

PRESS RELEASE

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

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VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND SUPPORTS NEW CAMPAIGN TO HIGHLIGHT VALUE OF GRASSROOTS SPORT

Volleyball England is supporting a new campaign which highlights the value of grassroots sport ahead of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November.

The #GetYourKitOn campaign, led by the Sport and Recreation Alliance, is encouraging as many people as possible to contact Chancellor George Osborne to tell him how much they value grassroots sport before he decides whether to cut up to 40% of grassroots sport's taxpayer funding.

Recent polling, commissioned by the Alliance, shows that 79% of people feel the Government should do more to support grassroots sport, and 75% agree that grassroots sport should receive more funding from the Government.

Emma Boggis, Chief Executive of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, the umbrella body for sports organisations, says the campaign needs as many supporters as possible if it is to succeed.

"We understand difficult decisions have to be made but cuts of this size would have serious repercussions for grassroots sport. So we are calling for everyone who plays or who has children who play grassroots sport to spend 60 seconds contacting the Chancellor to tell them how much they value our grassroots sport.

"Cutting investment in sport and recreation will have serious consequences in the short term. More significant costs lie further down the line – with a serious impact stored up for health and education budgets as well as a hugely detrimental effect on our economic productivity. Government recognises the need to invest in our national physical infrastructure, but needs to take investment in our population's health and wellbeing just as seriously."

As part of the campaign, supporters are being asked to visit www.GetYourKitOn.team and post a message directly to the Chancellor, asking him to protect funding for grassroots sports.

Supporters can also upload their image to a social wall of support via a dedicated Facebook page or by sharing photos of themselves in their sports kit on social media with the hashtag #GetYourKitOn.

Emma said: "The #GetYourKitOn campaign is a fantastic way to show the strength of feeling and passion that keeps grassroots sport functioning in the country, but we need you to act quickly. These decisions are already being made and unless we tell George Osborne that we are united in our support for our community clubs and sports, sport stands to lose out."

Lisa Wainwright, Chief Executive of Volleyball England, urged the sport to get behind the campaign and send their messages of support.

"A funding cut to grassroots sport would have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities and young people.

“We’d like the volleyball community to get involved in this vital campaign and to get their kit on to show the Chancellor just how important grassroots funding is.”

More information can be found at www.GetYourKitOn.Team

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For more information, please contact Ruth Norfolk or Mark Pritchard on 01509 227736.