

Youth Charter

2013

Legacy Manifesto...



"Sport, culture, arts...social and human development for life."

20 Years

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FOREWORD

Sir Philip Craven MBE, International Paralympic Chair and IOC Member

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were momentous occasions in the lives of many Britons and citizens worldwide. As President of the International Paralympic Committee, I was privileged to preside over the most successful Paralympic Games to date. The legacy of these games has since occupied the social, cultural and political institutions as we aim to inspire a generation.



The Youth Charter was born out of a northern bidding and hosting aspiration of Olympic and Commonwealth dreams. The social issues surrounding young people and communities saw the Youth Charter, in its infancy come of age as part of the highly successful 2002 Commonwealth Games. The legacy of those games, the Youth Charter's Citizenship in Action programme, saw ten communities in Britain and ten communities in the Commonwealth benefit from sporting, artistic and cultural programmes and projects that would contribute to the now well established sport for social and human development and peace movement.

As a global citizen committed to social justice, equality and inclusion I am aware of the all important right of responsibility in the role that sport and cultural activity can play in the development of young lives.

The Youth Charter's Legacy Manifesto is an important contribution to the legacy debate in promoting community cohesion through tolerance, understanding and cooperation in a global climate of uncertainty. I have witnessed the Youth Charter's work on many occasions and believe in its 20th year, it has a valuable contribution to make through its key themes of education, health social and civil order, the environment and vocation training, employment and enterprise.

The Youth Charter's Legacy Manifesto recommendations reflect the Olympic and Paralympic values and I firmly believe they should be taken as seriously as the young people and communities that have been consulted. The recommendations are bold, commonsense and real. I believe they would contribute greatly to the continued legacy effort and above all ensure that future generations of young people have an opportunity to benefit from the historic and memorable 2012 Games.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Geoff Thompson MBE, FRSA, Executive Chair, Youth Charter

The Youth Charter Legacy Manifesto is the culmination of a 20-year legacy journey resulting from the bidding and hosting of major games in the UK. The Manifesto sets out and presents a unique contribution of questions, ideas and potential solutions to the challenges and opportunities to build a national sporting legacy and 'inspire a generation'.

This manifesto addresses five key areas of society: Education, Health, Social Order, Environment, and Vocation, Training, Employment and Enterprise. For each area a recommendation has been made on how to capitalise and provide a social, cultural and economic benefit to young people and communities, inner city, suburban or rural on the legacy pledges of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.



In its 20th Anniversary year, the Youth Charter aims to contribute to that effort through its Legacy Manifesto. The legacy milestones of note that reflect this effort resulted from the 2002 Commonwealth Games legacy initiative, 'Citizenship in Action'. Ten communities throughout the UK were engaged and motivated to benefit from the social and human development potential for a 'Games' to make a positive impact on the young people and communities in which they live.

A number of key legacy milestones have reflected the journey to date, these include the 2004 'Call to Action', 2005, Independent Sport Review, 2006 - 'Olympic Citizenship in Action', launch of the Youth Charter '12' Commonwealth Report, 2008 Liverpool City of Culture. 2010 - Legacy Summit, Roehampton University, 2010 Muhammad Ali Scholars Tour of the UK, 2011 government e-petition – Legacy Access 4 All.

The Legacy Summit recommendations were given further impetus with the 2011 summer riots, which, a year prior to the Games presented the social and cultural challenges that we faced with our young people and communities. This saw the youth Charter launch its 'Access for All' e-petition and in 2012 hold a Youth Legacy Debate at Media City chaired by Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP, Mr Speaker from the House of Commons. Children and young people from primary and secondary schools from the North West discussed and brought to an end a unique consultation that has seen schools, communities, private / public sector agencies and leading citizens who have assisted in this remarkable effort.

Since that time, all of the ongoing contributions have been made via our Facebook platform. The pledges, quotes and recommendations in this Legacy Manifesto reflect a truly multi culturally diverse contribution by all citizens irrespective of what they look like, where they come from, what they believe in or what they sound like.

The advantages of this approach are now benefitting our young people, the communities in which they live and society as a whole both socially and culturally. As a result, Sport England has set out its 2013 - 17 legacy strategy that will see one of the biggest investments ever made by a host city and nation. Governing bodies and a number of private, public and third sector agencies will aim to deliver their knowledge and experience in meeting the challenge of educational non attainment, unhealthy and inactive lifestyles, the social and civil order issues that can result in a generation of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS). This opportunity must not be missed to provide a more efficient, effective and integrated legacy approach along similar lines to the coordinated effort that delivered the unprecedented success of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"You can't wait for someone else to do legacy, you've got to take a bit of responsibility for yourself."

Barones Tanni Grey Thompson

5. VOCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND ENTERPRISE

"We need to make the most of this magic moment and harness the enthusiasm for sport and volunteering that the Games has generated. That's why the Join In Local Sport project is so important, so that we bring London 2012 back to the place it begins for every great champion: their local sports club and the great volunteers who make it all possible."

David Cameron

It is widely accepted that the volunteer effort of the 2012 Games and indeed any games is critical to its success. The knowledge, experience and inspiration of the volunteer effort needs to be harnessed and engaged to motivate our young people and communities.

There were over 1million young people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) during the time of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This represented 17% of young people in this age category, whilst for 19 to 24-year-olds it increased to 19.6%.

The latest statistics for October to December 2012 show that 900,000 young people aged 16 to 24 were NEET. This is 42% higher than for the same period in 2000 when 629,000 young people were NEET⁵.

The unemployment rate for 16- to 17-year-olds is 37.6%, with 197,000 unemployed, of this 29,000 (14.5%) have been out of work for more than 12 months. For 18- to 24-year-olds the rate is 18.6%, with 776,000 unemployed, and 247,000 (31.8%) have been out of work for more than 12 months.⁶

The untidy reality is that we still have a generation, who, without employment or life chances can be engaged with cultural activity, motivated with the vocation training and inspired to be employable and entrepreneurial in their local communities. There are many initiatives that are now attempting to reach targets and tick boxes, but unlike the 2012 volunteer programme, we have yet to provide a national legacy of aspirational benefit for all.

Youth Charter Recommendation:

The establishment of a national legacy apprenticeship. This will provide a national vocation and training programme that can be delivered in every region and community and linked to local legacy projects, programmes and initiatives.

"A way to involve younger kids as volunteers for a more inter-generational and legacy sustainable approach. There is a huge shortage of coaches in the Olympic and Paralympic sports, at the lower level, and in schools, and it is something we must address over the next two years with thousands of coaches in place and ready,"

Sir Ian McGeegan

⁵ <http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/datasets/a00219248/neet-statistics-quarterly-brief-quarter-4-2012>

⁶ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/search/index.html?nscl=Unemployment&nscl-orig=Unemployment&content-type=Dataset&content-type=Reference+table&sortDirection=DESCENDING&sortBy=pubdate>

"...this is a golden opportunity. Of course I realise all communities live under challenging circumstances and local councils have very difficult decisions to make [regarding funding] every single day of the week but the point I would always make, because that's the area I have come from, is that sport actually is a bridge head into so many different areas."

Lord Coe

Miscellaneous

- A legacy policy framework is needed at national government level to ensure inter-departmental cooperation, efficiency and policy clarity.
- A way to involve younger kids as volunteers for a more inter-generational and legacy sustainable approach.
- Corporate Social Responsibility should be used more creatively to regenerate and renew Olympic truce spaces.
- Improved accessibility for all people of disability especially wheelchair users in our communities.
- With the present economic climate and huge rise in student fees all sport, leisure and community facilities should be made available free of charge to under 18's post Games. Museums are free, sport, arts and adventure need to be free.

"It is at schools that we can translate inspiration into participation with better facilities, more access to facilities, and giving the young people of this country the opportunity to take the inspiration and turn that into greater participation up and down the country,"

Lord Moynihan

The ongoing legacy benefits for all young people, communities and societies as a whole can be given added momentum and inspiration that can also form part of future bidding and hosting of major games and sporting events in the UK. A legacy era of milestones are therefore possible in mapping, tracking and above all measuring the impact in events in the UK up to 2017.

