

The Knowledge

No. 07/07

Community Sport Networks



**Increasing
Participation**

Background:

- The structures for administering and delivering sport are extremely complex. They have evolved, ad hoc, over a long period of time (Game Plan, December 2002).
- Government has set a national target to widen the base and increase the numbers of people taking part in sport and active recreation in England by 1% annually. To achieve this it is necessary to work through a 'System for Delivery'. An integral part of this is Community Sport Networks. (CSNs). Also known as Local Sport Alliances in Leicestershire (LSA).

What is a Community Sport Network?

- Community Sport Networks (CSN) are not new. The CSN should build on existing successful partnerships or alliances, which could be sports organisations / forums or local working groups with an interest in sport. It should not have a 'prescribed' structure, but should build on existing working relationships.
- A CSN ideally would be based around a local authority boundary, and be made up of a number of key partners from the area including: - county sports partnership, local authority, health, education, community safety, regeneration, voluntary, community & private sector, & professional sport.
- The aim of the CSN is to have a shared vision for improving sport in the local community for everyone, it should include improving access to sport, co-ordinate sports provision and support joint planning thereby bringing added value.
- CSNs can play a significant role in increasing the number of people taking part in sport and active recreation.
- Whilst a CSN will not have a 'prescribed' structure there will be some things that are common to all of them, these include:-
 - A commitment to partnership working and an agreed action plan which is reflective of the community needs for both formal and informal activity for all sections of the local community.
 - A link to the Local Strategic Partnership, and the CSN is supporting the delivery of the any Local Area Agreements and their relative targets.
 - The CSN is contributing directly to a 1% increase in participation, and is leveraging in funds from key partners and drawing resources from the Community Investment Fund.

Who is responsible for a CSN?

- A CSN is the responsibility of everyone who is associated with developing or delivering sport within the local community, whether they be paid or unpaid. Everyone should have their say; with this in mind CSNs should develop Action Plans.
- The County Sports Partnership is best placed to provide a co-ordinating, advising and supporting role to the CSN, each County Sports Partnership in the East Midlands has a dedicated Community Sport Manager, it's their job to deliver on the wider community sport agenda with CSNs being an integral part of this.

How does a Community Sport Network attract funding?

- Once the CSN has an established Action Plan and can identify its main priorities to achieve sustainable and increased participation, it can apply to Sport England (amongst other funding providers) for the Community Investment Fund (CIF)
- This funding will need to be financially matched, we would expect our grant to be 33% of the overall project costs, however there is some flexibility in this, which is determined on an individual application basis by Sport England.

What are the Community Investment Fund Priorities?

- CIF will be prioritised by ensuring that programmes directly deliver to priority groups: - people disabilities, people from black or minority ethnic groups, socio economic groups C2, D & E, & Women.
- Sport England has been tasked by Government to increase participation by 1% annually; this is specifically directed at 16+ years. Sport England contributes to the young people agenda, but it is not our main focus, and whilst we appreciate that our key partners have a continued commitment to young people, we will be limiting the number of and investment in young people biased projects, and will focus our investment on the 14+ age range.
- This does not mean that CSNs will not continue to focus their work around the 'whole community'; it just means that we would expect the CSN to source alternative funding providers for young people projects.
- We wish to see our investment being delivered directly to the Community it is intended for therefore we envisage that an organisation within the CSN will take overall responsibility for funding applications. Applications must demonstrate that they are **IN ADDITION** to programmes and projects already being delivered in the local area.

Further Information:

www.sportnottinghamshire.co.uk

www.lincolnshiresports.com

www.northamptonshiresport.org

www.derbyshiresport.org

www.llrsport.co.uk

- For more information: www.sportengland.org