

Partnerships

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Having consulted widely, the next step is to develop links with and gain the support of key local agencies to help you turn your project into reality.

Local authority

You will need to maintain the active support of your local authority's Children and Young People's Service throughout. The local authority is critical to decision-making as the source of funding and strategic lead on the Children and Young People's Plan and Extended Schools, the BSF 'Strategy for Change' and, from 2008, the Primary Capital Programme. If you are planning a new building, the local authority is critical as landowner and planning authority.

Local Education Partnership

To drive the delivery of their BSF 'Strategy for Change' programmes for secondary schools, some local authorities are forming 'Local Education Partnerships' (LEPs) as joint ventures between the local authority and its chosen private sector partner. Typically an LEP will –

- Work with the local authority and other local stakeholders to develop strategic investment plans for secondary education for the area.
- Act as the single point of contact for procuring and providing all the services needed to deliver the investment programme – ranging from design, construction, project management and maintenance to ICT services.
- Integrate and manage a diverse range of supply chain sub-contractors – ranging from building contractors and Facilities Management services providers to ICT suppliers.
- Enable delivery of projects through a mix of procurement routes – PFI and conventionally funded.

Your school will need to start planning and talking with the BSF team in your local authority well before the LEP is in place as, whilst the LEP will take on the strategic planning function, much will be completed before the LEP is formed.

Making sure that community access is provided for and adequately protected is a key challenge that needs to be addressed early on in framing the management specifications that the LEP will work to. If your school is part of a BSF programme being procured by an LEP, make sure you keep fully apprised on progress of these discussions through regular briefings with your BSF Project Manager. This will help to ensure your sports or arts development vision is not compromised. Due to the financing arrangements, many of the PFI contracts entered into by local authorities or LEPs are for 20 years or longer. It is much better to get it right at the beginning than to try to re-negotiate contract terms part way through.

Talk to other schools or local authorities who have experience of the LEP approach (for example Bristol and Coventry) and find out how they have safeguarded community sports and arts development in their BSF projects.

case study: Bristol City Council – Hengrove Academy

In July 2006, Bristol City Council was the first local authority to form a Local Education Partnership (with Skanska Education) to deliver the city's Building Schools for the Future Pathfinder programme over the next 10 years. The LEP will develop and deliver all new Children and Young People's Services schools' capital projects in the City where their capital value is in excess of £0.5m. The first major project will be to replace the Hengrove Community Arts College with a new academy complete with arts facilities for use by the school and the community including an outdoor amphitheatre for the performing arts. A 'User Group' is in place to input to the planning, design and facilities management specification for the academy right up until handover by the LEP. The management specification will provide for use of the facilities, with a focus on learning. This will be extended to pupils' families and local people out of school hours with the aim of raising educational standards and attainment in this disadvantaged area of the City. The aim is to break with previous underachievement and low aspirations.

To find out more go to: www.bristol.gov.uk

Specialist Colleges

For all Specialist Schools, the Director of Specialism could be a key partner. As part of their initial Specialist School Application, schools are required to audit needs in terms of their community: this includes intended partner schools (secondary and primary) and wider community groups. Specialist Schools may, therefore, hold some useful information in terms of Sports and Arts. Contact the Director of Specialism for further information.

School Sport Partnerships

For all schools, the local School Sport Partnership (SSP) led by its Partnership Development Manager (PDM) will be a key partner. Since 2006, all schools in England have been part of an SSP working to the national PESSCL Strategy. While the PDM's prime responsibility is delivery of the PSA target of 2 hours a week of high quality PE and school sport, the PDM and his or her team of School Sport Coordinators will hold a wealth of knowledge and contacts useful in planning for community sport on your site.

Community Sports Networks

Sport England aims to have Community Sports Networks (CSNs) in place across England by 2008. Usually CSNs are co-ordinated by the local authority sports or leisure service. These networks include local sporting interests from all sectors – private, voluntary and public – and link closely with the SSPs in their area. Maintaining a close relationship with the CSN for your area will help ensure the active support and involvement of local sports clubs in shaping and sustaining your project. If such a network does not yet exist in your area, seek support and advice from the Director of your County Sports Partnership (CSP) – these are in place in all 45 English counties – and from the lead officer for leisure services within your local authority.

Key principles

- Identify key individuals within the local authority, the local specialist sport or arts college, the SSP, the CSN and/or the CSP and District/Borough Leisure Services and seek their support for, and active involvement, in your project.
- Whether your school is part of a BSF Strategy for Change programme or not, make sure your local authority's BSF Manager is fully aware of your school and its plans well before the LEP or PFI contractor is engaged.
- If the School's plans for community sport or arts are limited to a small out-of-hours programme delivered by one or a small number of local clubs and groups using existing facilities, work with these groups to develop partnership agreements that protect the interests of all parties while delivering real sport and arts benefits to the school and the community.

Sources of guidance

Best for...

Who/what...

How to find...

Local Education Partnerships Guidance

'Guidance for local authorities on Local Education Partnerships', DfES

www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/

'BSF Local Education Partnership Model' DfES

www.bsf.gov.uk

Learning from the experience of headteachers and managers in schools

Youth Sport Trust Xchange

www.youthsporttrust.org

TeacherNet - run by the Communications Unit of the DCSF

www.teachernet.gov.uk

Partnerships for Extended Schools Core Offer

Extended Schools – Providing opportunities and services for all, DfES, 2002

www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/

Partnerships for Building Schools for the Future

Strategy for Change – BSF Guidance for Local Authorities

www.bsf.gov.uk

A practical guide for volunteers in clubs on how to develop partnerships between clubs and schools

'Developing Partnerships with Clubs and Schools: a guide for sports volunteers', runningsports (developed and funded by Sport England to provide skills and support for volunteers working in all sports)

Available to purchase on the Coachwise 1st4sport website: www.1st4sport.com/1st4sportsite/product

Designing and implementing sports projects in neighbourhood renewal areas

renewal.net, on-line guide to what works in neighbourhood renewal. Documents on the site include 'how to' guides, case studies and project summaries

www.renewal.net/toolkits/SportsToolkit