


NEIL KING

A photograph showing the silhouettes of four people stacked vertically against a bright, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The person at the top is a child with arms outstretched. The person below is an adult, and the bottom two are also adults. The sun is visible as a bright point of light between the two middle figures. The left side of the image is a solid dark grey.

SPORT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Sport Policy and Governance

Local Perspectives

Dr. Neil King



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Sport Policy and Governance

To Sarah, Isaac and Rory.

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Selected Abbreviations

ABA	Amateur Boxing Association
ACF	Advocacy Coalition Framework
ARC	Association of Running Clubs
ASA	Amateur Swimming Association
BAALPE	British Association of Advisors and Lecturers in Physical Education
BGA	British Gymnastics Association
CCPR	Central Council for Physical Recreation
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
DfEE	Department for Education and Employment
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DH	Department of Health
DNH	Department of National Heritage
DoE	Department for the Environment
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
ESC	English Sports Council
GOR	Government Office for the Regions
HAZ	Health Action Zone
HEA	Health Education Authority
LCC	Liverpool City Council
LCSR	London Council for Sport and Recreation
LEA	Local Education Authority
LSF	Liverpool Sports Forum
LSSF	Liverpool School Sports Federation
MSF	Multiple Streams Framework
MSP	Merseyside Sport Partnership
NGB	National Governing Body (for sport)
NOF	New Opportunities Fund
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association
NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
NWSB	North-West Sports Board

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ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PDM	Partnership Development Manager (for school sport/physical education)
PEAUK	Physical Education Association of the UK
SAZ	Sport Action Zone
SDO	Sports Development Officer
SENW	Sport England North-West
SPAA	Sport and Physical Activity Alliance
SSC	Specialist Sports College
SSCo	School Sport Coordinator
SSP	School Sport Partnership
UKA	UK Athletics
WNF	Working Neighbourhood Fund
YST	Youth Sports Trust

Introduction

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WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR?

First, this book is intended for use by students undertaking sport-related degree programmes and academics developing and delivering sport courses. Students of public policy and politics may also find the text of interest. *Second*, the book may be of utility to practitioners and policymakers, particularly those working with a sport and physical activity remit, in local authorities, schools and the voluntary sector. Those personnel based in the health, education, planning or community regeneration sectors, with a physical activity or sport-based remit, or who work in partnership with sport sector personnel may also find aspects of this study useful, perhaps

as a reflective tool in making policy or delivering programmes. *Third*, as the core research involves a series of case studies in the city of Liverpool, students of sport policy in urban contexts, or of Liverpool specifically, may find the text of interest. *Fourth*, policy theorists may wish to employ the case studies in developing existing frameworks for explaining policy processes.

RATIONALE

Since the mid-1990s, sport as a policy concern has gained greater salience within central government priorities, both in terms of elite sport development (DNH, 1995; Green, 2004a,b; Green and Houlihan, 2005a) and through instrumental uses of sport in meeting social policy goals, particularly in respect of urban regeneration, education and health (Collins and Kay, 2003; DCMS, 1999, 2000, 2002; Gratton and Henry, 2001; Houlihan and White, 2002). Subsequently, the last decade in particular has witnessed a restructuring of the sport policy area, its governance and resourcing, both in the public sector and in the voluntary sector for sport. This book assesses this restructuring and evaluates the consequences for sport interests, with a particular focus on the local level of policymaking and implementation.

The study is arguably timely in raising questions about the changing parameters of influence in the sport policy area at the local level, given the 'modernisation' of both local government and the voluntary sport sector. Moreover, although there have been a number of recent publications on sport policy and development (Bergsgard et al., 2007; Green and Houlihan, 2005a; Houlihan and White, 2002; Hylton and Bramham, 2008) and in respect of the role of sport in social policy (Coalter, 2007; Collins and Kay, 2003), almost all focus on the policy process at the national and/or international levels. To date, there has been an absence of published research that explores the local level. This text therefore seeks to expand knowledge of sport policy and practice within local authority areas.

The relative absence of policy research at the local level is perhaps surprising, given that local authorities allocate far greater financial resources to sport per annum than the central government department responsible for sport and the Lottery Sports Fund (LSpF) combined (Lord Carter of Coles, 2005). Further, the text highlights the significant role of local authorities in elite sport provision and development, as this component of their activity is often unrecognised in published research, given that most studies of sport at the local authority level foreground policy and practices to increase participation. Finally, in respect of sport in social policy, there is very little published work that explores relationships between local authority

policy for sport and policy in adjacent sectors, including education, health, land-use planning and community regeneration. This text explores these dimensions as partnership-working across policy areas has become a significant feature of sport development and provision. Additionally, sport policy at the local authority level is arguably under-theorised, and therefore the book seeks to explain local sport policy with reference to appropriate theoretical frameworks.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this book is to explore the politics of sport policy processes at the level of the local authority area. In order to achieve this aim, key sport policy actors with a stake in sport policy are identified and their policy aspirations, priorities, beliefs/values, resources and dependencies are assessed in order to evaluate the relationships between them. Further, the book seeks to identify and evaluate the strategies and instruments utilised by sport policy actors in pursuing their interests. This analysis is set both within the changing local and national organisational and funding contexts in which sport policy actors formulate and implement policy and within broader political, economic and socio-cultural contexts that shape policy. Moreover, the author provides a historical context to the study through tracing and analysing the evolution of local and national sport policy processes, as policy decisions and actions tend to emerge from prior policy processes. The final theme and thread of the book concerns an evaluation of the utility of major meso-level explanations of policy in order to understand contemporary sport policy processes, particularly at the local level.

FOCUS

It should be noted that this book concerns recreation and physical activity and is not solely about 'sport', although policy relating to sport is the primary focus. Also, as the content includes an analysis of the changing relationships between sport and non-sport policy actors, it is, to an extent, a book about public policy as opposed to sport-specific policy, although Chapter 6 highlights the storylines of specific sports. Although the focus is primarily public policy at the local authority level, and therefore it concerns central and local governments, the study does not exclude voluntary sector sport policy, and to a lesser extent commercial and professional sport, where interests have influenced decisions made in the public sector.