active. Sport England's 2023-24 Active Lives Children and Young People survey found that children and young people from Black and Asian ethnic groups, those from less affluent families, and girls were all likely to have lower activity levels.³

ONS data shows that 12 of the 15 local authorities in England with the lowest number of publicly accessible sports facilities per 10,000 people are London

¹ OHID, [Physical activity: applying All Our Health](#), 10 March 2022

² DHSC, [Obesity, physical activity and nutrition](#), accessed 22 October 2025

³ Sport England, [Active Lives](#), April 2025

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boroughs.⁴ Anecdotally, youth sports clubs in London have reported difficulties finding affordable venues and spaces to host their activities.

According to grassroots sports charity Sported, education sites operate or own 39 per cent of all available sports facilities in England, and are home to 77 per cent of sports halls and 61 per cent of artificial grass pitches.⁵

Will responses be published?

Yes, in the large majority of circumstances we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Rapporteur has received.

Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Rapporteur will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this Call for Evidence may be used to inform recommendations to the Mayor, local authorities, schools and national Government which will likely be in a report.

If information and/or quotations from submissions to this call for evidence are used in this output, we will cite you. We inform those who have submitted evidence about the outcome of the investigation in the form of a link to a report or output when it is published.

Where can I find your privacy notice?

The London Assembly and the GLA are committed to protecting your privacy and personal data when you contact us or submit evidence. You can find the GLA's privacy notice [here](#).

Do I need to answer all the questions?

No, you are welcome to answer the questions that are most relevant to you or your organisations and to which you have the most expertise or experience.

⁴ ONS, [More adults are active in areas with a higher number of sports facilities](#), 7 March 2025

⁵ Sported, [Written evidence \(NPS0059\)](#), January 2021

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How do I submit evidence?

Please send evidence in a Word document format (not PDF) by email to:
scrutiny@london.gov.uk

Please use ‘Health Committee Rapporteurship call for evidence’ as the subject title.

The deadline for submission is **Friday 13 February 2026**.

Key questions

Educational institution:

1. What groups currently use your facilities outside of school hours, if any?
2. What specific factors affect your school’s ability to open (or not open) its sports facilities to youth and community groups outside of school hours?
3. How should schools and youth and community groups work together to enable better access to schools sports facilities?
4. What more could the Mayor do to enable more schools to open up their facilities for youth and community groups?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share that could help improve community access to school sports facilities in London?

Youth and community groups:

1. How easy is it for your group to access good quality sports facilities?

2. What specific challenges have you faced, if any, when trying to access school sports facilities for your group?
3. What impact does access to school sports facilities have on the people you work with?
4. How should schools and youth and community groups work together to enable better access to schools sports facilities?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share that could help improve community access to school sports facilities in London?

About the Rapporteur and Committee

Krupesh Hirani AM has launched a rapporteurship on behalf of the London Assembly Health Committee. The Health Committee examines matters relating to health and wellbeing issues for Londoners, particularly public health issues. It also keeps a close eye on how well the Mayor’s Health Inequalities Strategy is doing. To read more about its previous work, please visit our [website](#).

Committee Members

- Emma Best AM (Chairman)
- Krupesh Hirani AM (Deputy Chair)
- Marina Ahmad AM
- Andrew Boff AM
- Caroline Russell AM
- Alex Wilson AM

Contact

Submissions	Scrutiny@london.gov.uk Please send your submissions in a Word document format (not PDF) by Friday 13 February 2026.
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