

EMUA Sport Research Symposium

Sport, exercise, health and the community Policy

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The group discussed areas of synergy and possible collaboration and each member gave a brief overview of their work and interest to date.

The historical legacy of major sport events was discussed and the group felt that the involvement of the local government would be beneficial to future work. RK advised the group that Loughborough has had a number of unsuccessful bids for research into the 2012 legacy and he considered that new ideas need to focus on something that stands out from the norm.

The group felt that an historical perspective could help to see trends, what has worked and link it with people who are thinking about what happens now. For example. Were there any lessons from 1948 that weren't learnt, can we learn from 2012?

The focus could be on the London Olympics, drawing on economic similarities e.g. recession. The group felt that it would be useful to look at Loughborough's unsuccessful bids for research, then consider developing a regional collaboration.

The group also discussed education policy, the expectations of PE teachers and a shift in focus towards the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles. The government has invested a lot of money into physical education and school sport in recent years but this has not necessarily been translated into changes in teachers' philosophies and practices. The group discussed cross cultural comparisons and misconceptions and myths amongst young people about health and fitness.

The group discussed research into children's activity levels, such as how active they are during playtimes at school. They also noted the problems associated with the measuring of children's weight and associated labelling.

The group felt that research which challenged government policies and practices may be unpopular and may therefore be difficult to access funding for. They identified the need to look towards independent bodies for funding.

IB advised the group to make more use of what is going on in the region, he suggested working with the SMEs in the region to collaborate, which is where the iNet can help.