

# CIEH and Host boroughs Olympic/Paralympics 2012 Volunteer support

## Introduction

The CIEH has been collecting names of individuals interested in helping support the Olympics and Paralympics in 2012 in relation to environmental health. An initial event, organised by the CIEH and Joint Local Authority Regulatory Services (JLARS), was held on 16 June at Chadwick Court which provided an update on the current planning and preparations for London 2012 and how any volunteer support could be maximised for effective environmental health response.

This report provides a summary of the issues covered at the event and signposts other opportunities for volunteering. Copies of the presentations given at the CIEH volunteer event on 16 June 2010 can be found on the CIEH website [www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org).

## Volunteering for the Games!

Since London was selected to host the Olympics/Paralympics in 2012, the CIEH has been working closely with the London Host boroughs and Joint Local Authority Regulation Services (JLARS) responsible for managing the regulation of environmental health at the Olympic Park. In the early days of planning it was envisaged that there would be a pool of expert and experienced individuals that could come together to form a professional resource that could be used to support London 2012 project development and implementation in the lead up to and during Games time. In the last two years it has become apparent that there will be restricted funding available to maintain such a resource and that any staffing provision will need to be specifically planned for within the host authorities, neighbouring authorities and service delivery agencies. The CIEH and JLARS are now exploring mechanisms for supporting a professional volunteer pool and looking at other ways of resourcing the staffing capacity that will be required in London and in other host authorities.

## Volunteering opportunities

It is perhaps important to remember that our skills and experience working in environmental health can be used either in a professional capacity or as individuals volunteering within our communities:

As a professional:

- **Register of interest** - This is currently being held by the CIEH as a database of interested individuals across all disciplines within environmental health. The database serves to provide individuals with any updates and information on schemes that may be developed in the coming months. If you would like your name to appear on the

database please send a short CV stating your skills and expertise and send to Sharon Smith at CIEH ([s.smith@cieh.org](mailto:s.smith@cieh.org)) .

- **Professional volunteers** - to support environmental health resourcing of the Games in host authorities and elsewhere as appropriate. There needs to be a supporting organisation that looks after the health and safety and wellbeing of the volunteers and ensures that their effort is co-ordinated effectively. Although the CIEH and JLARS are exploring this, there is currently no formal professional volunteer programme. If this situation changes further information will be provided and highlighted on the CIEH website ([www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org)).
- **Professional contracts** – Individual consultants and companies may bid for tenders for Olympic/Paralympic contracts through the London 2012 CompeteFor and business networks. Further information on this can be obtained directly from the London 2012 website ([www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)). Opportunities for specific contracts may also be available directly with individual local authorities and other companies and agencies working towards delivering London 2012.

As interested individuals:

- **Host City Volunteer Scheme-** to provide a world class welcome for both international and domestic visitors to London. This scheme is organised for the Mayor by the London Development Agency and hopes to recruit 8,000 volunteers to work in and around London for the period 20 July-9 September 2012. The scheme will be launched at the end of July 2010. More information can be obtained from Tom Travers Head of Host City Volunteer scheme ([tomtravers@lda.gov.uk](mailto:tomtravers@lda.gov.uk)).
- **LOCOG Games Delivery Volunteer Scheme** - to inspire and deliver great Games time volunteers. Up to 70,000 volunteers will be needed across the Olympics and Paralympics Games. The programme will be launched at the end of July 2010. Within the programme there will be the opportunity for both specialist and generalist volunteers. More information can be obtained from the London 2012 website ([www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)) or from following the link: <http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/volunteering/index.php>
- **Volunteering in your area** – this is a useful opportunity to volunteer for a wide range of agencies in your area. Many will need to increase their staffing to support their own work during Games time and increasing the general level of volunteering across the UK is an important part of the legacy for London 2012. For UK wide volunteer vacancies visit [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

## The CIEH and the Olympics/Paralympics

The CIEH aim is to support and contribute to activities aimed at securing the highest standards of public and environmental health for the London 2012 Games. The CIEH is taking a holistic view but will be focusing primarily on food safety and standards together with health and safety, wider public health and sustainability issues. The CIEH continues to provide guidance and development opportunities for environmental health professionals in planning and preparations for Olympics /Paralympics. The CIEH is currently:

- Working with LOCOG on the food vision and food charter for the Games
- Developing training solutions for professionals and businesses
- Developing strategies and support for food safety/standards management including for mobile vending
- Developing strategies for supporting healthier standards within bed and breakfast accommodation
- Developing pest minimisation strategies

- Supporting the work of other agencies such as the Health and Safety Executive, Health Protection Agency and Food Standards Agency

## London Boroughs and JLARS

Steve Miller Head of Public Protection at London Borough of Newham is leading a co-ordinated approach among the London host authorities and other key players in the capital such as the Greater London Authority, and London Councils. Working across all the regulatory sectors, Steve is leading a team that is in close liaison with both the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG). Steve Chairs the Safety Advisory Group for the Olympic Park and is supporting the planning for public movement management agreements. London Borough Newham on behalf of the host authorities is considering the setting up of a Primary Authority for the Olympic Park. This will facilitate a single point of contact, partnership working and joint service delivery. The regulatory challenges that exist for managing the Games in 2012 include crowd/public safety, security, food safety and alcohol consumption. The capacity to deal effectively with these challenges has led to the exploration of shared resources and the potential for a professional volunteer programme.

The JLARS group, being led by Steve, will be looking to secure an effective response with 24/7 cover to ensure a safe and healthy 2012.

At present the JLARS group are scoping the work and capacity needed to undertake the environmental health, trading standards and other regulatory requirements. The specific requirements for enforcing the Olympic Act which restricts street trading and advertising within a zone around the venues are still being explored. Implementing the regulatory demands and to maintain business as usual will require a work force that has expertise and flexibility. The workforce is likely to include:

- Volunteers
- Secondments
- Short term employees
- Contractors
- Enforcers

Further work is being undertaken jointly with the GLA and other agencies to agree the scope and funding of the environmental health 2012 workforce.

## LOCOG Games Delivery Volunteer Scheme

London 2012 will depend on up to 70,000 volunteers to make sure the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games run smoothly and successfully. The aim is to inspire, retain and deliver great Games time volunteers by making their experience along the way inspirational, informative and inclusive. There will be a 60:40 mix of generalists and specialist volunteers all expected to give a minimum of ten days of their time in a wide variety of roles. The scheme will be launched on 27 July for the specialist roles and September for the generalist volunteer roles.

LOCOG also offer an opportunity for people to get involved in improving the local area. The scheme called Changing Places encourages volunteers to get out and take part in environmental action that helps transform the local area. The London 2012 website advertises local volunteering events.

For more information: <http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/volunteering/index.php>

## Host City Volunteer Scheme

The scheme aims to provide a world class welcome for both international and domestic visitors to London. The scheme will be recruiting up to 8,000 volunteers who will be located on over 35 sites for the period of 52 days (20 July- 9 September). Each volunteer is expected to commit to six days of five hour shifts. The scheme will be launched on 27 July 2010 and volunteers recruited by the end of 2011. Every volunteer will get a uniform, be trained in their role and receive a meal and London travel card.

For more information contact Tom Travers Head of Host City Volunteers  
([tomtravers@lds.gov.uk](mailto:tomtravers@lds.gov.uk))

Further information on the CIEH role in planning and preparations for London 2012 contact:  
Sharon Smith, CIEH  
Tel: 0560 171 2276  
Email: [s.smith@cieh.org](mailto:s.smith@cieh.org)

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