



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Local Sports Partnerships - Annual Report 2020

29 Local Sports Partnerships

340,674 people participated in 1,132 locally delivered participation initiatives (51% were female, 47% were male, 2% other)

109,302 girls and 64,975 women took part in LSP programmes

18,161 females took part in 130-targeted Women in Sport programmes

3,646 Clubs/Groups were provided with funding supports by LSPs

7,091 Participants took part in initiatives targeting Older Adults

64,524 participants took part in interventions supported by the LSP network including Daily Mile, parkrun, Playground Markings, Active Homework initiatives, and provision of physical activity resources

16,243 People with a Disability took part in LSP initiatives with an additional 2,037 people trained across Cara's Disability Awareness, Autism in Sport & Disability Inclusion Training and Education programmes

Who We Target

Disadvantaged Areas

Older Adults

Young People

People With Disabilities

Women & Girls

Ethnic Minorities

Unemployed

5,102 Sports Leaders and Volunteers completed 397 Safeguarding Courses

€8.2M Funding directly from Sport Ireland, accounted for 32% total LSP funding

€4.2M Additional Sport Ireland funding also allocated for specific projects under the Dormant Accounts Scheme (11%)

€1.8M in Covid-19 Support Funding to the LSP network (8%)

€23.8M was invested in the LSP network (this includes benefit-in-kind funding)

2,894,209 Visits to LSP Websites in 2020

183,681 Social media followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Over 700,000 people took part in 535 events registered across the country for the European Week of Sport through the Sport Ireland website

Flagship events during European Week of Sport 2020 included the Great Dublin Charity Bike Ride, European School Sports Day, National Fitness Day, Virtual Family Mile, #BeActive Paddle Day, and National Walking Day

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Note: LSPs adhered to Government Covid-19 Guidelines when delivering programmes and initiatives throughout 2020.

Message from the Minister of State for Gaeltacht and Sport

I am delighted to introduce the 2020 Sport Ireland Local Sports Partnerships Annual Report. This report highlights the work of Sport Ireland's network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) and the impact they have on participation levels by engaging key target populations across Ireland.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Sport Ireland and the LSPs continued to provide national and local initiatives to ensure that everyone in our society has the opportunity to share in the enjoyment as well as the mental and physical health benefits of sport and physical activity. By collaborating closely with organisations within and outside the sporting sector, the LSP network developed new and innovative initiatives to target cohorts of the population who were most likely to be less active during the pandemic.

This report reflects the great range and variety of programmes and initiatives the LSP network delivers to our communities throughout Ireland. The Local Sports Partnerships demonstrate that sport and physical activity opportunities are available, accessible and fully inclusive at a local level. In 2021 and beyond there will be an opportunity to increase the access to sport and physical activity opportunities for all cohorts of the population by continuing to develop and deliver online and in person initiatives.

Local Sports Partnerships continue to provide essential assistance to clubs, community groups, schools, coaches and volunteers to support them through the challenges they face as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of Sport in conjunction with partner organisations have engaged volunteers, coaches and participants through inspiring and thought-provoking research, and training and education opportunities.

Our volunteers, coaches, parents and everyone who creates and supports sport and physical activity will be vital in our safe return to in person delivery of sport and physical activity. Sport Ireland and the Local Sports Partnerships will work in collaboration with partners within and outside the sport sector to ensure the public feel safe and continue to experience our vision for sport and physical activity in Ireland, "people will be inspired, their lives enriched, their enjoyment enhanced, and their quality of life improved as a result of their own active or social participation in sport".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who contribute to the success of sport and physical activity across Ireland, ensuring sport and physical activity continues to have a positive impact on so many aspects of Irish life including health and wellbeing, social and community development, economic activity, educational performance and life-long learning. I would also like to acknowledge Sport Ireland and the Local Sports Partnership staff and board members for their ongoing commitment to ensuring equal access to sport and physical activity for all.

Minister Jack Chambers TD

Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht

Foreword from Sport Ireland

The National Sports Policy 2018 - 2027 highlights the benefits of sport and physical activity for participants, "Participation in sport helps to improve physical and mental health, protect against a range of non-communicable diseases and contribute to a better quality of life". Sport Ireland's network of Local Sports Partnerships have continued to help people get active and reap the benefits of being active by removing barriers to participation in sport and physical activity despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020 Sport Ireland Local Sports Partnerships Annual Report highlights the innovative, inclusive and progressive programmes and initiatives Sport Ireland and the Local Sports Partnerships have delivered to ensure that everyone in our society has the opportunity to be physically active.

Sport Ireland, through support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, along with the support of Dormant Accounts and Healthy Ireland funding, has again increased the provision of sport and physical activity services to harder to reach communities. In 2020, Sport Ireland allocated over €870,000 in Programme Funding to the LSP Network, an increase of 53% from the 2019 investment. Programme funding is at the core of the LSPs engagement with participants and allows for the delivery of a range of community, club and school based initiatives, programmes and events.

The evaluation of programmes funded by Sport Ireland and delivered through the network of Local Sports Partnerships, means Sport Ireland can share key learnings with the sector as well as develop training and supports to activate these learnings. It supports Sport Ireland and its partners in identifying specific areas for improvement and to increase sport and physical activity participation across the country.

The Government's Covid-19 Resilience Fund for the sport sector further supported the invaluable work of the LSPs during the pandemic. The LSP Small Grant Scheme of €1.9M supported 1,600 clubs, through this scheme LSPs supported local clubs and community groups with the costs associated with implementing Covid-19 hygiene and social distancing protocols.

Sport Ireland and the network of LSPs will continue to support people to stay active during the pandemic by optimising the targeted use of social media, live video feeds and Zoom calls as well as the more traditional print and radio media channels and leaflet and booklet drops to ensure that everyone has access to sport and physical activity programmes and initiatives. Although participation numbers have reduced in 2020, we believe that the LSP network is well prepared and primed to promote a safe return to sport, in line with Government regulations. We anticipate that when Government social distancing restrictions are lifted LSPs will quickly return to, and even exceed, the high levels of engagement seen in 2019.

On a final note, on behalf of Sport Ireland, we would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all the staff and volunteers who contribute to the successful delivery and accessibility of sport and physical activity opportunities at a local community level. These individuals have played a vital role in connecting people and communities during unprecedented times.

Kieran Mulvey
Chairperson
Sport Ireland

John Treacy
Chief Executive
Sport Ireland

Section 1
Background, Funding and Resources

1.1 Background to the LSP Network

On the 25th July 2018 the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport launched the 2018-2027 National Sports Policy. The 2020 programme for Government has clearly set out new and ambitious objectives for sport to deliver on, most notably in the sports participation goals, which increased from 50% of adults regularly playing sport, as set out in the 2018 National Sports Policy to 60% of adults regularly playing sport by 2027. To achieve this the policy highlights the need to tackle participation gradients by targeting groups in our society that participate significantly less than the overall average. These include people with disabilities, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, women and girls and ethnic minority groups, such as the Traveller community.

The National Sports Policy recognises the key roles played by the Local Sports Partnerships in sports participation and how they can assist in the delivery of the participation actions set out in this Policy.

“The LSP network plays a vital role and has been tasked, in particular, with increasing participation levels in sport and physical activity, especially among those sectors of society that are currently underrepresented in sport. Their capacity to remove barriers and ensure that opportunities for participation in sport are progressive, innovative and fully inclusive at a local level is a unique and valuable strength.” – National Sports Policy 2018-2027

The National Sports Policy has a total of 57 actions, 26 of which relate to sports participation. Fundamental to delivering on the Participation Actions of the National Sports Policy is increasing the capacity of the sports sector to deliver, especially the Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) and the smaller National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). Thanks to an increase in government investment in 2020, Sport Ireland was in a position to increase LSP programme investment to €1.13M to develop, expand and rollout evidence informed projects targeting communities of disadvantage.

Additionally, thanks to the Government Covid-19 funding package to support the sports sector, Sport Ireland invested an additional €4.2M in the LSP network to roll out programmes and grant schemes in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding was used to reduce the risk factors associated with sport and physical activity during the pandemic, and to provide opportunities for being physically active during Covid-19.

This report is the fourteenth annual report of the LSP initiative. It reflects the work of the full national network of 29 LSPs for 2020. Information provided through the Sport Ireland reporting system is collated into a national database tracking the depth and breadth of LSP initiatives. LSP activities from this database are highlighted as examples of good practice and are presented as case studies later in Section 3 of this report.

1.2 Sport Ireland LSP Funding

Core Investment

Sport Ireland supports 29 Local Sports Partnerships to co-ordinate and promote the development of sport at local level and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity. Core investment to the Local Sports Partnerships has been increasing year on year, from €4.9M in 2014 to €8.2M in 2020.

Figure A- Breakdown of LSP Core Investment 2014-2019



The core investment supports the core work of the LSP network; including the delivery of National Programmes, Education & Training initiatives, Strategic Development, Community Sports Development Officers (CSDO), the Sports Inclusion Disability programme, Women in Sport programmes and general participation programmes.

In 2020, €916,000 was allocated to support and maintain the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme across the LSP network with Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDO) delivering in 29 LSP areas. The aim of the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme is to encourage and facilitate more people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity and develop sustainable clubs and programmes in all settings. The SIDOs work in a coordinating capacity with all relevant stakeholders to increase and sustain participation opportunities for people with disabilities.

A further €867,726 was allocated to support Community Sports Development Officer positions in 29 LSPs. These Community Sports Development Officers are tasked with activating local communities through a variety of means including the co-ordination of targeted programmes and training initiatives for clubs and communities.

Dormant Account Investment

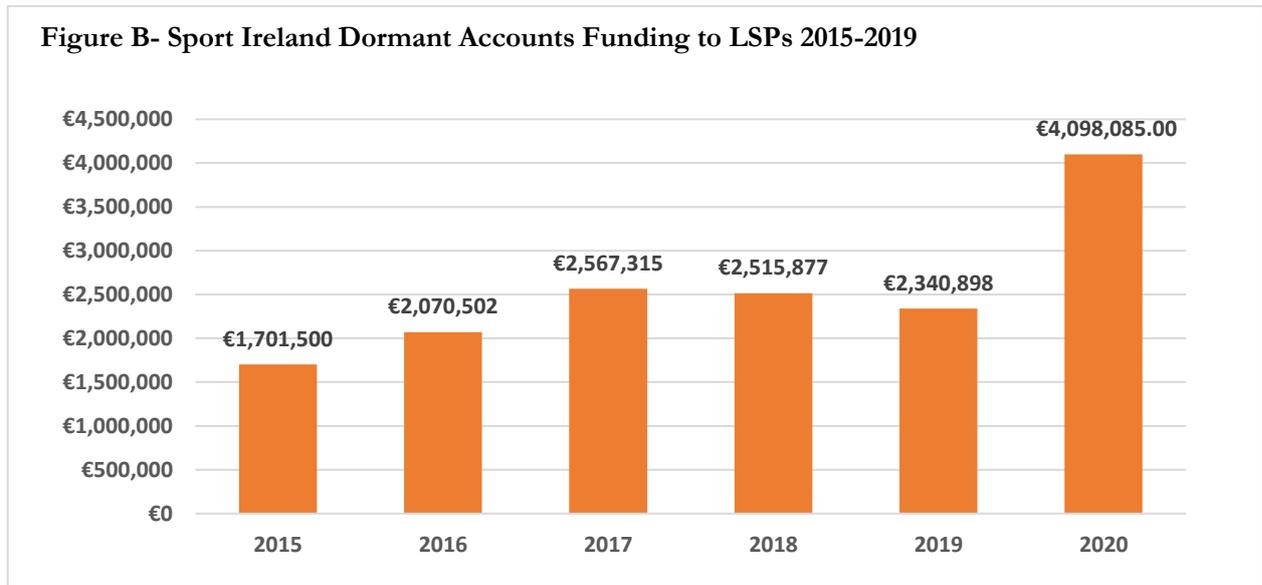
Sport Ireland has worked with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on developing a series of measures under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan since 2015. Under Dormant Accounts, Sport Ireland delivers on a range of sport and physical activity programmes under the following measures which align with the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP).

Measure 1	Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs
Measure 2	National Sport Education and Training Hub
Measure 3	Sports measures for Disadvantaged Communities to support NPAP
Measure 4	Provision of Sports Equipment in Disadvantaged Areas

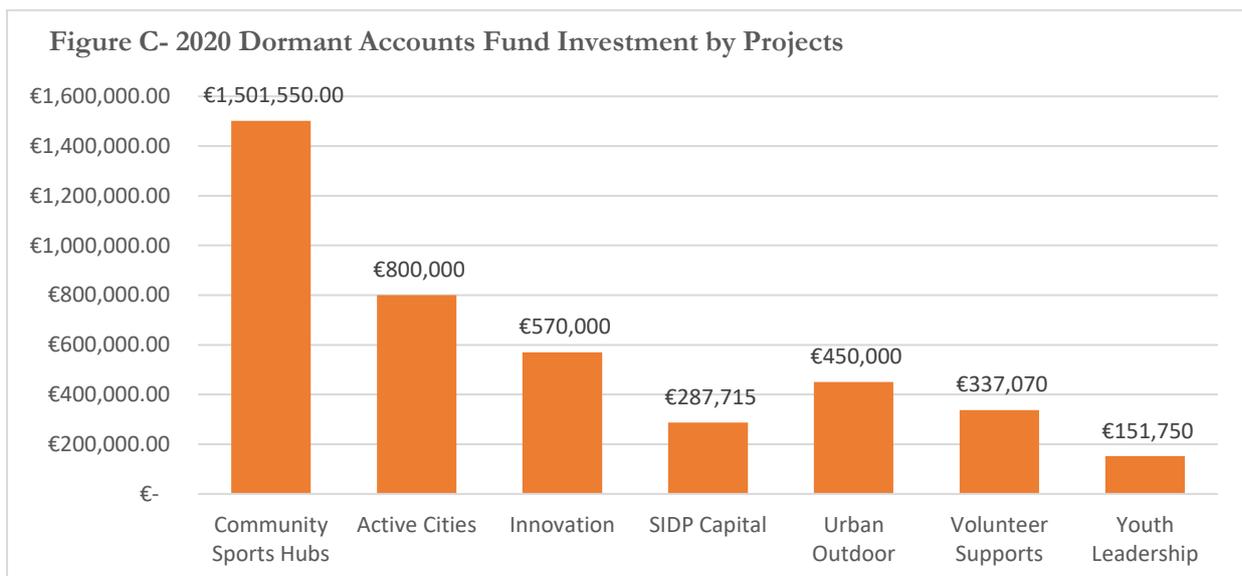
All projects funded by Sport Ireland through Dormant Accounts target:

1. The personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
2. The educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged;
3. Persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000).

Dormant Account investment in Local Sports Partnerships has been increasing year on year from €1.7M in 2015 to €4.1M in 2020 to deliver on a range of innovative projects at a local level.



The below Local Sports Partnership projects secured Dormant Accounts Funding in 2020.



1.3 Covid-19 Restart and Renewal Fund

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Sport Ireland invested €4.1 Million in the Local Sports Partnership network through a Covid-19 Restart and Renewal Fund. €1.9 million was allocated to the LSP network to administer a Covid-19 Club Small Grant Scheme which was designed to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection in club and community sports settings. The fund was developed to support clubs, which may not have the finances to implement Covid-19 related hygiene and social distancing protocols. 1,637 clubs were allocated funding through this scheme. A further €449,905 was allocated to run Covid-19 Restart and Renewal Programmes to promote and develop new programmes that can advance sport and physical activity in the Covid-19 public health era. €725,000 was invested as part of a Community Support Scheme which will be used to activate targeted programmes to

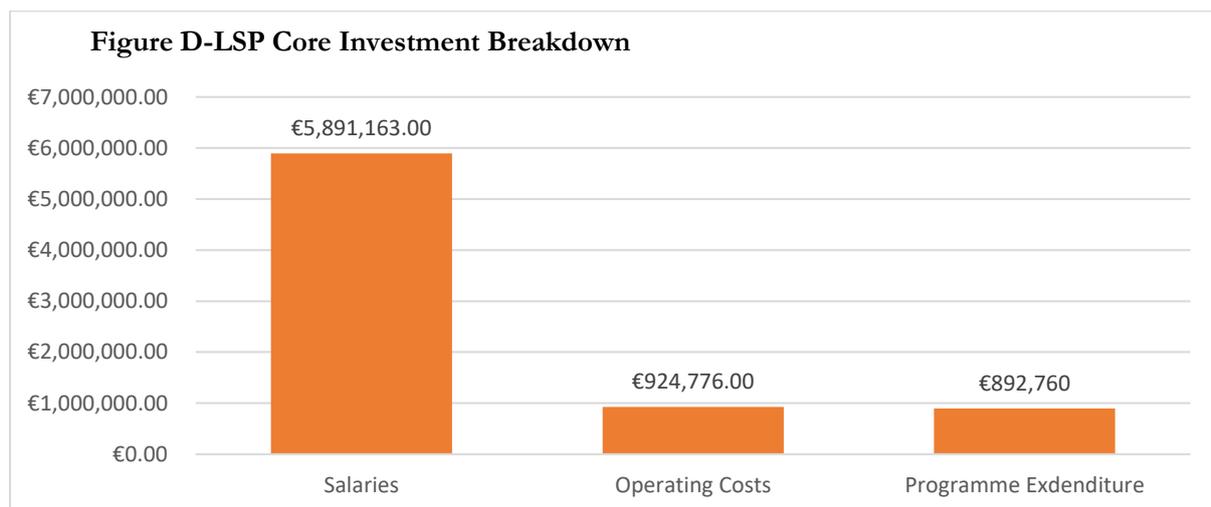
support local communities remaining active during Covid-19. Supporting clubs in maintaining, recruiting and activating their membership and volunteer bases during Covid-19 will be critical for local participation to remain viable.

1.4 Other LSP Funding Sources

As well as delivering Sport Ireland initiatives and sports participation opportunities, the core funding of Local Sports Partnerships by Sport Ireland underpins the nationwide rollout of sports participation programmes and the activation of national and local investments from partner agencies.

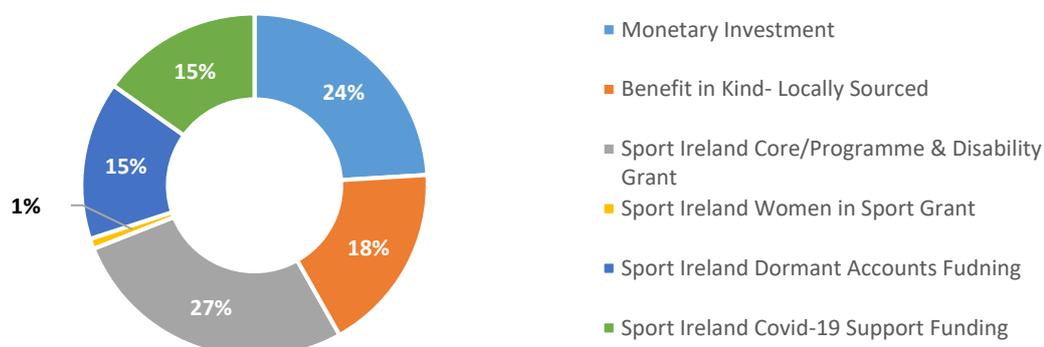
In 2020, 81% of the Sport Ireland LSP Core Investment covered the core salaries and operating costs of the LSP network. With the support of local partners, especially Local Authorities, this Sport Ireland investment provides the core resources and framework needed to develop sports participation at a local level. This core resource facilitates the implementation of programmes and initiatives, which are funded and supported through Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts but also locally through Local Authority, DCYA, Healthy Ireland, HSE and ETB investments.

The below graph provides a breakdown of the 2020 Sport Ireland Core investment by salaries, operating costs and programme investment.



Funding from Sport Ireland (Core, Disability, Women in Sport, Covid-19 & Dormant Accounts) accounted for 58% of the total LSP funding for 2020. The remaining 42% was raised from local sources, including direct monetary investment and benefit-in-kind.

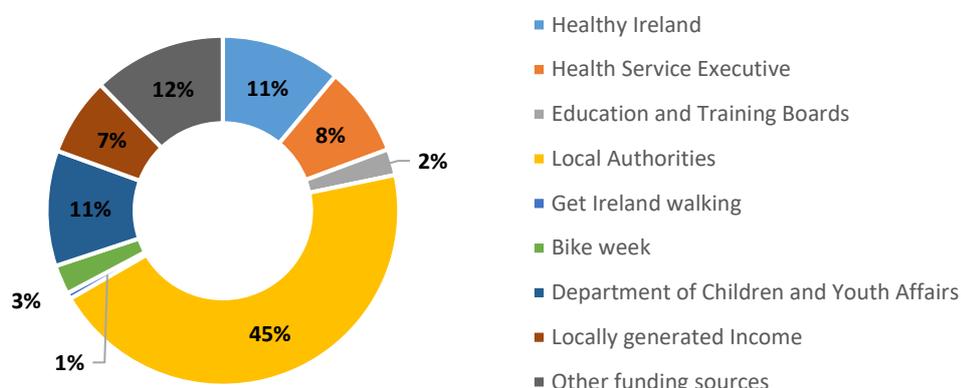
Breakdown of Funding and Benefit in Kind Received by LSPs in 2020



Monetary Investment	€6,565,806
Benefit in Kind- Locally Sourced	€4,865,543
Sport Ireland Core/Programme & Disability Grant	€7,415,909
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding	€4,073,535
Sport Ireland Women in Sport Grant	€265,000
Sport Ireland Covid-19 Support Funding	€4,135,929

After core funding from Sport Ireland, the Local Authorities (LAs) were the next most noteworthy source of funding for the LSP network in 2020, with some Local Authorities investing significantly more than others. Other significant funding sources for the network were generated income, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Healthy Ireland. Below are the contributors to the €6,565,806 of locally sourced monetary investment to the LSP network.

Figure F- Local monetary providers across the LSP network in 2020



Healthy Ireland	€698,675
Health Service Executive	€543,378
Education and Training Boards	€159,036.00
Local Authorities	€2,949,904.35
Get Ireland Walking	€36,500.00
Bike Week	€177,549.53
Department of Children and Youth Affairs	€701,569.50
Locally Generated Income	€474,292.04
Other Funding Sources	€801,705.24

Below are the contributors to the €4,865,543 of locally sourced benefit-in-kind to the LSP network.

Figure G- Breakdown of Local Benefit in Kind providers across the LSP network in 2020



Committee Members	€197,889
Locally Authorities	€2,149,699
Health Service Executive	€45,000
Education and Training Boards	€110,730
Education	€514,350
Local Supports Services	€989,305
Local Sports Providers	€833,120

Sport Ireland funding to the LSP network increased by 13% from €7.29M in 2019 to €8.2M in 2020. LSPs continue to be successful in securing funding from local sources. 42% of total funding has been contributed by local sources. Monetary funding sourced locally accounts for 27% of overall LSP support and benefit-in-kind support accounts for a 20% of overall funding.

In 2020, 42% of the LSP network costs are being sourced locally. This is lower than previous years and lower than the 50% recommended in the 2005 Fitzpatrick & Associates Review of the LSPs. This change is due to the large increase in Sport Ireland funding provided to Local Sports Partnerships in Dormant Account funding. It is also attributed to the impact of Covid-19, which lead to a reduction in locally generated income, through increased restrictions on delivery of programmes locally. Sport Ireland will continue to monitor this area to ensure the Network is strengthened as we exit the pandemic and returns to meeting the recommendations of the 2005 Fitzpatrick & Associates Review.

1.5 LSP Staff, Boards of Management and Committees

LSP Staff

LSP core staff members are funded by Sport Ireland while other Local Sports Partnership personnel are funded through other sources. Along with Coordinators and Administrators, there were 29 Community Sports Development Officers (CSDOs) and 29 Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) supported through Sport Ireland funding within the LSP network in 2020. This increased staffing levels to a minimum of 4 positions in all 29 Local Sports Partnerships and delivered on Action 12 of the National Sports Policy which specifically relates to the following

“In addressing the disability gradients in participation we will explore the possibility of introducing a national network of Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) aligned to the LSP network. These SIDOs would be expected to work closely with relevant NGBs, the disability sector, leisure centre providers, the CARA Centre and other stakeholders in providing opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in sport”.

In 2020, Sport Ireland either fully or part-funded 135 people in the LSP network. 88 people were solely funded by Sport Ireland. The LSP network took on 25 people on internships and job placements. The LSPs also contracted a further 437 tutors to deliver programmes, courses, workshops and initiatives within the LSP structure.

In total, LSPs employed 221-part time and full time staff in 2020 which is equivalent to 213 full time employees. Of the staff employed, 103 of the 221 (47%) were male and 118 of the 221 (53%) were female.

LSP Boards of Management and Committees - Participation and Representation

- A total of 402 people served on LSP boards in 2020. This represents an average of 14 people per board.
- 37% of LSP board members are female, which is ahead of the Women in Sport Policy and National Sports Policy target set at a minimum female representation of 30% on the boards of funded bodies by 2027.
- Board members bring specific skillsets to their work within the LSP. This expertise is in the areas of finance and management, as well as public relations, governance and human resources. All of this helps to contribute to the effective running of LSPs.

In 2020, the three most active participants on LSP Boards of Management were Local Authorities, NGB's and the education sector.

1.6 Sport Ireland Supports

Sport Ireland Participation Unit

Sport Ireland engage with the Local Sports Partnerships and their staff regularly. Throughout 2020, Sport Ireland met with the LSP Coordinators both in person and virtually. In February 2020, Sport Ireland held a national coordinator meeting in person to discuss dormant accounts, safeguarding, evaluation, active cities, and other key matters relating to the LSP network.

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the remaining meetings between Sport Ireland and the LSP Coordinators were run virtually. Through this virtual platform, it became more efficient to meet with the network regularly, with 10 virtual coordinator meetings held online between April and December 2020. These covered issues specific to Covid-19, as well as operational issues, and topics such as County Development plans, Operation Transformation, and European Week of Sport. From November

onwards virtual meetings with the Sport Ireland Participation unit and the LSP Coordinators were held every second week.

An “In this Together” working group consisting of LSP Coordinators and Sport Ireland executive, was created and met regularly throughout the year to develop a coordinated response for the LSP network to the Covid-19 pandemic. The working group created a series of national resources which were rolled out by the LSP network to increase activity during the pandemic, and also created a Return to Sport Protocol document for Local Sports Partnerships.

Sport Ireland organised a series of meetings and workshops with the LSPs in 2020 to build the capacity, skills and knowledge of the sector. In December 2020, separate meetings were run to address any issues specific to Company (CLG) or Local Authority LSP’s respectively. Additionally, Sport Ireland organised virtual meetings to share best practice, network and upskill SIDOs and CSDOs in July. Development Officers from LSPs and NGBs presented on projects they had developed and delivered together. There was also a focus on governance and behaviour change theory training, workshops were run for LSPs on these topics during 2020.

Midway through the year LSPs provide a mid-year report and at the end of each year, the LSPs complete their annual report for Sport Ireland. In 2020 LSPs were requested to provide an update on their journey to becoming governance code compliant as part of these mid-year reviews.

Sport Ireland Organisational Development and Change Unit

- 65 LSP staff attended a wide array of learning conferences, courses and workshops which covered areas such as; project management, risk management, strategic planning and governance.
- 9 LSP staff members were accepted onto the Sport Ireland IPA’s Professional Certificate in Governance.
- 104 LSP staff/board members attended a wide array of governance webinars and networking group sessions as part of the Gov-Enhance Governance Support Programme.
- 11 LSP staff members graduated from the 2019/2020 ACCELERATE Management Development Programme.
- 17 LSP staff were accepted onto the 2020/2021 ACCELERATE Management Development Programme.
- As part of the Find Your Fit Health & Wellbeing Programme, 4 LSP's nominated a Wellbeing Champion for their organisation.
- As part of the M-Power Mentoring Programme, 6 LSP Mentors and 6 LSP Mentees participated in the second cycle of the programme. The third cycle of the programme is currently ongoing with 3 LSP Mentors and 4 LSP Mentees.
- 2 LSP graduates participated in the 2019/2020 ASPIRE Graduate Employment Programme. 5 LSP graduates are currently participating in the 2020/2021 programme.
- There was also ongoing engagement with an array of Organisational Capability Building (OCB) services across the network in areas such as HR advisory services and attendance at networking groups.

Section 2

Achievements of the Sport Ireland LSP Network in 2020

2.1 Introduction

LSPs undertake a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing sport and physical activity participation levels in their local communities. These actions are grouped within four outcome areas:

- Working to develop clubs, coaches and volunteers and supporting partnerships between local sports clubs, community based organisations and sector agencies
- Creating greater opportunities for access to training and education in relation to sports and physical activity provision
- Provision of targeted programmes, events and initiatives to increase physical activity and sport participation
- Providing information about sport and physical activity to create awareness and access.

2.2 Development of Local Sports Clubs and Communities

A key focus for LSPs is that there is a sustainable level of development within the local sports structures. Across the network, LSPs work with clubs and groups to ensure that structures are in place to enable participation for all community members in a wide range of sport or physical activity options.

This sustainable environment is facilitated through supporting volunteers and coaches in opportunities to enhance their skills and improve the quality of sports participation in their communities.

Funding for Club and Community Supports

In 2020, LSPs provided funding supports to 3,086 clubs and 560 community groups throughout the country. Sport Ireland invested €409,900 in Club and Community Development support across the LSP network through Core Funding in 2020.

Club Development Work

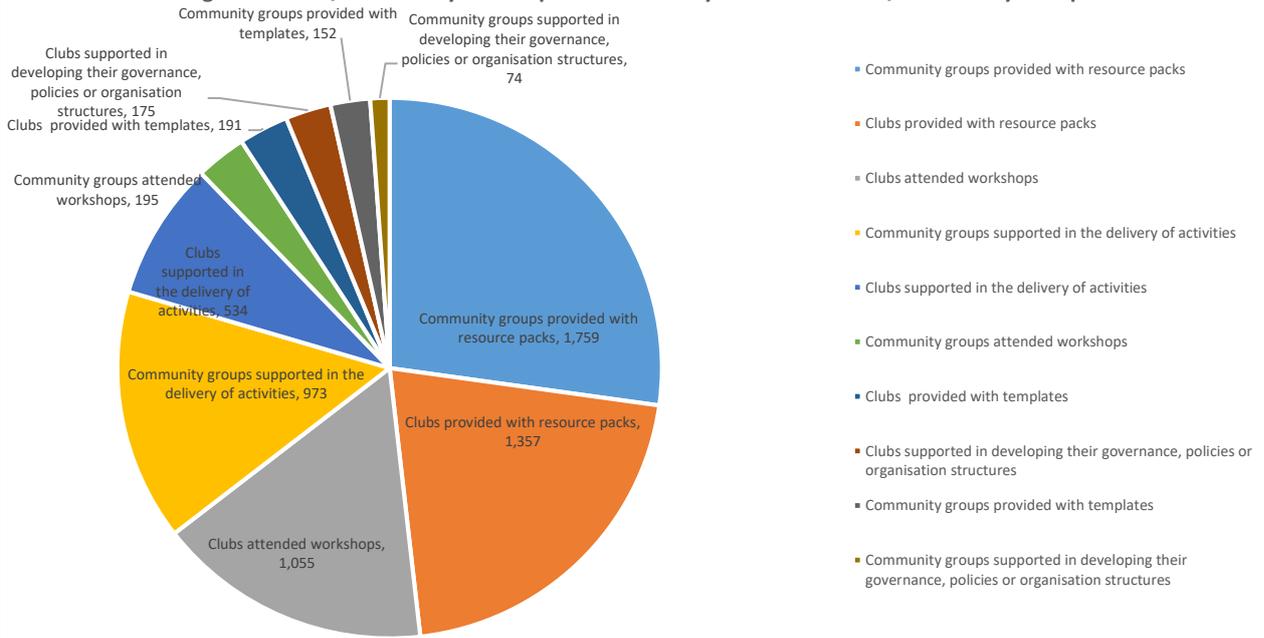
The LSPs support providers of sports and physical activity across the country, as well as working with sports clubs, communities and individuals to introduce new sports opportunities and pathways for participation in physical exercise.

To this end, in 2020:

- 6,516 meetings or phone calls took place between clubs and LSPs to share informal advice
- 9,930 meetings or phone calls took place between community groups and LSPs to share informal advice

The image below illustrates some of the other actions taken by LSPs in supporting club and community groups in 2020.

Figure G - Club/Community Development Actions by Number of Clubs/Community Groups



LSPs play a key role in advising clubs in the areas of planning, evaluation and in the development of governance standards and policies. This support work helps clubs to make improvements to attract and retain members.

2.3 Training & Education Courses and Workshops

LSPs provide a range of important upskilling and training opportunities at local level for volunteers, coaches and administrators. Two such programmes are Youth Leadership and Volunteer Supports.

Youth Leadership

This programme develops generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner. It also continues to develop trained volunteers who can assist with the delivery of sport and recreation initiatives within their community while providing training for young people, keeping them engaged, increasing their responsibility and developing their confidence and self-esteem and provides them with an opportunity for lifelong volunteering.

Volunteer Supports

This initiative aims to successfully identify and assist targeted individuals who are volunteering in disadvantaged communities or with people with disabilities to gain community sport and physical activity leadership skills e.g. as coaches, leaders, referees, committee members, etc.

- LSPs planned and delivered 276 different training and education courses, workshops and seminars with their partner agencies
- 31,369 people participated on these training courses.

The following gives a breakdown of the range and extent of training delivered in 2020.

Figure H – Training & Education Actions and Number of Participants



2.4 Delivering Sport Ireland Programmes

Safeguarding Workshops & Roles

Sport Ireland’s Safeguarding programme is aimed at sports leaders and adults who are involved in the organisation of sport for children and young people. The goal of the programme is to promote awareness of best practice and legal requirements in the area of safeguarding and child protection. To advance this function, Sport Ireland offers three workshops in the area of safeguarding and child protection.

- Safeguarding 1 - Basic Awareness (all coaches)
- Safeguarding 2 – Club Children’s Officer (role specific)
- Safeguarding 3 – Designated Liaison Person (role specific)

The details of these workshops are outlined below:

Safeguarding 1 - Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Workshop	Safeguarding 2 - Club Children’s Officer	Safeguarding 3 - Designated Liaison Person
All Coaches, Children’s Officers and Designated Liaison Persons must first complete the 3 hour Child Welfare and Protection Basic Awareness Workshop. This Workshop educates participants on the implementation of best practice & legal requirements in protecting the welfare of children involved in sport.	A person appointed to the Club Children’s Officer position in a club must complete Safeguarding 1 (Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness workshop) and follow this with the Club Children’s Officer 3 hour workshop. This Workshop will help the Club Children’s Officer to carry out the function of their role in the club and support the implementation of best practice in the area of safeguarding in the club.	A person appointed to the Designated Liaison Person position in a club must have completed Safeguarding 1 (Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness workshop) and should complete the Designated Liaison Person 3 hour workshop. A club may appoint the same person to both the CCO and DLP positions however best practice advises that they are kept as separate roles.

Club Children’s Officer (role specific)

The Club Children’s Officer should be child-centred in focus and have, as the primary aim, the establishment of a child-centred ethos within the club. They are the link between the children and the adults in the club. They also take responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and sports leaders.

Designated Liaison Person (role specific)

Every club/organisation should designate a person to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to TUSLA Child and Family Agency or Social Services (NI) and/or An Garda Síochána/PSNI. It is recommended that this person is a senior club person. However, if there is difficulty identifying a separate individual to take this role, the Club Children’s Officer can be appointed as Designated Liaison Person once the club/organisation is clear about the responsibilities of each role. The organisation’s child protection policy and procedures should include the name and contact details of the Designated Liaison Person and the responsibilities attached to the role.

In 2020, 4,566 sports leaders and volunteers completed the Safeguarding 1 training across 356 workshops run by the LSPs. Some 450 volunteers attended the follow-on Children’s Officer training across 37 workshops. In the rollout of Safeguarding 3, 86 participants received training for the role of Designated Liaison Person on 4 workshops organised by LSPs. 2020 saw LSPs adapt successfully to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, delivering many of these courses online.

Table 3 – Summary of Safeguarding outputs 2020

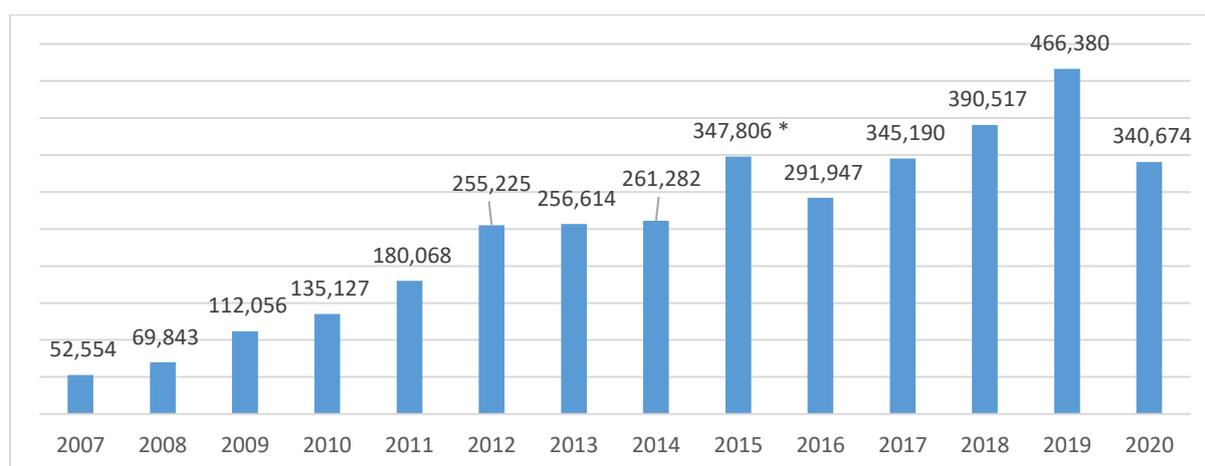
	SAFEGUARDING 1	SAFEGUARDING 2	SAFEGUARDING 3
No. of workshops delivered	356	37	4
No. of participants	4,566	450	86

2.5 LSP Participation Initiatives

The design, delivery and review of targeted initiatives by LSPs directly increases the level of local participation, particularly amongst the harder to reach social groups. Through their local expertise and connections within the sports infrastructure, LSPs are able to identify specific needs and plan accordingly.

The number of people participating in Local Sports Partnerships initiatives has grown from 52,000 people in 2007 to 340,674 people in 2020. This high level measure indicates that the LSP network's performance is improving and developing year on year.

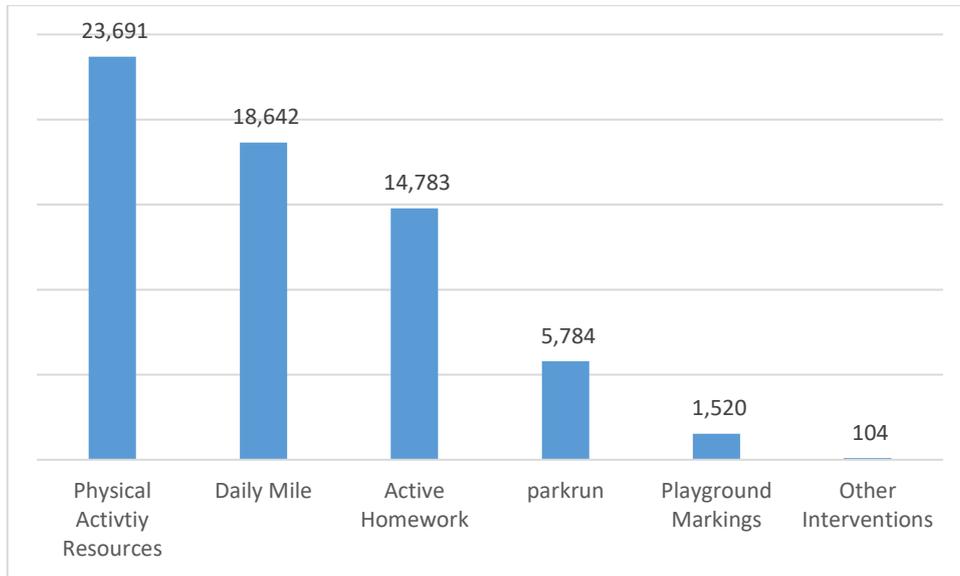
Figure I – LSP Reach 2007 to 2020



*Repeat parkrun visits counted in 2015 but not in following years

- In 2020 340,674 people participated in 1,132 locally delivered participation initiatives
- In addition to the above initiatives, LSPs also support a number of physical activity interventions such as parkrun, Playground Markings, Daily Mile, Chalk-Free Play and Active Homework initiatives. In 2020 many interventions were delivered through the sharing of physical activity resources, such as links to online videos and images, or physical resource packs. These interventions have not been included in LSP reach figures as they are either primarily lead by external stakeholders (e.g. parkrun), or are difficult to measure (i.e. how many people were active and how frequently they were active e.g. Playground Markings, Chalk-Free Play and Active Homework initiatives). They are however important interventions which contribute significant figures and are presented separately in this report so as not to distort the continuity of data reporting on traditional LSP work. This provides a mechanism to recognise their contribution and monitor growth in these areas into the future.
- In 2020, an additional 64,524 people participated in 43 locally supported participation interventions. The support provided by LSPs to these interventions makes a significant additional contribution to increasing physical activity and sports participation in communities around Ireland.

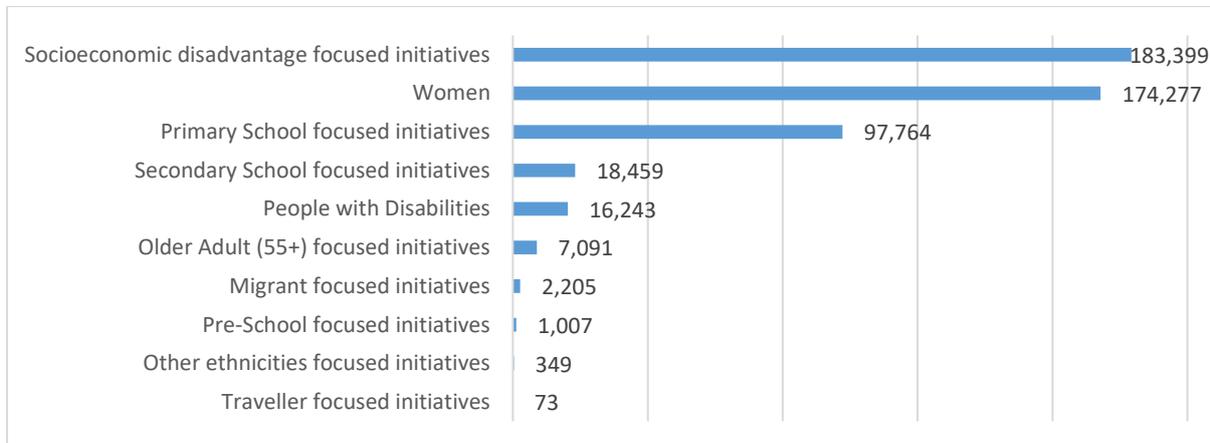
Figure J – Interventions and Number of Participants



The following gives a breakdown of the various groups reached through participation initiatives in 2020.

2.5.2 LSP Initiatives delivered in 2020

Figure K – Target Groups and Number of Participants



2.5.2 LSP Initiative Categorisation

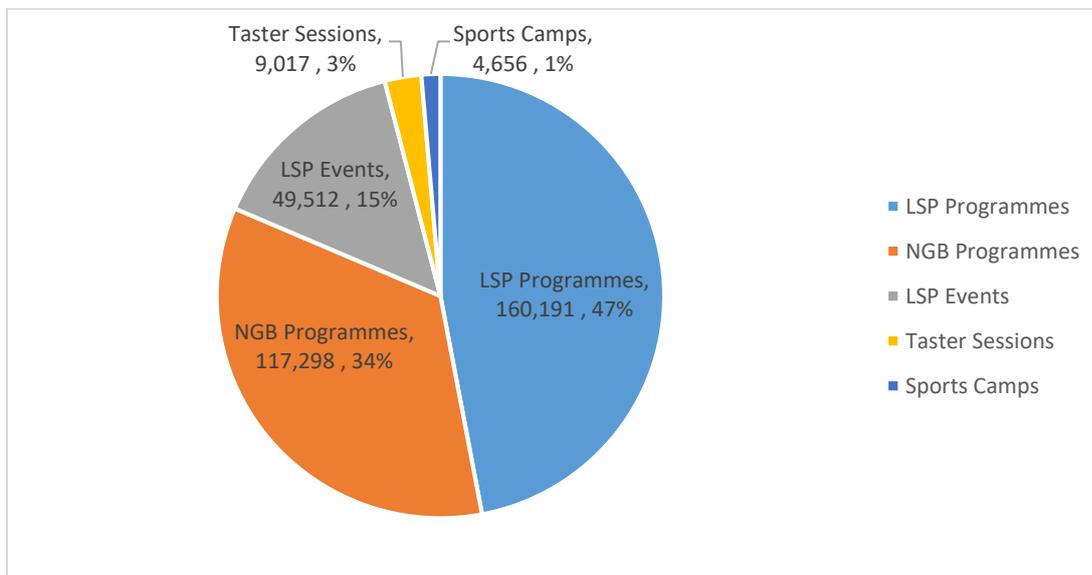
Of the 340,674 participants reached by these initiatives in 2020, 160,191 people were engaged through LSP programmes, 49,512 people were engaged through LSP events, 117,298 people were reached through NGB programmes, 9,017 people were engaged through taster sessions and 4,656 people were reached through sports camps. A brief description of the 5 categories of LSP initiatives are highlighted in the table below.

Table 4 - Description of Initiative Categories

Initiative Category	Description
LSP Programmes	Defined as fixed duration participation opportunities which last longer than one or two sessions. Usually delivered over a number of weeks or non-consecutive days e.g. Men on the Move, Go For Life, Community Walking Programme
LSP Events	Defined as fixed duration participation events usually lasting single days. Participants would usually set a goal to enter the event and undertake some training or require underlying fitness or skill to take part. E.g. 5k runs, Cycle Series, Mini Marathons
Taster Session	Defined as once off participation opportunities which offer no more than a single experience, although they may signpost to more long term opportunities. Participants usually need no training in advance and minimal previous skill/fitness to take part e.g. Fun days, Be Active Nights, family events, promotional weeks, etc.
Sports Camps	Defined as sports camps which offer sports participation opportunities in a sport or multi sports. Usually lasting less than a week e.g. FAI Soccer Camps, GAA Cúl Camps
NGB Programmes	Defined as participation opportunities with an NGB as the main deliverer of the initiative. Support and resources may be provided by LSPs. E.g. Rugby tournaments, GAA blitzes, soccer leagues

The below information illustrates the number of participants reached by each category.

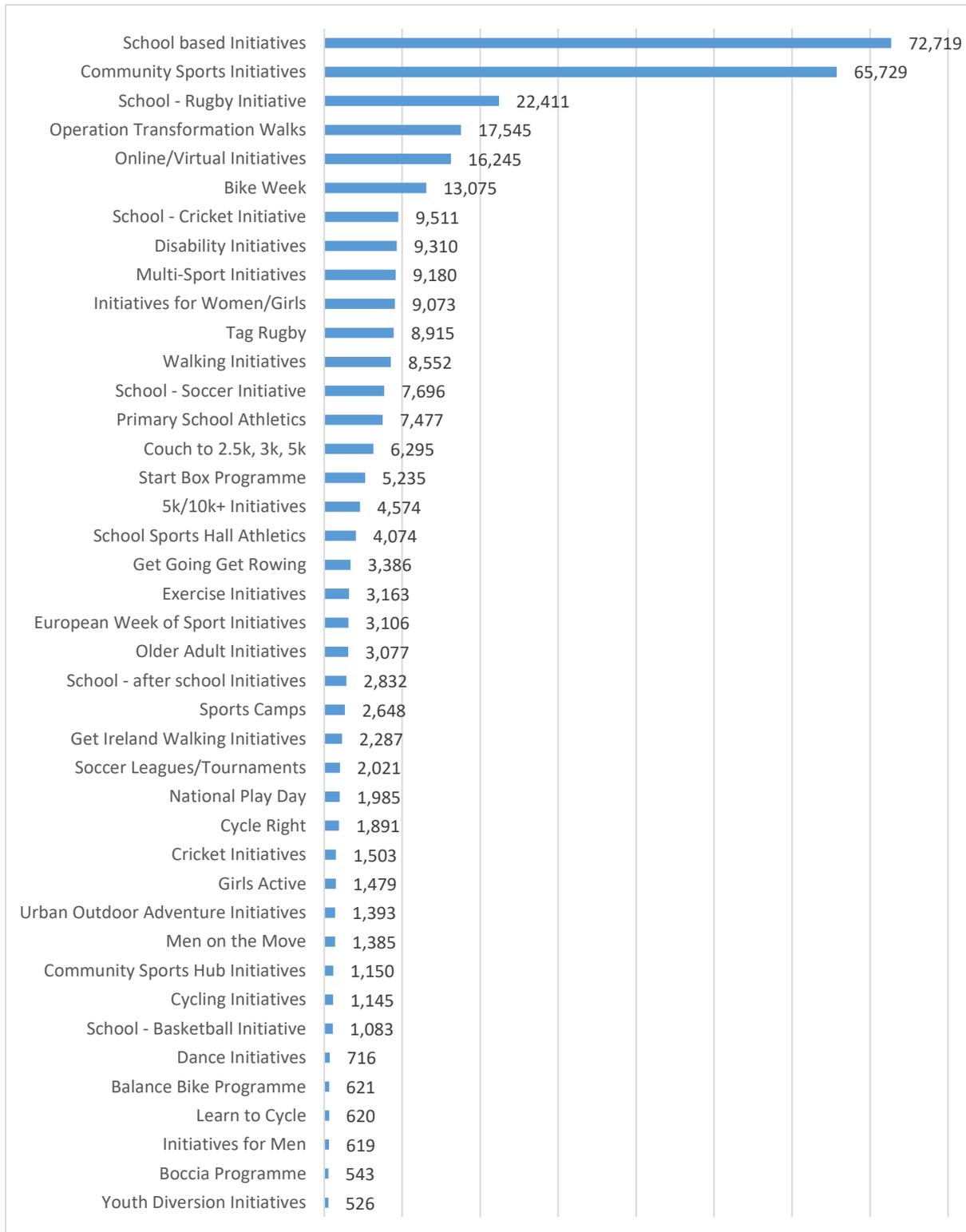
Figure L – Initiative Categories and Number of Participants



2.5.3 LSP Initiatives delivered in 2020

The following presents an overview of the types of initiatives delivered in 2020.

Figure M – Participation Initiatives and Number of Participants



2.5.4 Behaviour Change Theory

In order to develop an understanding of the application of the Behaviour Change Theory to LSP's work in increasing participation in sport and physical activity, they were asked to categorise the primary effect of each initiative under the pillars of the COM-B Behaviour Change Model. The table below describes the COM-B effects in more detail. Some actions will span multiple COM-B effects, in this case LSPs selected the most significant effect.

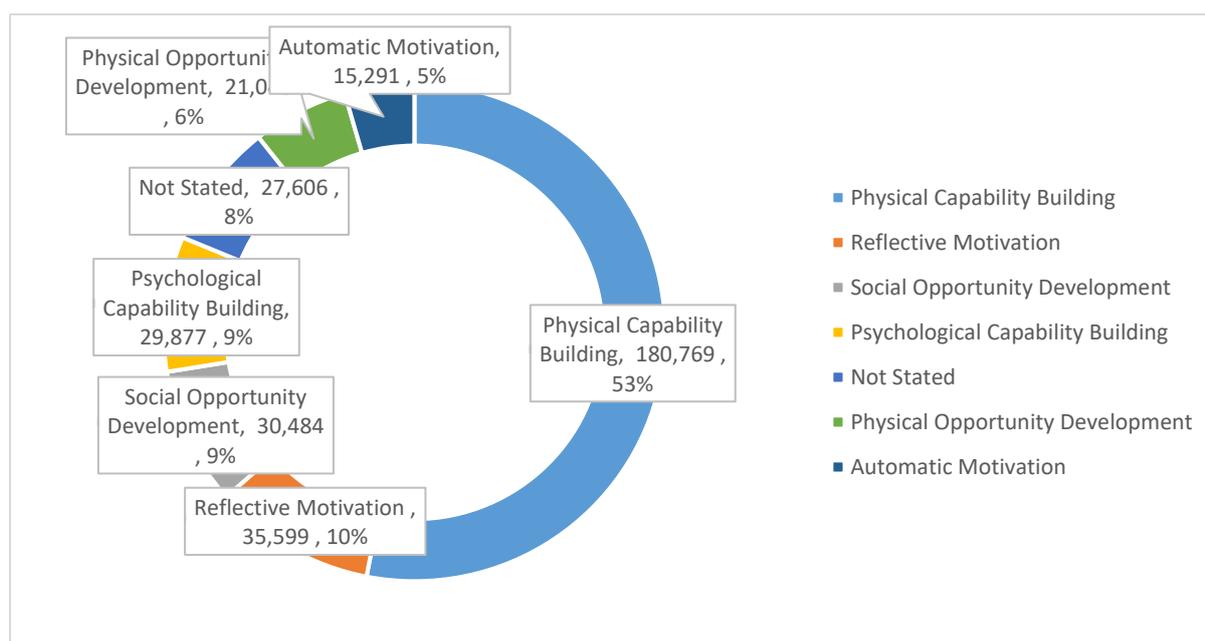
Table 5 - Description of COM-B Behaviour Change Model

BCT PRIMARY COM-B EFFECT	DESCRIPTION
Physical Capability Building	Actions that primarily develop the skills of the participant e.g. programmes over multiple sessions.
Psychological Capability Building	Actions that primarily develop the knowledge of the participant e.g. taster days, information focused communications
Physical Opportunity Development	Actions that primarily develop infrastructure, facilities, equipment or reduce cost or improve access e.g. capital developments, discounts, provision of information such as club and facility directories
Social Opportunity Development	Actions that primarily develop a culture of participation in sport and physical activity e.g. socially focused communications
Reflective Motivation	Actions that primarily provide goals for participants e.g. participation events, some goal focused communications
Automatic Motivation	Actions that primarily develop participants' habits e.g. longer lasting interventions usually with easy access and small individual impact

The following presents the number of participants reached through participation initiatives under each of the behaviour change pillars.

The COM-B model suggests that an individual must have Capability (Physical and Psychological), Opportunity (Physical and Social) and Motivation (Reflective and Automatic) in order to change behaviour. The below graph shows that 53% of the LSP initiatives primarily develop Physical Capability and only 9% primarily develop Psychological Capability Building and 10% aim to support Reflective Motivation.

Figure N – Behaviour Change Theory and Number of Participants



2.6 Building and Sustaining Partnerships

Information Provision

LSPs act as an information hub and point of contact within their communities. LSPs work to share information, as well as direct, signpost and refer their target groups to the most appropriate next step, whether that is a link to a sports club, a community based organisation or a volunteering opportunity. LSPs collect ongoing information on the nature and extent of their work to provide information to their communities and profile their activities and programmes. The following table presents an overview of the range of communication platforms that LSPs use, both via traditional and social media outlets.

Table 6 – Summary of LSP Promotion 2020

Providing Information to Communities Through Traditional Media	2019	2020	-/+%
Number of radio interviews	173	162	-6%
Number of articles in local press	769	798	4%
Number of articles in national press	62	19	-69%
Number of press releases issued	610	540	-11%
Number of newsletters printed	17,220	48,650	183%
Number of television appearances	13	5	-62%
Providing Information to Communities Through Online Promotion			
LSP Website: number of new articles	1,158	2,171	87%
LSP Website: number of hits	1,214,746	2,894,209	138%
Providing Information to Communities Through Social Media			
Facebook: number of posts/updates	15,795	15,087	-4%
Facebook: number of followers	99,383	118,144	19%

Twitter: number of tweets	11,243	8,017	-29%
Twitter: number of followers	40,659	43,819	8%
Instagram: number of posts	1,368	5,367	292%
Instagram: number of followers	12,620	21,718	72%
LinkedIn: number of followers	781	812	4%
Providing Information to Communities Through Text-Based Services			
	2019	2020	-/+%
Number of texts sent via text service	50,718	45,318	-11%
Number of Whatsapp groups	85	105	24%
Number of people in Whatsapp groups	1,560	3,101	99%

In 2020, there was a significant increase in the number of hits LSP websites received. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic LSPs have provided a wide-range of online programmes and initiatives to keep people active while also developing sport and physical activity resources for the public which could be accessed on their websites.

LSPs are also active in developing specific resources to highlight and promote the range of activities and opportunities available locally. This can be in the form of newsletters, press releases, booklets, directories, as well as through translated documents. LSPs maintain active databases of local organisations and groups as well as email contact lists.

LSPs can also promote their work through their annual reports. Research publications and presentations are also used regularly to disseminate their key messages regarding participation. In 2020, 364 presentations were delivered to Councillors, Local Authority staff, community groups and other partners/stakeholders.

Table 7 – Summary of LSP Information Production and Dissemination 2020

Production of Information Resources	2019	2020	-/+%
Number newsletters published	92	95	3%
Number of information leaflets/booklets distributed	58,715	164,890	181%
Local Community Interest			
	2019	2020	-/+%
Number of people/clubs/groups on email list	80,606	80,383	0%
Dissemination of Research and Reports			
	2019	2020	-/+%
Number of annual reports distributed	1,477	3,439	133%
Number of evaluation reports written	118	157	33%
Number of research reports printed	25	14	-44%
Number of presentations delivered	556	364	-35%

2.7 Networking, Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Building alliances and relationships with local and national partners is an important area of work for LSPs, as well as representing key concerns in the policy arena. In order to carry out this strand of their work, LSPs actively engage in committee work and networking activities at local and national level. In 2020, LSPs have participated in some 872 actions associated with building networks and advocating on behalf of their LSP target groups.

The local and national networks bring together sports clubs, statutory and non-statutory agencies, volunteers and other working partners and provide opportunities for partnership endeavours that influence and resource sport and physical activity at county and national level.

These networking and awareness raising actions allow for an increase in the reach of the LSPs, as well as profiling their ongoing work. They are also a sounding board for advice and recommendations as to what the LSP can do to assist sports clubs and partners.

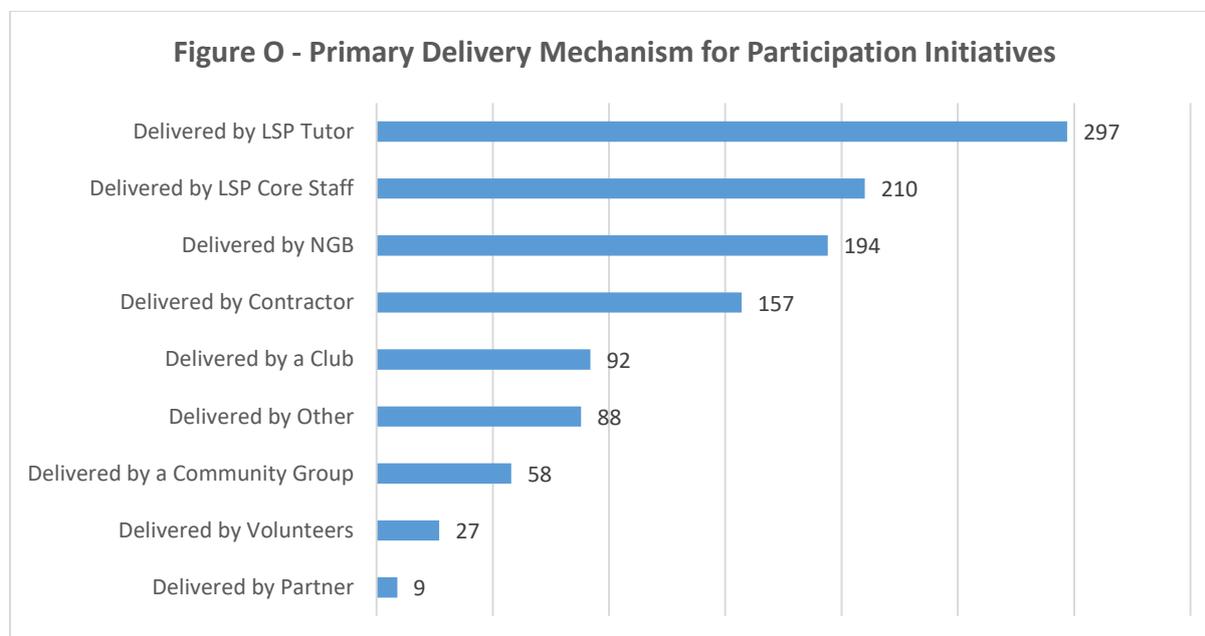
Table 8 – Overview of the type of actions LSPs have been involved in 2020

TYPES OF ACTIONS	NUMBER OF ACTIONS
Campaigns and Lobbying Efforts	138
Local Networks or Committees participated in	292
Regional and National Networks participated in	90
Research projects involved in	34
Conferences attended	268
Policy/Strategy submissions made	50
Total	872

Actions in the area of advocacy and policy allow for LSPs to promote the importance of sport in community life.

2.8 Partnership Engagement

LSPs aim to lead and coordinate sport and physical activity opportunities locally. In 2020, 210 initiatives were delivered by LSP core staff, however 922 initiatives were delivered by tutors, community groups, clubs, NGBs, volunteers and other partners. The below figure illustrates the range of deliverers of initiatives in 2020.



Developing partnerships with other organisations to promote physical activity and sport participation is also a key part of LSPs work. To this end, LSPs engaged with at least 92 other organisations in 2020.

Throughout 2020, the 29 LSPs engaged in;

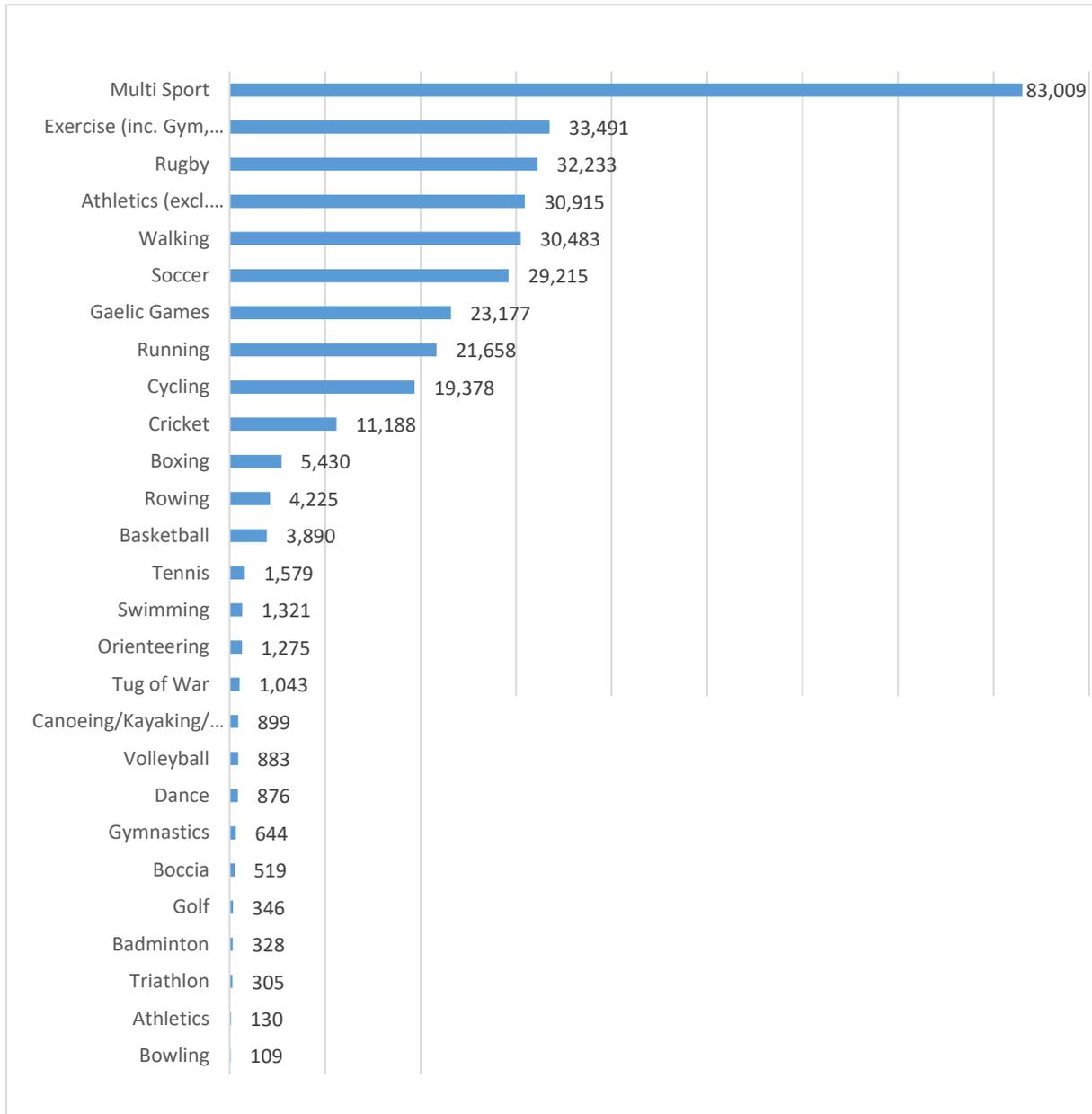
- 529 partnerships with 58 NGBs
- 91 partnerships with 5 Disability NGBs
- 56 partnerships with 2 Other Sport Ireland funded partners
- 567 partnerships with 27 other external partners

NGBs, schools, community groups and sports clubs were the main delivery partner for LSPs in delivering initiatives in 2020.

- 93,802 people were reached through initiatives involving NGBs as the main delivery partner.
- 52,393 people were reached through initiatives involving schools as the main delivery partner.
- 35,533 people were reached through initiatives involving Community groups/Sports clubs as the main delivery partner.

During 2020 LSPs engaged with a range of different sports in providing participation opportunities to their audience. The following image shows the range of sports that participants were engaged in during their involvement in participation initiatives in 2020. Over 40 sports were participated in during this period. Apart from multi-sports initiatives, the most popular 3 sports in 2020 were exercise (including gym, yoga, pilates, boot camp), rugby, and athletics (excluding running). 83,009 people were reached through multi-sport initiatives, 33,491 people were reached through exercise initiatives, 32,233 people were reached through rugby initiatives, and 30,915 people were reached through athletics initiatives.

Figure P – Type of Sport and Number of Participants



Section 3

Sport Ireland and LSP Initiative Case Studies

National BeActive Day 2020

Sport Ireland and the network of LSPs rolled out a National BeActive Day on the 28th June 2020. This initiative encouraged people to meet their physical activity guidelines in a fun way on the day. A resource was developed by Sport Ireland and a working group of LSP Coordinators and Community Sport Development Officers (CSDOs), which provided activities to be used on the day. National BeActive day was promoted through both a national and local organic media campaign. The campaign saw a press reach of 2,007,467, with a further 190,013 impressions on Sport Ireland's Twitter Account, 28,425 on Facebook and 1,938 on Instagram between the 16th and 29th of June.

Global Design Challenge for Sport and Physical Activity

Sport Ireland, working with University College Cork, the International Sport and Culture Association and several other partners ran a Design Sprint event from the 26th to 28th of June 2020. There were 38 teams entered in the competition, with members from 40 countries around the world, developing innovative ideas to solve issues in the return to sport in a Covid-19 world. A panel of expert judges selected the winning ideas, with a project focusing on wellbeing in sport, and called "Enerethics" being declared the winner of the competition. Sport Ireland have promoted the finalist projects to the sport sector for matching and incubation. These projects had the opportunity to apply to Sport Ireland for investment through the 2021 Core or Dormant Account Fund.

Activities for All – A 4-week physical activity plan for people with a disability

Sport Ireland and the network of LSPs rolled out a 4-week physical activity plan for people with a disability in October and November to empower them to be more active. A resource was developed by Sport Ireland and a working group of LSP Sport Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) in conjunction with Cara. The resource aims to improve an individual's Gross Motor Skills (core strength, balance, bilateral movement & ball skills) in a fun way while also helping people to reach their minimum recommended daily physical activity, as recommended in Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan.

Older Adult Home Exercise Plan

Sport Ireland and the network of LSPs rolled out a 4-week physical activity plan for older adults in October as part of Positive Ageing Week. A resource was developed by Sport Ireland and a working group of LSP CSDOs in conjunction with Age & Opportunity. The resource supports people in trying to reach the minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity, as recommended in Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan. The resource helps an individual's strength and confidence in their body, which will support them to be more physically active as well as developing transferable skills for everyday life.

Your Personal Best – Men Over 45 Campaign

Sport Ireland's Your Personal Best Month took place over the month of November. The project, through support of Dormant Account Funding, encouraged men over 45 to stop making excuses and to engage in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days a week. It was supported by various sporting National Governing Bodies such as Cycling Ireland, Athletics Ireland, Get Ireland Walking and Swim Ireland, who provided information, advice and programmes for men who wanted to become more active with resources available on the dedicated Sport Ireland webpage to the campaign. The campaign was also supported by the nationwide network of Local Sport Partnerships, who provided practical support on the ground.

County Carlow Local Sports Partnership

Cavan Sports Partnership

Clare Sports Partnership

Cork Sports Partnership

Donegal Sports Partnership

Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership

Fingal Sports Partnership

Galway Sports Partnership

Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership

Kildare Sports Partnership

Kilkenny Recreational and Sports Partnership

Laois Sports Partnership

Leitrim Sports Partnership

Limerick Sports Partnership

Longford Sports Partnership

Louth Sports Partnership

Mayo Sports Partnership

Meath Sports Partnership

Mongahan Sports Partnership

Offaly Sports Partnership

Roscommon Sports Partnership

Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership

South Dublin County Local Sports Partnership

Tipperary Sports Partnership

Waterford Sports Partnership

Westmeath Sports Partnership

Sports Active Wexford

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership

Section 4

Evaluation

Sport Ireland, through the support of Dormant Account Funding, established an evaluation team to oversee the evaluation of national projects and the work of LSPs and NGBs. The team has developed a systemic evaluation framework through national level monitoring using a combination of demographic and physical activity measures. In 2020, the team undertook project evaluations on the Community Sports Development Officers, Active Cities, Innovation and Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative, with a number of these ongoing into 2021. A holistic review of the LSP network was also undertaken in the form of an LSP Insights Report.

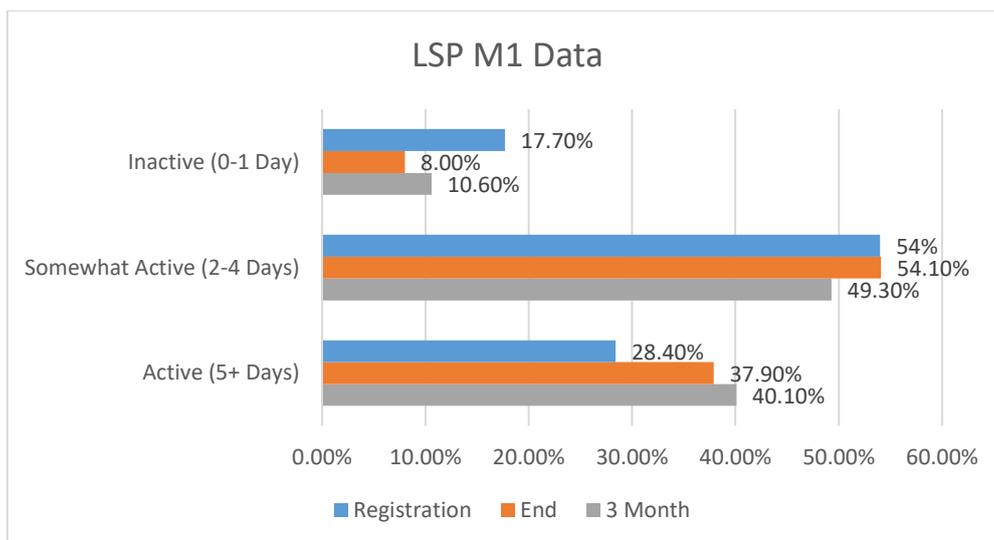
2020 Systemic Evaluation

In order to assess the impact of their work, LSPs have adopted the use of a Single Item Measure (M1). M1 is an internationally validated self-report measure that allows an organisation to track an individual's rates of participation in sport and physical activity. The question asks participants to recall how many days they were active for 30 minutes or more (in line with the National Physical Activity Guidelines) in the last 7 days. The question is asked of participants at programme registration, on the last day of the programme, and at 3 month follow up. Those active for 0-1 day are classified as being inactive, 2-4 days as being somewhat active and 5+ days as active.



The role of Sport Ireland funded participation initiatives is to move participants from the inactive bracket towards the somewhat active and active brackets. To be able to demonstrate this movement over the lifetime of a range of programmes will mean that Sport Ireland can present strong visual evidence of the benefits of its work to government, partners and the funded bodies.

Sport Ireland continue to support Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies to collect impact evaluation data for their participation programmes using M1. These guidelines have now been expanded to include a validated two-item questionnaire for measuring physical activity levels in children aged 10-15 years called PACE+. Sport Ireland are now receiving M1 data on an ongoing basis from LSPs. This data improves our understanding of what makes a physical activity initiative successful (or not), which will influence how we meet the National Sports Policy targets. To date we have received M1 data for almost 6,000 participants at registration. We have received 3 month follow up data for almost 1,700 of these participants. The data indicates that LSP programmes are sustainably moving participants from inactivity to greater levels of activity.



The M1 data collected to date demonstrates that LSP initiatives are targeting the right people with 7 out of 10 participants not meeting the National Physical Activity Guidelines at registration and almost 20% of them being classified as inactive.

Further, the data demonstrates that the LSP initiatives are successful in sustainably moving a significant percentage of people from inactivity towards activity. From baseline measures to 3-month follow up, we see the percentage of participants that were inactive reduced from 17% to 10% with a decrease in somewhat active participants from 54% to 49%, making way for a substantial increase in active participants from 28% to 40%.

In the data breakdown, Sport Ireland can observe that across various demographic groups some initiatives have a larger impact than others do. Use of the M1 question will be complemented by a deeper qualitative evaluation for select initiatives in 2020 and 2021 to understand what factors contribute most to their success. The combination of this data will allow us to shed a light on LSP initiatives with highest impact, along with an understanding of what makes them effective.

2020 Project Evaluations

Evaluation of the Community Sports Development Officers (CSDO) Programme

The purpose of this qualitative evaluation of the CSDO programme was to assess the extent to which the goals and actions of the CSDO programme have been implemented. It was found that the actions of the CSDO programme are being carried out to a great extent across the network of CSDOs, especially under the pillars of Community Activation, Planning and Relationship Building. These actions align with the original intention for the CSDO programme and enable a conclusion that the programme is a positive investment across the LSP network. Actions under the pillars of Research, and Monitoring and Evaluation require continued support from Sport Ireland in the form of templates, training and capacity building. This evaluation also aimed to explore the key successes and challenges that the CSDO programme has experienced. Some minor modifications and adjustments to the programme were suggested to overcome the challenges which are all noted within the evaluation report.

LSP Insights Report

The LSP Insights Report provides a holistic review of the work of the LSPs. The review is based on a range of quantitative and qualitative data gathered from the LSP network. It is intended for internal distribution to Sport Ireland's network of LSPs to provide a reference document to consult in the development of operational plans and budget submissions to Sport Ireland. The report provides insight into the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities that exist for the LSP network and highlights areas of future work for both Sport Ireland and the national network of LSPs in order to further the goals of the National Sports Policy, the National Physical Activity Plan and the Sport Ireland Strategy as well as the LSP strategies and the Local Sports Plans. The report includes chapters dedicated to LSP Finances, Programmes and Initiatives, Training and Education, Governance, Communications, and Club and Community Development. This report highlights that increasing sport and physical activity participation requires a multifaceted approach and relying on programmes alone may not be enough to increase county level participation. It establishes a number of important principles to adhere to that, when aligned, will help encourage maximum participation.

Ongoing Evaluations (2020-2021)

Evaluation of Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative

The Evaluation of the Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative (UOAI) is currently taking place, focusing on the UOAIs funded in 2017, 2018 and 2019. This initiative is overseen by the LSPs, with the ambition of sports clubs, schools, community organisations, agencies and NGBs working together to create greater opportunities for people living in urban areas to participate in physical activity through adventure sports. The theory of change underlying this Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative is that *'participants who interact with nature and experience new outdoor adventure sports are successful in developing confidence and skills and this helps young people to manage risk and encourages them to welcome challenge.'* A process and outcome evaluation is being completed to understand to what extent LSPs who have rolled out the initiative, have achieved their intended outputs, outcomes and aims and, what has contributed to their success. Beginning in quarter four of 2020, it is due for completion circa June 2021.

Evaluation of the Sport Ireland Active Cities Fund

The Evaluation of the Sport Ireland Active Cities Fund 2020, which began in quarter four of 2020, entails of a prospective, process and outcome evaluation. The Active Cities fund invests in sport and physical activity initiatives in Ireland's five cities – Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Galway with the aim of creating, maintaining and increasing the numbers of citizens, regardless of age and ability, participating in sport and physical activity in their city. The purpose of this evaluation is to understand to what extent funded bodies who have rolled out the Active Cities programme, have achieved their intended outputs, outcomes and aims, and if so, what contributed to their success. The report will present national level findings across all funded programmes, as well as highlighting the success or otherwise, of individual programmes. The key findings of this evaluation will inform Sport Ireland's investment in the Sport Ireland Active Cities fund going forward. This evaluation is coinciding with the implementation of the programme, with year one of this programme funding and the evaluation due for completion at the end of 2021.

Evaluation of the Sport Ireland Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund

The Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund programme is funded by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF). In 2020, Sport Ireland funded bodies received funding to roll out the Innovation for Sports Inclusion programme. An evaluation is now being completed to deliver a

prospective, process and outcome evaluation of the Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund 2020, to understand to what extent funded bodies who have rolled out the programme have achieved their intended outputs, outcomes and aims, and if so, what are the factors that influenced this. It is expected that the evaluation report will present national level findings across all funded programmes, as well as highlighting the success or otherwise, of individual programmes. Having begun in quarter four of 2020, this evaluation is aligned with the innovation programmes during the first 12-months of their development and delivery which are due for completion at the end of 2021.

Section 5

Next Steps for LSPs

Sport Ireland's strategy to increase investment in LSP programming will support both the return to safe in person sport and physical activity opportunities, as well as build on the virtual opportunities developed in 2020. LSPs are continuing to ensure that everyone in our society has the opportunity to share in the enjoyment as well as the mental and physical health benefits of sport and physical activity during these unprecedented times.

This increase in investment provides an opportunity for Sport Ireland to support a locally lead safe return to sport. Sport Ireland will use the increased investments in 2021 to build the capacity of LSPs and to increase the reach and impact of LSP initiatives across Ireland. The 2021 investment strategy is informed by the goals of the Sport Ireland Strategy and the actions of the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan which are now captured in the Sport Ireland Participation Plan.

Sports Inclusion Disability Officers

In 2021 Sport Ireland will continue supporting the full network of 29 SIDOs. The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced the services and supports available to people with a disability. The aim of the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme is to encourage and facilitate more people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity and develop sustainable clubs and programmes in all settings. The SIDOs work in a coordinating capacity with all relevant stakeholders to increase and sustain participation opportunities for people with disabilities. Sport Ireland expect to see a significant increase in participation by people with a disability, a key finding of the LSP insights report, as the SIDO network establishes itself and Covid-19 restrictions reduce over time. SIDO's can also play an important role in helping to activate some cohorts of older adults who may no longer be able to participate in community based or independent sport and physical activity opportunities.

The National Sports Policy, Action 12 specifically relates to the following *"In addressing the disability gradients in participation we will explore the possibility of introducing a national network of Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) aligned to the LSP network. These SIDOs would be expected to work closely with relevant NGBs, the disability sector, leisure centre providers, the CARA Centre and other stakeholders in providing opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in sport"*. In 2021, all LSPs will continue to receive funding for the employment of a SIDO and for resources required to deliver Sport Irelands Sports Inclusion Disability Programme, achieving the National Sports Policy objective.

Community Sport Development Officers

Sport Ireland will seek to continue investing in the LSP network for the employment of CSDOs across Ireland in 2021. This proposal continues to provide support to all 29 LSPs for the employment of a CSDO each, achieving a nationwide rollout of the CSDO initiative. These Community Sports Development Officers are tasked with activating local communities through a variety of means including the co-ordination of targeted programmes and training initiatives for clubs and communities. During the pandemic, CSDOs have been a crucial resource in providing innovative solutions to activate clubs and communities while observing strict compliance with social distancing protocols.

In 2021 CSDOs will be tasked with increasing the reach of LSPs to ethnic minorities and teenagers. The CSDO's will also support the objectives of the National Physical Activity Plan action to *'Strengthen and enhance the capacity of the LSPs to further develop locally led plans and more long-term sustainable physical activity programmes'*.

Additional LSP Officers

As sport plans its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 there is now, more than ever, a need for increased capacity at a local level to effectively support the delivery of the National Sports Policy. Sport Ireland has ring-fenced funding for the employment of additional human resources in the LSP network. This additional funding should allow for LSP's to build long lasting capacity to continue to deliver on the National Sports Policy actions into the future. This funding will be allocated based on business cases submitted by each individual LSP.

Women in Sport

Additional support for Women in Sport is referenced in the National Sports Policy, specifically referring to the high level goal of increasing participation through the *"elimination of active sport participation gradient between men and women"*. The LSPs will work with the Sport Ireland Women in Sport Lead and will focus specific initiatives on female target groups including; women in disadvantaged communities, women with a disability, older woman, women from ethnic minorities and teenage girls. The LSPs will also be asked to begin exploring ways of increasing female social participation in sport through club membership and volunteerism.

Programming

With the recruitment of SIDOs, CSDOs and additional Officers across the network it is important to provide these positions with the support and resources required to deliver safe and effective programmes at a local level. In 2021, we expect LSPs will experience increased delivery costs due to reduced group numbers and the expense of implementing robust Covid-19 protocols. Programme funding is at the core of the LSPs engagement with clubs, communities and participants and allows for the delivery of a huge range of initiatives, programmes and events. To ensure LSPs can maintain safety standards while maximising programme reach we will increase programme investment in 2021. We anticipate a huge need for support to sports clubs and communities around the country as they return to sport in 2021 and attempt to recruit and activate their members, participants and volunteers. We have increased the investment into the club and community development fund so that LSPs will be in a position to provide these supports at a local level. By investing in the development and implementation of targeted programmes and leveraging the support provided to clubs to encourage them to engage with underrepresented groups, this funding will support the delivery of Actions 5, 6, 9, 14 and 28 of the National Sports Policy.

Governance and Risk Management

LSPs have grown significantly since their first inception. As the organisations have grown so too have their responsibilities and administrative workload. Following consultation with Sport Ireland, the CLG LSPs submitted a combined written request to Sport Ireland requesting specific investments to support the development of modern and robust GDPR, Health and Safety and HR policies. Sport Ireland supported each of the 9 CLG LSPs to support the CLG LSPs in implementing these governance and risk management projects. This funding will support the delivery of Action 31 of the National Sports Policy by providing the necessary supports for CLG LSPs to become and maintain compliance with the Governance Code and Governance best practice.

Building Awareness

LSPs identified building awareness of opportunities as one of the biggest challenges they face. This challenge was most apparent in promoting to inactive people and hard to reach target groups such as people from socio economic disadvantage, ethnic minorities and people with a disability. This challenge of building awareness was also one of the major findings of the recent LSP Insights Report and the Community Sports Hub Evaluation Report.

Despite the great work and impressive number of people who visit LSP websites and complete LSP programmes, this lack of LSP awareness is a limiting factor in the ability of LSPs to advocate on behalf of sport and physical activity locally. Increased visibility and awareness will increase recruitment of volunteers, local investment and most importantly reach to the most challenging target groups. In order to deliver on Actions 6, 7 and 9 of the National Sports Policy LSPs must be resourced *"to promote the broadest possible participation*

ensuring quality and accessibility for all groups". Sport Ireland will continue to support the 29 LSPs in 2021 to build on the promotional work and virtual activations delivered locally as well as national campaigns.

Managing Economic Risk

Sport Ireland is aware of the downward risk Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic presents to the Irish Economy and the potential reduction in investment from central government in the coming years if the economic consequences of these events prove to be negative. By increasing programme investment as well as human resources in 2021 Sport Ireland and the LSP network are better equipped to absorb potential economic shocks in the future with reduced risk of disruption to human resources and the associated HR, trust and sports development fallouts. In 2020, 77% of Sport Ireland's investment into the LSP network supported salaries and operating costs and we will seek to reduce this exposure into the future.

Local Sports Plans

Action 8 of the National Sports Policy has tasked Sport Ireland with supporting Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of the National Sports Policy. Sport Ireland will request to meet with the County and City Managers Association (CCMA) Economic, Enterprise, Community and Culture Committee in 2021. At this meeting Sport Ireland will highlight the role and value of LSPs and discuss the development of Local Sports Plans. Sport Ireland will also discuss the recruitment and employment of LSP staff, LSP governance code compliance in a Local Authority context and Sport Ireland funding strategies for the Local Authority based LSPs. Sport Ireland has allocated budget in the 2021 participation unit budget to assist LSPs and Local Authorities in the development of Local Sports Plans.

Appendices

Appendix A

List of Local Sports Partnerships

Local Sports Partnership Network	Year Established
Tipperary Sports Partnership	2001
Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership	2001
Roscommon Sports Partnership	2001
Clare Sports Partnership	2001
Donegal Sports Partnership	2001
Kildare Sports Partnership	2001
Laois Sports Partnership	2001
Fingal Sports Partnership	2001
Cork Sports Partnership	2002
Meath Sports Partnership	2002
Waterford Sports Partnership	2002
Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership	2004
Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership	2004
Mayo Sports Partnership	2004
Westmeath Sports Partnership	2004
Carlow Sports Partnership	2006
Offaly Sports Partnership	2006
Monaghan Sports Partnership	2006
Limerick Sports Partnership	2007
Galway Sports Partnership	2007
Cavan Sports Partnership	2008
Louth Sports Partnership	2008
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership	2008
South Dublin County Sports Partnership	2008
Wexford Sports Partnership	2008
Longford Sports Partnership	2008
Leitrim Sports Partnership	2008
Dublin City Sport & Wellbeing Partnership	2008
Wicklow Sports Partnership	2008

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

CARA

CARA is a national organisation which provides a collaborative and partnership platform throughout Ireland to impact on enhancing sport and physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities.

Club Children's Officer

The Club Children's Officer is a volunteer role within a sports club. S/he is the link between the children and the adults in the club. S/he takes responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and Sports Leaders. The Club Children's Officer should be a member of or have access to, the Club Management Committee and should be introduced to the young people in an appropriate forum.

CSDO - Community Sports Development Officer

The aim of the Community Sports Development Officer is to strengthen and enhance the capacity of the Local Sports Partnerships to further develop locally led plans and more long term sustainable physical activity programmes under the National Physical Activity Plan.

CSPAH – Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs

The objective of the Dormant Accounts Funded CSPAHs is to bring local people together and provide a home for local clubs and sports organisations. The Hubs provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in disadvantaged areas to get involved in and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle.

CYPSC - Children and Young People's Services Committees

CYPSC are county-level committees that bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people. They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services. Their role is to enhance inter-agency co-operation and to realise the national outcomes set out in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020.

Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was established in 2011. It has a key role in delivering highly critical aspects of Ireland's economic activity including further development of our transport infrastructure and services and the support and enhancement of our significant tourism and sports sectors.

Designated Liaison Person

The Designated Liaison Person is a volunteer role within a sports club. The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for ensuring that the standard reporting procedure is followed, so that suspected cases of child neglect or abuse are referred promptly to the designated person in TUSLA Child and Family Agency or in the event of an emergency and the unavailability of TUSLA, to An Garda Síochána.

DAF - Dormant Accounts Fund

The Dormant Accounts Fund is the responsibility of the Minister for The Department of Rural and Community Development. Sport Ireland receives Dormant Accounts Funding through the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to support sport and physical activity initiative to assist in the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged, the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged or persons with a disability.

ETBs – Education and Training Boards

ETBs are statutory education authorities that have responsibility for education and training, youth work and a range of other statutory functions. ETBs manage and operate second-level schools, further education colleges, pilot community national schools and a range of adult and further education centres delivering education and training programmes.

Evaluation

Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the design, implementation, outputs and outcomes of an initiative for the purposes of learning, and to inform future decision-making.

Fitzpatrick & Associates Review of LSPs

The Fitzpatrick & Associates Review of LSPs is a report published by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism in 2005. The report evaluates the progress of the LSPs with reference to the key aims and objectives, and makes a number of recommendations for the LSP initiative.

GIW - Get Ireland Walking

The Get Ireland Walking programme is a Sport Ireland initiative that aims to maximise the number of people participating in walking, for health, wellbeing and fitness, throughout Ireland.

HI - Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing is the national framework for whole of Government and whole of society action to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland. It sets out four central goals and outlines actions under six thematic areas, in which society can participate to achieve these goals. The Framework identifies a number of broad inter-sectoral actions, one of which commits to the development of a plan to promote increased physical activity levels.

HSE – Health Service Executive

The HSE is the statutory authority responsible for providing Health and Personal Social Services for those living in the Republic of Ireland.

IPPEA – Irish Primary Education

The IPPEA is an association dedicated to heightening awareness of PE issues in primary schools and it aims to promote physical activity in an educational context.

LCDC - Local Community Development Committees

Under Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, each local authority must establish a Local Community Development Committee. The aim of the LCDCs is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

LSP – Local Sports Partnership

LSPs are an initiative of Sport Ireland and aim to co-ordinate and promote the development of sport at local level. The key aims of the LSPs are to increase participation in sport, and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. The LSP initiative lies at the heart of Sport Ireland's participation strategy.

NGB – National Governing Body

An organisation, recognised by Sport Ireland, that coordinates the development of a particular sport or sports through constituent clubs.

NPAP – National Physical Activity Plan

In 2016, the Government launched Ireland's first ever National Physical Activity Plan that aims to get at least half a million more Irish people taking regular exercise within ten years. The key target is to increase the number of people taking regular exercise by 1% a year over ten years by making exercise a normal part of everyday life and giving people more opportunities to be active.

National Sports Policy

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport National Sports Policy 2018-2027 which was launched on the 25th July 2018.

Older People

As used throughout this report, the term older people refers to those over 50 years of age.

OD&C – Organisational Development and Change Unit

The Organisational Development and Change Unit within Sport Ireland is primarily focused on providing support to the sports organisations which receive funding from Sport Ireland including National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships.

OCB – Organisational Capability Building

These are the services that the OD&C Unit provide to help develop and build the 8 capability areas for client sports organisations. These 8 capability areas are: Organisational Leadership, Change Management, Risk Management, Strategic Planning, Employee Performance Management, Project Management, Corporate Governance and Stakeholder Engagement.

OT – Operation Transformation

Operation Transformation is a health and fitness television show broadcast on RTÉ. Sport Ireland has partnered with Operation Transformation since 2011 to develop a range of events to promote participation in physical activity.

SARI – Sport Against Racism Ireland

SARI are a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status, dedicated to positive integration and social inclusion through sport.

SIDO – Sports Inclusion Disability Officer

SIDOs aim to provide opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity for people with a disability. See Sports Inclusion Disability Programme.

SOLAS – An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna

SOLAS is the national training and employment agency with responsibility for assisting those seeking employment.

Single Item Measure – M1

The Single Item Measure – M1 is an internationally validated self-report measure which allows one to track an individual's rates of participation in sport and physical activity.

SPEAK – Strategic Planning, Evaluation and Knowledge system

The SPEAK system is a product of NEXUS Research (a not-for-profit research co-operative based in Dublin) which offers organisations the capacity to self-evaluate, leading to a comprehensive understanding of the work of the organisation and the impacts of that work.

Sport Ireland

Sport Ireland brings together the Irish Sports Council, National Sports Campus Development Authority, Irish Institute of Sport and Coaching Ireland to form a new, streamlined and dynamic body to drive the future of Irish sport. Sport Ireland is a statutory authority that aims to plan, lead and co-ordinate the sustainable development of competitive and recreational sport in Ireland.

SIDP - Sports Inclusion Disability Programme

A programme to encourage and facilitate more people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity, developing sustainable clubs and programmes in all settings.

Sustainability (with regard to LSP participation programmes)

Sustainable programme is one which leads to lasting participation in sport and/or physical activity which is capable of being self-maintained (without direct LSP support).

TUSLA - Child and Family Agency

On 1st January 2014 the Child and Family Agency became an independent legal entity, comprising HSE Children and Family Services, the Family Support Agency and the National Educational Welfare Board as well as incorporating some psychological services and a range of services responding to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The Child and Family Agency is now the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children.

WIS – Women in Sport

An initiative of Sport Ireland which aims to increase participation of women in sport through provision of alternative opportunities and development of specific programmes targeting women and girls.

<p>Appendix C</p> <p>Local Sports Partnerships</p> <p>Contact Details</p>	<p>Carlow Sports Partnership www.carlow.ie 059 9136 205 mjduggan@carlowcoco.ie FB @County Carlow Sports Partnership</p>	<p>Cavan Sports Partnership www.cavansportspartnership.ie 049 437 8582 info@cavansportspartnership.ie FB @CavanSportsPartnership T @CavanSP</p>
<p>Clare Sports Partnership www.claresportspartnership.ie 065 686 5434 info@claresports.ie FB @claresports T @Claresports</p>	<p>Cork Sports Partnership www.corksports.ie 021 434 7096 info@corksports.ie FB @CorkSportsPartnership T @CorkSports</p>	<p>Donegal Sports Partnership www.actedonegal.com 074 911 6078 info@actedonegal.com FB @actedonegal T @ActiveDonegal</p>
<p>Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-servicesrecreation-culture/sport-and-recreation 01 222 7852 sports@dublincity.ie FB @DublinCitySportandWellbeingPartnership T @dccsportsrec IG @dublincitysportandwellbeing</p>	<p>Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership www.dlrsportspartnership.ie 01 271 9502 info@dlrsportspartnership.ie FB @dlrsportspartnership T @dlrSportsTeam</p>	<p>Fingal Sports Partnership www.fingalcoco.ie/communit yand-leisure/sports-and-fitness 01 890 5107 Sports@fingal.ie FB @FingalSports T @FingalSports</p>
<p>Galway Sports Partnership www.galwayactive.ie 091 509572 / 509577 / 536459 galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie FB @Galway Sports Partnership T @GalwayLSP</p>	<p>Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership www.kerryrecreationandsports.ie 066 718 4776 info@kerryrecreationandsports.i e FB @kerryrecreationandsportspartnership T @KerryRSP</p>	<p>Kildare Sports Partnership www.kildare.ie/kildaresp 045 980 546 ksp@kildarecoco.ie FB @KildareSportsPartnership T @KildareSP IG @kildare_sports_partnership YT Kildare Sports Partnership</p>
<p>Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership www.krsp.ie www.krsp.ie 056 779 4990 info@krsp.ie FB @Kilkennysports T @kilkennysports</p>	<p>Laois Sports Partnership www.laoissports.ie 057 867 1248 info@laoissports.ie FB @laoisls T @LaoisSportsLSP</p>	<p>Leitrim Sports Partnership www.leitrimsports.ie 071 965 0498 sports@leitrimcoco.ie FB @LeitrimLSP T @LeitrimLSP IG @LeitrimLSP</p>

<p>Limerick Sports Partnership www.limericksportspartnership.ie 061 333 600 info@limericksports.ie FB @limerickcitysportspartnership T @Limericksports</p>	<p>Longford Sports Partnership 043 334 9402 info@longfordsports.ie FB @longfordsportspartnership T @LSPLongford</p>	<p>Louth Sports Partnership www.louthlsp.ie 042 932 4318 louthsp@louthcoco.ie T @louthcoco</p>
<p>Mayo Sports Partnership www.mayosports.ie 094 904 7025 misp@mayococo.ie FB @Mayo Sports Partnership T @MayoSport1</p>	<p>Meath Local Sports Partnership www.meathsports.ie 046 906 7337 mlsp@meathcoco.ie FB @meathsportspartnership T @MeathLocalSport YT MeathSports</p>	<p>Monaghan Sports Partnership www.monaghansports.ie 042 975 5126 info@monaghansports.ie FB @monaghansports T @monaghan_sports</p>
<p>Offaly Sports Partnership www.offalysports.ie 057 934 6843 sports@offalycoco.ie FB @Offaly Sports Partnership T @OffalySP</p>	<p>Roscommon Sports Partnership www.rosactive.org 090 663 0853 info@rosactive.org FB @RoscommonSportsPartnership T @Ros_sports IG @roscommonsportspartnership</p>	<p>Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership www.sligosportandrecreation.ie 071 916 1511 info@sligosportandrecreation.ie FB @SligoSportandRecreationPartnership T @SSRPSligo IG @Sligosportandrecreation</p>
<p>South Dublin County Sports Partnership www.sdscsp.ie 01 414 9157 info@sdscsp.ie FB @sdscsp T @SDCSP1 IG @sdscsp1</p>	<p>Tipperary Sports Partnership www.tipperarysports.ie 076 106 6201 info@tipperarysports.ie FB @tipperarysports T @TipperarySports IG @tipperarysportspartnership</p>	<p>Waterford Sports Partnership www.waterfordsportspartnership.ie 0761 10 2194 info@waterfordsportspartnership.ie FB @WaterfordSportsPartnership T @WaterfordLSP IG @Waterford_LSP</p>
<p>Westmeath Sports Partnership www.westmeathsports.ie 044 939 0208 info@westmeathsports.ie FB @WestmeathSport T @WestmeathSport</p>	<p>Sports Active Wexford www.sportsactivewexford.ie 053 919 6557 sports.active@wexfordcoco.ie FB @SportsActive T @SportActiveWex IG @sportactivewexford</p>	<p>Wicklow Local Sports Partnership www.wicklowlsp.ie 0404 20100 wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie FB @wicklowlocalsportspartnership T @WicklowLsp IG @ActiveWicklow</p>



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