Active Matters Primary PE Premium Accountability and Scrutiny Statement

Date: Monday 5th August 2019

As we commence promised PESS Premium scrutiny, we courteously remind all of the information that we previously publicised via both email and social media on Tuesday 25th June 2019.

Following on from our monitoring efforts of Primary PE & Sports Premium (Link: https://www.activematters.org/pess-premium-monitoring/) as well as our recent proposal centred upon accountability and scrutiny involving the sampling of a number of boroughs, our organisation has received many supportive public and private messages of endorsement.

It is seemingly clear from the sector that the issue is not with the purpose of the national strategy but with how, over six years to date, it has operated largely unchecked by either Government or Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

DfE documentation has clearly stated that schools are *mandatorily required to annually report online* evidence of true spend, impact and accountability. This has confirmed the status of evidence provided by schools as a public record

Ofsted's 'Inspecting Primary School PE and School Sport: New Funding' - Briefing for Section 5 :Inspection' (September 2013) also confirmed their approach to inspecting the Premium:

Section 5 inspections of maintained schools and academies with primary-aged pupils

1. *From 1 September 2013, inspectors will assess and report on how effectively this new funding is being used to improve PE and sport provision when making the judgement on the quality of the school's leadership and management.*

2. *Inspectors will use evidence gained from meetings with school leaders, including governors to assess the impact of additional funding on improving the quality and breadth of PE and sport provision. Inspectors may also use evidence from observations of lessons and/or extra-curricular sports clubs, and discussions with pupils. Inspectors may also review the details of a school's PE and sport provision on their school website prior to an inspection.*

Related link: https://dera.ioe.ac.uk//18235/

Emboldened by the recent acknowledgment made by Alison Oliver (Youth Sport Trust's Chief Executive) that 'the accountability and scrutiny of the PE Premium is not fit for purpose', (9th May 2019 , Active Foundations presentation at Elevate Physical Activity Trade Show), we have decided that enough is enough and that we will dedicate time and resources to vetting at least 10 boroughs from 1st August 2019 in line with DfE's published deadline for all primary state schools to publish this year's annual report by 31st July.

We will not release the names of the boroughs whom we will scrutinise prior to execution of the task. Upon completion, we will publish the data on our website and via social media that will reveal whether associated schools have effectively complied with the published statutory criteria that instructs the accounting online of:

- *the amount of premium received*
- *a full breakdown of how it has been spent*
- *the impact the school has seen on pupils' PE, physical activity, and sport participation and attainment*
- *how the improvements will be sustainable in the future*

You are also required to publish the percentage of pupils within your year 6 cohort in the 2018 to 2019 academic year who met the national curriculum requirement to:

- *swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres*
- *use a range of strokes effectively*
- *perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations*

Attainment data for year 6 pupils should be provided from their most recent swimming lessons. This may be data from years 3, 4, 5 or 6, depending on the swimming programme at your school.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools

Our scrutiny will also research whether the following expected practices have occurred:

a) Whether schools have used the DfE commissioned template to complete their report

   Template Link: http://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/evidencing-the-impact-guidance-template/

b) Whether schools are registering transparent evidence of impact by way of competition participation via the School Games website as shown by display of school profile and the blogging of events.

The excel spreadsheet report template to be used by our team of researchers can be found via the following website link: https://www.activematters.org/pess-premium-monitoring/

We also thank those volunteers who have approached us offering assistance with this exercise. We will start to pursue acceptance of their support and upon required quality assurance checks, we will forward additional guidance related to the task in hand. We will also be ensuring that they are not allotted their own operational region to research and report upon.

Given the sensitivity of the professional backgrounds that many volunteers work within, contributors can be reassured that we will continue to guarantee confidentiality as to their unpaid assistance alongside our voluntary working efforts related to this task.

Should other expertise within the field of Primary PE wish to come forward and help then you are welcome to contact us via the email address at the foot of this statement

This initiative of ours is intended to demonstrate the rigorous application that publicly funded Government directives should warrant so as to ensure that they are able to reach substantially closer to achieving their full potential - in this instance, schools have long been required to ensure that they 'use the funding to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of physical education (PE), physical activity and sport that they offer.' It is a mark of our dedication to promoting active healthy lifestyles for all children that we deem this project to be necessary at this point in time.

For any queries, please email:

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