

Opening Schools Facilities Year 2 Impact Report 2023-24

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Introduction

Opening Schools Facilities (OSF) is a Department for Education (DfE) school funding programme to meet the goals of the Government's School Sport and Activity Action Plan (SSAAP). The aim is to help schools to open their existing sport facilities, including school swimming pools, for a broader range of young people and to support the wider community by partnering with sporting organisations, who can help deliver activities in these settings. To support the OSF programme Hertfordshire has been awarded circa £400k per annum for the next three years (2023 - 2025), this grant will be distributed via the Partnership.

Project background

Since January 2023, we have been working on this phase of OSF alongside the national coordination partner, the Active Partnership National Team. The first year of the project, January – March 2023 was shortened due to a number of challenges, therefore a difficult comparator to year 2, April 2023 – March 2024.

The programme focuses on the following:



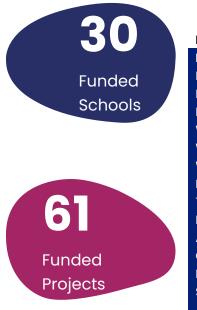
- Driving a youth informed community offer of activity on a school site in the most under-served communities.
- The upskilling and capacity building of schools to create longer term plans to open their facilities for the benefit of the community.
- To provide inspiring (young people want to), accessible (they can) and meaningful (they benefit) provision that helps improve physical activity levels and participation in their area.

Implementation

OSF was targeted toward schools that would engage key audiences particularly based around place-based working and Active Local. School selection starts with insight of free school meals and IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) data, along with our knowledge from place-based team in Active Local areas. This creates a wellreviewed list of schools that are serving targeted communities based on location of school and considering key assets and community groups in our place-based locations. Other schools are also targeted based on having higher rates of free school meals, disabilities, or culturally diverse communities. Working with Schools Games Organisers, these schools deliver a project with students to develop an offer based around target audience: Inclusive champions, Coaching Academy and Girls Leadership.

HSP has funded 30 schools across Hertfordshire in Year 2 of OSF to the value of £359,084.89. Another 23 Schools funded in Year 1 are still collecting participation data from their projects that are sustaining activity beyond funding. This is a total of 43% more schools involved in the OSF on Year 1 (37 schools).

Partnerships



FUNDED SCHOOLS

Primary Hollybush Primary School Broom Barns Primary School Bedwell Primary And Nursery School Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy Warren Dell Primary School Woolenwick Junior School Mandeville Primary School The Reddings Primary School Four Swannes Primary School Ascot Road Primary School Greenfields Primary School Lime Walk Primary School Swallow Dell Primary And Nursery School

All Throughs

Links Academy North Herts Education Support Centre Chessbrook Education Support Centre

Secondary

The Sele School St Mary's Church of England High School Stevenage Education Support Centre Knights Templar School Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School Croxley Danes School Beaumont School Hertswood Academy The Adeyfield Academy Katherine Warington School Knightsfield School Barclay Academy Ridgeway Academy The Thomas Alleyne Academy

Outcomes and Benefits

HSP has funded a range of projects that has supported outcomes to benefit both pupils and wider community. Providing more opportunities for pupils to be active through extracurricular activity, 40 projects taking place before school, lunchtime (SEND) and after school. A further 21 projects focused on reaching the wider community by providing a venue for new clubs and activities during evenings, weekends and holidays.

Across the 61 projects, 441 additional hours of school's facilities a week have been opened for free or affordable activity to take place, supporting the most disadvantaged communities. Projects targeted audiences at the following rates: Children eligible for free school meals – 69%, Special educational needs and disabilities – 74%, Ethnically diverse communities – 11% and Girls – 62%. Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School delivered on a project looking to improve facility for community use and provide a wider range of activity to support pupils attending the school. Additionally, the school are in the process of setting up their community use agreement to aid the development of the site's facilities and usage but also to ensure hirers and community users have input and access to a great facility on their doorstep. Ten community hirers and a neighbouring primary school have already made use of the improved facility since investment has improved MUGA surface and new equipment has been installed.

Key Learnings

Invest in fewer schools with larger amount to enable better oneto-one support.

Challenge to approach all active local areas with similar expectations, some schools are not engaged at this stage despite opportunity.

Providing internal meetings with Active Local staff to provide updates on processes and needs from schools in each area.

OSF requires a lot of resource to manage the whole process due to schools being a challenging relationship, a lot of demand on data collection, collecting evidence of spend and managing projects schools deliver.

Next Steps

3

Collecting project plans from Year 3 schools to enable activity in summer term.

> Collecting and supporting schools with case studies from Year 1 & 2 of OSF to track progress.

2

Embedding sustainable activity in the last Year of OSF to enable schools to continue activity or benefits from funded equipment, training and activity. 6

Conclusion

OSF is providing a vital opportunity to support schools to provide more opportunities to pupils and community, particularly in disadvantaged

communities where they may lack facilities.

11,870 Community participation

throughput

Learning so far indicates we must continue to support existing schools from Years 1 & 2 to become sustainable through better partnerships particularly with Active Local networks.





