



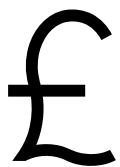
# Together Fund Phase 4 Impact Report

April 2022 – September 2023

# Introduction

Herts Sport and Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) were awarded £227,500 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Together Fund Phase 4 which aims to tackle inequalities in activity levels. Together Fund looked to break down the barriers in access to physical activity that were heightened by the pandemic through support to locally trusted organisations, sports clubs and community groups.

This funding and support enabled community groups working with target audiences – Lower Socio-Economic Groups, Black, Asian and Culturally Diverse Communities, Disabled People and People with Long-Term Health Conditions (LTC) – to continue to recover and grow off the back of the pandemic and allowed people the opportunity to live more active lifestyles.



**£202,000 invested in  
community projects**



**68 projects  
supported**



**More than 3,000  
participants engaged**

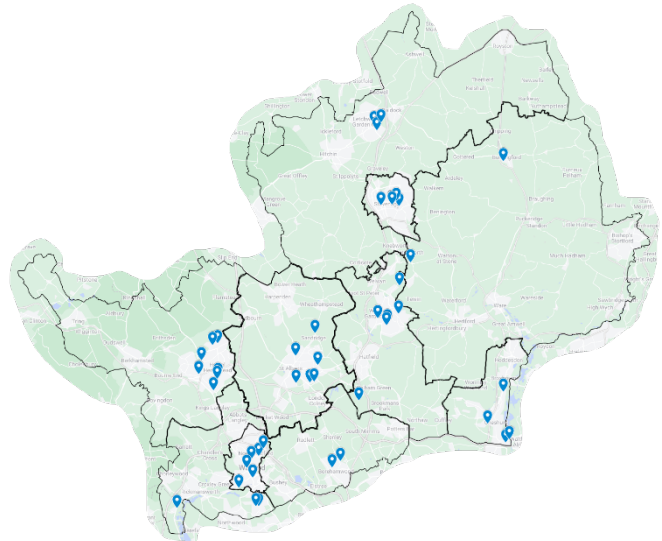
# Funding Allocation

Engaging trusted organisations in communities for Together Fund was a key focus for HSP in enabling access to physical activity in targeted audiences. A range of solicited applications through Active Local officers, and trusted partners across Hertfordshire to reach new organisations and groups beyond the sport and physical activity sector.

The application was purposely simplified to enable groups who were not familiar with the funding application process to feel confident to complete information needed to outline a project plan and associated budget.

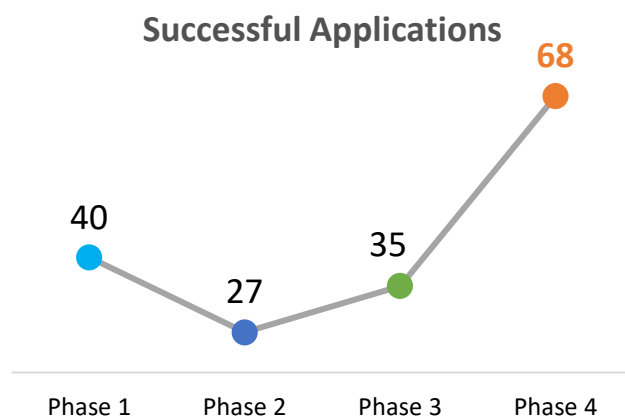
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
<b>Organisations</b>	40	27	35	68
<b>Funding</b>	£70,588	£70,293	£96,509	£202,000
<b>Average Award</b>	£1,764	£2,603	£2,757	£2,970

Once applications were submitted, an internal review took place to cover due diligence of applicant. Checking each organisation against Charity Commission, Companies House or collecting constitutions of groups before moving on to the Approval Board to review the application and keeping track of changes needed to approve.



Over the past 3 years we developed our approach to taking applications and creating simpler applications. **68 Applications were approved in Phase 4** of Together Fund.

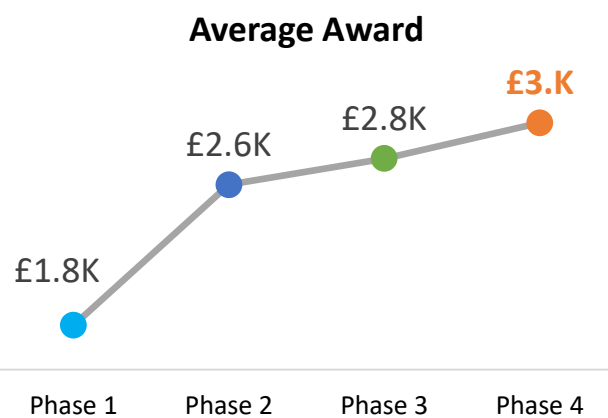
Learning from phases 1-3 has enabled more applicants and wider distribution across Hertfordshire.



# Funding Allocation

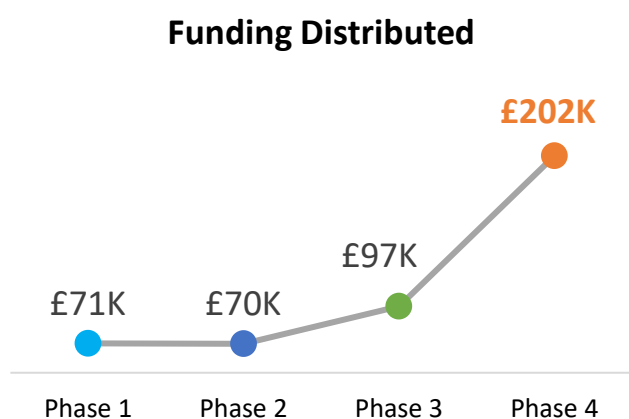
The Approval Board consisted of at least three out of the four strategic teams at HSP: Children and Young People, Active Local, Transformation and Health and Wellbeing. This ensures projects were given suitable review upon each target audience that projects were focusing on. Between July 2022 - March 2023, 10 approval meetings took place reviewing between 6 – 19 applications per meeting.

- More than 50% (35/68) of applicants in Phase 4 were new to Together Fund
- Funding was distributed towards 3 key areas: Active Local (36%), Culturally Diverse Communities (28%) and Disabilities and Long-term Health Conditions (36%)
- 78% of projects targeted more than one of the four target audiences



The average grant amount of awards has increased in each phase of Together Fund, **more than 33% increase on Phase 1.**

One reason for this is a longer time frame of delivery in Phase 4 which allowed for longer projects that associated to increased costs alongside cost of living impacts on many organisations as well.



A significant increase in distribution of funding in Phase 4, **more than double** compared to previous phases.

The increased funding allowed us to reach more organisations as shown on previous chart.

# Funding Allocation

Throughout the process of allocating funding, we were keen to encourage groups that had audiences interested in being more active but for several reasons had not integrated physical activity into their offers currently.

We had a range of both physical activity organisations reaching out to those who were least active, and community groups who wanted to enable their participants to be more active.

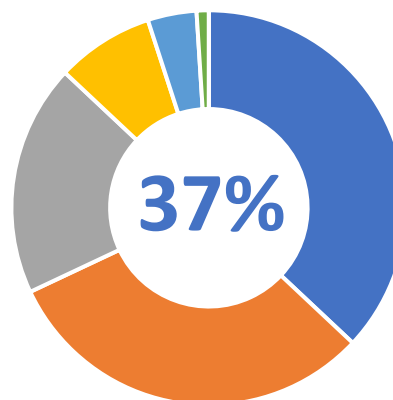
A variety of organisations applied and we positively engaged with all to identify ways we could support them whilst meeting eligibility criteria.



“The purchase of the two additional cycles has had an enormous impact in our ability to train ladies to cycle. For every training session that we have run for adults, at least one if not both of the cycles has been used. To the extent that we are already wondering about funding for another two cycles.”

Stevenage Cycling Hub

68% of funding was distributed to either **Registered Charities** or **CIC**



Organisation Type	Percentage of Total Investment
Registered Charity	37%
Community Interest Company	31%
Local Authority	19%
Formally Constituted Club, Association or Trust	8 %
Registered CASC	4%
Other (please state below)	1%
Unregistered Club or Association	>1%

The chart to above shows a breakdown of ‘Primary Activity’ of Together Fund projects.

The most popular sport and physical activities were **Movement & Dance (7)**, **Exercise & Fitness (11)** and **Multi Sports (19)**.

22 different sport and activities were funded providing a range of opportunities to different audiences.

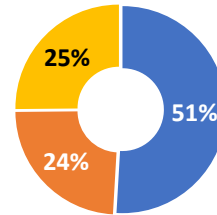
# District Funding Breakdown

The charts below show a breakdown of how funding has been allocated against the different pots that HSP split funding into for distribution of Together Fund. Some districts had larger or smaller allocations of each pot due to population, organisations or existing delivery in the area.

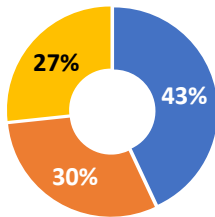
The legend below indicates each pot that is reflected in charts:

- Active Local
- Culturally Diverse Communities
- Disability / Long Term Health Condition

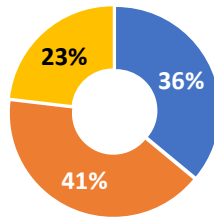
Broxbourne



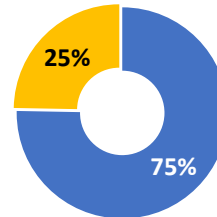
Dacorum



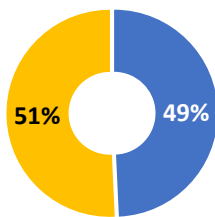
East Hertfordshire



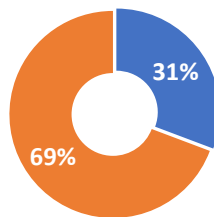
Hertsmere



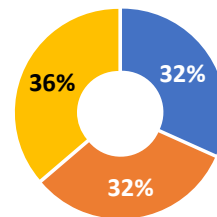
North Herts



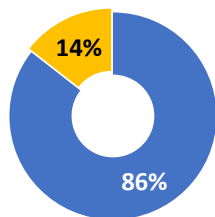
St Albans



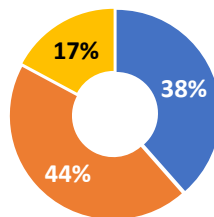
Stevenage



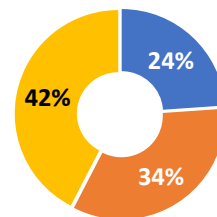
Three Rivers



Watford



Welwyn Hatfield



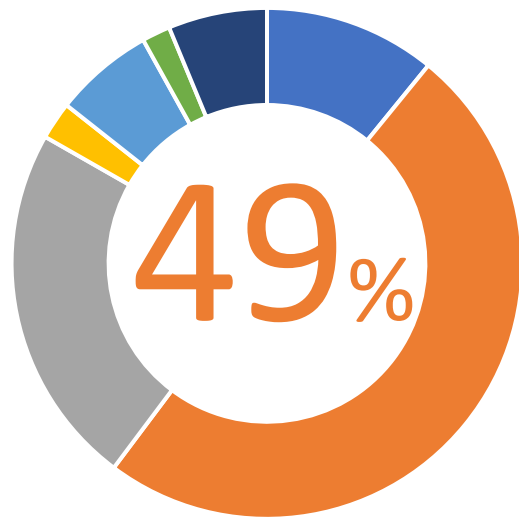
# Project Implementation

The table below outlines projects' costs averaged across the 68 applications funded between April 2022 – March 2023. It indicates that the greatest need in communities remains to be delivery and venue costs, with many venues increasing hiring fees due to cost of living and energy crisis. Despite only being a small subset value-wise of "Other Expenditure", many groups and participants quoted it as being a key element to their involvement and motivation to engage and create friendships.

"...cup of tea and biscuits is a really nice idea so that it became social as well..."

Participant at Community Initiative Bishops Stortford

49% of project budgets was spent on Coaching Costs



Project Budget Categories	Percentage of Project Budget
Coaches Fees / Expenses	49%
Hire of Facilities	23%
Equipment Hire / Purchase	11%
Budget for Staff Costs	6%
Other expenditures (Training, refreshments etc.)	6%
Promotion / Publicity	2%
Transport / Travel	2%





# Impact on Participants

The activities delivered through Together Fund impacted people in a range of ways from friendship to rehabilitation. Providing communities and organisations with opportunities to support those most at risk of disengaging with sport and physical activity due to health, costs and many other factors.

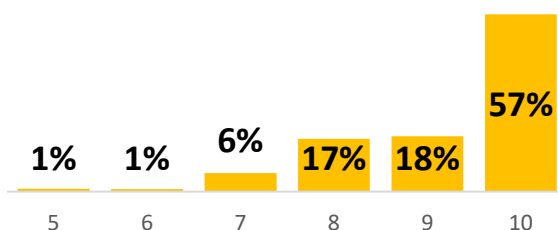
Sharing and capturing this data and insight has helped HSP and the Together Fund network in Hertfordshire to develop stronger relationships and understanding of the needs in our communities.

This report captures a small section of the fantastic network of people passionate about giving people the opportunity to be active.

**“The sessions were amazing and gave my son the opportunity to be himself, engage in an activity where he felt safe and understood.”**

Participant at Potential Kids

**Average % of scores given by attendees for all Together Fund Projects**



**Average Rating from participants across projects**

**9.1**

Over the 18 months of this phase of distribution, we were able to see many of the projects for ourselves as well as many partners: Local Authorities, High Sheriff and Sport England.

We were keen to showcase the great projects taking place and listen to organisations and participants views on important matters. Conversations have enabled training needs, future funding bids and collaborative working that otherwise would not have taken place.





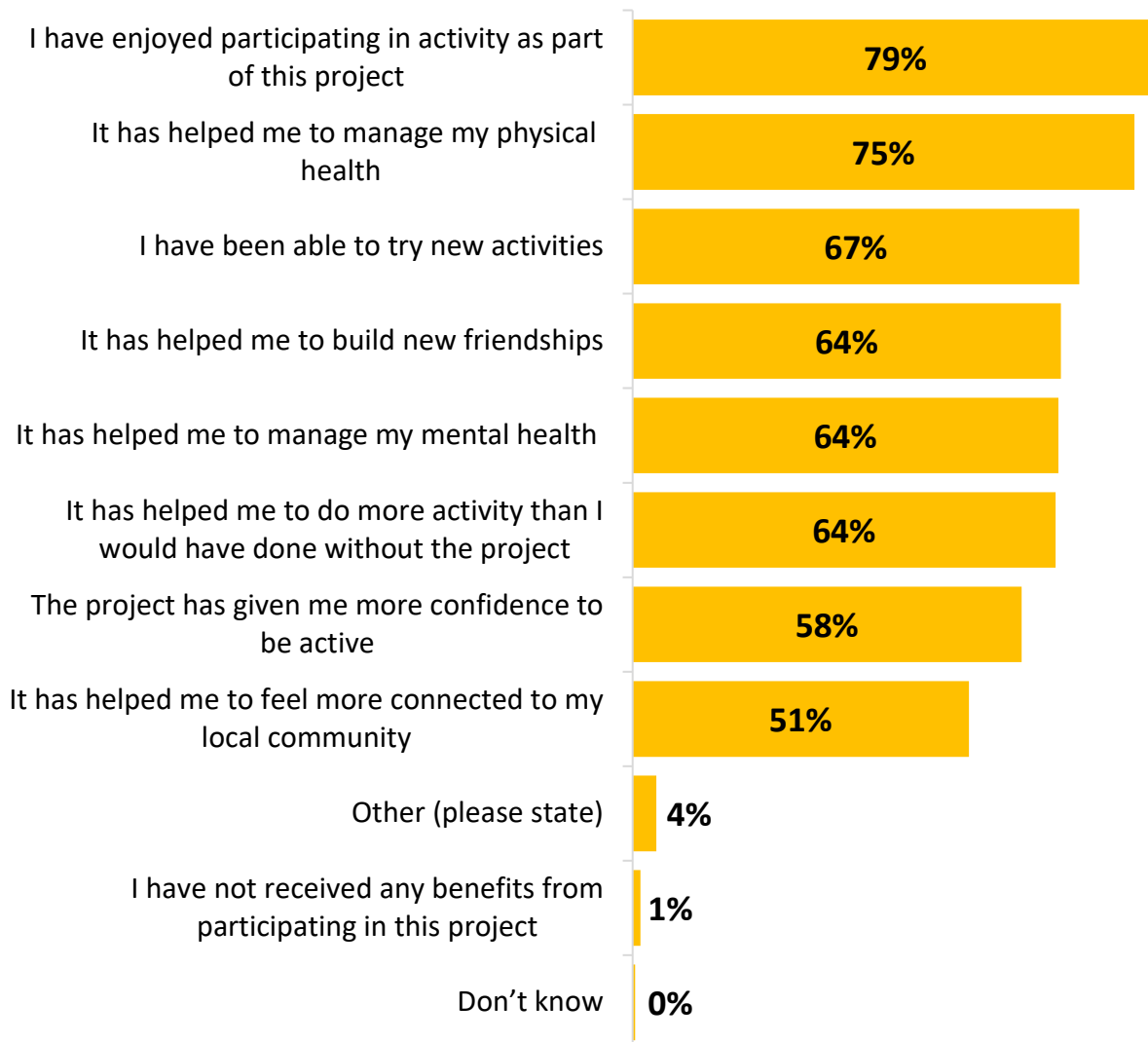
# Impact on Participants

The chart below provides an overview of benefits participants received from 280 responses to surveys across projects funded.

It is great to see more than three quarters of participants enjoy taking part in the physical activity which will have a significant affect on sustained activity beyond the projects.

“...it is now a fixture in our life. We have made new friends, feel fitter and now exercise at home on a daily basis.”

Participant at Garden House Hospice Care



# Active Local Insight

Active Local is Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership’s collaborative place-based initiative. It supports targeted communities in highlighting their strengths, whilst also responding to local need and identifying where support, intervention or extra capacity could help create a more joined-up approach to tackling inequalities and reducing physical inactivity. Projects targeted residents living in Active Local areas and many also belonged to other target audiences of Together Fund projects.

**31 Awards - £73,621.40**

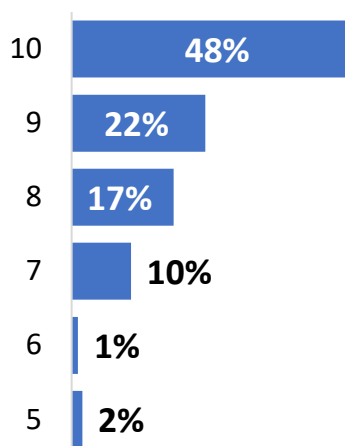


**Streetsafe - Bedwell**

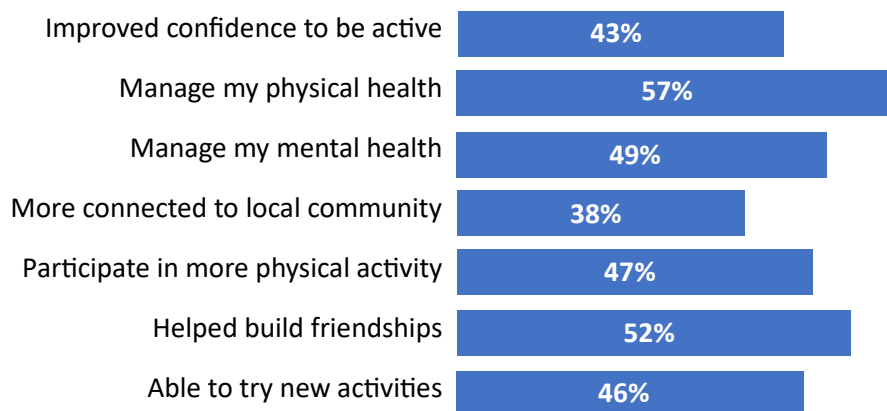
“Doing this has been so much fun and has made me realise that I have a lot more physical skills than I thought.”

Participant at Apex 360

**Percentage of scores given by attendees**  
10 = Max.



**Benefits participants received from attending**



# Road Map of Development

As learning from previous phases of Together Fund (formerly Tackling Inequalities Fund) have been captured, we have collected feedback from both partners and Sport England to develop our approach to grant making in Hertfordshire. Below shows the shift in our working to improve processes, support and due diligence to protect and develop partners and ourselves.



“Fantastic project has given women more confidence helped many with mental health by exercising: Suitable time, Friendly teacher, Local, Cheap, Opportunity to meet other ladies.”

Participant at HAWA

“It has enabled me to get out of my house and meet new people, which helps with my mental health.”

Participant at Hertsmere Borough council