Appendix C – Legislation, strategies and policies affecting FE since 2005

A great many changes and new policy initiatives have impacted, either directly or indirectly, on sport in Further Education over the last 5 to 10 years. A selection of the Machinery of Government changes, policy documents and legislation are shown below:

2005: 14-19 Education and Skills White Paper / Youth Matters Green Paper / 14-19 Implementation Plan.

2006: Leitch Review of Skills - setting out a long term ambition for developing skills, and addressing the issue of the UK skills base lagging behind that of other countries. To achieve the overall aim of becoming a world leader in skills, the following objectives were set for 2020:

- increasing adult literacy
- exceed 40% of adults qualified to Level 4 and above
- increase employer engagement and investment: more power to Sector Skills Councils
- 14-19 reform programme.

June 2007: Creation of the Department of Children, Schools and Families and Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (responsible for the development, funding and performance management of FE and HE), and the announcement that all funding for 16-19 education will be channelled via local authorities instead of the Learning and Skills Council.

October 2007: PSA 22 - a range of measures and targets in order to "Deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport – most notably the introduction of the "5 hour offer" for those aged 5-16 and a "3 hour offer" for 16-19 year olds to participate in schools, FE colleges, clubs and community settings. Delivering this successfully would require education institutions and community organisations to work together to ensure a pathway of sporting opportunity for young people.

2008: Promoting achievement, valuing success: a strategy for 14-19 qualifications and new funding arrangements.

2008: DCSF publication: Delivering 14-19 Reform - the 14-19 entitlement and integration of services.

This document explained the transition from the Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency, the establishment of the Young People's Learning Agency, and Local Authorities becoming responsible for commissioning 16-19 provision and integrating services for young people.

2008: Education and Skills Act – raising the age of participation in education or training to 18 for all young people from 2015.

2008: PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) - building on the progress made through the PESSCL strategy, PESSYP realigned the work into 10 strands, delivered in partnership between DCSF and DCMS, through the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England. The work of School Sports Partnerships was extended to include the FE sector and the first FESCs were put in post in spring 2008, followed by a full roll out the following academic year.

2008: New Sport England Strategy – three key objectives (Grow, Sustain, Excel) – focussing the organisation on developing and investing in sport, with a target of 1 million more adults playing sport by 2012-13. A further target relevant to the FE sector was the aim to reduce the post 16 drop off in at least 5 sports, and fund NGBs through a single pot, many of which targeted the 16-24 age group.

2009: Be Active, Be Healthy – a Department of Health strategy – establishing a framework for the delivery of Physical Activity leading up to 2012 Olympics, and aiming to reduce the costs of inactivity through lifting 1 million people out of inactivity. Resulting programmes such as Change4Life, Walking the way to Health, Fit for the Future (subsidised gym membership for 16-22 year olds) are relevant to the sector.

June 2009: Creation of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills – responsible for supporting the provision of further and higher education and widening participation. The new department merged the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

November 2009: Legislation (Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act) passed, bringing the 14-19 reform changes and new funding arrangements into law. The Act created:

- The Skills Funding Agency – funding provision on a demand-led basis
- The Young People's Learning Agency – supporting local authorities in their new role
- Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation as the new independent regulator of qualification, while QCA becomes QCDA.