



## Performance Commission Memorandum

### Regional Talent Development Programme

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#### Context

Performance Commission terms of reference include,

- To assist with the preparation of and adherence to budget.
- To oversee the development of all players within the national team structure for all disciplines of volleyball.
- To review the targets both sporting and financial for all the national team squads.

The Performance Commission is committed to delivering national teams that are competitive on the international stage. To this end continuously raising the standards of our most talented young players is the key challenge.

#### Current Challenge

Starting the new financial year 2011/12, the Performance Commission has been given a significantly reduced budget. As a result we have been forced to review the application of Performance Commission's funds while still striving to achieve the level of talented athletes in sufficient numbers to start to become a strong volleyball nation. Performance Commission's focus must be to aim towards our best talent having access to a high performance environment on a daily basis and with the pressure of limited resources it is essential to find a solution that will improve our level whilst also being one that we can fund.

With limited funds available for performance related activity there is a need to prioritise the available resource to ensure that they are focused on activity that will deliver the best opportunity for our young players to realise fully their talent. With the initial club and coach funding coming to an end\* Performance Commission has proposed the redirection of funds that were previously allocated to RTDP towards ensuring that a smaller number of key clubs and coaches that have shown promise can continue to enhance the good work that they are doing on a more regular basis and with better support. Whilst we appreciate that as a consequence regional programmes will be affected our limited budget has to be utilised to ensure that the nation's most talented athletes have the opportunity and environment to excel as per the strategic plan.

## Implications

The Performance Commission will be building on the club and coach project and initiating a Club England Satellite Academy programme with the aim of working with club and further education partnerships to develop a network of high quality daily training environments. This year the intention is to begin partnerships with up to six environments with an aspiration for more in the following year. These clubs along with others will continue to nominate players to the Cadet and Junior National programmes that will assemble on a monthly basis for training and competition. Furthermore, to ensure that more talented young players are provided with greater opportunity to develop in the right environment, Performance Commission has increased support to the Divisional (North, Central, South) Cadet programmes. This will provide an additional 90 young players with the opportunity to access year round high quality training on a monthly basis together with regular inter-divisional competition and preparation for the UK School Games as in previous years.

As a consequence of these changes and limited financial resources, central funding to the RTDP will not continue from September 2011. It is appreciated that this is disappointing news for those who have committed valuable time to developing young players in their areas and it is hoped that this will continue within the new structure. With this in mind the need to provide a focus for regional junior activity is recognised and there is a proposal to continue the annual Inter-Regional Championships as a less performance focused event. It is hoped that each region will see this as an opportunity to shape this in a way that better suits their needs and will continue to support preparation and entry of their teams using alternative means.

The belief is that this is a progressive approach and one that will help in the step change required to raise the level of volleyball in this country. With support, the new direction being taken will fundamentally improve the opportunities for our most talented young players and associated coaches in realising their talents and improving standards for everyone.

*\*The initial club and coach funding was a specific time limited initiative that provided additional resource (circa £65K) to the RTDP over and above that which has traditionally been committed from central Volleyball England budget. This was for a fixed period and came to an end in March 2011.*