

Olympic Legacy for Older People

The Olympics are being held in London from 27 July to 12 August 2012; the Paralympics will take place between 29 August and 9 September 2012.

The Government Olympic Executive is spending £9.4bn on the Olympics so it is very important to show that the Olympics have delivered value for money, and the Olympic legacy is an important way of demonstrating that.

In December 2010 the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) published the Government's Legacy plan, which sets out the legacy vision for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It identified four areas to focus on:

- harnessing the UK's passion for sport to increase grassroots participation, particularly by young people, and to encourage the whole population to be more physically active;
- exploiting to the full the opportunities for economic growth offered by hosting the Games;
- promoting community engagement and achieving participation across all groups in society through the Games;
- ensuring that the Olympic Park can be developed after the Games as one of the principal drivers of regeneration in East London

The current legacy plans contain nothing specific for older people. However, there are clear opportunities to try and build on the good work currently being done especially through the 'active ageing' agenda.

The Olympics provide a link with other activities already planned for older people like UK Older People's Day 2011 which has a "getting and staying active" theme. 2012 is the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, and the World Congress on Active Ageing is being held in Glasgow in August 2012.

Because of these strong policy links, we would like to involve older people in the legacy plans.

To begin the process of recognising older people in the legacy plan we want to engage with UKAFA to find out what it is that older people would like to get out of the Olympics and how they might be encouraged to make that happen.

We welcome your thoughts at the meeting on the 7th September.