Overview

The Bath & North East Somerset School Sport Partnership was established in 2002 to implement the PE, School Sport & Club Links government strategy across the local authority. Since this time, the Partnership has established itself as a high quality service for schools and it has been consistently recognised at a national level for excellent delivery and providing valued, innovative sports programmes.

“The impact of school sport partnerships in maximising participation and increasing regular competition was clearly evident in the vast majority of schools visited.”
(Beyond 2012 – Outstanding physical education for all. OFSTED Feb. 2013)

The School Sport Partnership is primarily focussed upon increasing standards and levels of participation within Physical Education, sport and physical activity within schools. In addition, pupils and students are provided with a variety of extension opportunities to improve attainment and fulfil their potential. The variety of sports programmes on offer through the School Sport Partnership is a well-established and recognised mechanism for raising achievement.

“Collaborative planning across a number of schools and at a strategic level is increasing the capacity of individual schools to improve the quality and quantity of PE and sport.”
(School Sport Partnerships: Learning the lessons of good practice. OFSTED. June 2011)

Since September 2011, the School Sport Partnership has had its central government funding cut by the Department for Education. However, key stakeholders have worked hard to sustain the most valued aspects of the programme. National funding has been secured from the DCMS to deliver the national School Games initiative. In addition, the Partnership has been commissioned by Schools Forum to deliver a PE & sports service for all 63 primary schools in the authority. Despite the success in securing a short term future for the Partnership, attracting new and additional investment is critical for future sustainability.

With a clear business model and strong management, the Partnership has effectively maintained its strong networks with local and national agencies, as well as a reliable infrastructure for efficient communication and sharing of good practice. The School Sport Partnership remains a high quality delivery service that ensures robust economies of scale.

The Partnership is led by two experienced school sport managers, who are qualified teachers with expertise in specific aspects of delivery and development. Programmes and personnel are coordinated from its hub, based at Wellsway School in Keynsham. Under the outstanding leadership of head teacher Andrea Arlidge, Wellsway has become an innovative and exciting focal point for PE and school sport. The recently completed Sports Centre at the school has further increased the potential to develop fantastic opportunities for young people.

A team of school sport coaches and specialist theme leads are managed by the Partnership, delivering over 2500 hours of targeted curriculum PE across all primary schools. In addition, the Partnership supports and adds value to the work of School Sport Coordinators, based at each state secondary school. They deliver sports programmes for pupils in their own school and across a cluster of local primary schools. DFE direct funding for School Sport Coordinators is due to end in July 2013. This will be create a significant challenge for the Partnership to provide a localised
support system for clusters of primary schools, who have developed a positive culture of working together to improve the quality of sports provision for their pupils.

**B&NES School Sport Partnership**

**A high quality delivery service for PE, School Sport & Physical Activity**

- Supporting & maximising the effective deployment of 13 School Sport Coordinators
- Managing, deploying & resourcing specialist theme leads for KS1, KS2, inclusion & Daily Physical Activity for Health
- Managing, deploying & developing 14 school sport coaches
- Maintaining the competition structure for schools & developing the new School Games initiative
- Maintaining partnerships with 10 focus National Governing Bodies of sport allowing the effective implementation of their educational programmes
- Developing & coordinating local club and community networks, working across schools clusters & their localities
- Maximising & developing school sport delivery with core partners – WESPORT, PCT, Bath Rugby Community, Bath CC, University of Bath, Bath Spa University, Aquaterra, Bristol City Community, & Bath City FC.
- Levering in additional investment to deliver enhanced sports & activity programmes for schools
- Ensuring B&NES schools have a high quality advisory service for PE and Sport
- Coordinating & developing individual primary school development plans for PE & Sport

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**B&NES School Sport Partnership**

**Summary of Core Programmes**

1. **PE, School Sport & Daily Physical Activity Programme**

   This programme is being delivered to all primary schools in the authority with funding secured from Schools Forum. Additional funding and resources is being levered in by the hub to build on the core offer and provide exceptional value for money. The SSP are working with established partners to further enhance the service. These partners include the University of Bath, B&NES Primary Care Trust, Bath Rugby, Bath Cricket Club, the Football Association and 2 independent schools.

2. **School Games Legacy Programme**

   In the aftermath of the London 2012 Olympic Games, the government has developed a new national School Games initiative to provide a meaningful legacy at grassroots level. Within B&NES the School Games events are being coordinated by the School Sport Partnership with support from the County Sport Partnership. Funding for the School Games is provided by the DCMS and DoH. This programme involves all secondary, special, primary and independent schools.
Delivering a wide variety of multi levelled competition opportunities for all young people is the key outcome.

3. **PE & School Sport Secondary Extension Programme**

This service is available for state, independent or academy secondary schools. The core programmes include gifted and talented support, sports leadership academies, disability and inclusive sport, continued professional development for teachers, developing school to club links and out of hours’ development.

4. **School Sport Coordinator Support, Partnership Development & Advisory Service**

The SSP and Wellsway School offer support for the School Sport Coordinator posts that are based within all state secondary and special schools. The Coordinators maintain and support vital sports provision across local clusters of primary schools and develop competitive opportunities for their pupils. In addition, the Partnership has maintained its role within B&NES as an advisory service for Physical Education. The SSP continues to develop new partners both within the authority and at a national level. This adds significant value to the existing offer and strengthens links between schools and local sports providers.

5. **Playground to Podium Initiative**

Playground to Podium was the national strategy for the identification, development and support of talented young athletes with a physical, sensory or learning disability. National funding has now ceased. However, the Partnership has maintained this excellent programme in B&NES. The Playground to Podium framework forms a pathway which take young people with a disability from school based participation, through to high level performance and competition opportunities. The ultimate aim is to produce our next Paralympian and elite disabled athletes. Sophie Kamlish, who was identified through the scheme, competed in the Olympic Stadium at the Paralympic Games last summer!

We currently include over 60 pupils from mainstream primary, secondary and special schools. They are invited to experience days at the University of Bath and are signposted onto local clubs or performance pathways where required.

6. **The Dance Umbrella**

The Dance Umbrella Festival brings together young people from across the Authority in a celebration of schools dance. Hosted at the Forum in Bath, this event provides pupils with the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience. Dance pieces include whole class routines developed as part of curriculum PE lessons and after school clubs run by enthusiastic teachers. Over the three nights, over 2000 pupils from over 50 primary, secondary and special schools take part. All profits from the festival are used to fund dance specialist provision in schools to support and develop the quality of curriculum delivery.

*The Dance Umbrella was granted the Inspire mark by the London 2012 Olympic Committee.*