Passport 2K was supported by Olympic high jumper Steve Smith. Steve began his athletics career with Liverpool Harriers and won a number of medals including an Olympic Bronze before being forced to retire through injury in March 2000.

“I support the Passport 2K programme because it gives young people the opportunity to get involved and to find something they enjoy. The programme promotes health and sport, and more importantly, gives young people from across the North West access to opportunities they might otherwise miss out on. As a kid I was given a chance when I was introduced to athletics and Passport 2K is giving thousands of young people from the North West the chance to find not just something to do, but something they love to do.”

Steve Smith, Summer 2002
Passport 2K was an innovative activity programme for young people, developed as part of the NW2002 Economic and Social SRB Scheme. The scheme capitalised on Manchester’s hosting of the Commonwealth Games in 2002, using this opportunity to promote community health and regeneration projects.

Passport 2K engaged young people from across the North West in a wide variety of projects which broadened their horizons and increased their knowledge of the opportunities available to them throughout the region.

Passport 2K targeted young people from disadvantaged communities, engaging young people normally excluded from or unaware of standard provision. In three years of activity over 13,500 young people from across the region have been involved in a Passport 2K project.

The programme continues to operate, with ten local programmes and four regional events being adopted as mainstream provision ensuring that excellent and innovative work with young people will be sustained across the region.
Local programmes provided information and guidance in signposting young people from the summer activities onto permanent engagement in their local communities. Young people who discovered activities through a Passport 2K programme went on to become Sports Leaders, Millennium Volunteers, Youth Work Assistants, Volunteer Event Stewards and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme participants. Over 50% of Passport 2K participants went on to continue attending activities they had experienced as part of the summer scheme. A participant from Ellesmere Port who experienced an athletics taster session now competes, running at county level for his local club. A participant from Bury who tried climbing through the Bury and Rochdale club now competes at national level. The Passport 2K programme has successfully introduced thousands of young people to activities they had not previously been able to access.

From 2000-2003 local programmes ran in Blackburn with Darwen, Bury and Rochdale, Bolton, Burnley, Burscough, Cumbria, Ellesmere Port, Halton, Kirkby, Liverpool, Manchester Salford and Trafford, Macclesfield, Oldham, Sefton, Warrington and Wigan.

Ten of these areas have adopted the Passport 2K programme as standard provision, recognising that its originality continues to engage and inspire young people.

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The Bury and Rochdale local programme was part of the initial Passport 2K pilot in 2000. The programme created a new and original partnership between the local boroughs and Bury Primary Care Trust. Over 1500 young people have been introduced to new experiences through the programme, which recruits around 500 young people per year to two weeks of activity. For its outstanding and innovative work, Bury Rochdale Active Generation received the accolade of Runner-Up in the Partnerships Category of the Health Challenge Awards 2003 and were joint winners of the Best Local Authority Project for Cross Sector Partnerships at the North West Sports Board Awards 2003. The worth of the programme has been recognised in Bury and Rochdale, and it will continue to operate annually, linking young people, organisations and communities in both boroughs.

Cumbria: Changing a Region

The Cumbria local Passport 2K programme has engaged 1,700 young people over three years. The programme directly challenges the problems faced by young people in deprived, rurally isolated communities by giving them the means to travel beyond their local boundaries and experience the wealth of activities and opportunities available in North Cumbria. The Cumbria project operates throughout the year, with young people collecting ‘stamps’ for different activities to qualify for the opportunity to take part in a residential experience during the summer. Organiser Barbara Hunter commented "young people from across North Cumbria have gained an unprecedented independence and confidence from participation in the programme. We are bringing together young people from all backgrounds across the area and encouraging them to think beyond their natural boundaries." The programme has also been extremely successful in encouraging community involvement in adults, creating an established volunteer mentor programme to support young people as they participate.
Halton: Reducing Crime

The Halton Passport 2K programme began in 2003 and in its first year local police recorded a 35% drop in reports of youth nuisance during the time that activities were provided. The Halton programme successfully engaged very hard to reach young people from the area, providing them with activities which provided interest, relieved boredom and engaged them in community life.

Reducing Exclusion and Meeting Local Need

Passport 2K continually targeted young people who were excluded from or unable to access mainstream provision. Local programmes have concentrated on meeting local needs whilst providing activity which fitted with the Passport 2K aims. Young people participating in Passport 2K programmes came from a wide variety of backgrounds. Responding to local needs, the Oldham local scheme targeted young women from ethnic minority backgrounds, providing female only activity sessions and working with parents to ensure continued participation. The Blackburn with Darwen programme recruited young asylum seekers who were unable to access mainstream provision. The Wigan local scheme provided facilities which enabled young mothers to participate in activities. Participants in local schemes were recruited through detach youth work from young offenders groups, care homes and disadvantaged wards. Young people participating in the scheme often found it enabled them to access a range of activities of which they were previously unaware, with a participant from Manchester commenting “Before Passport 2K I didn’t know that I could just go swimming without needing permission and lots of money.”

Meeting Local Needs: Macclesfield

The Macclesfield local programme targeted excluded young people from a disadvantaged ward within the borough. Mainstream provision of activities in the area was difficult to access due to transport and cost issues. The Macclesfield programme enabled young people from within a disadvantaged community to experience different events and activities, and supported them in continuing their interests.
Regional Events: Opportunities Across the North West

Passport 2K provided Regional Events from 2001 to 2003. Four of these events will be sustained through the commitment of organisers and participants, providing a continuing opportunity for young people to explore their region and become aware of its attractions and opportunities.

Regional Events were open to all young people aged between 15 and 18. Events enabled young people from different locations and backgrounds from across the region to meet, share experiences and participate in exciting and new activities. Regional Events could be booked by phone or via the Passport 2K website, which gave detailed information about each event. The website also gave young people an easily accessible means of discovering more about opportunities, groups and organisations offering activities throughout the North West.

Between 2001 and 2003 6,295 young people took part in a Passport 2K Regional Event.

Regional Events: The Chinese Arts Centre

Passport 2K, in partnership with the Chinese Arts Centre provided ten days of activity based around Manchester’s China Town. The event programme included an introduction to martial arts, a session of Chinese calligraphy, a tour of China Town and the opportunity to try Chinese food. For many participants, the experience was their first of another culture, and enabled them to experience first hand a diverse and multi-ethnic urban environment.

The Commonwealth Games

As part of the Manchester 2002 and United Utilities initiative to make Manchester 2002 the inclusive Games, Passport 2K was able to give 1,347 young people from across the North West the opportunity to spectate at Games Events, with lucky young people from Cumbria and Bury and Rochdale accessing tickets for the athletics session which saw Paula Radcliffe win a Gold Medal. The young people reported feeling ‘part of something huge’ and there was great enthusiasm for the carnival atmosphere surrounding the Games.
The Boat Trip: Changing Perceptions

In 2002 Passport 2K ran a competition for fourteen year olds to be active crew members on the sailing ship Greater Manchester Challenge on a voyage from Liverpool’s Albert Dock to Dublin. Twelve successful applicants experienced four days of a life at sea, learning team work, communication and how to clean a deck. Participant Chris Harrison said “I’ve gained valuable skills – mainly the skills to be with others I don’t know well. It’s made me much more confident.”

Regional Events 2000-2003:

Activity Challenge at University of Hope, Liverpool; performance of Animal Farm at Warrington Peace Centre; Activity Days at the Chinese Arts Centre; Maritime Passport 2K at the Mersey River Festival; African Drumming and Dance at the Bridgewater Hall; Sport X at Ellesmere Port; Buzz-In at Bury; Outdoors Weekend at Hawse End, Cumbria; Urban Gathering at Sefton; Passport 2K Triathlon at Haigh, Wigan; Arts in the Park at Blackburn.
Passport 2K Overall Achievements

Regional Networks: Sharing and Promoting Excellence

The Passport 2K Regional Network brought together the organisers of local programmes and regional events, giving them the opportunity to request and receive training, share good practice and make cross regional links. Through the Passport 2K programme twelve local programme organisers were able to access training on funding finding, project development and project evaluation.

The regional network continues to meet quarterly, and has so far fostered four ambitious cross regional programmes, including strong links between organisers in Rochdale and Ellesmere Port, which enable young people from both areas to participate in events held beyond their localities. The network has also produced a toolkit for running a Passport 2K scheme with detailed information on project development, health and safety at events and working with disadvantaged young people. The toolkit is available from Innove on request.

Forging Partnerships

Passport 2K has brokered cross regional and cross sector partnerships. Project sponsors and contributors have included voluntary and community groups, local authorities, private sponsors, the NHS, schools, universities, charities, sport action zones, health action zones and local education authorities. Over 300 local, regional and national organisations have contributed to the success of the Passport 2K programme regionwide, by providing activities, sponsorship, volunteers and training.

Passport 2K: the numbers

- 738 young people involved in Passport 2K activity in 2000
- 3,686 young people involved in Passport 2K activity in 2001
- 3,733 young people involved in Passport 2K activity in 2002
- 5,390 young people involved in Passport 2K activity in 2003
- 13,500 young people involved in Passport 2K activity overall
- 11 jobs created
- 70 volunteers recruited
- 12 capacity building initiatives operated
- 52 local programmes run
- 20 regional events
- 12 Local Programme Organisers accessed training
- £1,492,380 matched funding
- 35% drop in youth nuisance in Halton
- 1,347 given the opportunity to spectate at the Commonwealth Games