

APPENDIX 4 - REGIONAL

Regional Strategic Context

Regional Sports Boards - Yorkshire

According to the Framework for Sport in England the Regional Sports Boards are to focus on delivery with a remit to prepare Regional Plans for Sport, develop partnerships and secure and target investment to make the greatest impact in local communities.

Sport England Yorkshire published their regional sports plan in April 2004. The 'Yorkshire Plan for Sport 2004-2008' highlights the belief that sport has a unique role to play in Yorkshire by:

- Improving health
- Driving up standards in schools
- Helping to reduce crime
- Creating lifelong friendships and
- Bringing communities together

The plan sets out Regional Outcomes targeting seven areas and to be achieved by 2008. The outcomes are:

- **Increase Participation:** 1600,000 New people taking part in sport and active recreation three times a week.
- **Improve Levels of Performance:** 10% of Yorkshire athletes in the England and Great Britain Teams.
- **Widen Access:** Reduce the gap between different groups within the population by 25%.
- **Improve Health and Wellbeing:** 32% of adults achieve the department of Health physical activity guidelines.
- **Improve Community Safety:** 5% increase in voluntary - and community – sector sport activity.
- **Raise Standards in Education:** 75% of schoolchildren receiving two hours of high-quality physical education and school sport within and beyond the curriculum each week.
- **Benefit the Economy:** Maintain sport's contribution to the regional economy at 1.6%.

The main issues to be addressed through the plan include Human Resources, Facilities and Structures. The Regional Priorities 2004-2008 mirror the six priority areas set out in the Framework for Sport in England document.

The plan highlights the fact that in order to modernise Yorkshire Sport, organisational reform is needed. The region currently has:

- Too many strategies for sport
- Complicated structures in the way that sport is organised
- Professionals and volunteers who do not have the right skills
- Many management systems which could be improved

The plan states that 'there is a need to simplify the structures of sport...so that people taking part in sport see the real benefit and purpose to the organisations involved.' At a district and local level the challenge is to:

- Avoid delivery agencies having the same responsibilities
- Make sure that they are fit for their purpose
- Focused on customer needs

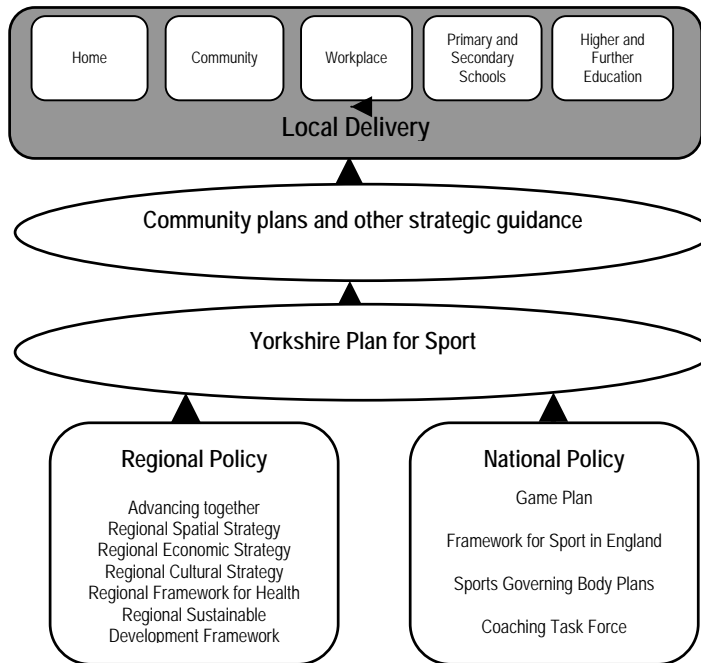
It is suggested that the role of the local authorities is to focus their efforts on:

- Developing a strategic approach to sport and active recreation at a district and local level
- Using others to provide facilities and opportunities to take part in sport

Sport England Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Sports Board (a subcommittee of Sport England) make a commitment to secure funding rather than be the main funder and to focus on those sports that offer the best return on investment.

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly together with key stakeholders produced a vision and strategic framework for Yorkshire called 'Advancing Together'. The framework seeks to join up the region's strategies and The Yorkshire Plan for Sport will play an important part in its delivery and working towards achieving the vision of Yorkshire as a *'world-class sustainable region'*.

Figure A3.9 – 'Advancing Together' – Yorkshire and Humber Assembly



(Source: the Yorkshire Plan for Sport 2004-2008, p16)

Sport in Yorkshire – Investment Strategy

This Investment Strategy for Sport in Yorkshire recognises that without the help of strategic partners, long lasting change will not be achieved. Therefore, the Strategy fully reflects the role of partners in the process and the fact that together, we will transform sport and active recreation in Yorkshire.

The Strategy also identifies the investment required to take advantage of the opportunities around which public agencies, businesses, voluntary groups, clubs and communities can focus their investment and effort in achieving the regional outcomes by 2009. It builds on the national Sport England Delivery Plan and the regional targets to assist in creating the delivery system for community sport.

The Investment Strategy for Sport in Yorkshire is a strategic document that outlines the framework for investment in sport and active recreation within the Yorkshire region. It is designed to guide investment decisions by Sport England Yorkshire, with priorities for the allocation of funds to achieve the participation targets set out in the Yorkshire Plan for Sport. This increase in participation is Yorkshire's contribution to the national targets set by the Government.

Open Process £2.4 million

To ensure that that anyone can apply for funding, Sport England Yorkshire has earmarked £2.4m for projects that are received directly from applicants. However, these projects must be supported by a County Sports Partnership or Community Sports Network. Any project received through the 'open' process will be considered and assessed in exactly the same way as the 'strategic' process and vice versa. All projects must be able to demonstrate a local need, provide a clear idea of the impact in terms of participation in sport and active recreation, a clear view of how it will be delivered and demonstrate obvious, strong, partnerships and collaboration.

Strategic Process £15.6million

As funding decisions are best made based on local needs, a large proportion of the money available to Sport England Yorkshire will be distributed to projects that have a strategic impact and as in the case of the open process have been identified and supported by organisations operating at County level (County Sports Partnerships) and local level (Community Sports Networks). Any 'strategic' projects will be considered and assessed in exactly the same way as 'open' projects and vice versa.

The planned Lottery and Exchequer investment (2006-09) into Yorkshire equates to over twenty one million pounds. Some of this investment is 'pre-allocated' with specific conditions directing the Sport England Yorkshire Board on where and how this money should be invested, for example the core funding for County Sports Partnerships. However, there is still a substantial amount of the funding which is 'unallocated'. The Sport England Yorkshire Board can use this to deliver the identified regional priorities. The Sport England investment has to be matched on at least a 2:1 basis and if this is to be achieved it will provide the region with some £65m of investment into sport within the region over a 3 year period.

The Sport England investment will be presented to the public as two clear and distinct processes. Both funds must support the 'Delivery System', as well as meeting the Community Investment Fund (CIF) criteria and address the other regional priorities. However, the 'Open Fund' is available for any eligible organisation to apply for and ensures that an open application process is available to everyone as required by DCMS. The 'Strategic Fund' is allocated for projects that relate to existing specific funding streams, such as 'Step into Sport', and for projects that are strategically significant at a regional, CSP or CSN level. To effectively manage the Open and Strategic processes there will be an underpinning comprehensive budgetary approach, allocating the Sport England funding against the regional priorities as outlined in the Yorkshire Plan for Sport, Regional Action Plan and CIF criteria. This approach ensures simplicity for applicants at the application stage, yet allows the Sport England Yorkshire Board to prioritise, review and manage the available funding on an ongoing basis against the regional priorities.

Regional 6 point plan for Sport in Yorkshire (2006)

2006 is the year when sport in Yorkshire laid the foundation for a sustained increase in participation, by getting in place the building blocks for the Single System for Sport. With the help of strategic partners, we'll be implementing the six point Action Plan and increasing participation in sport across the region by 1%. Please take a few minutes to read through the plan and use it in your own organisation. Together, we can transform sport in Yorkshire.

Building The Delivery System

Priority: Create 4 operational county sports partnerships by April 2006. Promote greater understanding of Community Sports Networks.

Action: By December 2006 all 21 local districts will have plans and structures in place to deliver Community Sports Networks and at least 7 will be fully operational.

Building Capacity

Priority: More people to deliver and develop sport, whether paid or unpaid.

Action: A costed and funded Workforce Development Plan for the sport sector with specific actions on coach and volunteer education and development.

Marketing Sport

Priority: To make Everyday Sport the umbrella physical activity marketing brand, increase the profile of local events and build on the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Action: Increase the number of organisations using Everyday Sport.

Building Infrastructure

Priority: Coordination between the public, private, voluntary and education sectors to make the most effective use of resources.

Action: By December 2006 there will be at least one Multi Sport Environment in every Community Sport Network or district, and a minimum of 21 across the region.

Improving Performance

Priority: Use the inclusion of culture in the local authority Comprehensive Performance Assessment to raise the performance of the sport sector.

Action: Improve the local authority sport service so that at least 30% of authorities are rated as 3 or better by December 2006.

Strategic Planning

Priority: Offer clear and positive guidance on sport through the Regional Spatial Strategy. The use of Active Places and other strategic planning tools to shape local policy and priorities and guide investment in sport. Secure additional investment into sport.

Action: By December 2006 at least four Supplementary Planning Documents for Sport should be under development.

West Yorkshire Sports Partnership (WYCSP) Strategy 2006 – 2009

Background

West Yorkshire Sport was established in 2001 as a formal Partnership of the five local authorities in West Yorkshire (City of Bradford MC, Calderdale MBC, Kirklees MC, Leeds CC, Wakefield MDC). Prior to this there had been a history of ad hoc joint projects and cross boundary working that had taken place in the County in areas such as Passport to Leisure, sports counselling, Youth Games and coaching development.

The impetus for making the Partnership more formal came from the desire to deliver Sport England's Active Sports Programme in the County. Whilst the need to deliver the programme was paramount, the Executive team (the Chief Sports Officers in each Local Authority) was keen to ensure that the benefits of Partnership working would be applied to other areas of work related to developing sport in the County.

This strategy is not a strategy for sport in West Yorkshire, although it will assist in the delivery of strategic plans at Yorkshire and District level. Rather, it is to give direction **for the West Yorkshire Sport Partnership** by clarifying its aims, areas of work and structures over the next three years.

The Current Structure and Operation of WYSP

WYSP is the infrastructure of sports provision within West Yorkshire that is committed to creating a single system for sport. It is continually evolving and includes the five local authorities, governing bodies of sport, county associations, clubs, schools sports partnerships, higher and further education, professional sports clubs, charitable organisations, Sport England, Youth Sports Trust, Equity organisations, indeed any individual or organisation committed to improving the quality of sport within West Yorkshire.

Operating at a sub-regional level, the WYSP is influenced by a wide range of strategies and plans at National, Regional and District level. The major direct influencers are: the National framework for Sport in England, the Yorkshire Plan for Sport, National Governing Body of Sport Plans, Sub Regional Investment and Regeneration Plans and the District Sports Strategies.

Revising the Purpose, Vision and Aims of West Yorkshire Sports Partnership

The **Core Purpose** of WYSP is to meet the needs of all potential partners. In this regard, it is a broad statement:

“To enhance individual’s lives through increased quality participation, opportunities and improvements in sport”

In order to achieve this, the **Vision** for the WYSP is to create

“A network of quality partnerships with key agencies committed to providing a single system for all people to benefit from sport and active recreation in West Yorkshire.”

The Government and the Regional Sports Board are clear that their overriding priority is to increase participation by adults (over 16) in sport and active recreation three times a week for 30 minutes by 1% per year. The aims and actions outlined in this strategy will all be directed to achieve this outcome.

The Yorkshire Participation survey (2005) showed that the participation rate in West Yorkshire is 36%.

The other Government Public Service Agreement relating to sport is the target of “75% of young people accessing 2 hours of high quality PE and Sport within and beyond the curriculum”.

Whilst the responsibility for reaching this target rests with the School Sports Partnership it will not be reached without local partners working together within the WYSP system.

For the work over the next three years, there are five major **Aims**:

- **To create accessible pathways into and through sport and active recreation for all people within West Yorkshire**

This is the priority aim for the partnership over the next three years. It will entail the mapping out of specific sport structures and putting in place the necessary steps for “playground to podium” route for individuals.

In addition there is the need to provide opportunities to participate in sport and active recreation simply for the fun of it.

To succeed with this aim we will need people with the right knowledge in the right place (workforce development) and high quality facilities that are accessible.

- **To develop and influence an integrated sports structure that will provide a mechanism for a single system for sport in West Yorkshire**

It is crucial that an effective and efficient structure for sport is in place within West Yorkshire. In particular ensuring the organisations and individuals within Local Authorities, Education sector (including schools, colleges and universities) and Sports Governing Bodies are working within a co-ordinated way and that Regional, Sub regional and Local systems are streamlined.

The structures will continually evolve but the key will be to ensure that the multi agency WYSP provides an overview of the work.

Local delivery will depend upon effective local partnerships. One of the actions over the next three years will be for each District to have a "Community Sports Network" which will have a key strategic and delivery role for sport and active recreation. At a more local level, partnership working will be promoted between local clubs, schools, sports development officers, leisure facilities and others to ensure that the individual's experience of sport is a smooth and easy one.

- **To raise the profile and highlight the contribution of sport amongst the widest possible associated networks at a sub-regional level**

The WYSP offers the only mechanism that can represent sport at a sub-regional level. It will be used therefore as advocate of sport, with for example:

- The sub-regional economic investment process
- West Yorkshire Culture
- West Yorkshire Police
- West Yorkshire Connexions
- West Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council

- **To carry out joint working practices that will benefit and add value to sport in West Yorkshire**

The West Yorkshire Sports Partnership does offer the opportunity to carry out joint working on a wide range of issues. Much of this is difficult to specify in a strategy document but never the less is an important area of work that the WYSP adds value to.

For example over the past two years discussion and work has taken place around:

- Facility planning
 - Playing pitch strategies
 - New Opportunities Funding
 - PFI / Building Schools for the Future
 - Performance Measurement Systems
- **To systematically measure performance of sport and active recreation in West Yorkshire**