



School Sport Impact Report 2023-24

Tanya Angus, School Sport Lead
April 2024



Introduction

The Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) provides strategic direction and focus to help create safe, enjoyable, and positive experiences for children and young people in Hertfordshire which will enable them to become more active, helping to build the foundations of a healthy and more active lifestyle. It also uses the power of sport and physical activity to tackle inequality and disadvantage.

Project background

Our work with Schools brings to life the Sport England Strategy Strand 'Positive Experiences for Young People'. The aim is to encourage a healthy lifestyle for young people by embedding engaging, inspiring, in safe sport and physical activity opportunities that enable young people to fulfil their potential. This is addressed through the Hertfordshire School Games programme, developing the skillset and knowledge of teachers, coaches and other deliverers working with young people through high quality programmes and courses, and through providing opportunities for young people to access leadership and volunteering opportunities in sport and physical activity.



The Hertfordshire School Games provides high quality, inclusive and enjoyable festivals, and competitions throughout the academic year for all young people, including a showcase event in the Summer. Through the different categories of Compete, Aspire & Develop, and Inspire and Engage, it aims to provide every child with a positive experience in an environment where their motivation, competence and confidence are at the centre of the competition, removing barriers and improving access for those in greatest need.

The Primary PE conference is an annual event for PE leads, Headteachers and PE link governors. The programme for the day consists of a mix of keynote

addresses, practical and theoretical sessions which cover Physical Education, School Sport, Physical activity, physical literacy, mental health and wellbeing.

The School Games offers opportunities for young people to develop and apply their leaderships skills at the numerous School Games events and festivals throughout the year. The leadership programme (Academy) is supported by the Inclusion 2024 Lead and the Leadership, Volunteering, and coaching lead. (LCV). The aim of the Academy has been to further support and develop young leaders through upskilling and by providing a pathway to future volunteering roles, either in school or in the community, and the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) programme.

Implementation

Herts School Games

HSP has worked closely with the county's School Games Organisers, young people, and others to maintain and embed our three categories and ensure the School Games pledges - Tackling inequality, Physical literacy and Youth Engagement have been incorporated into creating the County programme. This has enabled us to strengthen the schools understanding of our events and supported our advocacy work with local partners.



Using local insight through our Active Lives data, Active Local insight, Public Health, YST Impact Report, Schools insight and Youth Voice, allowed us to identify areas of need, plan and develop new initiatives targeting specific schools and specific groups of CYP.

A new approach this year focused on engaging more young people with additional needs particularly from mainstream schools. This involved working

with the YST Inclusion 2024 lead who liaised directly with the County Council's Advisory Service to identify CYP for targeted events. A great example of this was our **deaf festival** held at Watford football club indoor dome. The event involved great collaboration – initiated by Inclusion 2024, and Herts School Games bringing together the Hertfordshire FA, Watford Football Club, Watford FC's Community Trust, and Hertfordshire County Council's Specialist Deaf Advisory Team. It was a huge success, in not only offering new experiences to this cohort of school pupils, but as a means of showcasing some of the fantastic programmes that are on offer as part of the county's Herts School Games and Inclusion 2024 programme.

Another approach involved working with the Herts LTA to develop an **inclusive tennis festival** for neurodiverse CYP – again linking with the Inclusion 2024 lead. Two festivals were arranged at the 2 development tennis centres in the county (Batchwood and Gosling). Schools identified specific CYP with additional needs and if required, each child was able to bring a buddy to help with engagement. The festival consisted of several tennis activity stations. The focus was on fun and engagement and there was an element of personal best scores on each station if the children wanted to score. Feedback from the teachers and I:ls was very positive with many seeing the children develop skills and confidence and stay motivated throughout the session.

Finally, following the success of the Girls Transition Project and Inclusion Champions introduced in the last academic year, these were identified as priorities for continued investment – in terms of staff and funding resource.

The **Girls Transition Project** supported those girls that have struggled to settle into secondary school life and enabled them to have a positive experience of physical activity and sport. Most of the schools that attended, serve some of the most disadvantaged areas of Hertfordshire – as identified by the IDACI deprivation index – and there was also representation from a few all-girls schools. The Girls Festival helped to kick-start additional female provision back at their schools as the participating girls were charged with creating their own club at their respective schools. This supported the sense of belonging for the girls and gave them ownership regarding the activities. For some of the schools the club was linked to OSF funding. Feedback from the day was very positive.

PE conference

The Annual Primary PE conference took place on Friday 12th January 2024. The programme is created in consultation with the Advocate Headteachers, using feedback from the previous conference and



Figure 1 Kylie Grimes MBE is a British para-athlete, who was the Keynote speaker at the 2024 event

knowledge of ongoing changes and issues in schools around PESSPA. The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of these agendas and challenges, offering insight and ideas on how they may be addressed in school settings, provide delegates with a better understanding of the PE and School Sport agenda in schools including Ofsted, and provide ideas for promoting activity, health and wellbeing, including mental health in schools.

"I was so impressed by the size, brilliant organisation, and breadth of your conference. Colleagues in my session were brilliantly engaged and respectful of each other's viewpoints "

The opening address was delivered by Kylie Grimes MBE with Ali Oliver MBE giving an overview of the national picture for PE, School Sport and Physical Activity for Children and young people. Max Whitlock OBE closed the day with a Q & A session.

The format of the day was altered this year to ensure all delegates were present for the first workshop session on the changes to the PE premium and Ofsted. This took place after the keynote address in the auditorium.

[Click here for the full programme and further information.](#)

Leadership

HSP works closely with the LCV lead to create the **Herts Coaching academy**. All Secondary schools are invited to select leaders based on the criteria to be part of the academy. They attended their first training session in February, with follow up virtual sessions later in the year. All of the academy leaders are involved in supporting the Herts School Games events for the remainder of the academic year, as well as developing and supporting clubs within their own schools.

The Partnership works closely with the Youth Sport Trust's Inclusion 2024 Lead to adopt a county-wide approach to promote mainstream leadership for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Each School Games Organiser area selects a secondary school to be part of the *Inclusion Champions* programme, with schools selecting 2-4 students from either Year 9 or 10 to be trained as Inclusion Champions. They attend a county training day with a YST athlete mentor and are then deployed in their schools with SGO's support to develop and deliver a SEN club / festival in their school. They also support inclusive county events.

Engagement

2,568

Students participated in Herts School Games events

521

SEND students have participated in Inspire and engage events

337 Schools

257 Delegates

Primary PE conference

57 Coaching Academy

60 Inclusion Champions

Key Learnings

- Working in partnership / collaboration with key partners ensures successful delivery.
- Pre-planning / delivery to students beforehand is good practice.
- Use of data, local insight is key to supporting targeted approach to the School Games offer.
- Ability to complete evaluations either via a QR code or paper version increases return rate.
- Marketplace bookings and payments for PE conference were changed to Eventbrite which has made processing the finances much easier.
- Good mentor required within the schools to support the leaders for the programme to be successful.
- Pathway is key to the leader's development and retention.

Next Steps

1

Continue

to review and plan the Herts School Games programme for 24/25 embedding the three pledges

2

Liase with the Advocate

Headteachers to plan the primary PE conference for 24/25

3

Support

the leaders to access accredited qualifications and opportunities to deploy their leadership skills

Herts
**Sport &
Physical
Activity**
Partnership

