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Bringing Sport to





Foreword from Northumberland Sport Chairman Steve Cram MBE

Welcome to a review of the Northumberland Sport Partnership’s work for 2006-2009. I believe this document demonstrates how the Partnership has gone from strength to strength over the last few years, exceeding the expectations of those directly or indirectly involved in our business and establishing Northumberland Sport as the “strategic hub” and lead agency for both sport and physical activity across the county.

We can point to numerous successes ranging from small scale sports specific projects in local communities to a positive change in the culture for the sport and leisure sector and a stronger than ever ethos of true partnership working. We are now very well placed to move the sport and physical activity agenda onto a new level in the county encouraging more people to take part and enriching lives.

With the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, we are about to witness a defining moment in history for sport in this country which should offer an unprecedented opportunity for the Partnership and the people of Northumberland. I’m sure we can work together to seize each and every opportunity that this brings and know that Partners will be working hard to achieve this.

I hope you find the report both informative and useful. It by no means describes everything that we or our partners have achieved over the last three years, and it doesn’t attempt to explain the enormous effort of staff and volunteers that takes place behind the scenes; but it

does give a flavour for the great work that’s been achieved. Northumberland Sport looks forward to forging new relationships in the coming years to help create better opportunities in sport and active recreation for all and I believe we can make a real difference with your continued support.

Finally we shall soon be establishing new governance arrangements for Northumberland Sport which involves a new board membership. I’d therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has served on the board over the last three years for their help and support for Northumberland Sport.

Yours in Sport

Steve Cram MBE

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> Campaigning and promoting sport



In 2007 we launched the Get Active Northumberland campaign and brand. This heralded a new approach to encourage all people in Northumberland to get active and stay active. Get Active aims to highlight the amazing opportunities the county has to offer – not just in terms of sporting clubs and leisure facilities, but also the unique Northumberland landscape – woodland, hills, national parkland and stunning beaches - which all provide the perfect backdrop for activities in the great outdoors.

A key element of the Get Active Northumberland programme is the Northumberland Triathlon Festival. In 2007, this proved to be a very popular addition to Northumberland's Event Calendar by attracting around 3,000 visitors and over 200 competitors. The event was held in the stunning surroundings of Druridge Bay Country Park and the Olympic Standard Distance Triathlon race was voted North East race of the year by the athletes themselves. Unfortunately the 2008 event fell victim to the horrendous weather and flooding conditions in Northumberland. However our 2009 Festival has secured British Championship status, which is a fantastic coup for Northumberland and should attract around 500 competitors and again hopefully thousands of visitors.

Many more events across the county have also been sponsored or supported by Northumberland Sport as part of the Get Active Northumberland "message". These extremely popular events included the launch of Kielder Water's Mountain Bike Trail and the launch of Morpeth's Paddlesport club, helping to promote new opportunities for mountain bikers and watersports enthusiasts.

> Sports specific delivery

Our Core Team Swimming, Netball and Women & Girls Development Officers have made real progress developing these sports across the county, establishing new teams, leagues and a raft of new projects to raise participation levels amongst young people in particular. Highlights of this delivery include the creation of the 'Rural 5's' girls football league, which has established 7 new teams; becoming the first county in the region to have all our swimming clubs Swim 21 accredited and the roll out of the netball coach development programme which has contributed to the continued success of our County & Satellite Academies.



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> Opportunities for disabled young people

Northumberland Sport's Annual Swimming and Sportsability Festivals over the last 3 years have provided hundreds of young people with disabilities from across the county from both mainstream and special schools, with a selection of sporting opportunities. Paralympic Champion Stephen Miller and Olympic Swimming Silver Medallist Nick Gillingham MBE have both been avid supporters of the festivals helping to inspire our young participants to play more and fulfil their sporting potential.

> Focus on health

A further dimension to Get Active Northumberland includes our work with the Northumberland Care Trust around sport, physical activity and tackling childhood obesity. Our working partnership is second to none with joint resources being used to deliver targeted interventions across the county. We have pooled resources and established strong working relationships to develop and provide innovative intervention programmes helping young people to become active as part of managing and reducing their weight. The Partnership is very much a part of the Care Trust's overall strategy and aim to halt the increase in obesity amongst children under 11 years of age in the county.

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> Working for disadvantaged young people

The Partnership has worked hard to develop programmes that give everyone who lives in Northumberland an opportunity to play sport or be active. Our commitment to social inclusion can be demonstrated through a diverse range of projects that have been developed and/or delivered by Northumberland Sport.

Our successful BIG Lottery Fund bid secured £271,000 to fund 2 full time development officers and a part time administrative post in Northumberland in 2008. This groundbreaking project aims to engage Looked After Children and Young People (LACYP) in sport and physical activity. In October 2008, a free Sports Fair was organised at The Sporting Club of Cramlington, which proved highly popular for the 50 LACYP participants who took part in a range of activities including basketball, badminton & trampolining. The project staff who are employed by Northumberland County Council Children's Services Directorate have a target of reaching 260 LACYP by 2011. The County Council is delighted with the almost immediate positive impact that this project is having on the young people involved.

Northumberland Sport has also worked in Partnership with the StreetGames charity to develop opportunities for young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The StreetGames initiative secured around £40,000 for the county to develop targeted programmes designed to provide opportunities to young people in communities across Blyth Valley, Wansbeck and priority areas within Castle Morpeth. An example of this work included working in partnership with England Handball, Ashington School Sport Partnership and Northumberland's



Competition Manager Team to enable over 70 young people to undertake handball leader's award from which selected leaders will now support sessions in middle schools across the Ashington and Bedlington areas.

Another first for Northumberland saw hundreds of young people from across the region come together for the annual 'Regional StreetGames Festival' at The Sporting Club of Cramlington, in August 2008. This proved to be a huge hit and provided a host of activities for young people to participate, including street dance, handball, tennis, climbing, triathlon, ultimate frisbee and cricket.

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Developing the Sporting Workforce in Northumberland

> Skills and qualifications

The Partnership has made real progress building the capacity and skills base of those working in paid employment or volunteering in sport in Northumberland. The foundations for this came from the production of the first ever Sports Workforce Development Plan for the county and the Partnership subsequently securing around £133,000 for training and Continuous Professional Development programmes. To date, this has included financially supporting 150 new coaching awards in the county including 87 level 1 coaching awards (51 complete), 57 level 2 awards (19 complete), 9 level 3 awards (1 complete) and 1 level 4 award (pending), which helped meet the cost of attending sport governing body coaching award courses.



> Step Into Sport

Three annual and highly successful Step into Sport conferences (2006 – 2009) have been delivered, helping hundreds of young people in Northumberland to provide invaluable voluntary hours at local clubs. Sporting Champions and local sporting heroes including Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, ex-Newcastle Falcons Coach Steve Black and Newcastle Eagles Player/Coach Fab Flournoy were on hand to help inspire our young volunteers at each of these conferences. The following provides a brief snapshot of the reach and value of the Step into Sport programme in Northumberland.

In 2008, the sport of golf welcomed the PGA Seniors Championship to the stunning De Vere Slaley Hall setting. Young Step into Sport volunteers were recommended by Northumberland Sport to support the day in designated roles including player liaison, registration, photography, ball collectors and autograph organisers. This was a first for Northumberland and indeed the country as this was the first time in England young volunteers have helped the Tour run part of its tournament schedule in this way. Obviously this was a great experience for the young volunteers who were also lucky enough to receive top tips on their game from the professionals we all normally only see on TV!

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In recognition of just some of the magnificent achievements of the young volunteers in the county, many of whom have provided in excess of 100 volunteer hours for their local clubs; and to recognise the support provided by school mentors and local volunteer co-ordinators; we organised our first young volunteers awards evening in 2008. On hand to present the inaugural awards was former Olympic athlete Allison Curbishley. Declared a big success by the young volunteers themselves, a similar event took place in March 2009.

> Coaching

As part of Northumberland Sport's commitment to providing professional career opportunities for community coaches, the Partnership helped secure almost £420,000 to fund 9 full time and 21 part time coaches across the county. These posts have provided an incredibly valuable resource helping to improve the quality of local sporting provision including athletics, rowing, rugby union (for both male and females), girls football, dance and basketball.

More recently, Northumberland Sport has secured funding for the post of a Club and Coach Development Officer who will focus on promoting the benefits of accreditation to community clubs and disseminate good practice and standards throughout the county. There will also be a focus on researching the possibility for Northumberland Sport to become a licenced Clubmark accreditor.



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Case Study

Local Coach hits Bullseye at National Awards

After receiving the award for Best Volunteer Co-ordinator at Northumberland Sport's Celebration of Young Volunteers Awards evening, Steve Richardson (pictured) of Green Lane Disabled and Able Bodied Archers, based in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, received national recognition for his exceptional support offered to young volunteers. The "grassroots gongs" were presented as part of the inaugural Sport England Young People Best Practice Awards in Telford. Organisations won recognition for delivering 'cutting edge' sports programmes, connecting with young people and using student opinions to shape the sports that are on offer.

Green Lane Archers scooped the "gong" for Best Support For Step Into Sport Community Volunteers - receiving praise for the numerous and diverse opportunities it provides for young volunteers to coach and officiate both within the club and beyond and for encouraging volunteers to progress their professional development to become fully qualified coaches.

Steve was thrilled to have received this award and said "It is a great honour for me and Green Lane Archers to be rewarded nationally for our work with young volunteers. By working with Northumberland Sport, I have found the Step into Sport programme very rewarding as it provides a clear avenue to work with young volunteers who can learn from our experience and guidance to develop their own skills which they will hopefully utilise in clubs like ours for years to come."



Judith Rasmussen, Regional Director with Sport England North East said: "We are delighted that a North East club has been recognised on a national stage and it is a tribute to the outstanding work that the whole team at Green Lane carries out. Our congratulations go to everyone involved."

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Strategic Developments

> Developing networks that deliver

Working closely with Sport England and a range of partners across the county, Northumberland Sport created a network of six Sport & Physical Activity Alliances. These local networks have brought together a wide and varied range of agencies to develop sporting and active recreational opportunities.

They achieved almost instant success securing a cumulative grant of £850,000 from Sport England's Community Investment Fund which helped create 14 new development posts across the county to deliver scores of projects on the ground.

Partner's enthusiasm for networking, sharing best practice and demonstrating a commitment and interest for improving sporting opportunities in Northumberland has been evident at Northumberland Sport's Annual Forums and other strategic planning events since 2006, regularly attracting between 60 – 70 delegates. This has been a key feature of the way we work and has led to many outstanding project ideas being formed, developed and delivered. We are committed to engaging our wider network of stakeholders in this way in the coming years.



> Facilities

During the course of one of our networking forums the need for a co-ordinated approach to investment in sports facilities in Northumberland was identified. As a direct result of this a first ever county-wide draft facilities strategy has now been produced. The new strategy will be going out to formal consultation soon and we are confident that it will ultimately inform and influence all investment decisions for the next decade or more as well as instigating a fresh look at how school sports facilities are managed outside school hours. The intention is to have the strategy adopted by the new county council and for it to be a key reference document for all planning decisions for sports facilities. The strategy links with a regional strategy produced by Sport England and three other sub-regional strategies across the north-east.

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> Safeguarding children & young people in sport

By working with key agencies and partners including Northumberland County Council, Children's Services 'Safeguarding Team' and the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board, Northumberland Sport attained the Intermediate Level of the NSPCC National Safeguarding Standard in 2008. This demonstrates a commitment to the implementation of policies and procedures that are aimed at reducing risks for children and young people in sport in the county. After further engagement with the Child Protection in Sport Unit, the Partnership is very close to being awarded the Advanced Level of the NSPCC National Safeguarding Standard.

> Equity

In June 2007, the Northumberland Sport Partnership also successfully attained the Foundation Level of the Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport. This gives us the platform for ensuring equity is embedded in all our delivery work and supports the Partnership's overall aim of reducing barriers in sport and increasing participation from under represented groups.

> Communication

In 2006, improving communication both internally and externally and better information provision for the general public were identified as priorities for Northumberland Sport as part of an internal self assessment of the performance of the Partnership. As a consequence, a Communication Plan was developed which in turn led to Northumberland Sport's new interactive website launch in May 2007. Packed full of features including news and events, the website has already attracted over 40,000 visitors and will continue to provide useful information that will hopefully inspire more people in Northumberland to get involved in sport and active recreation.

The Northumberland Sport Partnership also extended interactive communication networks with the addition of 'microsites' to the main Northumberland Sport website, which included Active Alnwick, Active Berwick, Active Tynedale and Castle Morpeth Sport & Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) microsites. These sites provide in depth local contemporary sporting and active recreational information.



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Regular e-newsletters have been produced since the summer of 2007, providing news updates to members and partners, whilst promoting partnership achievements to our wider networks. These e-newsletters have received very positive feedback with membership subscription doubling since the first e-newsletter was sent out, now reaching almost 200 readers.

A Regional Club Database has also been developed in collaboration with our County Sports Partnership partners in the north-east which now features on the Northumberland Sport website. This is the only database of its kind in the region, which provides a user friendly, up to date club database enabling visitors to search for club information in their local areas.

As a result of our partnership achievements and improved communication channels, the profile of Northumberland Sport has increased significantly, which has been supported by extensive local media coverage from local television news including both BBC Look North, ITV Tyne Tees, BBC radio, local & regional press and interactive links via YouTube. We strongly believe that positive media coverage and column inches about sport and active recreation in the county benefits our Partnership but most importantly encourages people to think and act about taking part.

> National target to deliver against

Reinforcing our message about the importance of increasing participation in sport, we were instrumental in securing National Indicator 8 (adult participation in sport & active recreation) as one of the 35 designated performance indicators for the new authority in Northumberland and we are delighted that the authority has recognised sport within the new Sustainable Community Strategy. The indicator supports the Department for Culture, Media and Sport contribution to PSA21 'to build more cohesive, empowered and active communities'.





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> School Sport Partnerships

Since 2006, the School Sport Partnership (SSP) infrastructure (six partnerships) in Northumberland has gradually been established. These Partnerships have successfully developed a number of strategic links with key partners to enhance sporting opportunities for young people in our local communities. Building on from the success of the 2008 PSA target (see Success in Northumberland), the Government's Five Hour Offer announced by the Prime Minister in 2007 now presents our SSP's with a significant challenge of providing every child and young person in the county with the opportunity to do 5 hours of sport per week.

To further support the delivery against the objectives outlined in the Five Hour Offer, Northumberland successfully secured the services of a dedicated Competition Manager Team and Further Education Sports Coordinator (FESCO) in 2008.

> Success in Northumberland

The headline 2008 PSA target of 85% pupil participation in at least two hours of PE and school sport was smashed by 6% in Northumberland at 91%. This also exceeded the national average of 90%. This is in no small measure to the immense contribution our School Sport Partnerships, school staff and other key partners in the county made in advocating, supporting and promoting increased opportunities for Physical Education and School Sport.

Northumberland also exceeded national averages for inter school competitive activities at 53% (national average 41%) with Sports Volunteering and Leadership also coming out strongly with 22% of Northumberland pupils from years 1-13 involved (National figure 16%). Northumberland County Council's Continuing Professional Development (C.P.D.) programme for professionals involved in the delivery of PE & School Sport, has been outstandingly successful since its



To read about the success of one of our year 1 Sport Unlimited delivery programmes, please click on 'Concept2 Engaging Young People'.

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inception, delivering against targets and outcomes since the training first began in 2004. The quality of teaching and learning in P.E. and School Sport has subsequently improved substantially throughout the county.

> Sport Unlimited

Early in 2008, Northumberland Sport was tasked to deliver 'Sport Unlimited' across the county; a new government and Sport England led 3 year programme designed to stimulate and increase take-up and sustain participation amongst 'semi-sporty' children and young people. Through a series of events & one to one consultations throughout 2008, the Partnership produced a holistic plan to secure almost £400,000, which will be utilised together with existing funding streams, to maximise opportunities for up to 11,500 young people, over the 3 year timeframe. Recent results & feedback confirm that the programme has been successfully rolled out across the county during the first two terms of delivery, with the second year of planned activities scheduled to commence in April 2009.



> Communication with professional networks

The new look interactive Northumberland P.E. & School Sport website (www.npess.co.uk) was launched in 2008. This is managed by our School Improvement Team within Northumberland County Council and provides invaluable support to our professional networks involved in the delivery of P.E. & School Sport.

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Financial Summary 2006 - 2009

Northumberland County Council provides the overall financial management and accountancy services for Northumberland Sport. All income and expenditure is processed and recorded by the County Council which provides the financial and legal identity of Northumberland Sport as the host partner agency.

The table opposite provides a summary of our income and expenditure for 2006-2009.

The Northumberland Sport Partnership also helped lever in additional resources into the county as follows;

Northumberland Income	£
Sport England Community Investment Fund (Devolved Funding) used to build capacity within the SPAA networks	850,000
Multi Agency Looked After Young People Project (Big Lottery Funding)	271,000
Total	1,121,000



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Income	£	Expenditure	£	Outstanding Balance
Sport England – Core Funding	846,066	Salaries + on costs, training, facility strategy, club & coach, promoting sport, delivery system development	810,349	35,717*
Sport England Workforce Development Funding	78,710	Workforce Development – coaching awards, coach workshops, leadership development, partnership network training	39,355	39,355*
Sport England Active Sports	378,228	Active Sports delivery: athletics, cricket, football, netball, rugby, swimming & tennis	378,228	Nil
Sport England Community Sports Coach Scheme	417,742	Established 30 new community sport coach posts across the county	417,742	Nil
Sport England PESSCL/SIS	70,000	Salaries, priming of local club support for volunteer placements, strategic volunteer development	48,000	22,000*
Youth Sports Trust Single Agreement	39,000	Step into Sport and School Sport Coordinator C.P.D.	39,000	Nil
NGB Contributions	94,372	Sport specific match funding for project delivery	94,372	Nil
Partnership Contributions	192,000	Core operations and Partnership match funding to externally funded projects	192,000	Nil
Sport Unlimited 2008/09 Funding	124,700	Capacity & Delivery funding for Sport Unlimited first year programme	124,700	Nil
Northumberland Sport Fund	100,000	Match Funding toward SPAA applications to draw down Community Investment Funding	60,000	40,000*
Other Funding Received	94,400	Football Foundation, NCH Children's Fund, Sponsorship	94,400	Nil
Preventing Childhood Obesity Fund	84,000	Primary Care Trust Funding to support interventions that reduce childhood obesity	43,000	41,000*
StreetGames	40,000	Targeted development of delivery programmes	40,000	Nil
Other – Income from fees and other local contribution	25,332	Supplemented project initiation, general operations and used as match funding	25,332	Nil
Total	2,584,550	Total	2,406,478	178,072*



* Under spends have been committed to the Partnership's 2009/10 budget plan.

Moving Forward

We believe this report demonstrates the strong commitment of the Partnership to the provision of high quality sporting opportunities across the county.

It demonstrates the success of the Partnership since 2006 in securing further resources required to meet the needs of the local communities in Northumberland. It also provides evidence that we have delivered against the core functions that every County Sport Partnership was required to do as a condition of the funding from Sport England, namely;

- Strategic co-ordination and planning
- Performance Management
- Marketing and Communications

Moving forward, Northumberland Sport faces a number of significant challenges that will affect the focus of our delivery, which include the move to a new unitary authority in Northumberland and a new strategy from Sport England. The partnership will continue to be proactive working to secure the best possible outcomes for sport in Northumberland.

Following the announcement for the hosting of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and a cross departmental review of sport and physical activity, the Government has declared a new Legacy Action Plan (LAP) targeting 2 million adults becoming more active. This target will measure change across sport, active

recreation and active travel and Sport England's new strategy published in June 2008 includes their contribution to this which is to increase regular participation in sport by 1 million people doing more sport by 2012/13.

County Sports Partnership's have been charged to play a key role to help deliver Sport England's target by supporting the National Governing Bodies for Sport and in particular helping;

- To play a clear role in the creation of a world leading community sport system
- To develop community sport through brokering arrangements and supporting the delivery of NGB priorities
- To develop and maintain strategic alliances

Northumberland Sport will also have a significant role to play in the new Department of Health physical activity plan for getting the nation moving. "Be Active, Be Healthy" was launched in February 2009 and the partnership will be tasked to;

- Strengthen the infrastructure for the local delivery of physical activity
- Support the delivery of regional and national physical activity plans
- Target the least active and contribute to a reduction in health inequalities

To achieve these aims, Northumberland Sport will be working closely with health and physical activity providers in the county to contribute to the 'Legacy Action Plan' (LAP) target and will build on the messages of the much publicised NHS Change4life campaign.

For further information, please continue to visit the Northumberland Sport website for all the latest on the Partnership's developments and achievements.

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Northumberland Sport is one of 49 County Sports Partnerships in England.

In developing the Northumberland Sport Strategy, partners agreed that our overall purpose was;

To develop and increase participation in sport, building healthy and successful communities.

More information about the Northumberland Sports Partnership can be found on our website at www.northumberlandsport.co.uk

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This brochure is available in Braille, alternative languages and in audio format. If you would like to receive this brochure in one of those formats, please contact Northumberland Sport on 01670 785020.



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