



A commitment from
The Children's Plan

The Big Lottery Fund is delivering **myplace** on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). This is not Lottery funding.

Do you have the vision and drive to work with young people to deliver a world class place for them to go? If so, **myplace** may be able to help you turn your ideas into reality.

What is **myplace**?

Aiming High for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities set out the Government's vision for improving youth facilities in response to clear ongoing demand from young people, parents and communities for more and better places for young people to go. It set an ambition for new and improved places to go in all areas of the country over the next ten years.

To kick start this process, **myplace** will deliver £190m of Government capital investment over the next three years through grants of between £1m and £5m. This will drive both a major change in the level of ambition across the country and a transformation in the way facilities for young people are planned and delivered – particularly in the role and influence of young people and the level of genuine cross-sector partnership working.

myplace will therefore aim to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs.

What kind of projects will **myplace** fund?

myplace will fund projects across the country that are designed to have significant local impact. We expect to receive more applications than we have funding available, so it is important that local partners work together to identify and develop a small number of high quality proposals that will lead to:

- more young people, parents and communities feeling that young people have attractive and safe places to go in their leisure time where they can get involved in a wide range of exciting activities;
- more young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, participating in positive leisure time activities that support their personal and social development;
- more young people having access to information, advice and support services from within places they feel comfortable; and
- stronger partnership working between local authorities and their third, private and public sector partners to plan, deliver and operate financially sustainable facilities with and for young people.

myplace will only fund projects that will deliver on all four of these outcomes and demonstrate evidence of the real participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged

young people, in the development, design and future running of the project.

Investment will therefore focus on new or improved places dedicated to and driven by local young people – who should be active participants in every aspect of design and ongoing management. Open at times that suit young people, and clearly affordable for all, these places will give young people access to co-located support services and the widest possible range of exciting high quality sports, arts, music, cultural or youth work based activities, potentially also using mobile facilities to reach out to their surrounding area.

Who can apply for *myplace* funding?

All projects will need to demonstrate genuine cross-sector partnership between public sector bodies and third and/or private sector organisations. Our aim is that this maximises leadership from within the community while ensuring the strategic involvement of local authorities and encouraging support and backing from the private sector. We will look for capital and ongoing revenue co-financing as clear indication of the depth of this partnership. Bids will however need to be led by a single organisation – from either the public, third or private sector.

We will expect all bids to have the full endorsement of the top-tier local authority to demonstrate that the project responds to local needs and priorities as identified in the Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement. We also want projects to be developed within the context of a wider integrated strategy for improving places to go that links to other plans for improving services for young people and the infrastructure that supports their delivery – such as strategies for children's play and school asset management strategies, including Building Schools for the Future.

Private sector organisations leading bids will need to operate on a not-for-profit basis and account for funding separately.

Third sector led projects may face particular challenges to develop a sustainable delivery model. We will therefore award a £50,000 revenue grant to every successful third sector-led project to be used for development work to secure the long term viability of the project.

How will the application process work?

myplace will deliver £190m of Government investment through two funding rounds over the next three years. The first round will commit up to £160m, of which up to £50m will be available through a fast track route.

The fast track will enable early investment in projects that are already well developed and therefore able to submit robust business and capital plans with their application. This will enable final investment decisions to be made on the basis of the single application.

The standard route will provide applicants with an in-principle investment decision prior to providing capacity building support to help them develop their detailed delivery plans.

Application and guidance materials for the first funding round will be available from 6 May 2008. The deadline for fast track applications is 29 July 2008 and the deadline for the standard route is 30 September 2008.

We expect to open a second funding round in early 2009 to commit a further £30m, plus any surplus from the first round.

In summary

myplace offers a significant opportunity to those with the vision, ambition, and drive to deliver world class facilities for young people. It will reward those who:

- are developing plans for ambitious, world class places that will offer young people co-located support services and the widest possible range of high quality activities

- are putting young people in the lead to plan and deliver dedicated youth projects driven by their views and needs
- are working in partnership across sectors to develop robust, financially sustainable co-funded projects that respond to local needs and priorities
- require between £1m and £5m of additional capital investment to deliver an outstanding building project.

If all these statements apply to you, we want to hear from you.

Further information

Full guidance materials, application forms and questions and answers will be available to download from our website (www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) from 6 May 2008.

You may also like to visit our website for further information on other funding programmes. If you have any queries you can contact our information team on general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk or 0845 4 10 20 30.