



Opening School Facilities (OSF) Programme: A Review of Impact and Best Practice

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Workshop Content

- Opening Schools Facilities (OSF) Programme overview
 - National Level
 - County Level
- Key learnings-
 - Supporting schools to engage more pupils
 - Creating links with communities
- What next?



OSF Programme Overview



- Fund provided by the Department for Education to meet the goals of the Government's School Sport and Activity Action Plan (SSAAP).
- The programme spanned three academic years, running from January 2023 until March 2025, and it was implemented by a consortium of partners. These partners included the Active Partnerships National Organisation (APNO), StreetGames, ukactive and Youth Sport Trust.
- Designed to support schools to deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day during evenings, weekends and school holidays.
- Aimed to encourage those who face the greatest inequalities to be active with opportunities for movement.

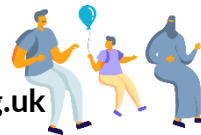
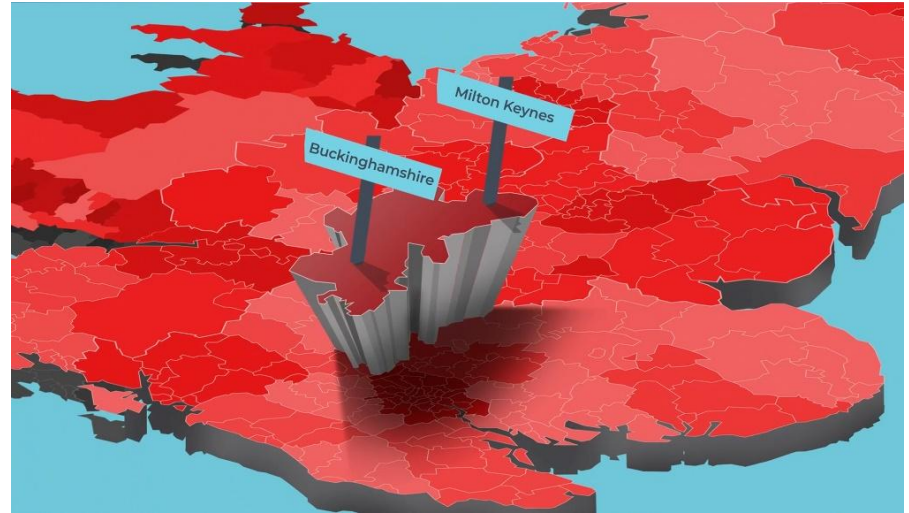


OSF in Bucks and MK



Leap invested **£547,529** through the Opening School Facilities (OSF) programme, supporting **23 schools** over three years to open their doors beyond the school day.

Locally, Leap helped schools offer inclusive activities like swimming, cheerleading and drumming fitness — reaching groups facing inequalities including women and girls, low-income families, ethnically diverse communities, and those with disabilities or long-term health condition.



Schools Perspective



Key Learnings-Engaging more young people

How did OSF change how you felt about physical activity?

"I want to workout in my free time more."

"Makes me more confident and want to be a leader"

"It shows the proper impact of active exercise and also provides/portrays future career paths within GCSE PE"

"I now want to join a hockey club as I have more confidence. I like being active but often stop myself going to things because of anxiety of what will happen and other people. This club has helped me"

"more confidence in sport."

"It helped me become a bit more active because the people from the other GCSE class are able to run faster and do sport better so it made me want to do the same."

What issues do you face when encouraging pupils to be active?



How could you overcome some of these issues?



Thinking about the target groups that OSF engaged with pick one and think in your school setting is there anything you do in terms of engagement and share this best practise with others

Target groups-

- Girls
- Disabilities
- Ethnically diverse communities
- lower socioeconomic groups



The Power of co-design and youth voice

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states:

"Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This applies at all times." Also all children have the right to play and to develop.

YP are the experts in what they and their peers enjoy, better understanding about YP's attitudes and beliefs about PA than adults who are designing the service for them.

Benefits of Youth Voice-

Make the activities more relevant and enjoyable

Increased engagement

Increased enjoyment

Increased sense of ownership and belonging

Increased self-confidence

For an organisation

Better outcomes and impact

Increased engagement

Better understanding of their needs

New and exciting ideas



The Power of co-design and youth voice

Consultation

- **Active Voting** in a lesson – Run top red, yellow, green cone to gather pupil feedback on any aspect of the lesson
- **Annual survey** – Pupil complete, results collated to give their thoughts on an aspect of PE / Physical Activity
- **Discussion groups** -PE class starts the year with discussion groups, PE team displays key actions and reports on progress
- **Working with colleagues** -Working with a SENCO, the PE teacher uses a series of focus group sessions to build a relationship with and gather views from targeted SEND pupils.
- **PE panel** made up of pupils from each year group, meets with PE staff each half-term to share views on curriculum planning and delivery.

The Power of co-design and youth voice

Collaboration

- **Menu of Opportunities** - Prior to National School Sports Week, all pupils select two options from a menu of challenge activities. The PE team uses these to plan and run events
- **Testing activities** - At the first after-school multi-sport club of each term, participants test out potential activities then they and the staff agree that term's programme together.
- **Mini- conference**
- **Termly sports council meetings**



The Power of co-design and youth voice

Co – production

- **Pupil activators** - present their 'creating active schools' ideas to senior leaders and PE staff. School staff implement the winning ideas
- **Supported planning** - Young leaders, with support from PE staff, plan and lead a six-week lunchtime health and wellbeing programme for invited pupils
- **Implementation groups** - A group of girls is recruited to support the PE staff to consult with less-active girls and to plan, design and run interventions to get them more active.

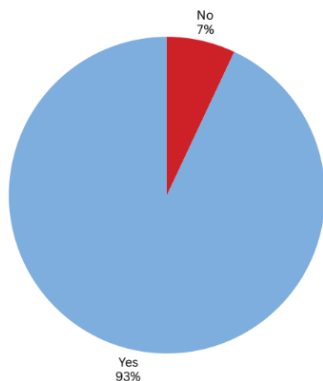


Key learnings- Connections to wider community

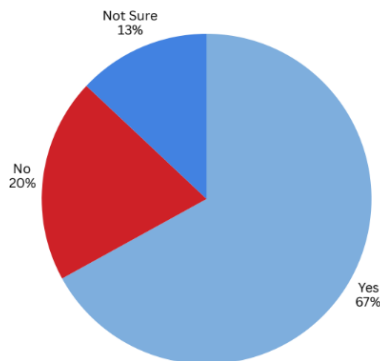


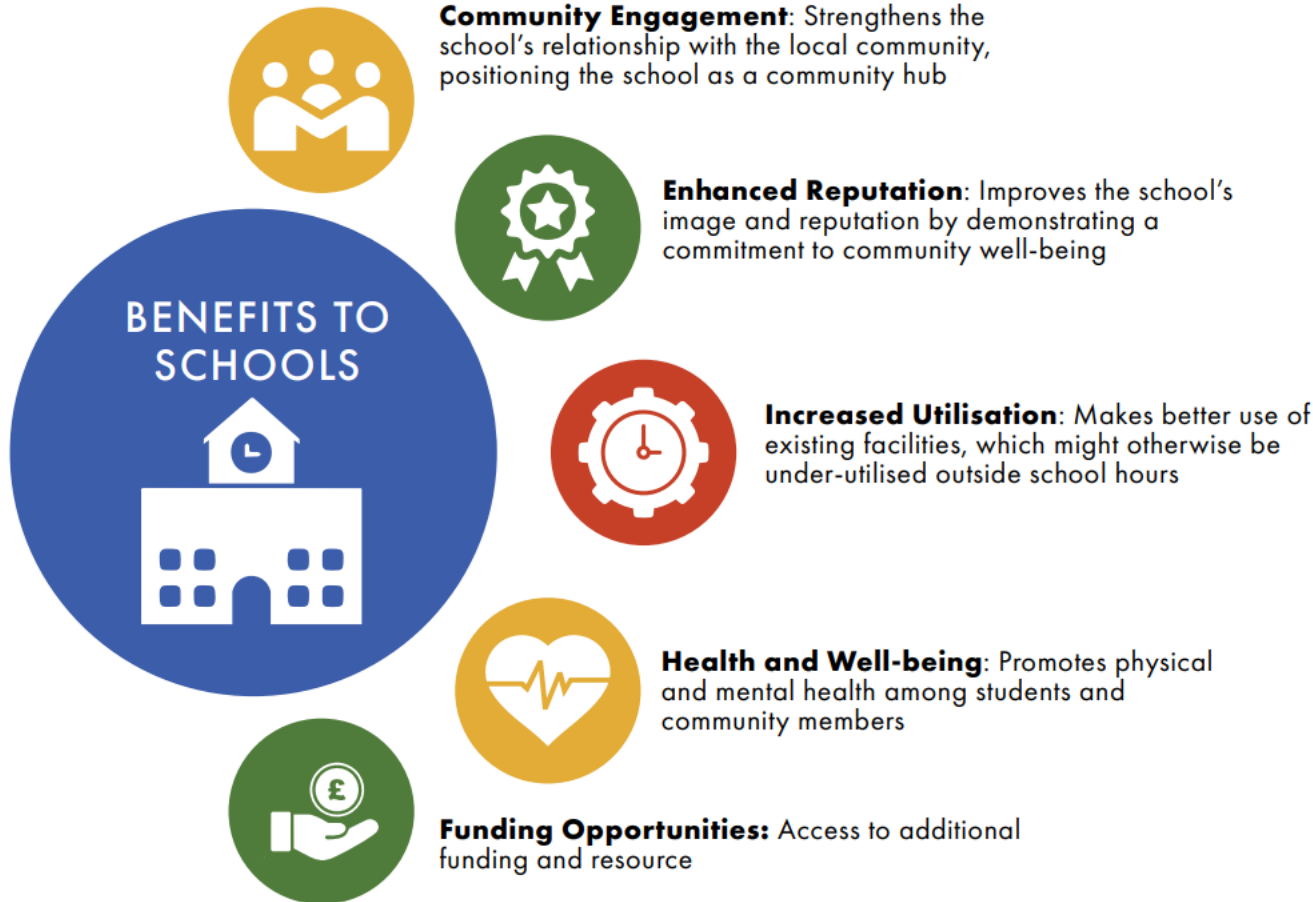
We asked teachers.....

Has OSF encouraged pupils to attend new sessions outside of normal school hours ?



Has OSF resulted in increased connections with the local community for pupils & the school?





What are some of the challenges that you face opening school facilities up to community?



How could you overcome some of these challenges



Challenges/solutions

- Financial Constraints
 - Partnerships and Energy efficiency
 - Link to HAF programme- Bucks lead-Dylan-Dylan.Bingham@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Staffing Limitations
 - Student involvement
 - Part time staff to manage peak times
- Attracting Participants/Customers
 - Purposeful engagement
 - Marketing campaigns
 - Collaborations
- Legal and Liability Concerns
 - Insurance
 - Risk assessments
 - Compliance
- Maintenance needs
 - Preventive maintenance
 - Outsourcing
- Community engagement
 - Partner with local organisations and community groups to enhance engagement efforts.
 - Conduct consultation to gather community input and understand needs.



What next....

- Major learnings from the programme will now be shared with the Department for Education and other Government departments to determine any next steps for the development of this project. The insight the report and partners can provide is considered to be very timely following the recent Government announcement on a new approach to school sport- with new school sport partnerships and an enrichment framework- exact details are still to be confirmed.
- A [toolkit](#) has also been created by Youth Sport Trust to support schools to unlock the potential of their facilities and make them available for community use



Any Questions?

**Don't forget to
complete feedback
survey**

PE Conference Feedback Survey



Join the movement

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