

# OPENING SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDING PHASE 2, 2021

A team BEDS&LUTON Project

## INTRODUCTION

Sport England invested £10.1 million of government money to help more schools open their facilities to the public in response to declining physical activity participation numbers due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The funding was provided by the Department for Education to support schools to deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day - during evenings, weekends and school holidays. Large scale capital/building works were not an eligible use of this funding.

Sport England worked with the nationwide network of Active Partnerships to distribute the funding and team BEDS&LUTON were successful in their application for £130 151 for delivery.

This was the second phase of Opening School Facilities Funding.







This report summarises the work carried out by team BEDS&LUTON across Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough to deliver the Department for Education's intentions. This document also includes how schools implemented the programme and the impact it has had on their pupils and local communities.

## INTENTION OF THE FUNDING

The purpose of this funding was to encourage schools to open their facilities to their pupils and community in order to provide access to regular physical activity and to increase the breadth and volume of sports and activities available.

team BEDS&LUTON, as an Active Partnership, provided schools with support regarding;

- opening their facilities in a COVID safe manner
- pupil voice to determine activities
- targeting particular community and pupil groups
- sustainability
- links with local community and sports clubs
- links with National Governing Bodies of sports where appropriate

The funding was seen as a need nationally as 'There has [also] been a decrease in enjoyment, confidence and competence of children in physical activity, particularly from LSEG and BAME children which in turn has led to a decrease in activity which subsequently affects mental health and wellbeing and attainment in school.' (UK Active)

Sport England's Active Lives Children and Young People Survey also showed the number of children who met the government's guidance for an hour of activity a day dropped by more than 100,000 (2.3%) in the summer of 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.

Locally, it was noted that many community physical activities, clubs and sessions ceased completely due to national lockdowns and the fear surrounding COVID safety. These were struggling to reopen once measures were relaxed.

## **CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT**

The funding awarded to team BEDS&LUTON was to support Lower, Middle, Primary, Upper, Secondary and Special schools only and was to be spent by August 31st 2021 with schools delivering activities during the Summer term 20/21 (first half of the Autumn term 21/22 at the very latest).

The funding could be used to;

- support the opening of an on-site swimming pool through purchasing water testing kits and plant servicing support following guidance from Swim England. As a result of this, the schools could restart and extend opportunities for children, young people, families and communities to participate in swimming activities.
- support schools to meet COVID-19 measures by purchasing additional signage, touch free entry points, perspex screens, additional cleaning equipment or floor markings to maintain social distance.
- purchase additional sports or activity equipment as well as storage solutions so improve access to these resources out of school hours.
- to improve accessibility of these activities to target groups. These were identified by Sport England as those where free school meal eligibility is high, schools with high levels of SEND pupils and schools where activity levels are low.
- employ a member of staff for a short fixed period to support the reopening
  of the facilities. For example, a coach or activity leader, a key holder to
  open and close the building or facility, a cleaner to adhere to COVID health
  safety recommendations







## **FURTHER CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT**

The funding could **not** be used to;

- pay for activities or costs which are already covered by other government funding or other Sport England funding
- support activities promoting religious or political beliefs
- host activities where there is personal benefit to an individual
- support any private business or profitmaking organisations unless they are a Social Enterprise or Community Interest Company
- fund large scale capital / building works
- recover any loss of revenue as a result of facilities being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions
- pay for marketing and advertising
- cover any costs associated with the maintenance
- finance any technical development or updating of existing websites or for the development/creation of new website
- support nurseries or other childcare or educational settings listed in the
   'Conditions of the Grant' section of the OSF Sport England document



## RAISING AWARENESS OF OSF

Once the funding of £130 151 to team BEDS&LUTON for delivery had been confirmed, we used our network of contacts throughout the three Local Authorities - Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough - to ensure all schools and agencies were aware of this opportunity.

The following methods were used;

- An information sheet was put together outlining the details of the fund and shared via email
- School Improvement Teams in each Local Authority (LA) were approached and asked to disseminate the information to their Advisors and on to the Head Teachers of their schools
- School Games Organisers (SGOs) were contacted and passed the information on to their PE leads within schools
- The PE Advisors of each LA targeted schools where the following Sport England criteria would be met;
- 1. A high percentage of pupils receiving Free School Meals
- 2. A high percentage of SEND pupils
- 3. Schools with inactive pupils or those with low activity levels
- 4. Schools within Black And Minority Ethnic areas
- 5. Schools that would benefit from 'Girls Only' sessions
- 6. Schools within an area of deprivation
- Links were made with agencies delivering the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) in each LA. We held discussions around how the funding can prepare their facilities for this provision, but would not fund it.
- We facilitated three zoom drop-in sessions which were well attended.
  These were advertised through the above networks and were attended
  by Teachers, Senior Leadership Team members, Facility Managers and
  school Business Managers.







## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

All schools interested in the funding were directed to our OSF page on our team BEDS&LUTON website

https://www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/opening-school-facilities-fund where they completed an expression of interest form.

This was a short form asking for the following information;

- Name of school and Trust (if applicable)
- Name of member of staff completing the form, their position within the school and their contact details
- FSM and SEND data
- What they consider the barriers are which prevent them reopening their facilities to their pupils and the community
- Amount applying for (£) and whether the school will contribute financially
- Explain how they will use their funding to address the application criteria
- A breakdown of the use of funds
- Their delivery timeline
- Any further support they may require
- How they envisage this activity will be sustainable
- The Head Teacher was required to sign the form to show this is a whole school project

## **ASSESSING EACH APPLICATION**

The applications were collected and shared with the team. We received a total of 61 forms, requesting a total of £349,919.

We took the time to read through them individually and then met virtually as a team over three meetings to discuss each separate application in detail. To support this process we drew up a Review Matrix to ensure we remained focussed on the objectives, purpose and conditions of the funding.

## **Shortlisting**

The review matrix gave each application scores for the following considerations:

- Does this project clearly support the opening of their school facilities?
- Have the school considered how this project will be sustainable once the funding is removed?
- Does the spend demonstrate value for money when sourcing equipment, staffing etc?
- Does their timeline fit with Sport England's?
- Have they addressed activities for groups such as SEND, those in receipt of FSM, the inactive or those with low activity levels, BAME?
- Has the provider considered the implications COVID may have on the delivery of the project or is this provision part of a COVID recovery programme?
- Have they identified any National Governing Body links?
- How does their FSM data compare to other schools in their area and the FSM data provided by their LA?



As an Active Partnership, we also considered other factors that would support the OSF offer within communities that were unique to our area. We are aware that there are many schools throughout our area in rural locations. These villages were not necessarily considered areas of deprivation, but access to clubs and sessions was limited due to travel time thereby reducing physical activity and sport offers. Through discussions with some targeted schools with supportive and proactive management such as Silsoe Lower School, Hockliffe Lower School and Great Ouse Primary Academy, it was decided that this should be a consideration when assessing applications.

In addition to the assessment criteria described, each school that applied for funding was plotted on a google map to gauge the potential spread of funding over our delivery area.

If any gaps were identified, we used our knowledge of schools and relationships with staff to open discussions with them regarding the possibility of applying.

Once the review matrix was complete, we were able to set a scoring limits regarding successful applicants, unsuccessful applicants and 'reserve' schools on the merit of their applications.

In order to ensure the funding benefitted as many people as possible, a limit of approximately £5000 per school was set. This meant we had the flexibility to assess each successful request and select the items from their proposal we felt fitted the Sport England criteria the most and would have maximum impact. For example, one school requested £11,228.96 to cover 4 projects. In order to remain within the £5000 limit (and once ineligible costs were removed) we selected three projects at a cost of £4857.





# WORKING WITH SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

Once the review matrix was complete and we had identified the successful applicants, we informed the OSF lead in each school as well as the Head Teacher via email. The email stated;

- the amount awarded to their school
- the purpose of their funding ie provision, equipment, staff costs
- Targeted groups as specified in their application

They were asked to confirm their acceptance in an email within a week. Once we had received this, individual Service Level Agreements were drawn up. The SLAs included the following;

- confirmation of amount and how it is to be spent
- specific outcomes to be reached as a result of the funding
- other responsibilities of the grant recipient which included;
  - School Risk assessments, Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies
     were to be followed
  - Provide outcomes and output data as agreed
  - Provide financial information relating to the costs
  - Agreement that all funds must be spent by August 31st 2021
  - Schools will actively promote the activity through their normal communication channels and actively encourage their audience to pursue further opportunities to remain active
  - Ensure that suitable insurance cover is in place
  - Ensure that any personal data collected as a result of the project is stored and used in accordance with GDPR regulations
  - If the school is nominated to complete the Sport England Active Lives
     Children and Young People Survey they must ensure that it's completed



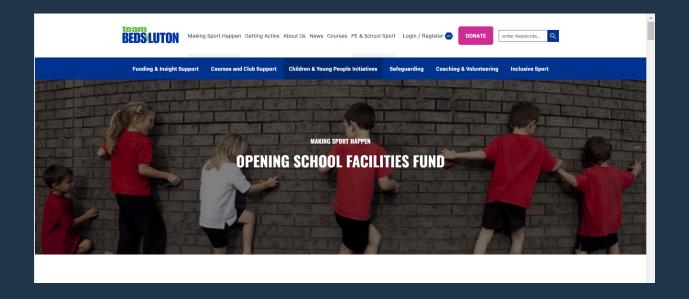


team BEDS&LUTON were on hand to provide any support for the points covered within the SLA. The Project Manager was available for phonecalls or online meetings to begin with and once COVID laws were relaxed, in-person meetings were offered. It was understood that schools were facing challenging times with pupils returning to class after an intense period of home schooling, as well as COVID testing in schools being introduced. The PM was available for evening and weekend calls and any meetings to support staff during these challenging times.

The OSF webpage on the team BEDS&LUTON website evolved as the projects did and all successful schools were encouraged to visit it regularly.

The page contained information about the fund, regularly updated FAQs, any documents from outside agencies that would support schools to open their facilities safely, task lists for schools and templates for risk assessments and other supporting documents.

Sport England hosted a number of webinars for the Active Partnership OSF leads throughout the time of the project. These were very helpful and provided the opportunity to share ideas, but also for all staff to realise they are facing similar challenges and successes during these difficult times.



73% of the schools were able to begin their projects during the Summer term of 2021 or during the school summer holidays. The remaining schools were able to start their provision during the Autumn term 2022. The delivery of equipment for Kempston Challenger Academy's club targeting SEND pupils and those in receipt of FSM was delayed due to COVID but the sessions still started in a slightly different form - online.

This shows the funding for these projects was incredibly well-received and that staff and children were keen to get their provision up and running,

# OUTCOMES OF THE OPENING SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDED PROJECTS, PHASE 2

The information in the following infographics was correct at time of print.

## **LUTON SCHOOLS**

Opening School Facilities
Phase 2 funded activities



TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN LUTON

84

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR OSF FUNDING IN LUTON

17

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS IN LUTON

12



AMOUNT AWARDED TO LUTON SCHOOLS

£40,177.88

## TYPES OF ACTIVITIES OFFERED TO PUPILS AND RESIDENTS IN LUTON



Holiday activity camps for pupils transitioning from Primary to Secondary schools, Women's fitness sessions, Taekwondo for at-risk pupils, support for school swimming pools to open for HAF projects, opening school facilities for Luton Hockey Club, touch free barriers to support out of hours use and storage facilities to allow access to equipment for external providers.



NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS

over 855

PHYSICAL ACTVITY OPPORTUNITIES
MADE AVAILABLE TO MORE THAN
422 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
DURING GOVERNMENT COVID
PESTRICTIONS







With thanks for Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Stockwood Park Academy, Icknield High School, Chalk Hills Academy, Farley Junior Academy, Stopsley High School, River Bank Primary School, Beech Hill Community Primary School, Challney High School for Girls, Lealands High School, Warden Hill Junior School and Chantry Primary School.

# CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

Opening School Facilities
Phase 2 funded activities

BEDS-LUTON

TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

169

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR OSF FUNDING IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

29

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

15



AMOUNT AWARDED TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

£54,797.50

## TYPES OF ACTIVITIES OFFERED TO PUPILS AND RESIDENTS IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Holiday activity camps for pupils in rural locations, storage facilities to allow access to equipment for external providers as well as providing a changing area, SEND sports equipment, clubs for pupils from the travelling community, fitness equipment for inactive secondary pupils and their families, gardening clubs and orienteering mapping for community groups.

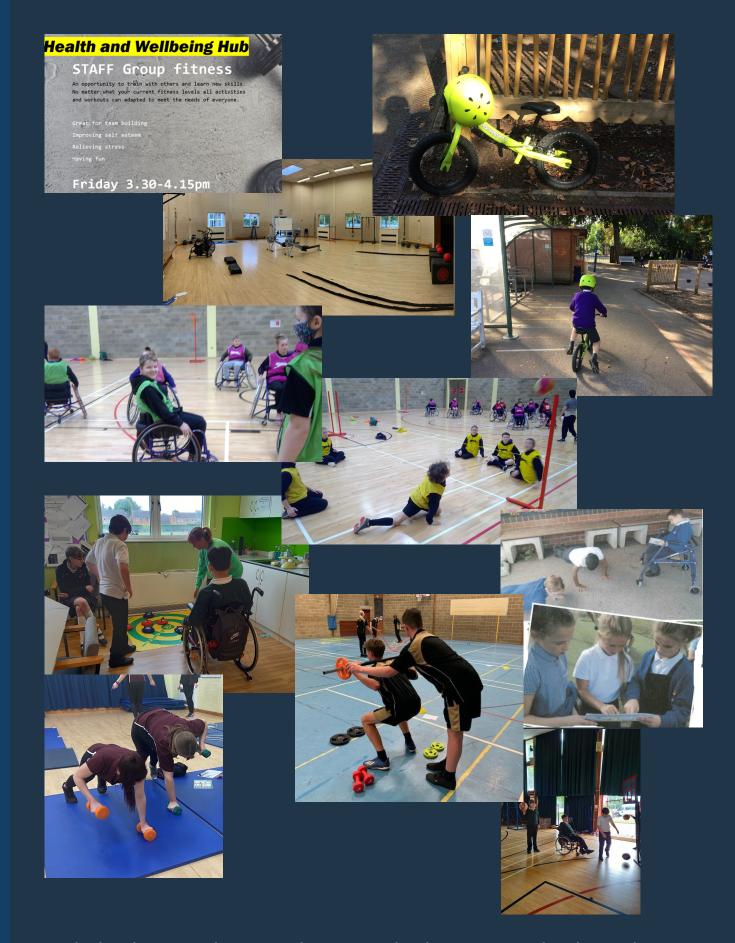


NUMBER OF CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE
ABLE TO ACCESS THESE
OPPORTUNITIES DURING
COVID RESTRICTIONS

over 2741

PHYSICAL ACTVITY OPPORTUNITIES
MADE AVAILABLE TO MORE THAN
514 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
DURING GOVERNMENT COVID
PESTRICTIONS





With thanks to Hadrian Academy, Stanbridge Lower School, Sandy Secondary School, Vandyke Upper School, Maulden Lower School, Gilbert Inglefield Academy, Parkfields Middle School, Cedars Upper School, Stratton Upper School, Heathwood Lower School, Shefford Lower school, Hockliffe Lower School, Silsoe Lower School, Linslade School and Beaudesert Lower School.

## BEDFORD BOROUGH SCHOOLS

Opening School Facilities
Phase 2 funded activities



TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN LUTON

95

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR OSF FUNDING IN LUTON

17

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS IN LUTON

8



AMOUNT AWARDED TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

£35,175.40

## TYPES OF ACTIVITIES OFFERED TO PUPILS AND RESIDENTS IN BEDFORD BOROUGH

To support the opening of a SEND school swimming pool for pupil and family use, purchase new innovative equipment for pupil and community groups at a dual use facility, purchase portable outdoor floodlights to extend hire hours for school fields and to support the opening of a school swimming pool to work alongside holiday



NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS

over 1963

PHYSICAL ACTVITY OPPORTUNITIES
MADE AVAILABLE TO MORE THAN
554 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
DURING GOVERNMENT COVID
RESTRICTIONS















With thanks to Hazeldene School, The Grange Academy, Sharnbrook Upper School, Lincroft Academy, Great Ouse Primary School, Livingstone Primary School, Kempston Challenger Academy and St John's Special School.

## **EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT**

Once the the delivery deadline had passed, we felt it was important to look back at the processes we had adopted throughout the Opening School Facilities project. We used our team BEDS&LUTON webpage to embed a project evaluation form. We felt, at this time, that schools were becoming overwhelmed with paperwork as well as a new wave of COVID restrictions and so kept the form as short yet direct as possible, School project leaders were asked to answer the following questions using check boxes and had the opportunity to expand upon their responses if they so wished.

		_
Opening School Facilities Funding Project Evaluation		
	Name of School:	
	Name of staff member completing evaluation:	
	Email address:	
	How satisfied were you with the following during your work on the Opening School Facilities Project?	
	Please feel free to expand on any scores using the boxes underneath	
	1. Availability of information regarding the OSF funding	
	○ 0 very dissatisfied ○ 1 dissatisfied ○ 2 acceptable ○ 3 satisfied ○ 4 very satisfied	
	Further information	
	2. The application process (online form)	
	○ 0 very dissatisfied ○ 1 dissatisfied ○ 2 acceptable ○ 3 satisfied ○ 4 very satisfied	
	Further information	
	3. Support from team BEDS&LUTON, your Active Partnership	
	○ 0 very dissatisfied ○ 1 dissatisfied ○ 2 acceptable ○ 3 satisfied ○ 4 very satisfied	
	Further information	
	4. The amount (E) you were awarded	
	○ 0 very dissatisfied ○ 1 dissatisfied ○ 2 acceptable ○ 3 satisfied ○ 4 very satisfied	
	Further information	
	5. The reporting requirements	
	○ 0 very dissatisfied ○ 1 dissatisfied ○ 2 acceptable ○ 3 satisfied ○ 4 very satisfied	
	Further information	
	Please state how strongly you agree with the following statements  Please feel free to expand on any statements using the boxes underneath	
	I feel that our OSF funded provision benefitted our target group of pupils ag SEN, PP, FSM, inactive etc     O strongly disagree	
	Further information	
	7. Our local community benefitted from our OSF funds	
	O strongly disagree O 1 disagree O 2 some O 3 agree O 4 strongly agree  O strongly disagree O 1 disagree O 2 some O 3 agree O 4 strongly agree	
	Further information	
	8. Our OSF funded provision is sustainable	
	○ 0 strongly disagree ○ 1 disagree ○ 2 some ○ 3 agree ○ 4 strongly agree	
	Further information	
	Please use this space to share anything that you feel worked particularly well or any processes that could be amended to improve any future collaborative work	
	Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this evaluation.	
	Submit Reset	

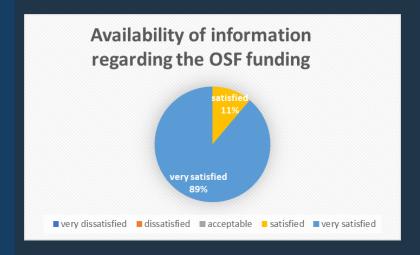
The first part of the evaluation considered the way in which team BEDS&LUTON managed and supported schools with their projects.

The second part aligned with Sport England's aims and objectives of the funding.

## **EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT**

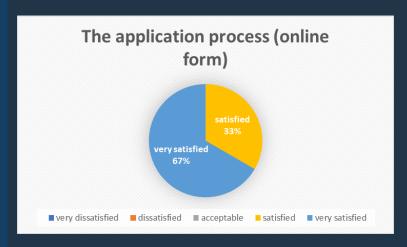
Here are the findings from the OSF school surveys

## HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING DURING YOUR WORK ON THE OPENING SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT?



#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Appreciated the heads up too. Clear information and help readily available if unsure.
Annelise (Opening School Facilities Project Manager) also incredibly supportive and directed me and answered my questions.
Anything I wanted clarification for was explained very well, so I could fully understand.
Very clear.



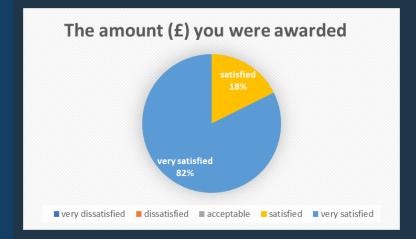
#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Very structured.
Again very simple and straightforward but any problems the team were brilliant.



#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

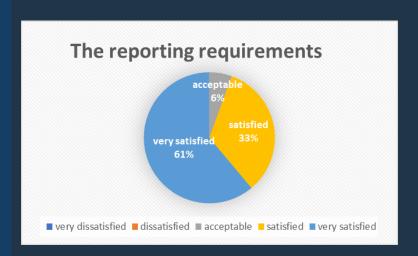
They were really helpful and accommodating.
Always there to help and get back to you with follow up support.
Annelise was very supportive.
All queries were answered in very good time - great communication
Annelise has been so supportive, answered all questions I had and responded very quickly also.



#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

We received the full request for 3 of the 5 schools so has made a massive impact already.

There are so many things that we need funding for, therefore, I can never be completely satisfied. We were very honoured to receive the full amount and the impact.



#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Was not too time consuming but great to be able to show how the funding was spent.

It is always good to report back on the successful implementation of something new.

## PLEASE STATE HOW STRONGLY YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS



#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

We do have large cohort of FSM, PP and children with SEN and were able to provide them with opportunities through this funding.

The provision that has been set up with the holiday clubs and the resources that were purchased will benefit our Pupil Premium children and our SEND children enormously in out of school activities.

The Orienteering course has benefitted all of our target groups as well as adults within the community and I hope this will continue to develop as new staff and holiday staff.

It's been great and had some excellent outcomes from the students.



#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The funding was used purely for the children that attend the school. Our project is not complete yet, therefore, we have not seen the benefits at this time.

Brownies, holiday club and an adult fitness club



#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Without the funding we will not be able to continue with extra curricular activities after school for the children that they normally will not be able to access.

Yes, we are very excited to be able to replicate the success for future holiday clubs, offering funded places to pp children.

The Orienteering course is set up and sustainable.

We need to pay staff to run the twilight / holiday clubs.

Links with clubs have been made that will continue.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

As already fed back to Annelise the amount of club, community users and accessibility for students for the funding we received is huge and can only thank you for the support financially to help achieve this.

The communication between the school and the project manager - Annelise. Which allowed for this to be effortlessly successful!

Working with Annelise has been a pleasure and the project has hugely benefitted our children. I would certainly value any future projects that could expand the impact further.

It might be useful to have a portal or a shared drive to upload info to instead of sending emails with attachments etc

Helpful, professional staff to answer any questions.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Through discussions with schools throughout their projects and upon reading their evaluation forms, there are a number of successes and points for development to take from our team BEDS&LUTON approach.

## What worked well

- Using members of the Active Partnership PE and School Sport Team to use their local intelligence to approach suitable schools and their contacts within these schools as well as SGOs to promote the funding
- Using contacts within LA School Improvement Teams to raise awareness and access useful school data ie FSM, SEN, etc
- The use of a review matrix to shortlist successful schools was very beneficial due to the large number of applications. This process kept the team focussed on the main aims and objectives of the funding as well as its intended impact.
- The project seemed to go through peaks and troughs of activity and at times, the
  workload was very intense. Having a Project Manager with the capacity to be
  flexible was a benefit as they were available to work with staff at schools at any
  time and would be able to respond to them quickly
- We understand the workload and pressures on schools and so formed a sympathetic application process. It was detailed but brief and was followed up with individualised and tailored communications when it was convenient for the applicant.
- Having the time to hold individual discussions with schools regarding their offer and ways of expanding and sustaining the community aspect was very important
- Capping awards at £5000 (approximately) per school meant that the OSF funds were able to reach more children and members of communities.
- Allowing schools to determine what activities they would like to offer through
  pupil voice led to a broad range of provision being offered throughout the three
  LAs. We did not limit the funding to a specific criteria.
- Including Lower Schools and Primary Schools in this project had many benefits, not least the opportunity for pupils to attend much needed sessions to begin to instill a physical activity habit for life after the pandemic.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

# What we have learned and what we will amend next time

- We will use our social media channels more to further advertise the funding opportunity to encourage more clubs and community groups to engage
- A suggestion from one of our schools was to have a Google Drive or equivalent for schools to access documents, upload their data etc rather than relying on emails. This is something we're already looking into as an Active Partnership as we feel it will benefit our communications
- We will provide opportunities for schools and groups to communicate with each other to discuss ideas, share contacts and provide support throughout a project.
   A possible 'chat room' style feature is something we are considering.
- We will aim to further develop the community use aspect of the school facilities
  to support sustainability. Due to the short timescale of this funding, OSHL
  targeted clubs benefitted hugely. We were able to facilitate a number of
  community activities and holiday clubs but would like to focus more on those
  links and their sustainability.
- COVID played a large part in the delivery of these projects as there were
  restrictions on school bubbles, some staff absences, some people were reluctant
  to engage in group activities and a delay in the delivery of ordered equipment.
  Unfortunately, we had no control over this.



## **TEAM BEDS&LUTON**

## **Meet the Opening School Facilities Funding Team**

team BEDS&LUTON Director Clare Fitzboydon

Business and Projects Manager Graham Simpson

PE, School Sport and School Games Manager Gill Morrow

Opening School Facilities Project Manager Annelise Finlayson

If you would like any information regarding the Opening School Facilities funding, please contact annelise@teambedsandluton.co.uk







www.teambedsandluton.co.uk teambedsandluton @teamBEDS