

# COUNTY SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

February 2005

## Introduction

This briefing note provides an update on what Sport England is undertaking in order to deliver the County Sports Partnerships (CSPs). It is the start of a regular flow of information to keep CSPs and other key partners informed on the subject.

## What is the current status in the development of the County Sports Partnerships?

Work has been underway on the continued rollout of CSPs over the past 18 months. A total of 45 CSPs are now working to help people of all ages benefit from sport provision at a sub-regional level. Evolution towards wider fit-for-purpose CSPs is progressing at varying rates throughout the country. Some are at an embryonic stage and others are making good progress. Concerted efforts are ongoing to support them to become fit-for-purpose.

The complete nationwide network of CSPs will be operational by March 2006. In the interim, significant work will be undertaken to structure and support the evolution of the CSPs. Sport England recognises this as a critical area of work and has focused more resources to accelerate the delivery over the next three months.

## What does this mean?

Sport England has set up an 'Acceleration Project Team' to help drive and elevate the effectiveness of the CSPs during the next 12 weeks. After an initial assessment of the current position and an evaluation of what needs to happen to make a major difference to the development of the CSPs, the team began work on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

The team is composed of individuals from the Sport England Sports Development and Governing Bodies Teams, three SE Regions and organisations providing relevant support who can add value to the project. The team will be calling on the expertise of the Sport England regional CSP leads to develop key areas of the project.

## What are the key outcomes for the work of the Acceleration Project team?

1. Creating clarity and a common vision for Sport England's work with the CSPs.
2. Establishing core functions (strategic sub-regional co-ordination, marketing and communication, performance measurement).
3. Working towards developing a single sports system in conjunction with National Governing Bodies.
4. Securing agreement and commitment within Sport England and key external partners to the common vision.
5. Initiating a comprehensive and controlled communications campaign to inform all interested parties of progress and to confirm Sport England's full commitment to the CSPs.
6. Introducing simple but effective funding and governance measures.
7. Identifying a common set of performance management indicators as guidance to the CSPs.
8. Providing clear and definitive guidelines to be available for regions to use in their continuing work establishing CSPs throughout England.
9. Establishing a programme of support for all those working on CSP- related activity.
10. Producing a legacy for ongoing CSP work leading up to March 2006.

### **Who is backing up this project?**

The main Sport England Board and the Regional Sports Board Chairs are committed to accelerating the delivery of the full network of CSPs. They reviewed and signed off the Acceleration Project Team project plan on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

The project has a director level Steering Board comprising the Director of Regions, the Director of Sport, a Regional Director and the Head of Sports Development, together with representatives from key partners. The Board will be reporting on progress to DCMS, Sport England's Board and Executive Team and other key stakeholders.

### **What is this project in a simple statement?**

A project providing additional informed resources to accelerate the delivery of an effective and robust national network of County Sports Partnerships.

### **What will happen next?**

A core part of the project will involve regular communication both internally and externally. Therefore, you will receive weekly updates on the progress of the project, via an email newsletter from w/c 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Acceleration project (February 7<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>) – What will success look like?**

- A well defined, universally understood core proposition for CSPs that is articulated and accepted internally and by the respective partners;
- CSPs established with partners as the key vehicle for coordinating sport at a sub-regional level and *bringing sport into the community*;
- CSPs moving forward with funds released, KPIs in place and aligned with Whole Sport Plans and governance arrangements signed off;
- CSPs feeling supported in terms of communications and resources;
- Establishment of strong and regular communication reaffirming CSPs position at the heart of community sport in England

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