



Annual Impact Report

2025-26

Inspiring Positive Change through Sport

In partnership with





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About this Report

This report provides a snapshot of the impact delivered by HSP, aligned to its Strategic Plan, and delivered in collaboration with partners between April 2025 and March 2026.

Readers seeking additional details can click through to the **Videos** and **Related stories** links.

Inspiring
Videos



Related
Impact
Stories

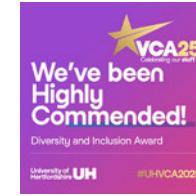


Foreword

I write this on my final day as HSP Partnership Director before heading into retirement. It is a timely moment to reflect on what the Partnership has achieved over the past 12 months.



About HSP

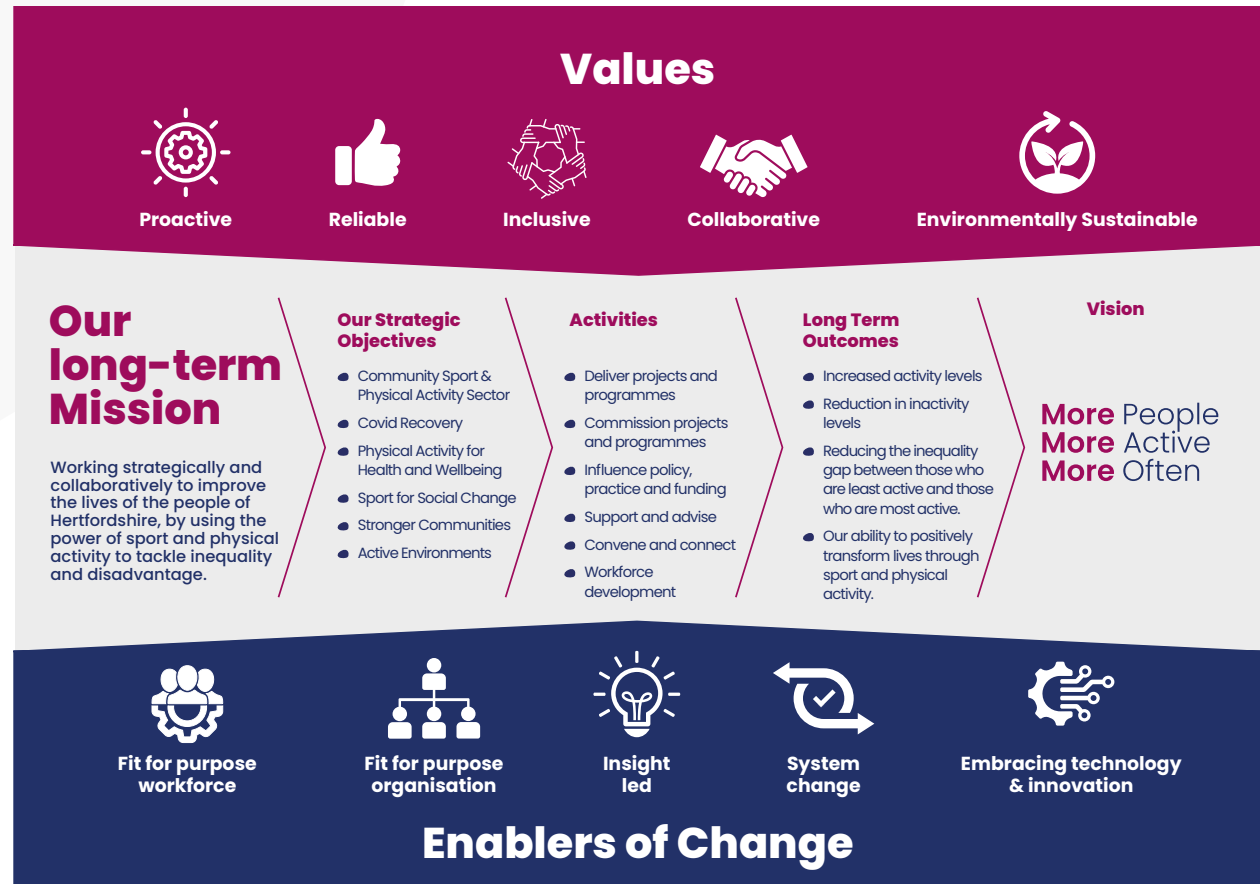


The Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) was established in 2003 and is one of 42 Active Partnerships across England, working closely with core funder Sport England, as the strategic lead for sport and physical activity in Hertfordshire.

HSP work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders to create the conditions for sport and physical activity to thrive, and to use the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives – see Strategic Plan Summary below.

The Partnership has a dedicated **core team** of full and part-time professionals, that are involved in a wide range of exciting **projects**, campaigns and strategic influencing work to deliver against key objectives. The Partnership also has a **voluntary board** that represents HSP's various work areas, providing strategic oversight and guidance.

HSP Strategic Plan 2022-27 Summary



Impact Summary 2025-26

3,508
attendances



at training, CPD and
flagship events



94

Net Promoter Score
(Recommend
HSP to a colleague)

900+
items
distributed
from Goods for Good

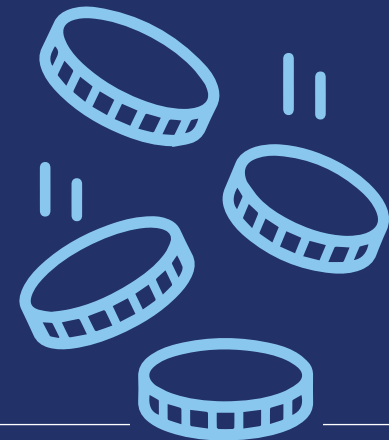


**Over
a
third**
of General Practices
(GPs) in Herts are now
certified Active Practices

50,000+ **attendances**
across HAPpy programmes

£280K+

funding
leveraged into Supported
Places Project



Section One

Examples of Impact

The following section provides a snapshot of inspiring projects delivered by HSP and the impact achieved using sport and physical activity to help transform lives. Further detail is available via the links included on each page, and all projects are highlighted on the HSP **website**.



Active Practice Charter Success in Hertfordshire

The Active Practice Charter is an initiative created by The Royal College of GPs and Sport England to inspire and celebrate GP practices that champion the role of physical activity in improving overall health and wellbeing.

The Charter is a fun, easy way to make simple but impactful changes, demonstrating that movement is the best medicine. HSP are delivering the initiative as part of the Active Connections programme. To become an Active Practice, surgeries must demonstrate that they have taken steps in the following areas:

- Increasing physical activity for staff and patients
- Reducing sedentary behaviour for staff and patients
- Partnering with local physical activity providers to support the practice to get more people active

Active Connections Video

Related Impact Stories

- **Alpha PCN** – Alpha PCN embed physical activity into healthcare
- **Hatfield PCN** – Hatfield PCN receive High Sheriff award
- **Active Connections**
- **Moving More Activity finder**
- **Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire**
- **Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire Celebration Day 2025**
- **South & West Herts Active Connections Conference 2026**
- **Active Connections Hub** – Primary Care Movement Platform

Hatfield PCN's Social Prescribers leading a Hertfordshire Health Walk for patients and the local residents:



“Our patients and staff have truly embraced the new ideas, and are committed to providing ongoing support to the health system, helping show that movement truly is the best medicine”.

- Manager, Stevenage PCN



Over a third of Hertfordshire's GP surgeries are now **Active Practices** (46 in total)

1 There is at least **one Active Practice** in each of Hertfordshire's districts

6 HSP are conducting **6-monthly follow-up meetings** from the date of accreditation (11 completed since April 2025)

Championing Disability Inclusion

Research shows that people with a disability or long-term health condition are twice as likely to be inactive than non-disabled people.

The pioneering **No Limits 2026** campaign has been designed to tackle this inequality gap and create opportunities, celebrate inclusion, and make being active a reality for everyone in Hertfordshire.

No Limits 2026 is the campaign name for Hertfordshire's Year of Disability Sport & Physical Activity, led by the HSP working closely with Herts Disability Sports Foundation, the Activity Alliance and many other partners.

The campaign will build on what's already working while sparking new community-led initiatives. It will secure funding to expand delivery and help organisations create genuinely welcoming spaces. Coaches and leaders will gain the skills and confidence to support disabled people, whose voices will be amplified through an ambassador programme.

An inclusive basketball session at Beech Hyde Primary School, delivered by No Limits Ambassador Ella Beaumont.



"Hertfordshire Health Walks are proud to be a part of the 'No Limits 2026' campaign, to develop our offer, raise our profile and continue to champion inclusive and welcoming walks, where everyone is welcome regardless of background, age and ability".
- Project Officer, Hertfordshire Health Walks

Alice Biddle's Ambassador Video

Related Impact Stories

- Disability Sport Symposium Officially Launches the No Limits 2026 Campaign
- No Limits 2026 Ambassadors
- Inclusion 2028
- Inclusive Bowls Event Brings Together Hertfordshire Clubs and VIBE
- Brocket Hall Launches Inclusive GOLFA 26 Programme as Part of No Limits 2026
- No Limits 2026 Driving Inclusive Sport Through Strategic Funding Partnerships
- Herts School benefits from EllaBeInspire Disability Inclusion Gold Package visit
- Embedding Inclusion into Teaching - CPD Offer for Herts PCGE Students & Teachers

42 Campaign Ambassadors recruited

engaging over **700** people at **9** local events

45 training opportunities and events engaging with **1,620** attendees

£50,336 investment secured

2,322 new opportunities created



Crime Reduction Through Sport

The Crime Reduction through Sport programme delivers a system-wide, evidence-based approach to tackling serious violence, anti-social behaviour and youth offending, using sport and physical activity as protective and developmental interventions.

Coordinated by HSP in partnership with StreetGames and local voluntary and statutory organisations, the programme is funded through the Home Office Serious Violence Fund via the Hertfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and supports delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.

During 2025–26, the programme’s impact extended beyond frontline delivery. Investment focused on strengthening local infrastructure, improving quality and workforce capability, and establishing effective referral pathways – laying the foundations for targeted, trauma-informed and measurable sport-based interventions across Hertfordshire.

Over the course of the year, HSP have commissioned five high quality secondary provisions informed by insight from the **Hertfordshire Audit Dashboard 2025**.



• **Hertfordshire Audit Dashboard 2025**



Children attending a Forever Young People Dance session in Letchworth, using physical activity as part of a holistic approach to Crime Prevention.



Many participants who were previously at risk of exclusion, involved in fights or otherwise disengaged from school have shown measurable improvements in behaviour and attendance.

– Local Delivery Partner

From over **1,000 participants across the UK** (including data from Hertfordshire), **1 in 4 participants reported the only physical activity they do each week is via a Crime Reduction programme**. This means that programmes such as ours reach some of the most inactive children of Hertfordshire.

5 provisions funded via Home Office funding

175 Participants

114 Sessions

1060 Attendances

139 Participant Surveys

Feature Project:



HAPpy Team wins Collaborative Team of the Year Award at the Families First Awards

HAPpy is Hertfordshire's branding for the Department for Education funded Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF). HAPpy Camps provide a range of fun experiences, including physical activity, enrichment, a healthy meal and snacks for eligible children and young people from reception to year 11, who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

The HAPpy delivery team (HSP & Herts Community Foundation (HCF)) were incredibly proud to be nominated and to subsequently be awarded the Collaborative Team of the Year Award at the Families First awards. The award recognising a team who is committed to building relationships and/or joint working with colleagues across different services/agencies to ensure positive outcomes that have made a significant impact to the lives of children, young people and families in Hertfordshire. The network of early help provision is crucial to ensure that referrals can be accessed for any young person who doesn't meet the automatic criteria, but who would benefit from accessing the provision.

Related Impact Stories

- **Herts Mini Movers**
- **Developing positive habits in young people**
- **ParkPlay in Herts**

Young girl enjoying the 4-4-2 Sports Ltd HAPpy Camp during Winter 2025



"The HAPpy programme in Hertfordshire has developed since its inception to become a valued source of support to families and has supported thousands of children over this period."
- Nomination from Herts County Council

66,580 Universal places **3,870** SEND specific

433 camps with **75 providers** **3,432** Direct Award places

(through Services for Young People, Short Breaks Local Offer and a pilot Junior Gym programme with Everyone Active)

New for Winter 2025 were special Festival Days and Trips (e.g. Pantomime and ice skating)

Feature Project:



Youth Leadership Driving Local Change Through Basketball

Active Local, HSP's place-based approach funded by Sport England's Place Universal Offer, tackles inactivity, social disadvantage, and health inequalities in two Hertfordshire areas: Waltham Cross (Broxbourne) and Cowley Hill (Hertsmere).

In Waltham Cross, basketball became the catalyst for change when young people highlighted limited access to a sport they value. Active Local put them at the centre, enabling them to co-design and transform a neglected court into a space they are proud of. Building on this, around 10 local young adults were supported with coaching qualifications, mentoring, and development opportunities.

The result is a thriving, youth-led basketball community where young people are driving change in their neighbourhood.

Active Local
Workforce
Video

Related
Impact
Stories

- Growing Coaching Opportunities in Hertsmere
- Introducing the launch of the Active Local Hub
- Strengthening System Leadership for Place-Based Change

Local children enjoying the newly refurbished MUGA during Active Local Waltham Cross' Summer HAPpy basketball camp.



"This isn't just about delivering sport sessions. It's about building trust, understanding young people's needs, and creating safe, supportive spaces — while investing in local people and giving them the tools to go even further".
Active Local Officer Waltham Cross

8 Basketball Coaches **completed Level 1 and 2 Basketball Coaching Qualifications**

200 Summer Camp Spaces provided for children aged 8-16 years

9 Coaches **completed Youth Mentorship Training**

£3,162 Funding from Active Local and Travis Perkins Community Legacy Fund to pay for court re-development

5,794 Funding from Active Local and Sport England for Basketball Level 1, 2 and Mentoring courses

£6,000 from Herts County Council to deliver the **Summer Slam Basketball HAPpy Camps**


Sporting Pathways to Employment

Sporting Pathways is an inter-agency pilot project which aims to use sport and physical activity to engage economically inactive people and improve their life chances, particularly ex-offenders and those with lived experience of addiction and/or homelessness in the Welwyn Hatfield area.

The aim of the project is to support participants, through customised activities, to improve their motivation, skills and health and wellbeing to better prepare them for employment opportunities.


Delivery of this programme started at the One YMCA Hatfield Hostel & Central Hub and was subsequently switched to other local community venues and modified to better receive referrals from other key local organisations.

The project is being supported by researchers from the University of Hertfordshire.



“Thank you for this great opportunity for our clients to participate as it’s made them feel involved, helped their physical and mental wellbeing and given them skills that they can use”.

- Site Manager at Stevenage Novotel



Sporting Pathways weekly group walking football session.



“I lacked confidence, but coming along has boosted my confidence and I like coming here. The people and staff make me feel comfortable and more confident. I am keen to be trained to volunteer”.

- Participant

In total, **31 sessions** delivered engaging **71 participants**

Herts Young Homeless has become a satellite location on client’s doorstep with **6 sessions delivered.**

Integrated asylum seekers/refugees from local hotels into the **Sporting Pathways football sessions** at Hatfield Football Academy.

Teamed up with First People and the **Novotel Stevenage group** of clients

In total **45 individuals** have accessed this **over 9 sessions.**

Section Two

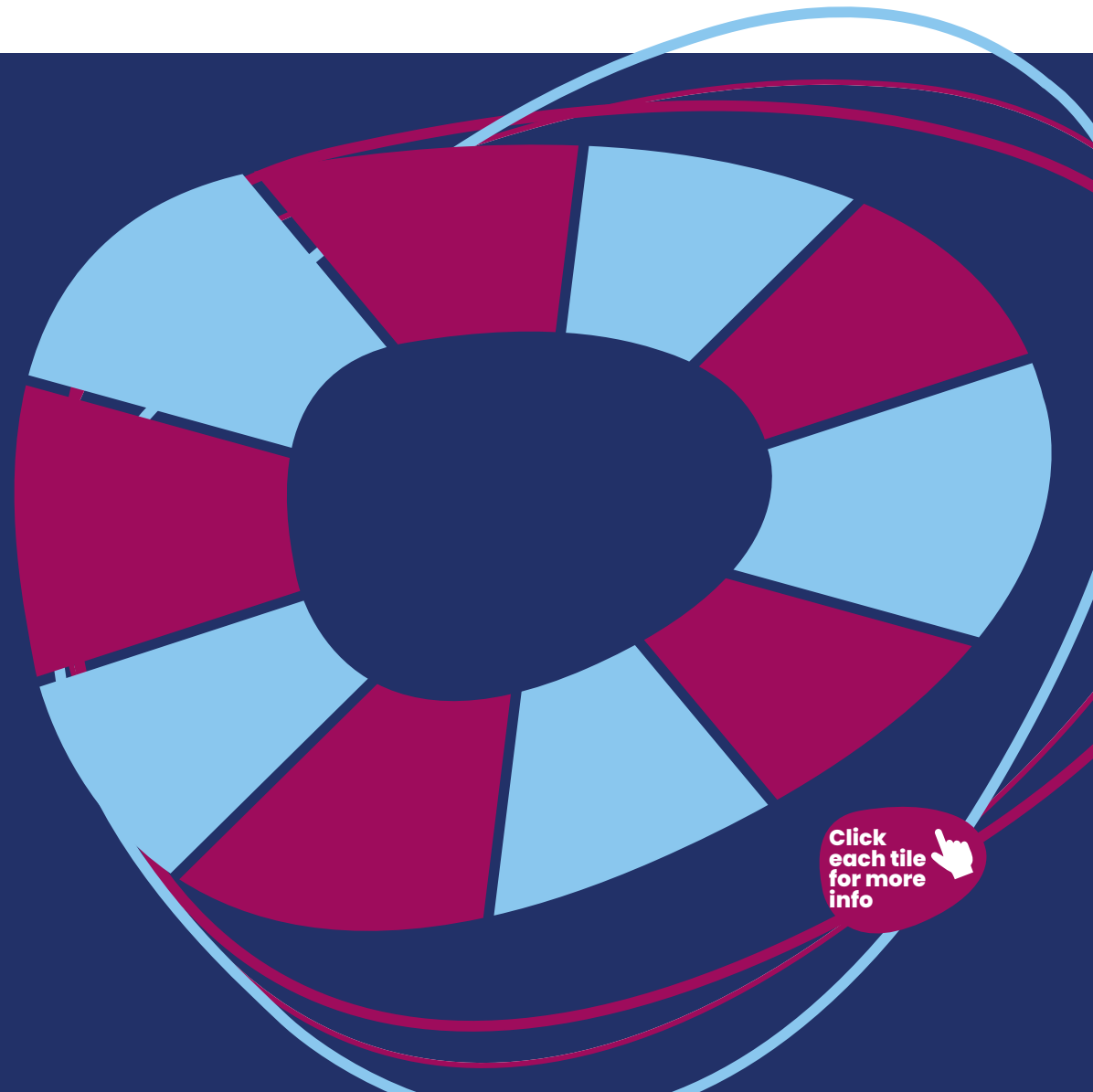
Enablers of Change

These are the threads running through all projects, and are key to driving transformational change – making an inclusive active lifestyle the social norm for everyone.



Workforce Development

HSP is committed to developing a diverse and welcoming workforce with the right skills to provide fun, safe and progressive activities that attract and retain individuals in sport and physical activity.

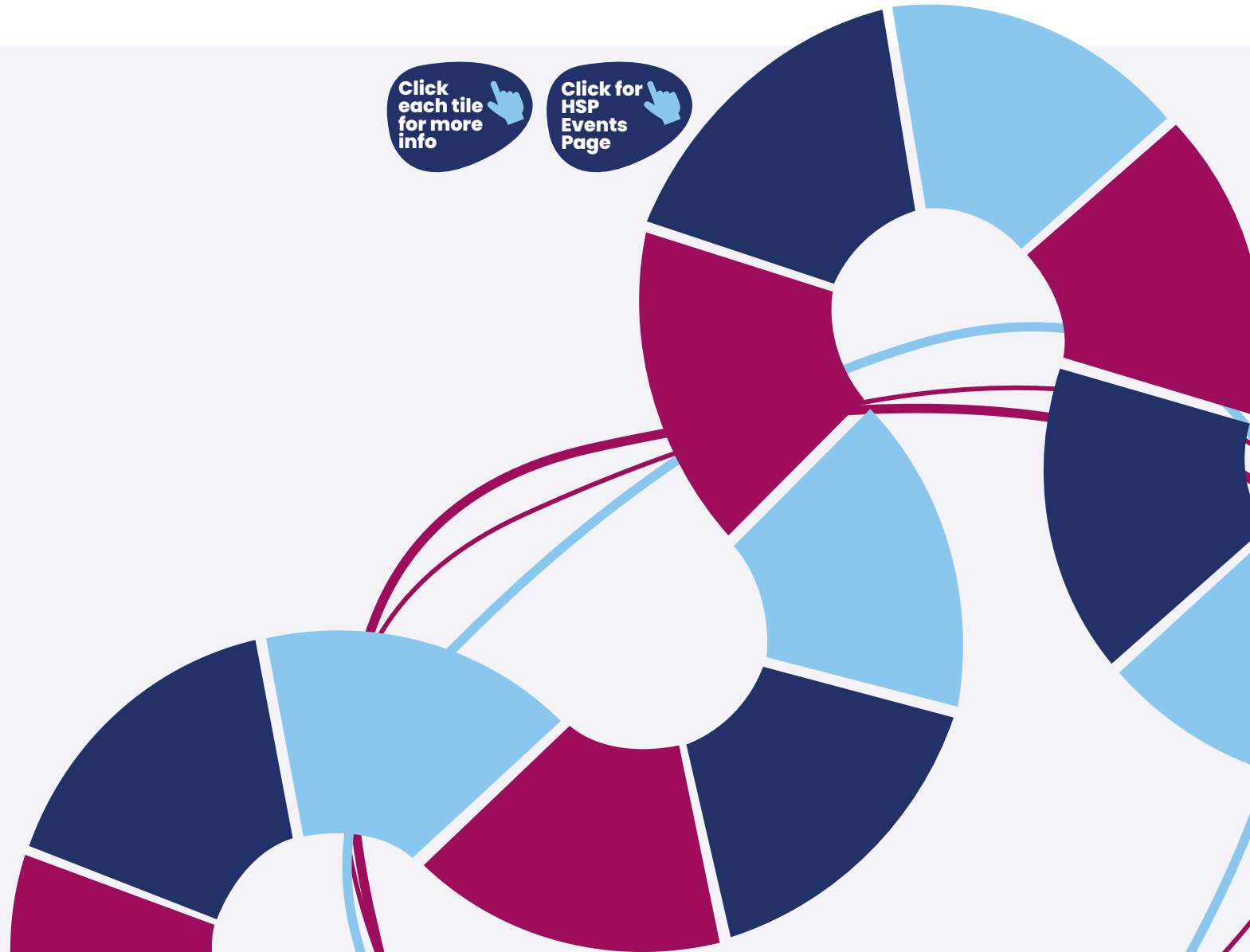


Inspirational Events

Each year HSP organises a number of inspirational events bringing partners and the public together around key themes to connect, learn and inspire.

Click
each tile
for more
info

Click for
HSP
Events
Page



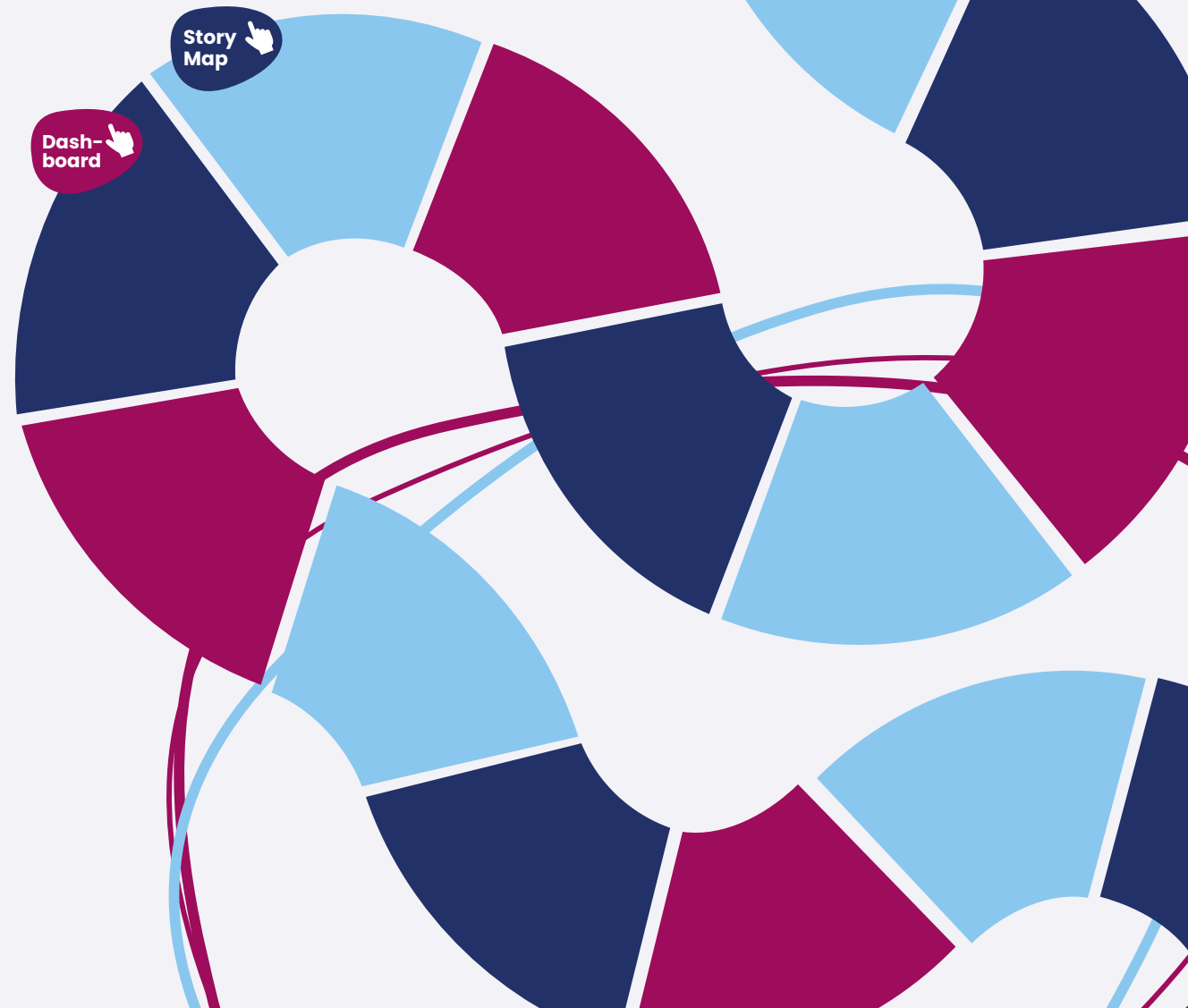
Funding Community Sport

Securing funding to start and sustain sport development initiatives is key to long-term transformational change. Therefore, HSP works hard to identify and secure funding to benefit community sport and physical activity in Hertfordshire.



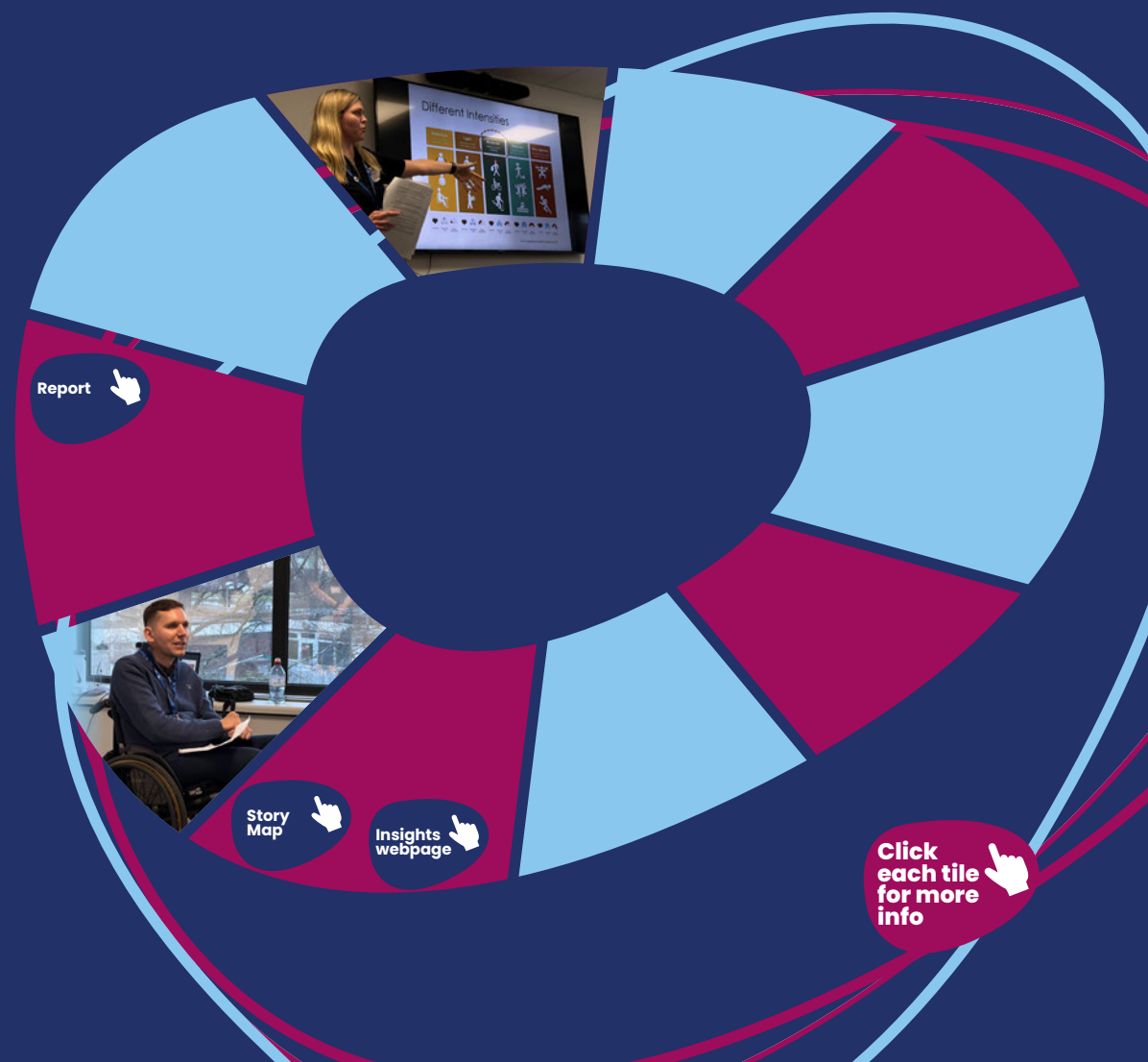
System Change

HSP always want to use its projects, insight and leadership position to influence long-term change that hardwires an inclusive active lifestyle into the policy, practice and funding streams of the key organisations and systems they are working with. Examples of System Change include:



Good Governance & Improvement

HSP takes its governance obligations seriously to ensure the right people, policy and processes are in place to deliver outstanding services.



Giving Back to the Herts Community

HSP's commitment to living its values is demonstrated through active engagement and support of the Hertfordshire community.

Click each tile for more info



Section Three

HSP Priorities 2026–27

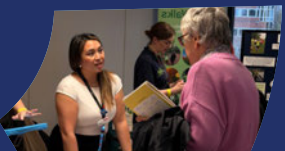
Following consultation with partners and a review of relevant insight, HSP has set out its priorities for 2026–27. HSP will remain agile and open to new opportunities, responding to the evolving operating landscape.



Planning Ahead

Click
each tile
for more
info

Strategic
Objectives





Herts
**Sport &
Physical
Activity**
Partnership

More People
More Active
More Often

**Thank you to all our partners for supporting
our work and sharing our aspiration.**

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