

Norfolk – National Leaders in High Quality PE



That was the verdict of Baroness Sue Campbell after her recent visit to see how Norfolk PE is developing a sustainable strategy for high quality physical education.

Baroness Campbell is the Chair of the Youth Sport Trust and until recently was also chair of UK Sport and a non-political adviser to the government on PE and sport. She is an internationally recognised driver and visionary with regard to systemic change in the way PE and sport is organised.

Norfolk was delighted to welcome her on a fact-finding visit on 17 May, to look at our programmes and the incredible work of colleagues in schools. She spent the morning talking with county PE adviser Martin Radmore about the vision and strategy that is already in place for ensuring every learner in Norfolk receives a high quality entitlement and experience in PE. Discussions also including looking at how the new government ring-fenced funding for PE can compliment and help achieve this vision.

Addressing a small gathering of practitioners, including head teachers, teachers and specialist PE staff (NPETCS) she commented, *“Heads need to understand where this new funding is coming from to help appreciate how the accountability will be assessed”*, she stated. *“£80m of the £150m is from Health, £60m is from Education and only £10m is from Sport. The emphasis in schools must consider this funding rationale and reflect it”*.

When considering how to utilise the new ring-fenced funding she also urged heads to look at what we have in Norfolk, build in sustainability and resilience over the next two years so there is a definite legacy – improved staff confidence and competence to teach high quality PE in the primary sector. Baroness Campbell warned against simply buying-in services over the short-term and encouraged schools to build in sustainability and high quality PE. *“Norfolk has a plan, a vision for where it wants to be and I applaud that”*.

Baroness Campbell went on to say that Norfolk is incredibly well placed already and has the real potential to be a national leader, supporting the development of high quality PE across the country. She also stated that she would welcome the opportunity to work with us to achieve our mutual visions for high quality provision in PE and ensuring people understand the difference between sport and physical education and we will be doing so.

Baroness Campbell was particularly interested in our Norfolk PE Teaching Competence Standards programme (NPETCS), our accredited courses and our High Quality Chartermark Award. She recognised the flexibility of these programmes and could see how they might support and sustain cluster developments in PE. It is a delivery model that she had not come across to date but one that she saw the potential for others to mirror and utilise.



Baroness Campbell went on to meet with practitioners who are delivering high quality on the ground here in Norfolk. She made a brief presentation on the national picture setting in context with what she had heard during her visit.

“It was great to hear that Norfolk has the potential to be a national leader, we must work hard to ensure we embed the single strategic vision that every child has the right to receive a high quality entitlement and experience in PE”

Ann Cottingham

“Sue’s passion to ensure that we leave a sustainable legacy from this new funding mirrors Norfolk’s. We must look to ensure we build resilience, up-skill staff, train teachers to be more confident and competent in teaching high quality PE and not just, as Sue said, buy in companies to coach. Busy, Happy and Good is not enough, there must be learning....I really welcomed her comments, inspiring!”

Kirsty Sims

Baroness Campbell has offered to come to Norfolk again and address head teachers and staff about high quality PE. We will be actively setting this up for later this year, together possibly with a shared platform to include the lead HMI for PE – John Mitchison. As soon as we can confirm the arrangements around this, we will communicate the details and date to all our schools.