

Herts
**Sport &
Physical
Activity**
Partnership



Annual Impact Report

2024-25



Transforming lives through sport
and physical activity

In partnership with



University of
Hertfordshire **UH**



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About this Report

This report provides a snapshot of the impact that the Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) has made, in collaboration with partners, between April 2024 and March 2025.

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

Inspiring
Videos



Related
Impact
Projects



Foreword

Despite a difficult backdrop, mainly linked to funding uncertainties and a changing political landscape, we can look back on the past 12 months with great satisfaction and pride on what we, as an Active Partnership, achieved.



Time and again I was privileged to visit programmes that we have supported and, in some case, initiated, and see the difference that we are making at the local level.

Even after 40 years operating in this sector, I continue to be amazed by the power of sport and physical activity as such cost effective and impactful vehicles for real social change. Our work demonstrates clearly how involvement in sport and physical activity can help make our communities safer and better places to live and work, and how it can be used to improve health outcomes, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, boost community cohesion and social inclusion, raise educational attainment, and act as a platform for skills development leading to employment.

Sport and physical activity are truly life changers – and the opportunity given to us as an Active Partnership, to use this to positively impact on the lives of some of our most marginalised residents and those within our underserved communities, is a gift not given to many. As such, I am determined that we will never take that for granted and we will do our utmost to maximise the impact of our work.

John D O'Callaghan
Partnership Director
Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership



“Even after 40 years operating in this sector, I continue to be amazed by the power of sport and physical activity as such cost effective and impactful vehicles for real social change.”

About HSP



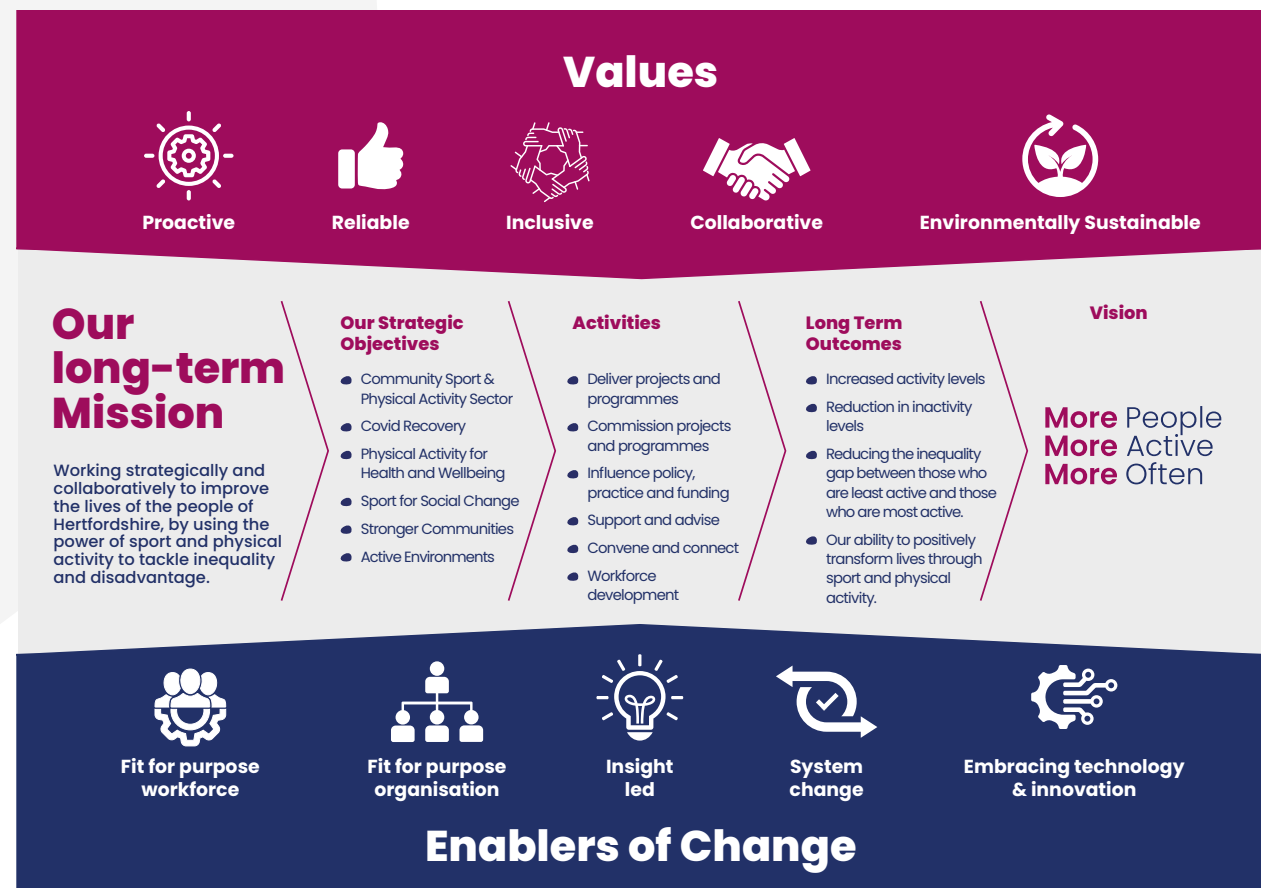
The Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) was established in 2003 and is one of 42 Active Partnerships across England, working closely with our core funder Sport England, as the strategic lead for sport and physical activity in Hertfordshire.

We 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 diagram.

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 which deliver against our objectives.

The Partnership also has a **voluntary board** that represents the various work areas we are involved in, providing strategic oversight and guidance.

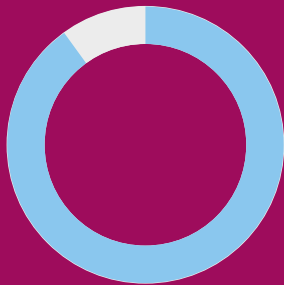
HSP Strategic Plan 2022–27 Summary



Impact Summary 2024-25

90%

net promoter
score feedback
from Partners



£433K

raised for 31 organisations for projects
benefiting the community

24000+

delegates on CPD training

20,000+

activities listed on the Moving More
Activity Finder

77,000

HAPpy Activity Camp Opportunities

£2.2M

secured by HSP to invest in
community sport and physical
activity in Hertfordshire

2150 registered with
Live Longer Better
in Hertfordshire

475

Goods for Good sports gift
bags distributed to those in
need

Compliant with Tier 3 of UK
Code for Sports Governance



Section One

Examples of Impact

The following section provides a snapshot of our inspiring projects and the impact we are having using the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives. Readers can find out more details by clicking on the links on each page and all our projects are highlighted on our [website](#).



Feature Project:



Strengthening Community Clubs

HSP has collaborated with Sported (a leading UK sport development charity), to support 20 community clubs by providing intensive tailored support from a Sported volunteer, to strengthen their sustainability and long-term impact.

The support package has been transformational with new sessions created, additional members sourced, and diverse income streams identified.

Sported Video



Related Impact Projects



- PE & School Sport
- Club Development
- Coach Development
- Active Lives CYP Survey
- junior parkrun
- Opening School Facilities Fund
- Sport Welfare
- The Daily Mile



“We’ve learned how to put systems in place to make us more appealing to funders. Before, we had vital information everywhere, but now it’s all in one place.”

- Ngorli CIC

20 organisations received **expert guidance** to boost sustainability



expressed interest in ongoing support

5 organisations built **new sector relationships**

4 organisations **secured additional funding**, with others confident they will

£500 support package to each club

Feature Project:



Active Connections

The **Active Connections programme** is funded by Hertfordshire County Council Public Health, seeking to improve the understanding and integration of physical activity within primary and secondary care in Hertfordshire.



- Moving More Activity Finder
- Mental Health & Physical Activity
- Active Connections
- Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire



“The best in-person conference I have ever been to, which has sprouted many worthwhile connections and burgeoning projects! Amazing work!”

13 GP Practices supported to **achieve Active Practice status**

9 protected **Time to Learn events delivered**

11 training sessions delivered to

352 healthcare professionals



rating the training as **good/excellent**

120 health care professionals **attended** Active Connections Conference

Launched Active Connections Hub to PCNs with

330 registrations to date

Feature Project:



Summer Parks Programme

The Herts Summer Parks programme is a much-needed initiative aimed at plugging the gap in provision for 12 to 16 year-olds across Hertfordshire over the summer holiday period.

The 2024 programme took place in five public parks throughout August, offering an exciting range of sports, wellbeing and arts activities, as well as providing young people with a voucher to redeem a nutritious meal from a local food provider.

Delivered in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, funding was sought through multiple sources including contributions from the Local Authorities.

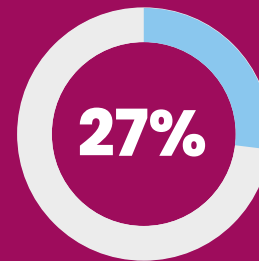


“It’s a really valuable scheme to provide opportunities for those that may not otherwise have any, thank you I am very grateful, my kids looked forward to it each week.”

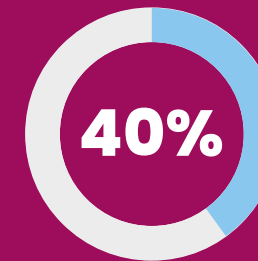
– Parent

1,218
attendances

18 varied activities offered from 10 high-quality delivery providers



of those attending were **eligible for free school meals**



of participants were from **an ethnically diverse background**

Highest attendance in a single day:
143 at Welwyn Garden City, King George V Playing Fields

Summer Parks video

Related Impact Projects

- Summer Parks Full Report
- HAPpy Holiday Camps
- HAF Training

Feature Project:



Multiply

Multiply is a national programme, (funded by the Department for Education via Step2Skills, and delivered by HSP, Apex360 and Stevenage FC Foundation), aiming to enhance adult numeracy skills and pathways into employment, using the power of sport and physical activity.

Targeting individuals with low confidence in maths to take their first steps, this innovative initiative engages participants in dynamic activities that seamlessly integrate maths skills into enjoyable games.

Multiply video

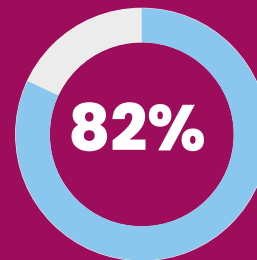
Related Impact Projects

- Active Communities
- Multiply
- Herts Mini Movers
- Crime Reduction through Sport

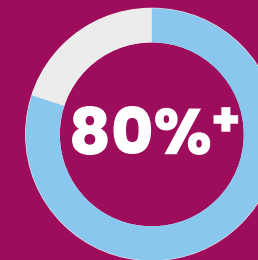


“Numeracy is not always a favourite subject for many, but by incorporating sport and physical activity, we have successfully blended numeracy into fun and engaging activities.”
- Delivery Organisation

200+ learners between ages 19-44



of learners **did not have a Level 2 in maths**



attendance rates across courses

28 Supported refugees and asylum seekers to develop numeracy skills

Feature Project:



Back2Bowls

Active Local aims to tackle physical inactivity, social disadvantage and health inequalities within targeted communities across Hertfordshire.

Back2Bowls is a community initiative run at Aberford Community Centre in Borehamwood and is a great example of our Active Local work. The project addresses social isolation, inactivity, and health inequalities in Cowley Hill – one of Hertfordshire’s most deprived wards. Funded by Sport England, HSP, and Clarion Futures, the project provides inclusive, non- competitive bowls sessions for older adults and those with health conditions, using adaptive equipment to ensure accessibility.

Back2
Bowls
Video



Related
Impact
Projects



- Women and Girls Festival in Bennetts End
- Cedars Park Community Games Box
- Waltham Cross Playing Fields - Grand Reopening
- Waltham Cross Pedal Party
- Bedwell Opening Schools Facilities
- Cowley Hill Back2Bowls
- Cowley Hill Badminton
- Live Longer Better in North Herts Celebration Day



“To have activities like this in the community, it’s essential. It’s so easy for people as one gets older to not be active. It’s so important to be out and involved. It keeps one’s brain active, it keeps you alert and it’s stimulating.”

- Back2Bowls Participant

100 registered participants

Over **51**
sessions in
2024

The initiative has become a **vital social and physical activity hub**

Enhanced by **seasonal events** and strong local partnerships



Section Two

Enablers of Change

This section provides a snapshot of our 'Enablers of Change' – the common threads running through all our work that are vital to driving transformational change. Readers can find out more details by clicking on the links on each page.



Funding Community Sport

Key to long-term transformational change is securing funding to be able to start and sustain sports development initiatives. Therefore, HSP works hard to identify and secure funding streams to benefit community sport and physical activity in Hertfordshire.

Click for
the HSP
funding
webpage

Click for
more info



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 for
more info 



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.



System Change

At HSP, we want to use our projects, insight and our 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 we are working with.



Click for more info 

Giving Back to the Herts Community

At HSP, our commitment to living our values is demonstrated through our active engagement and support of the Hertfordshire community.

Click for more info



Good Governance & Improvement

We take our governance obligations seriously to ensure we have the right people, policy and processes in place to deliver outstanding services for our partners and communities.



updated
Insights

Story
Map





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.**

www.sportinherts.org.uk

 [sportinherts](#)  [sportinherts](#)  [sportinherts](#)

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report, please get in touch by emailing hspinfo@herts.ac.uk
Stay in touch by subscribing to our **e-newsletters**, visiting our website and joining our social media channels.

Full Foreword – HSP Annual Impact Report 2024–25

This report covers the 12 months period from April 2024 – and what a year it has been! A change of Government, announcements on changes to leadership at both Sport England and our host, the University of Hertfordshire, and proposals for devolution and local government reorganisation which could see the biggest shake-up of local democracy in Hertfordshire for a generation.

With the change has come uncertainty. Short, fixed-term funding settlements are a feature of the sport and physical activity sector, but the inevitable delays as a result of the General Election in terms of confirmation of central and local government funding, meant that the period was hugely challenging for staff across the sector.

That uncertainty and the associated anxiety was palpable – and I must put on record my sincere thanks to the Partnership’s staff team, who continued to deliver their outstanding work, putting the needs of some of our most disadvantaged residents before personal concern.

My thanks also go to the HSP Board, who continued to challenge, guide, and support us through some quite choppy waters.

Despite a difficult backdrop, we can look back on the past 12 months with great satisfaction and pride on what we, as an Active Partnership, achieved. Time and again I was privileged to visit programmes that we have supported and, in some case, initiated, and to see the difference that we are making at the local level.



Our burgeoning Sport for Good programme, including the partnership with the Emmaus homeless charity in St Albans, and the work being undertaken with the county's refugees and asylum seekers, and those with long term health conditions and facing greatest isolation, has been heart-warming.

Even after 40 years operating in this sector, I continue to be amazed by the power of sport and physical activity as such cost effective and impactful vehicles for real social change. Our work demonstrates clearly how involvement in sport and physical activity can help make our communities safer and better places to live and work, and how it can be used to improve health outcomes, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, boost community cohesion and social inclusion, raise educational attainment, and act as a platform for skills development leading to employment.

Sport and physical activity are truly life changers - and the opportunity given to us as an Active Partnership, to use this to positively impact on the lives of some of our most marginalised residents and those within our underserved communities, is a gift not given to many. As such, I am determined that we will never take that for granted and we will do our utmost to maximise the impact of our work.

The past 12 months has also been notable for how we have strengthened our relationships

with some of the key system partners, including two leading national charities in Sported and StreetGames UK, as well as reinforcing our longstanding relationships with the full range of National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

We are particularly proud of the work that we have undertaken around the crime reduction through sport, and health inequalities agendas, as other groundbreaking initiatives that we have supported. These include those targeting our children and young people such as the Borehamwood Friday Night Project, the Herts Summer Parks Programme, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and our support of schools - as well as our foray into early years development, in recognition of the importance of physical activity to the under 5s, in ensuring that they have the very best start in life.

When we reflect on some of those successes, I am the first to acknowledge how none of them would have been possible without the support of our many stakeholders and partners. We are very fortunate to have such a vibrant community sport and physical activity sector in Hertfordshire, much of which is driven by a selfless army of volunteers. Without them



community sport as we know it, would simply not exist.

In Hertfordshire County Council and our 10 District and Borough Councils we also enjoy the support of key local organisations which share our mission – to get more people, more active, more often – and the importance of reaching those who are most inactive and who face the greatest disadvantage.

2024-25 will also be remembered as the year that the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Annie Brewster JP – a member of the HSP Board – adopted Sport for Good as the theme for her year in office. As a result of her outstanding efforts, arguably the profile of community sport in the county has never been higher, and she must be commended for travelling the length and breadth of Hertfordshire, visiting and showcasing hundreds of projects and programmes which use sport and physical activity to improve the lives of our residents.

Going forward, we look to build on recent successes and planning for the 2026 Year of Disability Sport and Physical Activity, is already underway. We will continue to leave no stone unturned to ensure that geography does not determine destiny, and we will target our efforts at those most in need, addressing inequality and inactivity as the cornerstone of our approach.

No doubt, the period will continue to be financially challenging, and the backdrop of uncertainty will continue, but given the quality of our staff team, the calibre and unstinting support of the HSP Board, partners and stakeholders, I am sure that collectively we will continue to make a real difference to our communities.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, I look forward to your continued support, as we set about the delivery of the second half of our refreshed Strategic Plan – All Together Now: Uniting the Movement in Hertfordshire.

John D O'Callaghan

Partnership Director

Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership



“Going forward, we look to build on recent successes and planning for the 2026 Year of Disability Sport and Physical Activity, is already underway.”

