# **ANNUAL REPORT**2020-2021





## INTRODUCTION

It is fair to say that the period from April 2020 to the end of March 2021 has been like no other in our lifetime. It has been the most challenging year for us all, in pretty much every aspect of our lives. What it has clearly demonstrated however is the importance of being physically active and the value to our lives that social contact with others brings to each and every one of us.

The overriding focus of the year for our organisation has been to respond as effectively and supportively as possible to the needs of the sport and physical activity sector and the physical and mental health needs of our communities across Bedfordshire. The funding provided by Sport England has been invaluable in supporting our ability to deliver effectively on these needs. We are very thankful for this support, at a time when many business sectors have really struggled financially due to the pandemic restrictions.

The end of March 2020 saw the retirement of our long standing and highly valued Director Lloyd Conaway. Lloyd led the partnership from its inception back in 2006 and was a popular and highly respected figure across the sport and physical activity landscape both locally and nationally. We wish him and his wife Peta all the very best in their retirement.

### **CLARE FITZBOYDON**



Clare Fitzboydon was appointed into the role of Director from 1st April 2020. It has been the most challenging of starts and one she could not possibly have envisaged when she accepted the role. "My vision for the first 12 months for the organisation was certainly very quickly turned on its head. It was such an unsettling time for everyone, but I am so delighted and proud with how the team pulled together to respond in such a positive way, to support our sport and physical activity sector as well as those within our community who faced greater inequalities due to the pandemic, than others".

This period also saw the departure of Tom Harwood, one of our Relationship Managers, to a new role leading the Bedford Blues Community Trust. We welcomed Johnathan Rudland to the team as a direct replacement for Tom and created a new Impact and Insight Officer's Role into which we also welcomed Sophie Warrener to the team.

Our annual report unashamedly sets out our response to the pandemic and the work we will be focusing on to support the recovery from COVID-19 and beyond.



## SUPPORT FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

COVID-19 impacted significantly on our ability to deliver our normal School Games events, including our annual flagship county final festival. Our resources in this area were used in several ways to support Bedfordshire's children and young people. These included:

• The design, establishment and delivery of a range of physical activity bags to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children across Bedfordshire to be physically active in their home environment. We worked in collaboration with Children's Services and Public Health in each of our three unitary authorities to identify and delivery to the most deserving families.

#### Keeping active



A child playing with the bean bags from her activity pack

Bedford Borough and Luton each received 120 bags for 5-9 year old's and 60 bags for 10-13 year old girls and 60 bags for 10-13 year old boys.

Central Beds provided funding to increase the number of bags to 497 bags for 5-9 year old's, 104 bags for 10-13 year old boys and 104 bags for 10-13 year old girls. The bags contained several pieces of equipment and a range of activity resource cards to provide ideas of challenges and games that the children could do.

Click on the link below to read our case study.

Activity packs case study



- We worked in partnership with the School Games Organiser's (SGO's) to adapt provision and provide a County Virtual School Games Programme of competitions involving three personal challenges throughout the months of May, June and July. During National School Sports Week in June we held a competition each day of the week and we ended the educational year with a Cultural Virtual Triathlon (1. Creative Writing 2. Physical Personal Challenge 3. Creative Artwork).
- A range of virtual challenges were developed for use in schools and at home during the autumn term, including two county finals. We also held another cultural triathlon for Secondary Schools based upon the theme of the Impact of Covid on Society.
- The third national lockdown from January provided further opportunities for us to adapt provision for a County Virtual School Games Programme involving three different sports (dance, basketball, fitness challenges) for participation from home or school.
- All events were accessed through our website and engaged 1,984 pupils across a range of activities in the last six months of the year.

### **OUR PRIMARY PREMIUM WORK**

 Support was provided to schools for the delivery of PE when they returned in September. Information was constantly being updated on the website and schools were directed to webinars delivered by Association for Physical Education and Youth Sports Trust. Website reviews took place as part of the Phase 8 mapping programme and we developed and delivered resource packs for schools for teaching PE in the Covid recovery phase. We also provided a range of virtual Continuous Professional Development sessions for teachers including a full day virtual conference. These were well supported with 152 teachers attending.

### **OUR SATELLITE CLUB PROGRAMME**



• The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic impacted significantly on our Satellite Club projects and providers, with prolonged period of non-delivery of projects due to national lockdowns. In recent months, our priority has been to, support providers to safely return their projects in line with the Governments roadmap out of the latest lockdown and help to re-engage with children and young people. We have supported five new projects to adapt and deliver a virtual offer throughout the lockdowns, sustained delivery of 8 projects and engaged 239 new young people into projects across Bedfordshire. Our projects include:

- Bedford Borough Council- working in partnership with a local school to deliver online sessions to students still on campus and a separate virtual project in partnership with children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHs) offering online yoga and multi-fitness for young people suffering with mental health illnesses. Further information: Young Minds
- One Stop Advice- adapted their Martial Arts project to be delivered online during the ongoing pandemic, focusing predominately on multi-activity fitness session incorporating Martial Arts movements and hand eye co-ordination. The young girls loved the structure it provided to their weeks and being able to keep in contact with one another. Further information: <u>The Prowess Satellite</u> <u>Club</u>
- Transitions UK in partnership with Riverside Tennis Club launched a virtual multi-sport activity project for young people with disabilities and additional needs. Further information: <u>Disability tennis for young people</u>
- Total Wellbeing Luton launched a virtual project in partnership with a local Luton school targeting young people in deprived areas.

#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ONLINE SURVEY

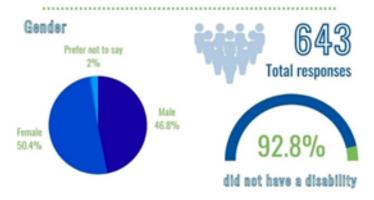
 team BEDS&LUTON launched an online Children and Young People Survey in November 2020 to help gather data and insight on young people's activity levels, motivators and barriers to sport and physical activity across Luton and Bedfordshire. We had over 640 responses across Bedfordshire. The key findings of the survey are summarised in the following infographics below:



## team BEDS&LUTON Children and Young People Survey

team BEDSALUTON launched an online Children and Young People Survey. The responses from this survey have been used to help us understand young people's activity levels, motivators and borriors to sport and physical activity across Bedfordshire and Lates.

The survey consisted of 20 questions and includes questions which look at understanding young people's sport and physical activity habits before the Covid-19 pandemic and understanding how these might have changed during this period.



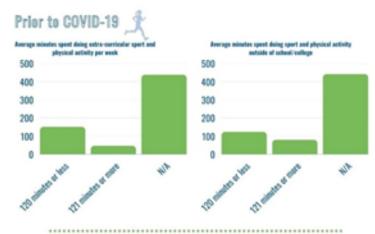


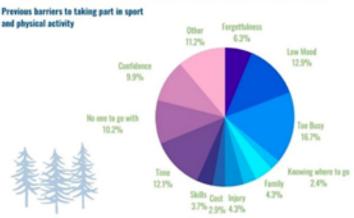
#### Since the COVID-19 Outbreak...

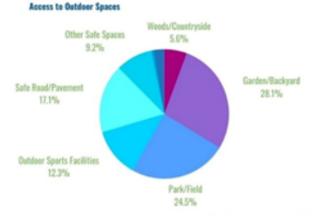


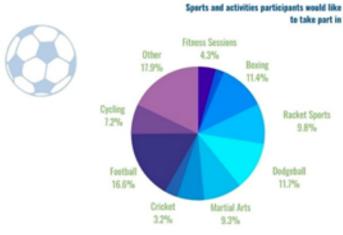
#### Since Returning to School...











## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES TO BE ACTIVE DURING THE PANDEMIC

#### Getting Active at Home and enjoying getting out in the fresh air

Coronavirus and its impacts forced us to spend a lot of time at home. We quickly created and shared via our social media outlets a wide range of resources and other sources of support to help individuals and families keep physically active. Advice and support was also made available to help our communities get out and about safely in the fresh air, enjoying walking, running and cycling and we certainly saw a significant increase in those enjoying these activities.



We were also delighted to see lots of local Bedfordshire clubs doing some incredible things for their members and local communities. We showcased their examples. Dunstable Swimming Club were an excellent example, tasking the opportunity to bring experts into their club members homes! We liked it so much we put together a case study of their work.

Further information - <u>Dunstable swimming club case study</u>

## SPORT ENGLAND'S TACKLING INEQUALITIES FUND



Back in June 2020 Sport England launched its Tackling Inequalities Fund as a direct response to the impact of the pandemic on the populations ability to be physically active. The funds aim is to help to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 and the widening inequalities in sport and physical activity. Priority audiences are:

- Low Socio-Economic Groups
- Culturally Diverse Communities
- Disabled People
- Those with Long Term Health Conditions

Funding is targeted at those organisations for whom existing resources preclude them from delivering sport and/or physical activity opportunities.

Active partnerships across England were tasked with rolling out this fund across their geographical area. We spent some time mapping out the opportunities with our strategic partners with the aim of working with several new organisations from non-traditional sporting sectors.

• Phase one of the programme was successfully delivered between June and the end of August. Phase two was more challenging to deliver given the prolonged national lockdowns. Despite this, at the end of March we had allocated more than 90% of the £100K allocated to ourselves.

## OUR WORK IS NOW FOCUSING ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Supporting our phase one and phase two award recipients with their ongoing projects with a specific focus on the challenges that they face as we come out of the latest national lockdown.
- Understanding outcomes and building case studies.
- Delivering on our phase three roll out.
   The core elements remain unchanged from the first two phases but a small amount of funding will be used to support the sustainability arising from strong governance and effective business planning of the groups we are working with.
- We have also highlighted that our work will focus on the needs of community groups and priority audiences and the Live Longer Better programme.



Did you know that our dementia team are now offering phone calls with physiotherapist Nadia Kopec? These can be about anything physio-related for you or your cared for person.

Physiotherapy plays an essential role in promoting and maintaining mobility for people with dementia.

Physiotherapists can assess a patient and give ongoing personalised care plans, addressing each individual's needs.

Working with carers can also alleviate the burden on care givers by promoting independence and educating them on how best to help their client, relative or friend.

Thank you to our funders for this service for August - Sports England, team BEDS&LUTON

If you are interested in receiving a call from Nadia, please contact flora.stewart@carersinbeds.org.uk for more information.



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4 shares

The type of work that we have undertaken through this fund can be viewed in the COVID-19 section of the website via: <u>COVID-19 case studies</u>

We are delighted with the breadth of coverage we have been able to achieve, and the number of new relationships we have established, particularly with nontraditional sport-based organisations.

### A snapshot of where and how the money has been used is provided below:

Local Authority Area	Target Group	Phase 1	Phase 2	Difference
ALL	LSEG	£33,790.83	£31,184	-£2,606.83
	BAME	£8,188.75	£24,295	+16,106.25
	LTHC	£4,241	£18,620	+£14,379
	Disability	£18,364.89	£20,368	+£2,003.11
Bedford	LSEG	£3,777.08	£11,691	+£7,913.92
	BAME	0	£9,095	+£9,095
	LTHC	£3,580	£2,800	-£780
	Disability	£7,993.89	£9,278	+£1,284.11
Central Beds	LSEG	£5,190	£5,433	+£240
	BAME	0	£2,700	+£2,700
	LTHC	0	£2,700	+£2,700
	Disability	£7,375.89	£9,890	+£2,514.11
Luton	LSEG	£24,823.75	£11,200	-£13,623.75
	BAME	£17,415.75	£9,640	-£7,775.75
	LTHC	0	£11,440	+£11,440
	Disability	£11,822.89	£5,820	-£6,002.89

Many projects received funding to work in multiple Local Authority areas, as well as across multiple target groups. It has not been possible to determine an exact figure that has been spent from the TIF award on each Local Authority area/target group per project. With this intersectionality in mind, the whole award figure has been repeated across each Local Authority area and each target group, so the figures above appear to have a much higher value than what is true. These figures are indicative and only to be used as a guideline.

## SUPPORTING THE SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE.



Sport England announced £220 million to help the sport and physical activity sector through the Covid-19 crisis.

The first fund to be opened was the Community Emergency Fund, which offered awards to groups and organisations who, because of the crisis, were struggling to 'keep the lights on'. We immediately put in place four free workshops to walk organisations through the criteria and help them with their applications. We also recorded the workshop and placed it on our website so that anyone who could not attend was able to receive our support. Over twenty organisations attended the sessions and many more utilised the website resource and liaised with us on a one to one basis. We are delighted to see that many have been successful. A summary of the number of clubs and funding received across each of the Unitary Authorities is provided below.

- Luton 29 submissions, 21 approved, investment total = £117,515 (average award £5.5k).
- Central Beds 46 submissions, 33 approved, investment total = £113,049 (average award £3.4k).
- Bedford 67 submissions, 47 approved, investment total = £170,849 (average award £3.5k).

As the year progressed the focus turned to the return to play agenda as well as supporting the need to continue to support clubs to pay their ongoing operating costs. A number of clubs were supported with successful applications to a variety of local and national funding opportunities, including Sport England's Small Grant and Community Asset Fund. During the year our work directly supported clubs and organisations to secure inward investment from these sources totalling in the region of £418K.

Of particular interest has been the launch of a new funding approach by Sport England following the establishment of a partnership with crowdfunder. This resulted in the launch of two new funding programmes 'Active Together' and Activating Your Space'. Both programmes are designed to support clubs with the challenges arising from COVID-19, one being operationally based, the other focuses on raising funds for capital, facility-based investments. Each programme supports community-based clubs to raise funds through an online based crowdfunding scheme but with the opportunity to secure up to £10,000 of matched funding from Sport England.

Initial interest was slow, with support provided on a bespoke, one to one basis. One such Club, Bedford based Modernians Swimming Club, were one of the first clubs nationally to establish a programme, raising £23,000 in six weeks. This success, together with a willingness of the club to share their experiences with others led to us setting up three virtual workshops in the autumn.

Fifteen clubs attended and we have subsequently supported six of them to either set up their own scheme or are in the course of doing so. Total funding raised across Bedfordshire since the commencement of these programmes is now £129,180 with nine projects receiving match funding from Sport England. Individual club schemes can be accessed via the following link: <a href="Active Together Crowd Funder">Active Together Crowd Funder</a>

We know from speaking to club representatives just how valuable this work has been. The feedback shared on the next page is a reflection of that received during this period.

"The £10,000 funding support we have received from the National Lottery funding through Sport England's Community Emergency Fund helped to save the job of a staff member who was ineligible for the furlough scheme. The funding also helped to fund core costs." Explains Carl Richardson, C.O.O and Trustee, SALTO Gymnastics Club, Luton "We want to thank team BEDS&LUTON for supporting us with the funding process, reviewing the application and encouraging us to apply at the start of lockdown."

"The £4000 funding support we have received from the National Lottery funding through Sport England's Community Emergency Fund has helped to fund essential ongoing costs and will enable us to keep going until such time as we can reopen and welcome back all our swimmers." Explains Jayne Ward from Modernian Swimming Club in Bedford. "We want to thank team BEDS&LUTON for supporting us throughout the funding process, without their help it would have proved very difficult for us to fundraise this sort of money for the benefit of our club."

"The £4,700 funding support we have received from the National Lottery funding through Sport England's Community Emergency Fund will support the maintenance and fixed costs in relation to the upkeep of our club building and the bowls green. We would have had a lot of social and fundraising events at our club to help with the upkeep but during lockdown this was impossible to do." Explains Margaret Malloch from Potton Bowls club" We want to thank team BEDS&LUTON for supporting us throughout the funding process, without their help we would have struggled to find the funds to sustain us through this difficult time."

## SUPPORTING OUR OLDER POPULATION TO RECOVER AND BUILD RESILIENCE.

Live Longer Better launched in late 2020 to fully capture the issues faced by older people right across the country. We were one of a small number of Active Partnerships working with Sir Muir Gray and Optimal Ageing to develop and establish a powerful collaborative movement. This will seek to address a population-based personalised system for Living Longer, Better and help to reduce the need for health and social care.

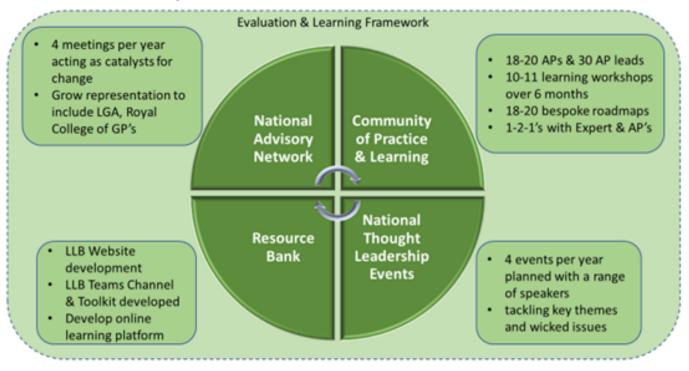
The over 50 population across Bedfordshire is set to increase significantly over the next twenty years with a doubling of the over 80 population numbers. Supporting this cohort to remain or become physically active will have major long-lasting benefits for the well-being of the population and economy of Bedfordshire. Our work in the first phase has focused on developing our understanding and knowledge of the key issues and working to establish a network of professionals and volunteers from health, care, sport and physical activity as well as those from organisations that directly support our ageing population.

The health system structures have led us to work in partnership with our colleagues from Leap, (the Active Partnership in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes) to establish a Bedfordshire wide network that also includes Milton Keynes. We have also worked closely with them to identify and develop locally based training around the benefits of physical activity which we will roll out in the forthcoming year. We are very grateful to them for their support with this work.



We are delighted to confirm that we are one of 20 Active Partnerships (AP) that have signed up to phase 2 of LLB. We will work alongside the Active Partnerships National Team, Sir Muir Gray, Sport England and Centre for Ageing Better to focus on creating a new culture: from "care" to enablement, using physical activity as the driver to increase health span for older adults.

LLB Phase 2: Apr 21 - Mar 23



## LOCAL WORKFORCE

#### **Projects Summary**

Each LA workforce project has adapted particularly well during the Pandemic and introduced a variety of new ways to deliver their projects. Throughout lockdown there has been tremendous support from partners and communities to get through these unprecedented times. There is a realisation that things will never return to the same format, but by working together we will be able to support one another to come through the pandemic safely and achieve our targets and outcomes.

**Central Bedfordshire** – developing a professional workforce in collaboration with other services in particular Education. Partners have agreed to roll out Youth Sports Trust Healthy Movers to nine preschool settings and nine children's centres.

**Luton** – run sport specific courses and mental health awareness courses to develop the skills of coaches and leaders in a diverse community as well as increasing the awareness of mental wellbeing in the community.

**Bedford** – working with clubs, coaches, and leisure staff to establish a highly skilled and competent workforce who are confident to talk about mental health and signpost people for support.

More detailed descriptions of each project can be found on our website: Workforce Projects

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Central Beds Council - The Youth Sports Trust provided the 'Early Movers Champion' training course for each of the identified 18 settings, which included Childrens Centres, Nurseries and Primary Schools in March 2020 (pre Covid). The trained individuals then cascaded their learning to colleagues. The feedback from this was extremely positive; 14 EY Practitioners said the training 'helped a lot' to help them feel more competent in their role.

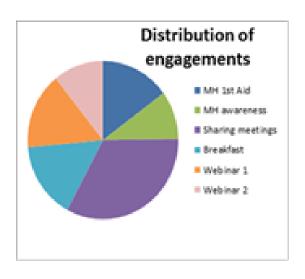
Due to Covid-19, all settings have adapted well and have been delivering Healthy Movers creatively to the children and families. This has taken form of online videos, live Microsoft Teams sessions, Home Packs with the Healthy Movers resource cards and outdoor activities during Half Term which have linked into wider local authority parks and spaces.

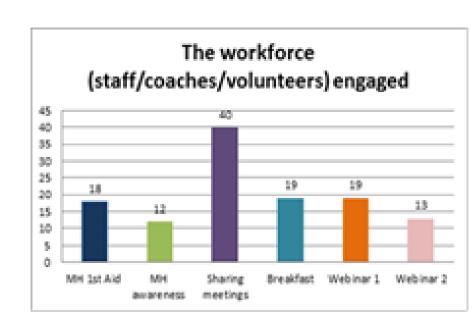


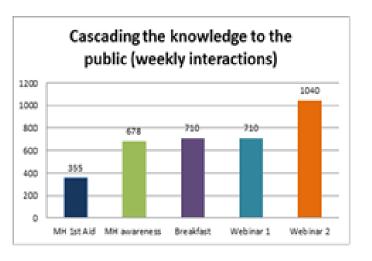
**Luton-** Mental Awareness training has been delivered as lockdown eased and this has meant that there are 'Champions' within all of the Active Luton venues and departments to support the return to work / activity (13 new candidates achieving accredited qualification during the lockdown period).

A3 Mental Health Support Plaques are now displayed in all leisure facilities

across Luton.









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### To help share the learning from all of the projects they developed a series of workforce Podcasts

**Episode 1** – Mental Health Training for Coaches in Bedford. We discuss the workforce development project in Bedfordshire, its original aims, and the successes so far in Bedford.

**Episode 2** – Mental Health Training for Coaches in Luton. We talk to local sports coaches and staff at Active Luton about the benefits of mental health training and the impact this has had on their work during the pandemic and beyond.

**Episode 3** – Precious Pearls - Training a new generation of swimming teachers. A lack of funding meant the swimming group was going to be unsustainable. The group secured funding through our workforce development fund.

**Episode 4:** The Healthy Movers Podcast. We chat with Central Bedfordshire Council and the Youth Sports Trust to see how our workforce funding from team BEDS&LUTON is being used to create the Healthy Movers programme across Children's Centres in the county.

All of these can be listened to via our TBL Chat Channel: Our Podcasts

#### **Courses**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic most of our courses were cancelled, and we continued to signpost clubs, community groups and organisations to UK Coaching's website with numerous courses running each day. For the period 2020-2021 we had the following number of attendees on our courses which were either delivered online or face to face with reduced capacity and in line with the Government's guidance and restrictions:

- Safeguarding and Protecting Children- 71 attendees
- Multi-Sport Time to Listen Course- 19 attendees
- Level 3 Emergency First Aid- 18 attendees

#### **UK Coaching Subscriptions**

During the summer of 2020, the Active Partnership were also able to offer 43 subscriptions to UK Coaching's Learning and Development Platform which allowed coaches to access this platform for 12 months with no cost. A range of resources are available on this platform such as ensuring welfare and safety, developing mindset, grow physical abilities and much more with new resources added each week. The Active Partnership have distributed all free licences with positive feedback collected from those who had access to this platform- UK Coaching Learning & Develop

#### **UK Coaching Mental Health Awareness Course**

Throughout the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, UK Coaching made their Mental Health Awareness in Sport and Physical Activity course free and team BEDS&LUTON ensured this was shared widely across our networks, encouraging the importance of mental wellbeing. As of August 2020, UK Coaching reported 558 individuals across Bedfordshire had accessed this course.

## CREATING A NEW STRATEGY FOR RECOVERY FROM THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND.

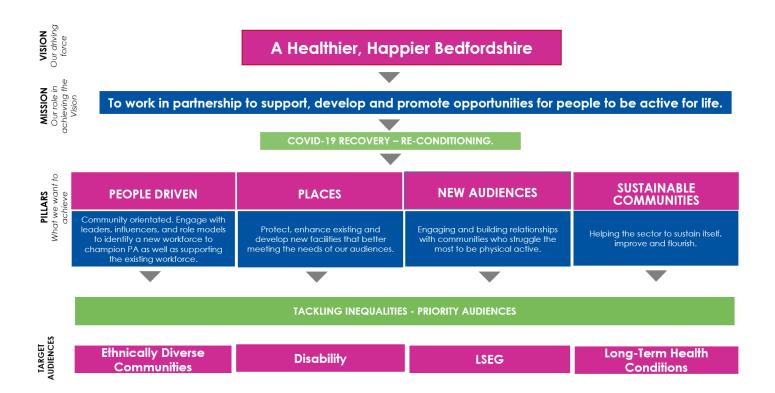
Our existing strategy expires in the Spring of 2021. With Sport England, our primary funder and key strategic partner developing their new strategy, it was appropriate for us to commit time and resources to developing our own new strategy during the second half of this year.

This process commenced in the early autumn of 2020 and was finalised in the Spring of 2021. Our work focused on the following key areas:

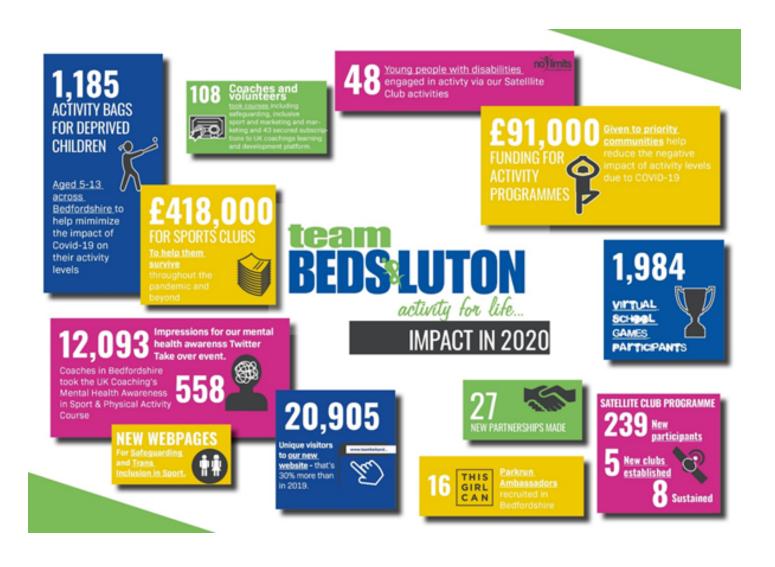
- Participating in the development of Sport England's new strategy.
- Understanding the outcomes of Sport England's work on this issue and reflecting the key areas in the development of our own strategy.

- Creating and sharing a consultation document and process for the communities that we serve to participate in the development of our own strategy. This involved an on-line facility and the hosting of a series of virtual events, together with staffing and board consultation sessions.
- Sharing our findings and conclusions with our strategic partners and inviting further input.

The table on the below seeks to summarise in a simple way the key elements of our strategic plan for the next 5 years, incorporating our vision, mission, pillars, underlying deliverables within each of these together with our priority audiences.



#### **OUR KEY OUTCOMES**



#### **OUR FINANCIAL HEADLINES FOR 2020-21**

#### Our Financial Headlines for 2020-21

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Charitable activities

Our Financial Headlines

Team BEDS&LUTON - The Active Partnership for Bedfordshire &Luton

	Public	Non- Public	
Description	Funds £	Funds £	Total ₤
Income	541,34	15,665	557,008
	3		
Expenditure	494,425	16,767	511,192
Surplus	46,918	-1,102	45,816
Reserves held with active Luton	N/A	N/A	167,982
Expenditure			
Staff & subcontractors	243,373		243,373
Staff training	485		485
Operational costs	32,865		32,865
Finance, legal & professional	12,798		12,798
Marketing & promotion	778		778
Workforce training & development	29,661	1,417	31,078
Volunteer training & development	12,663		12,663
School Sport & Young People programmes	55,544	8,597	64,141
New Resources	5,340		5,340
Tackling Inequalities Participation Programmes	97,556		97,556
Coaching - talented athletes swimming programmes		6,753	6,753
Subscriptions	3,362	-	3,362
TOTAL SPEND	494,425	16,767	511,192

The full certified financial accounts are incorporated within the report for our hosts Active Luton.

The report includes the following:-

- A financial statement for team BEDS&LUTON that covers an income and expenditure statement and the split between public and private funds.
- An annual report of our activities.
- A report by the independent auditors Foxley Kingham Chartered Accountants to the members of Active Luton that includes the opinion that the accounts provide:-
- A true and fair view of the state of the Charitable companies affairs as at the year end and its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure. Confirmation that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom's generally accepted Accounting Practice and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Company's Act 2006.
- The basis of the opinion is in accordance with International standards on Auditing (UK) and applicable law together with the FRC Ethical standards.