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Further Education Sport Co-ordinators

The introduction of a network of around 377 Further Education Sport Co-ordinators (FESCos) since September 2008 has been an exciting addition to the network of 450 School Sports Partnerships across England.

The FE Sport Co-ordinators form part of the new Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) which forms part of a Public Service Agreement:-

'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.'

The PESSYP is the joint overall responsibility of the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), working with the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). During the next three years a total of £755 million will be invested into this Strategy.

The main aim of the FESCos will be to increase opportunities for young people aged between 16 and 19 within their College to participate, perform and lead and volunteer in sport within their FE College.

Since April 2008, the Youth Sport Trust (YST) has been working with 31 Colleges selected to be part of a pilot and already in a short space of time have started to see some fantastic progress. YST commissioned Prospects4Sport (www.prospects4sport.co.uk) to undertake a study to evaluate the lessons learnt from the pilot FESCos, make recommendations for the national roll-out in September and give examples of good practice. Excellent work was being

developed by the pilot FESCos in participation, leadership and volunteering and competition.

Participation

A FESCo organised a taster day in self defence and organised a football competition for those that had not taken part in football at College before: *"the football tournament was the first time the chefs had come out of the kitchen - and they won!"*

Leadership & Volunteering

One FE College is already linking well with the local School Sports Programme Development Manager (PDM) on volunteering. The PDM uses College students at Primary schools festivals and other events, and students also volunteer in local clubs.

Competition

A FESCo will be providing an intra-College competition programme for all students from all faculty areas to come together. Each faculty within the College will provide a team and the competition will be run at lunchtime.

Another example is from City College, Norwich, and Adam Williams the college FESCo. Faced with 7000 full time students and virtually no indoor facilities Adam developed a programme of alternative activities including mountain biking, climbing and archery, with over 300 students now attending regular sessions.

For more information on the role and the development of the FESCos please visit the Youth Sport Trust website www.youthsporttrust.org