



THE  
IRISH SPORTS  
COUNCIL



AN CROICHEAIRE SPÓIRT

# LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

SPEAK Report 2008



# LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS (LSPs)

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SPEAK Report 2008

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## Foreword

The Irish Sports Council welcomes this second SPEAK report of the national network of Local Sports Partnerships. This year, 29 Sports Partnerships have contributed to the report and we would like to thank them for their work in ensuring the publication of this report.

In 2008, the national network has been able to deliver to greater numbers of clubs and communities and has made an impact across a wide range of target groups including those in disadvantaged communities and people with a disability. Again, the LSP's delivered a wide range of courses and programmes across their areas. In line with 2007, there were significant numbers involved in the Buntús programmes and also the Code of Ethics training. There were also over 100 projects run locally through the Women in Sport initiative.

The report also identifies the changing economic climate with a greater demand on the Sports Partnerships to deliver programmes and support for those who have become unemployed. This would not have been a significant feature of the 2007 report. Another significant difference is the dramatic increase in the delivery of sporting opportunities to people with a disability due to the appointment of Sports Inclusion Development Officers in 21 sites. These officers were appointed through funding from the Dormant Accounts scheme and this again shows the ability of the LSP network to deliver on Government priorities in partnership with other agencies such as Pobal.

The main challenge to the network still remains the securing of sufficient resources and funding to continue to expand and meet the needs of local communities. Challenges also arise in relation to the sustainability of matched funding and specific funding streams that are time limited. Nevertheless, the Council is confident that this report shows that the Local Sports Partnerships are continuing to make very positive impacts on the ground particularly in relation to key target groups.

The Council would strongly encourage all statutory, community and voluntary groups with an interest in increasing participation to link in with the network both nationally and locally. The benefits of the LSP network to wider areas such as health, education and social inclusion cannot be underestimated particularly in these changing times.

Lastly, our thanks to all of those who have contributed to the report and who have delivered programmes, projects and training through the network over the last year.



**Ossie Kilkenny**  
**Chairperson**  
**Irish Sports Council**



**John Treacy**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Irish Sports Council**

## Key Findings

This report is based on the information provided for 2008 by 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) using the SPEAK self-evaluation system.

### Resources and Funding

- Over €9m was invested in the LSP network in 2008
- Over half (55%) of the LSPs funding comes from the Irish Sports Council. The other 45% is raised by LSPs from partner agencies with the Local Authorities being the next most significant source of funding for LSPs in 2008
- Over 450 people served on LSP boards in 2008, representing a 30% increase in the numbers involved in 2007
- In 2008, the LSP network was extended to include every Local Authority area in Ireland

### Achievements of the LSP Network in 2008

#### Information Provision

- Over 75,000 individuals contacted the LSP network in order to access general or specific sport-related information
- 1,982 information resources were produced by LSPs

#### Development of Local Sports Infrastructure

- LSPs have provided 7,119 clubs, groups and organisations throughout the country with important information and advice in the area of funding
- 2,541 clubs and groups have been supported in the delivery of their activities
- 9,614 people participated on a range of locally planned and delivered training courses

#### Delivering Irish Sports Council Programmes

- 2,851 primary school teachers in 289 schools received Buntús Generic training
- 1,208 childcare practitioners in 381 childcare centres received Buntús Start training
- 3,542 participants completed 250 Code of Ethics courses
- 167 participants completed 14 Club Children's Officer courses

## Programme Delivery

- 69,843 people participated in 433 locally delivered participation programmes
- An additional 7,896 female participants taking part in 102 local Women in Sport programmes

## Building Partnerships and Influencing Policy

- 151 networks and forums were facilitated by LSPs
- LSPs actively participated in 148 local committees and other networks
- LSPs presented at 186 conferences, seminars and policy related meetings

## Comparing New LSPs v Established LSPs

- New LSPs spent more time on internal work than established LSPs
- On average, an established LSP when compared with a new LSP
  - Produced over twice as many information resources
  - Supported over twice as many clubs and groups in delivery of activities
  - Delivered over twice as many training and education courses
  - Delivered five times as many participation programmes
  - Participated in twice as many local committees and networks
- On average, a new LSP delivered more Buntús programmes than an established LSP

## Challenges Ahead

- Maintaining existing levels of funding and in-kind support from the Irish Sports Council and partners during the current economic downturn
- Sustaining existing staffing levels in order to maintain and improve the level of service delivery to key target groups
- Engendering a culture of healthy lifestyle based on lifelong participation in sport and physical activity throughout a person's life
- Maintaining, developing and supporting a well educated community of volunteer coaches, leaders, administrators and parents

# Background

This is the second annual report of the Irish Sports Council's Local Sports Partnership initiative. The report is based on the information provided for 2008 by 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) using the SPEAK self-evaluation system.

SPEAK (Strategic Planning, Evaluation and Knowledge) offers organisations the capacity to self-evaluate, leading to a comprehensive understanding of the work of the organisation and the impacts of that work, and uses that new understanding to improve strategic and work planning for the organisation.

Information provided through SPEAK from each LSP is collated into a national programme database, creating a database of enormous potential to understand the full programme and its impacts, and most importantly to influence the direction of the programme and related areas of policy and practice.

# 1

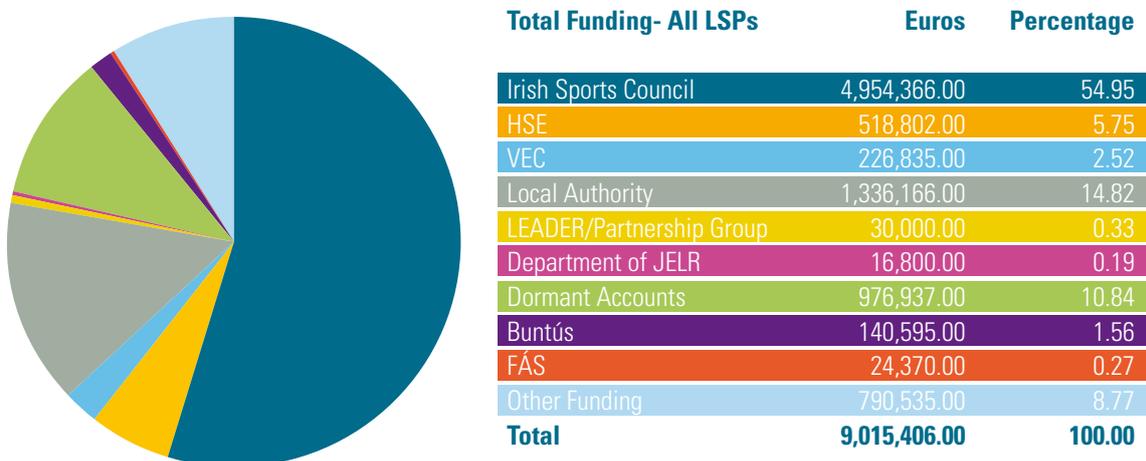
## Resources and Funding



## 1.1 Project Funding Sources

Core funding from the Irish Sports Council (ISC) accounts for some 55% of the LSP total funding, the remaining 45% is raised from other sources. These figures do not include benefit in kind funding.

**Figure I – Total funding received by LSPs in 2008**



After core funding from the ISC, the Local Authorities were the next most significant source of funding for LSPs in 2008. Other funding includes one-off grants that individual LSPs administered as well as a range of funding streams that were accessed, including national programmes such as the Go For Life programme.

## 1.2 LSP Management and Staff

### Boards of Management Participation and Representation

LSPs have boards of management drawn from key areas of expertise within the county sporting and community voluntary sectors. All statutory bodies, organisations and groups operating in local areas with a responsibility for, or interest in, sports development are invited to participate in the LSP.

- A total of 457 people served on LSP boards in 2008, representing a 30% increase in the numbers involved in 2007
- An average number of 25 hours in 2008 was committed by each management committee, including the work undertaken by board sub-committees. This has increased from an average of 20 hours in 2007

See Appendix A for a breakdown of the responsibilities and level of working partner participation on the boards of management of the 29 LSPs.

### LSP Staff

LSPs have staff which are funded by the ISC and staff funded through other sources. Along with co-ordinators and administrators, many LSPs employ Sports Development Officers and/or Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs).

In 2008, the 29 LSPs directly and indirectly employed a total of 98 full-time staff, 60 female and 38 male. A further 73 people were contracted on a part-time basis to deliver programmes and initiatives within the LSP structure.

## 1.3 Development of LSP Network

In 2008, the LSP network was extended to include every Local Authority area in Ireland. This brings to 33 the number of LSPs throughout the country. Some 29 LSPs have completed the SPEAK system and contributed to the 2008 report. Four LSPs that were established in late 2008 have not been required to contribute to this report.

The table below lists the LSPs that were established in 2008.

**Figure II – LSPs that were established in 2008**

Local Sports Partnership Network
Cavan Sports Partnership
Louth Sports Partnership
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Sports Partnership
South Dublin County Sports Partnership
County Galway Sports Partnership
Wexford Sports Partnership
Cork City Sports Partnership
Longford Sports Partnership*
Leitrim Sports Partnership*
Dublin City Sports Partnership*
Wicklow Sports Partnership*

See Appendix B for the full list of LSPs.

## 1.4 Developments in the Monitoring and Evaluation Methods

Following the completion of the 2007 annual report and the launch of the national network, the LSPs engaged in a process of reviewing and refining the methods used to monitor and evaluate their work. The SPEAK system was adapted further to reflect the necessary changes.

This process involved bringing together a representative group of LSP Co-ordinators to evaluate their experiences in using the system in its pilot first year. User feedback was collected and assessed over a lengthy period, allowing for a detailed set of new specifications to be drawn up, taking account of certain difficulties and inconsistencies that users had noted.

It is important to note that the SPEAK system itself in its application within the LSP network is based on a constantly evolving, self reflective and iterative approach. Each year, a review will determine where changes are to be made. New working partners are added, target groups refined and the range of key issues expanded.

The review process following the completion of the pilot made a number of significant changes.

- The delivery of national ISC programmes were monitored and evaluated in a more systematic fashion. Club development work and funding support work were added as specific working methods
- The system was further amended to encourage LSPs to take a more rigorous approach to assessing their impacts with regard to these working methods. A detailed impacts analysis framework was provided for LSPs with very specific questions to be answered

\* LSPs that were established in late 2008 that have not been required to contribute to this report.



# 2

## Achievements of the LSP Network in 2008



## 2.1 Introduction

The extensive work of the LSP network was characterised in the 2007 inaugural annual report as falling under four main headings:

- Acting as a provider of **information** about sport and physical activity at a local level
- Promoting the sustainability of the **local sporting infrastructure**
- Working to increase levels of **local participation**, especially amongst specific target groups
- **Building partnerships** and influencing policy

This work continued to be monitored and assessed by the network throughout 2008, with a further specific focus on the roll out of nationally co-ordinated programmes.

The SPEAK system was adapted following the completion of the 2007 national report to ensure that the framework for collecting information on outputs and impacts would be operated in a more focused and reflective manner.

This section explores the manner in which the partnerships have promoted participation and worked towards the development of sport. It looks at how the LSPs have provided leadership, co-ordination and direction, particularly in terms of the specific activities undertaken in 2008 with regard to the four headings above.

## 2.2 Understanding “LSP Maintenance Work”

Each LSP undertakes a series of internal operational tasks that are necessary to ensure that the organisation continues to function at an optimal level. These tasks include staff training and support, board recruitment and support, the ongoing development of internal policies and procedures, as well as engaging in strategic planning exercises. Other internal tasks include reporting on financial matters, as well as the management of websites and databases.

LSPs continued to monitor these aspects of their day to day work in 2008 in order to examine the level of commitment that has been necessary to manage the internal workings of the organisation. LSPs have been spending on average 52% of their overall time in this area. For Administrators, this represents a greater portion of their contribution to the LSP (73%). Development Officers tend to spend less than one third of their time in this area.

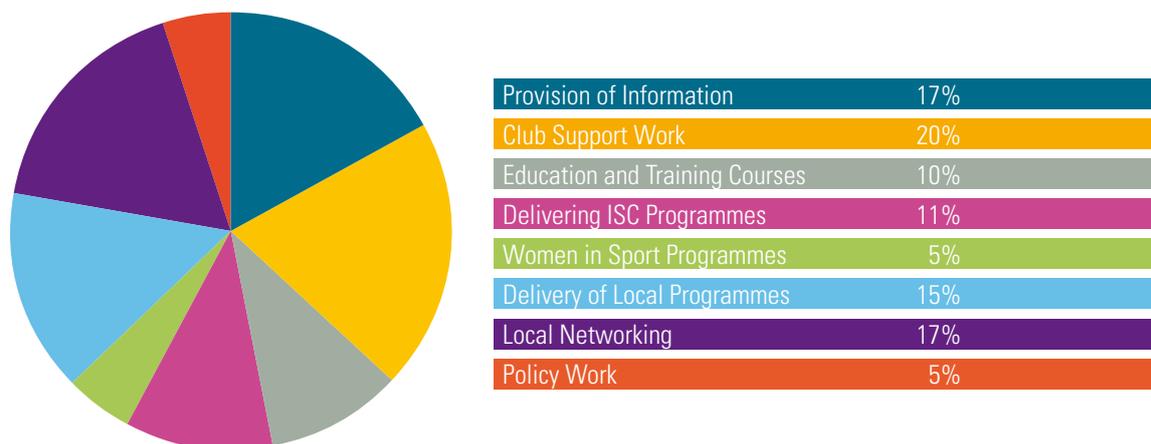
Through collecting information on this aspect of the LSP work, it becomes clear that the organisational demands of building the Partnership from the bottom up represents a major time commitment from all staff. Supporting members of the board to play a full role in the life of the LSP takes up a significant amount of the Co-ordinator’s and Administrator’s time. Liaising with funders and dealing with reporting requirements are also important and time consuming tasks.

Section 3 explores this in further detail, examining the manner in which newly established LSPs deal with these pressures.

## 2.3 Working Methods

Each LSP engaged in a detailed analysis of where their time went in 2008 beyond their work in LSP maintenance. The following chart gives a breakdown of the time committed to LSP work with partner agencies and directly with target groups, according to their eight specific working methods.

**Figure III – Breakdown of LSP time in 2008. For an explanation of working methods see Appendix C**



The most significant areas of work undertaken by LSPs in 2008 were in relation to the provision of information, the initiation and delivery of local projects, local networking activities and the support offered to clubs and organisations.

Further analysis of the figures gives an indication that (of the time that LSPs were engaged in external work):

- 17% of time was spent on information related tasks
- 30% of time developing local sporting infrastructure - through providing training and education courses (10%) and supporting sports clubs and groups promoting physical activity in their communities (20%)
- 11% of time supporting the delivery of the Irish Sports Council programmes (i.e. Buntús and Code of Ethics)
- 20% delivering programmes – local participation programmes (15%) and Women in Sport programmes (5%)
- 22% of time engaging in partnership building activities i.e. networking locally, engaging in committee work activities (17%) and working to influence policy with regard to sports and physical activities (5%)

The following sections examine these five areas of LSP work - information provision, sports infrastructural development, ISC programme delivery, local participation programme delivery and policy work.

## 2.4 Information Provision

### 2008 Highlights:

- Over 75,000 individuals contacted the LSP network in order to access general or specific sport-related information.
- 1,982 information resources were produced by LSPs

Over 75,000 individuals directly contacted the LSP network in 2008 in order to access general or specific sport-related information. Through such contact, target groups are gaining awareness of the full range of local activities and national initiatives that the LSPs promote. When compared with 2007, this represents a 20% increase in interaction with the wider public and demonstrates that the partnerships are becoming more of a focal point for the community in the area of sports development and physical activity promotion.

LSPs continue to identify gaps in information provision at a local level and have been instrumental in addressing these gaps by producing and circulating resources.

**Figure IV – Information resources developed by LSPs in 2008**

Information Resource	Number
Number of Booklets	14
Number of Directories	81
Number of Newsletters	47
Number of Information Leaflets	198
Number of Translations	24
Number of Publications	35
Number of DVDs	3
Number of Press Releases	590
Number of New/ Updated Articles on Website	797
Number of eBulletins	193
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,982</b>

### What has been the impact of this work?

LSPs continually monitor the manner in which their information is being used by their target groups and their partner agencies. LSPs have recorded evidence of greater levels of awareness about access to opportunities in the area of sports and physical activity, as well as greater take up of such opportunities.

The issuing of press releases, the distribution of leaflets locally and the undertaking of an event launch in the weeks leading up to the Mallow Sports Open Day led to over 350 people attending on the day (County Cork LSP)

In South Dublin County Sports Partnership the Community Linkage programme in four secondary schools in West Tallaght came about through communication with PE teachers. The programme provides finance to develop and support sports activities in the schools especially for girls (South Dublin County LSP).

**Engagement with local media** has allowed for the promotion of programmes and courses. This has led to contacts from community areas and target groups seeking to run a similar activity in their area.

10 new Community PALs groups were established as a result of queries following a report of existing groups' activities and report on Sports Fest. 10 schools who had not participated in the Buntús programme agreed to take part based on reports in our published Newsletter (County Limerick LSP).

In Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, the advertising of the Monkstown Active Exercise Programme has resulted in enquiries and interest in expanding the programme to other centres around the county (Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown LSP).

This growth of the number of people participating in projects engaging with sporting organisations is a key focus for LSPs' information provision activities. However, a further impact relates to the **increased profile of the LSP network** as well as a growing awareness of the extent of its work.

Sporting organisations are identifying the LSP as an important hub for information. 43 sports clubs are actively providing information for inclusion on the South Tipperary LSP website (South Tipperary LSP).

## 2.5 Development of Local Sports Infrastructure

### 2008 Highlights:

- LSPs have provided 7,119 clubs, groups and organisations throughout the country with important information and advice in the area of funding
- 2,541 clubs and groups have been supported in the delivery of their activities
- 9,614 people participated in a range of locally planned and delivered training courses

Mirroring the time commitment from 2007, LSPs have continued to spend some 30% of their external time in working towards developing a more sustainable local sporting development "infrastructure".

LSPs are promoting sustainable structures through working closely in a supportive role with a wide range of sporting and community sector organisations. This involves:

- identifying funding streams and providing support in applying for such funding
- working with clubs and groups to develop autonomous structures and codes of practice
- providing quality training for volunteers and officials
- enhancing local coach deployment

### Funding Work

LSPs have provided 7,119 clubs, groups and organisations throughout the country with important information and advice in the area of funding. This information has been disseminated through newsletters, brochures, local radio, local and national press and other media. LSP websites have been an important focal point in reaching clubs. Most LSPs have run information workshops in the area of funding.

LSPs have worked directly with 24% of these clubs (1,691 individual organisations) to assist them in preparing funding applications.

Detailed information is kept on the range of organisations targeted. A wide range of grants and funding schemes were accessed, including Local Authority Grants, Sports Capital Grants, Dormant Accounts, specific disability funding streams and other mainstream sources.

## Club Development Work

A further aspect of the LSP's support for the local sports infrastructure concerns specific club development work. This may involve support with regard to the delivery of sporting activities, as well as help with organisational and policy issues.

Some 2,541 clubs and groups have been supported in the delivery of their activities. This element of LSP work tends to involve direct and intensive support with newly formed clubs who have just set up or clubs who have seen a large increase in the number of people accessing their activities.

“Over the last number of years clubs have an increasing number of requirements in order to operate. The initial start up can be daunting as clubs are often unaware of the full range of standards that now need to be in place. Start up costs, coach training and certification and statutory requirements, all need to be put in place. For existing clubs many seek advice and support with regard to more efficient running of the organisation and increasing numbers are putting development plans in place.” (Roscommon LSP)

Some 457 clubs and groups have been supported with regard to developing their organisational or management structures. A further 745 groups were assisted in tackling particular development or policy issues.

This support work has involved working with groups to develop participation strategies and social inclusion policies, deal with internal capacity building issues, financial planning and health and safety concerns.

An ongoing challenge for clubs and organisations has been how to manage and support their volunteer base. LSPs have been an important asset for clubs throughout the country in providing advice and practical assistance for clubs so that they can sustain this volunteerism at a grassroots level.

LSPs have also advised clubs on their dealings with the media and the development of communication strategies.

Facility development is another area, in which LSPs have provided critical support for clubs and organisations.

## Training Courses

LSPs keep detailed records on the numbers of participants completing the range of training programmes that take place under their auspices. Over 17,000 participants attended training courses (including Buntús and Code of Ethics) in 2008. This represents an increase of over 7,000 individuals from 2007. Excluding Buntús and Code of Ethics (these will be dealt with separately in section 2.6) some 9,614 people participated on a range of locally planned and delivered courses. 121 tutors were contracted to deliver these courses.

282 courses were supported by the LSP network in 2008. These include

**Figure V – Most popular courses run by LSPs in 2008**

Course Name	Number of LSPs	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
First Aid	17	43	683
Speed Agility Quickness	16	21	476
Active Leadership	13	14	182
Go For Life PALs Training	11	51	712
Fit Walk Programme	8	12	231

Other popular courses run by LSPs included Defibrillator training, Disability Awareness/Inclusive Games Training, Sports Capital Programme workshops and other Coach Development courses.

Many courses were initiated as a result of local demand.

Carlow LSP set up the “Attracting & Keeping Volunteers” course in conjunction with Carlow Volunteer Centre in response to needs identified in the Co Carlow Sports Partnership Strategic Plan. The course was delivered over three evenings, two hours per evening. It was recommended that participants should do all three evenings but they had the option of doing one, two, or three sessions. The last session focused on committee skills. The facilitator provided each participant with a comprehensive information pack (Carlow LSP)

## What has been the impact of this work?

There has been a direct and clear impact on the overall sustainability of the sporting infrastructure.

Many groups have achieved funding as a result of support from LSPs. This funding has contributed in no small way to the generation of economic activity.

Some 9 groups in Sligo successfully accessed funding of €29,435 under the ISC Women in Sport scheme. A further 12 groups in Sligo were successful in accessing funding under the Capital Grants Scheme with €555,000 sourced. Some 18 other groups in Sligo received €8,950 under the Go For Life Scheme and 4 groups accessed funding of €10,800 under the RAPID Additionality Fund (Sligo LSP).

By promoting and developing the base of trained volunteers and community leaders, employment opportunities have been created as well as the employability of this cohort being advanced. A constant flow of newly trained tutors and volunteers continues to emerge in each county.

As a result of the Offaly LSP’s Travellers in Sport Tutor Training programme, 7 participants have received FETAC and sports specific awards, and are awaiting funding in order to be employed over a three year period to deliver physical activity programmes specific to the Travelling community (Offaly LSP).

In strengthening the capacity of local sporting organisations, personal progression for members of target groups in their communities has been documented.

Six members of a Drug Rehab programme in Fingal who took part in Kickstart 1 were employed as coaches by the FAI for their Summer Camps (Fingal LSP).

Through supporting existing clubs to increase their capacity to deliver quality sporting opportunities as well assisting new clubs to take root, increased participation is the impact.

In County Cork LSP, the Sport Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) coordinated the establishment of a multisport club in Fermoy. This involved shadowing the group for 10 weeks, recruiting volunteers from the local secondary school and training volunteers and parents in inclusive sports. The club now runs independently with the support of the SIDO (County Cork LSP).

Through the Mums Get Active Fund, a local GAA club has arranged a number of gym sessions for mothers who drop off their kids at training times. As a result more parents are becoming more active role models (Kerry LSP).

## 2.6 Delivering Irish Sports Council Programmes

### 2008 Highlights:

- 2,851 primary school teachers in 289 schools received Buntús Generic training
- 1,208 childcare practitioners in 381 childcare centres received Buntús Start training
- 3,542 participants completed 250 Code of Ethics Basic Awareness courses
- A further 167 participants completed 14 Club Children's Officer courses

Local Sports Partnerships committed some 11% of their overall available time to the delivery of two national ISC programmes: Buntús and Code of Ethics.

### Buntús

Buntús Play and Buntús Multi Sport are two programmes developed to support teachers and other adults in introducing young people to sport and helping to develop their interests. Teachers deliver Buntús in support of the Physical Education programme.

Buntús Start is a comprehensive physical activity programme for children aged 2-5 years old. It has been designed for use in pre-school settings so that pre-school and playgroup leaders can provide a wide range of learning opportunities for young children to develop skills as well as a positive attitude to physical activity.

Both Buntús programmes allow an important opportunity for LSPs to engage with pre-school and primary school children and their teachers in order to disseminate the key messages embodied in the Buntús programme.

In 2008, the work of LSPs with primary schools and childcare centres has led to the following results:

**Figure VI – Summary of 2008 Buntus outputs**

	Buntús Generic	Buntús Start
Number of schools/childcare centres received training in 2008	289	381
Number of teachers/practitioners who were trained in 2008	2,851	1,208
Total number of children in schools/childcare centres that received training in 2008	42,059	8,103

Since their introduction, over 285,000 children have been beneficiaries of both Buntús Generic and Start programmes.

**Figure VII – Buntus outputs since the introduction of the Buntus programme**

	Buntús Generic	Buntús Start
Total number of schools/centres that received training (since introduction of Buntús Generic/Start)	2,082	738
Total number of teachers/practitioners trained	13,486	2,665
Total number of children in trained schools/centres (since introduction of Buntús Generic/Start)	270,444	15,771

## Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics training programme targets sports leaders and adults involved in the organisation of sport for young people to promote child protection policies and procedures. LSPs work closely at a local level with all governing bodies of sport and related organisations to support the adoption of child protection policies and procedures.

The Code of Ethics programme consists of two workshops:

- A 4-hour Basic Awareness training module for leaders within sports club and
- A further 6-hour Club Children's Officer workshop to support Club Children's Officers in the implementation of the code in their clubs

These courses are rolled out through the LSP network, targeting sports leaders and other officers, as well as Children's Officer and designated persons within clubs.

In 2008, 3542 participants completed Basic Awareness training on courses run by the LSPs. This represents a 42% increase compared with 2007.

**Figure VIII – Summary of 2008 Code of Ethics outputs**

	Basic Awareness	Club Children's Officer
Number of courses delivered	250	14
Number of participants	3,542	167

As a result of participating in the workshops, children's officers / sports leaders are trained to:

- Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of participants
- Create a child-centred environment within the sports club
- List categories of abuse and some indicators associated with abuse
- Make an appropriate response to a disclosure
- Make a report to the Designated Officer or appropriate Statutory Authorities

## What has been the impact of this work?

### Buntús

LSPs have recorded positive response rates and uptake levels from schools and pre-schools. Important factors in the successful delivery of Buntús include:

- The availability of quality tutors
- Positive engagement from partner agencies (including the primary school network and County Childcare Committees) and NGBs
- Regular and structured follow up support provided by NGBs
- Up to date schools database
- National awareness of programme

Longer established LSPs have rolled out Buntús Generic throughout all primary schools in the county. Many such LSPs engaged in refresher training with schools in 2008. This ongoing relationship building within the education sector has ensured that schools have been responsive to the roll out of Buntús Sport Specific.

“All primary schools in Meath have received the Buntús Generic training and it has been very well received to date, which has ensured that new teachers to Meath or new schools being established in Meath are keen to participate in the programme. Because of the good working relationship which exists between primary schools, Meath LSP and Buntús tutors, schools are quick to engage in new initiatives under the Buntús strand.” (Meath LSP)

The success of other initiatives that are promoted by the LSPs to primary schools has been attributed to Buntús.

In Mayo, schools have contacted the LSP for advice on participation initiatives in their schools. Others have signed up for the Playground Markings Project as a result of the Buntús Programme (Mayo LSP).

In Sligo, strong links have been forged with primary schools and this is particularly evident in the positive response from schools to events such as Athletics Fest and Schools Out Walking (Sligo LSP).

Many LSPs have become involved in facilitating, providing inputs and making presentations to a series of in-service courses for PE teachers.

LSPs have worked with schools and pre-schools in initiatives or activities that have emerged from the use of Buntús. Sports days, summer camps, blitzes and fun days have been run to promote participation for children and their families.

In Mayo, the Achill schools came together for a Buntús Sports Day with the emphasis on fun and inclusion. In County Limerick, childcare providers have come together to organise activity days as a result of training (Mayo LSP).

Other impacts have included

- Links established between a number of schools and local clubs to support and share equipment and resources
- After schools clubs being set up to provide more sports opportunities for school children
- As a result of the Buntús Start programme Sligo LSP was invited to have representation on the Early Years Health Promotion Committee

## Code of Ethics

The demand for Code of Ethics training among the sporting community was high in 2008 with requests to LSPs for course delivery. LSPs have in turn developed effective systems for the management and delivery of the programme, ensuring the availability of experienced tutors, access to quality support materials and a speedy response to the incoming requests.

LSPs are not tasked with evaluating the extent to which clubs have implemented the lessons from the Code of Ethics training workshops, especially the Club Children’s Officers training. It is the responsibility of the National Governing Bodies to ensure that child protection policies are being implemented in their clubs.

However, all LSPs have been working closely with local clubs to support them following their participation in Code of Ethics training.

In South Tipperary, 10 sports clubs indicated on their application forms for the Club Children's Officer training that Code of Ethics policies are in place and being developed within their clubs. The LSP has supported Clonmel Swimming Pool in developing a Code of Ethics Policy for their club. All 6 Rugby Clubs in South Tipperary have appointed Club Children's Officers (South Tipperary LSP).

Some LSPs request copies of a club's Code of Ethics policy as they are making applications under the Club Development Grant Scheme or through any scheme managed by the LSP.

Strong links have been established with HSE Information and Advice Officers through LSP work on the Code of Ethics Programme.

In Sligo, tutors have attended meetings with the officer and links have also been established with the Children's Liaison Officer within the local Garda Unit. In Mayo, the tutors attend local network meetings. Mayo has a child protection committee at county level. This committee, on which both the HSE and the LSP are represented, meets every two months (Sligo LSP).

In County Cork, the LSP Manager sits on a Code of Ethics related Steering Group (Keeping Safe) with the HSE Information and Advice Officer (County Cork LSP).

LSPs have noted an increase in awareness of child protection issues occurring. Other agencies are putting child protection on their agenda.

In Sligo, Post Leaving Certificate programme co-ordinators, IT Sligo lecture modules and local National Council for Exercise & Fitness programme have integrated child protection issues into their work. In Mayo, the Local Authority and leisure facilities have adopted a child protection policy (Sligo LSP).

Work in the provision of the Code of Ethics Programme has increased the visibility of the local sports partnership network as well as its policies and aims.

In North Tipperary, the LSP has become a contact point for the local Children's Officers within clubs, who may have an issue or worry about policies not being adhered to within their club (North Tipperary LSP).

In Waterford, the courses have allowed a chance to develop stronger links with clubs. Some funding applications have been a direct consequence of information provided after a Code of Ethics course. The LSP has also promoted other relevant courses (Waterford LSP).

## 2.7 Programme Delivery

### 2008 Highlights:

- 69,843 people participated in 433 locally delivered participation programmes
- An additional 7,896 female participants took part in 102 local Women in Sport programmes

Local Sports Partnerships committed some 20% of their overall available time to the area of programme delivery.

LSPs have built up a body of knowledge and deep understanding about the needs of its local target groups and the most appropriate means of engaging with them to directly increase levels of local participation.

Each LSP is constantly establishing new programmes, overseeing the delivery of innovative initiatives and year by year creating links with a wider range of partner agencies. As LSPs have engaged in more project-driven work, their contact with target groups has grown organically.

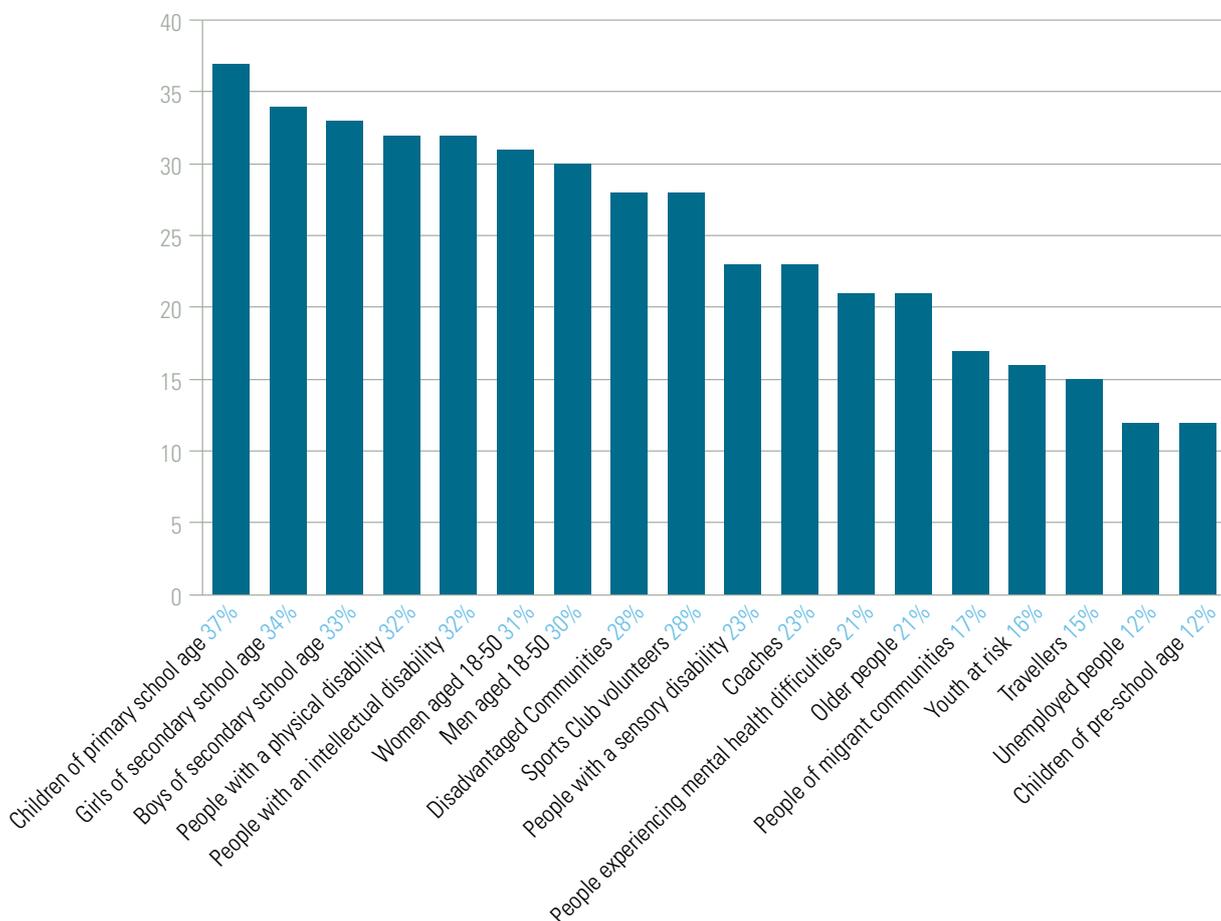
LSPs monitor their work in this area by maintaining records on each project or programme in which they play a role or have some responsibility. The following table presents an overview of the number of locally delivered programmes in which LSPs were involved in 2008.

**Figure IX – Number of locally delivered programmes in which LSPs were involved in 2008**

	Number of Active Programmes	Number of Programmes by Involvement
Local Programmes	433	Solely Responsible: 48 Mainly Responsible: 220 Partly Responsible: 165
Women In Sport Programmes	102	Solely Responsible: 4 Mainly Responsible: 68 Partly Responsible: 30

LSPs have examined the range of groups that have been targeted by these local programmes. The following chart presents a breakdown of target groups which have been involved. Many programmes have multiple target groups.

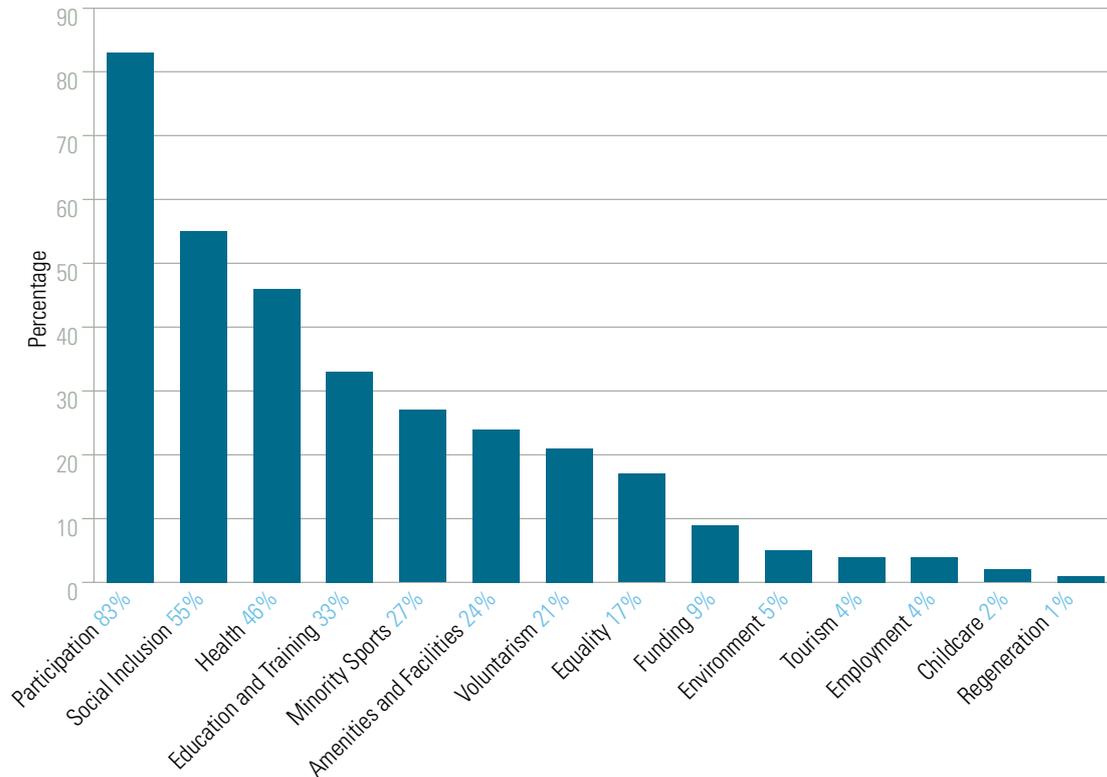
**Figure X – Breakdown of target groups that have participated in LSP local programmes in 2008**



The increased delivery to people with a disability (compared with 13% in 2007) highlights the impact of the SIDO network which was established in 2008. The network comprises 20 dedicated, full-time professional staff who deliver participation programmes to people with a disability.

LSPs also tracked the key issues that each project was setting out to address by these local projects. The following chart presents a breakdown of the issues

**Figure XI – Key issues that LSP local programmes addressed in 2008**



As can be seen the LSPs have a broad remit. Along with participation, the promotion of health, social inclusion, equality, volunteering, and education and training through the medium of sport and physical activity are key issues for the LSPs.

## What has been the impact of this work?

The number of people participating is the key impact indicator of this work. The following table presents a summary of this data for 2008.

**Figure XII – Summary of 2008 LSP Programme outputs**

Indicator	Women in Sports Programmes	Local Programmes
No. of Active programmes	102	433
Total number of People Participating	7,896	69,843

Almost 70,000 people have participated in these local programmes, as well as a further 7,800 beneficiaries of Women in Sport projects. This represents an increase of almost 25,000 participants on the 2007 level.

Some 83% of these local projects had a specific focus on increasing participation. This was achieved through engaging closely with low participation target groups.

The Sports Inclusion Midlands Boccia programme was established to increase the involvement of people with a disability specifically in Boccia. As a result over 100 participants with an intellectual disability took part in a Midlands Boccia League, with many of these participants continuing to play. Over 10 participants with physical disabilities took part in a summer athletics programme; over 10 participants with intellectual disabilities took part in a gym instruction programme which is currently being sustained by staff of the participating organisation. (Offaly LSP)

As a result of the Meet & Train run by Clare LSP participants took part in weekly walking and jogging outside of LSP delivered sessions plus some of the participants have also joined local athletics clubs (Clare LSP).

Westmeath LSP have increased numbers of 'new Irish' in 19 clubs that participated as a result of the NPAR funding stream (Westmeath LSP).

The targeted approach of the Women in Sport programmes have led to very specific increases in participation by women in sport and physical activity.

The Active Mothers programme which aims to increase participation amongst unemployed mothers ran as a pilot in Moyross. Since it has finished five of the women have continued to meet up and go for walks on a regular basis (Limerick City LSP).

Furthermore, a more cohesive and co-ordinated local infrastructure has emerged due to such relationship building with key local actors.

The five community areas in Monaghan where the active women's programme was taking place have become more engaged with the LSP. A strong line of communication has been established with key local women in the areas who are willing to disseminate information to others on behalf of the LSP. This will lead to new initiatives (Monaghan LSP).

Wexford LSP influenced the Wexford half marathon to accept and run a disability event as a part of the Annual Race, opening up the event to a key target group (Wexford LSP).

The growth in membership of sporting organisations has been a direct result of many LSP projects. New clubs and sections of clubs have emerged

The North Tipperary Sportsability Multi-Sport Club was established in Nenagh. This is a new club, set up as a follow on to a "Come and Try It" Day. It is a fortnightly club, giving participants the opportunity to try out a variety of sports and activities for example Age Kurling, Tennis, Hurling, Basketball and Parachute Game (North Tipperary LSP).

200 members now participate in 8 new Communities in Motion groups throughout the County. 70 participants engage in physical activity programmes through a variety of clubs providing activity for people with a disability on a weekly basis. (County Limerick LSP)

## 2.8 Building Partnerships and Influencing Policy

### 2008 Highlights:

- 151 networks and forums facilitated by LSPs
- LSPs actively participating in 148 local committees and other networks
- LSPs presented at 186 conferences, seminars and policy related meetings

LSPs spent some 22% of their time working in the area of policy and local networking. The aim of this work is

- to become more embedded in the local sports development infrastructure
- to build effective partnerships with policymakers
- to lobby for change

LSPs have achieved these objectives through:

- participation within a range of local networks, major initiatives and inter-disciplinary committees
- involvement in awareness raising activities in conjunction with partner agencies
- numerous conference presentations
- contributions to academic publications as well as producing valuable research reports
- working closely with policymakers within regional and national networks

### Networks

Once again in 2008, LSPs have been to the forefront in the promotion of a wide range of major initiatives, networks and forums at local and national level. LSPs have played an important role in facilitating 151 networks and forums. The LSP acts as the principal facilitator in most of these initiatives, networks and forums.

Donegal LSP was a key player in the Laureus Sport for Good Initiative linking County Donegal VEC and the Western Education Library Board, Omagh. The key aim of the project is to create cross community and cross border links at schools level and to develop opportunities for children within their own communities to fully participate in sport . In 2008, a Cross Border Development Officer was appointed. A work plan was developed in association with key agencies in Derry City and Strabane, also linking Governing Bodies such as IFA and FAI on schools soccer programme. A range of further cross border links were developed at club and schools levels. Tournaments and fun days were held throughout the year. Some 1,154 people participated in the initiative in 2008 (Donegal LSP).

### Awareness Raising and Committee Work

LSPs monitor the number of awareness raising events in which they have played an active role. In 2008, LSPs participated in 255 such events, ranging from hosting a stand at the National Ploughing Championships to involvement in local healthy action campaigns in partnership with the community and voluntary sector.

LSPs keep track of the extent of their local networking in relation to the themes that they address as well as the kind of local committees that they are asked to join. As relationships are built with a wide range of statutory and community based organisations, the LSP is further embedded in the policy making environment at county level and wider.

In 2008, LSPs were actively participating on a wide range of local committees and networks.

**Figure XIII – Breakdown of local committees and networks LSPs actively participated in, in 2008**

Committees	Number
Health related	29
Education related	24
Sports infrastructure related	46
Social inclusion related	49

Waterford Sports Partnership provide a useful insight into the range of committee work in which LSPs are involved. This LSP is an active member of Waterford City Development Board, Waterford Local Football Partnership, Healthy Cities Committee, Waterford County Council Sports & Social Committee, Dungarvan Facilities Audit Committee, National Facilities Audit as well as having further roles on Waterford County and City Council sub-committees (Waterford LSP).

## Policy Work

LSPs endeavoured to record involvement in activities that have an implication for policy. While this referred to work undertaken locally, it also related to work that has a significance beyond the immediate community of the LSP.

The following table gives a breakdown of some of these recorded outputs in relation to policy work. This includes participation in seminars, conferences etc. that had a policy theme, delivering presentations with a policy agenda as well as the level of engagement with research and the production of publications.

**Figure XIV – Breakdown of LSP outputs in relation to policy work in 2008**

Key Issue	Production of Research/ Publications	Speaking at Conferences/ Presentations
Participation	33	69
Health	19	18
Education and Training	22	28
Voluntarism	1	6
Social Inclusion	4	17
Amenities and Facilities	19	6
Equality	0	1
Environment	2	3
Tourism	0	3
Childcare	1	5
Regeneration	1	2
Employment	0	1
Funding	3	17
Minority Sports	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>186</b>

The appointment of dedicated Sports Inclusion Disability Officers across the LSP network has allowed for a high level of engagement with disability policy as well as broader social inclusion issues at a local and national level.

The development officer in Louth gave input into the Louth Local Authority Draft Disability Plan. The work of the SIDO in Laois has ensured that disability sport has been highlighted in all primary schools in the county (Louth LSP).

## What has been the impact of this work?

An important aim of this work relates to placing the LSP as a key shaper of local, regional and national policy with regards to sports development and related issues. As LSPs become recognised as a one-stop-shop with regard to information, education and implementation, opportunities to lobby and influence relevant policymakers increase.

Through networking and dissemination activities with local community organisations, increased awareness of the LSP agenda is evident.

Greater integration and co-ordination of services locally can be evidenced as a result of the networking and dissemination activities of LSPs.

In Cavan, the LSP has engaged with Cavan RAPID programme, Cavan Community and Voluntary Forum, Cavan Social Inclusion Unit, Cavan Tourism Officer, Cavan Access Officer to highlight the role of the LSP and to identify common areas where partnership working may occur (Cavan LSP).

Local dissemination work has influenced the activities of other agencies to the extent that LSPs are having a direct policy influence on their work practice.

Following on from the launch of the Building Communities through Sport and Recreation Project in June the partner agencies Mayo VEC, Údarás, HSE and Mayo County Council have been actively involved in projects such as the workplace activity initiative in summer 2008 (Mayo LSP).

Building networks has led to direct evidence of increased participation and opportunities for further development in this area.

In Sligo, the Indoor Facilities Network has resulted in 4 centres delivering new sports programmes involving 360 participants. 14 volunteers in Screen and similarly 14 volunteers in Gurteen are involved in programme supervision. Sport Unites in Tubbercurry involved 6 clubs delivering taster sessions and resulting from this the clubs experienced increases in membership and this success can be attributed to an effective diversity in the sport network (Sligo LSP).



# 3

## Evolution Of The National Network



## 3.1 Introduction

In completing the national network of 33 LSPs in 2008, the Irish Sports Council has recognised that the partnerships are a critical long-term national mechanism with regard to the establishment of a sustainable structure to assist all those involved in local sports development, as well as in the delivery of local programmes and projects particularly for target groups. LSPs also have a vital role to play in establishing networks at local level and liaising with existing initiatives.

By comparing new LSPs with established LSPs this section looks to explore the challenges associated with LSPs establishing themselves as key players in the local sports development environment.<sup>1</sup> Insights are provided into the following questions:

- What levels of time commitment are necessary in the early years with regard to building internal capacity?
- What working methods are newer LSPs engaging in to meet their strategic objectives?
- Are increases in outputs evident for older LSPs compared with new LSPs? Is there evidence that the older LSPs have become more embedded in the local sports infrastructure of their local authority areas?

## 3.2 Time Commitment to Internal Work

As described in Section 2, each LSP undertakes a series of internal operational tasks that are necessary to ensure that the organisation continues to function at an optimal level. While all LSPs engage in this work, it is clear that newly established LSPs must spend more time in this area.

The following table gives a breakdown of the time dedicated to internal work across the LSP network and specifically within the newer and older LSPs.

**Figure XV – Breakdown of LSP time dedicated to internal work in 2008**

	Average % (for all staff)
New LSPs	63.97
Older LSPs	50.76
All 29 LSPs	51.81

The recruitment of staff and a board of management, as well as providing support and training, represent a major time commitment for Co-ordinators in these LSPs. Lack of human resources in the early stages of development can mean that the Co-ordinator has to fulfil a range of extra roles.

Internal policies and procedures must be developed. Strategic planning exercises must be conducted.

It is clear from these figures that the more recently established LSPs are facing greater demands in relation to their ongoing internal work.

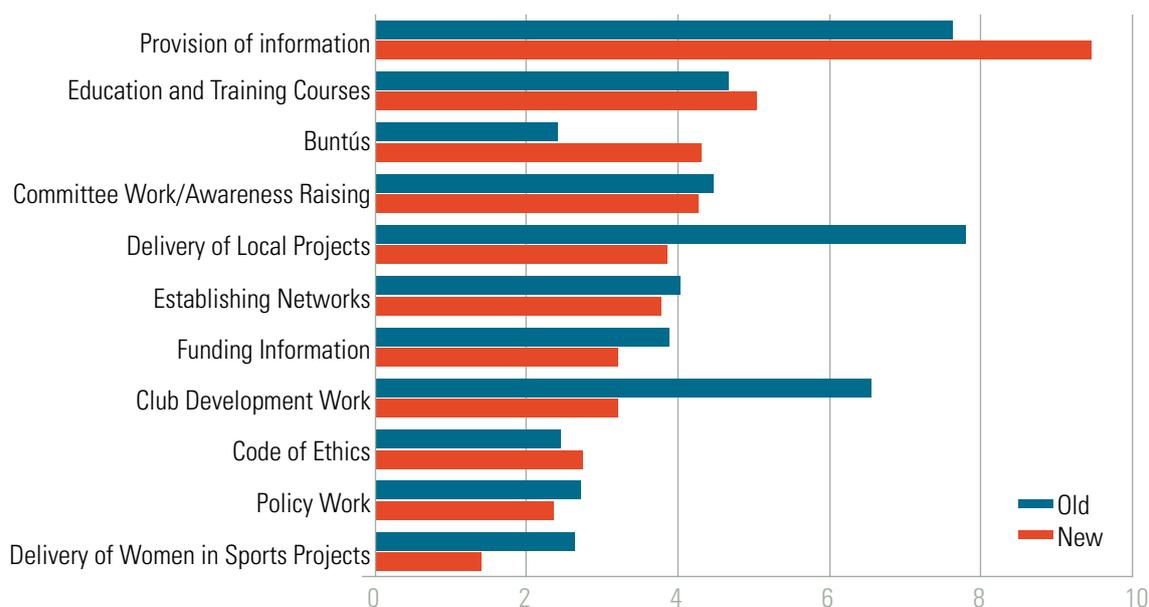
<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this section, the 10 LSPs that were formed in 2007-8 and that have used the SPEAK self evaluation system in 2008, make up the cohort of newly established LSPs: County Limerick; South Tipperary; Galway City; Cavan; Louth; Dun Laoghaire Rathdown; South Dublin County; County Galway; Wexford; and Cork City. Established LSPs are those LSPs set-up prior to 2007. Refer to Appendix B.

### 3.3 Working Methods for New and Older LSPs

Given the set of internal and external challenges with which LSPs are faced, LSPs have evidently differing and evolving capacities to be able to deliver programmes and respond to identified needs.

The following table examines the range of working methods or functions that the LSPs fulfil.

**Figure XVI – Comparison of working methods for New and Established LSPs in 2008**



Responding to the information needs of the community, raising awareness of the work of the LSP and engagement in partnership building at a local level account for a similar proportion of external time for both new and older LSPs.

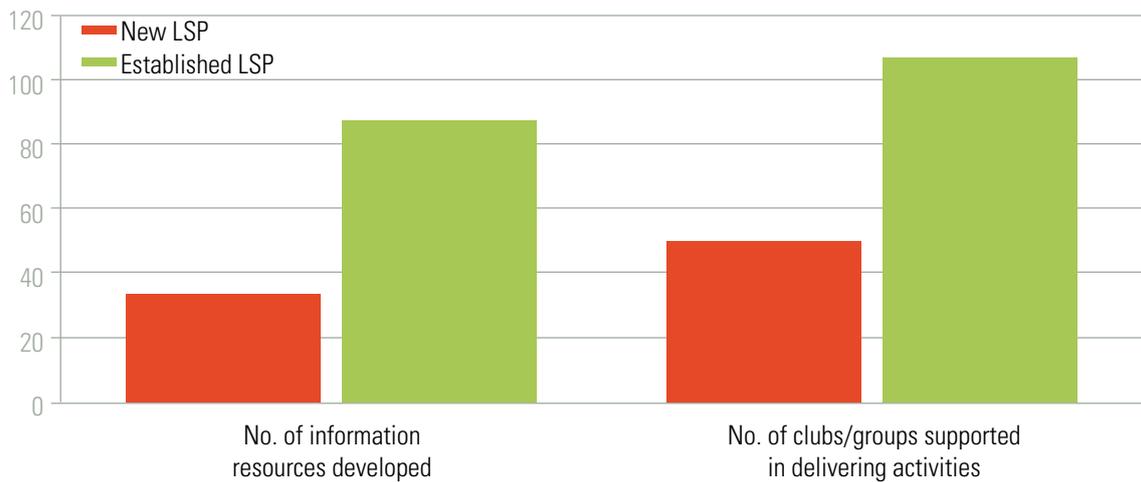
However, it is clear from the above table that the more established LSPs are in a stronger position to build up the capacity of the local sporting infrastructure through club development work and promoting participation through delivery of local participation programmes and Women in Sport programmes. This demonstrates that older LSPs are more embedded in the local sports infrastructure of their Local Authority areas.

The newer LSPs spent a large proportion of their time in 2008 in the promotion of ISC national programmes. Through this direct work in the Buntús and Code of Ethics programmes, they are building partnerships with schools and local clubs. As evidenced in Section 2.6, the longer term impact of this initial work can be seen in the development of new initiatives and the improved participation levels of the groups involved in the national programmes.

### 3.4 Comparing Average Outputs for New and Established LSPs

Given the different emphasis on the various working methods, this sub-section seeks to compare average output, between a new and established LSP across a number of working methods. It seeks to explore where differences in outputs between older LSPs compared with new LSPs are most visible.

**Figure XVII – Comparison of average number of information resources developed and average number of clubs/groups supported in delivering activities for New and Established LSPs in 2008**

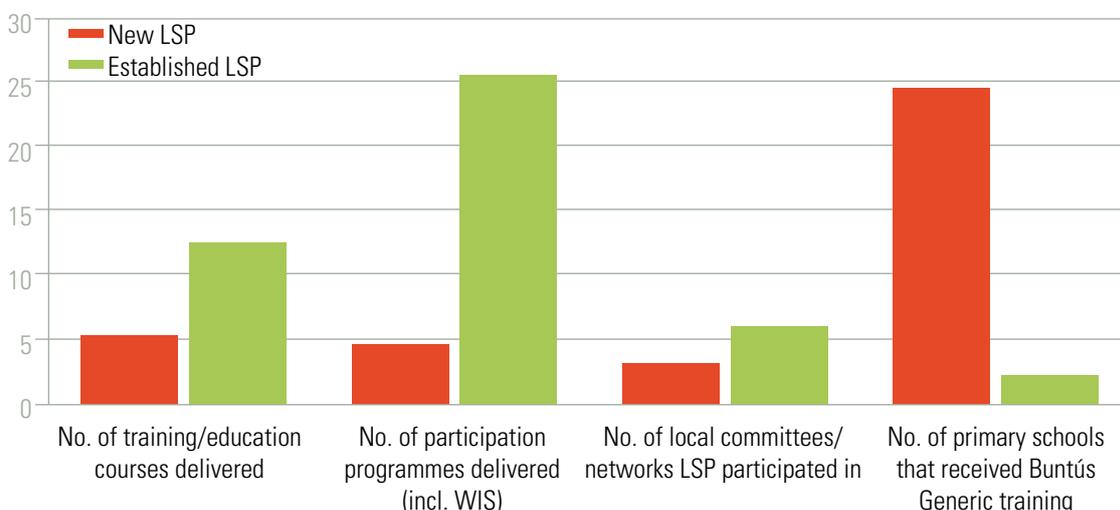


From Figure XVII it can be seen that, on average in 2008 an established LSP:

- produced over twice as many information resources as a new LSP (87.7 versus 33.7 information resources)
- supported over twice as many clubs and groups in delivery of activities as a new LSP (107.2 versus 50.3 clubs and groups)

As this is the first year of Wexford LSP we are still developing relationships with clubs within the county. Ensuring information can be communicated easily is a challenge. This will improve in 2009 as we are presently in the process of getting correct contact details for all clubs in the county (Wexford LSP).

**Figure XVIII – Comparison of average number of training & education courses delivered, average number of participation programmes delivered, average number of committees/networks LSP participated in and average number of primary schools that received Buntús Generic training for New and Established LSPs in 2008**



From Figure XVIII it can be seen that, on average in 2008 an established LSP:

- delivered over twice as many training and education courses as a new LSP (12.6 versus 5.4 courses)
- delivered over five times as many participation programmes as a new LSP (25.6 versus 4.7 programmes)
- participated in almost twice as many local committees and networks as a new LSP (6.1 versus 3.2)

On average, in 2008 a new LSP delivered Buntús Generic to over ten times as many primary schools as an established LSP (24.6 versus 2.3 schools). This reflects the finding in section 3.3, that delivering the Buntús Generic programme is a key priority for new LSPs. For many of the established LSPs Buntús Generic has been fully implemented in most or all primary schools in their Local Authority.

Schools already aware of the Buntús programme from other counties and therefore uptake of programme has been very positive (Cavan LSP).

The findings of higher outputs for the established LSPs, displayed above, bodes well for the longer term development of the LSP network.

For new LSPs, it demonstrates that it takes time to build relationships and grow the partnership, to create awareness of the partnership and of the value it can add to the promotion of sport and physical activity in the region. Once this is achieved and LSPs become more established and recognised they can participate in more local committees and networks. This in turn increases the strength of the partnership and increases the capacity to produce more information resources, to deliver more training and education courses, to support more clubs and groups, to deliver more programmes and opportunities for people in local communities to participate in sport and be physically active.

The focus in 2008 was to get Louth LSP fully operational which took up a lot of time, so Club Development Work for example has not been a priority. Awareness of Louth LSP has been improving throughout the year but there is still more work to be done in this area and it will be an ongoing work area for the LSP. There are many local clubs and organisations who are aware of us but have yet to engage with us. As Louth LSP was a new entity in 2008, other organisations are still getting to know the aims of the LSP. Work is still ongoing on the area of raising awareness of the LSP and therefore some groups may overlook consulting the LSP on policy issues. We expect much greater involvement in such issues as the Partnership grows (Louth LSP).

Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Sports Partnership (DLRSP) is only operational since May 2008. There is currently a lack of awareness of the LSP amongst clubs and the general public and it will take time to become established and be recognised as a point of contact in the area of club development. Most of DLRSP time and human resources were taken up in establishing the Sports Partnership. Therefore the number of published information resources and the establishment of linked initiatives and networks is limited. There was a delay in establishing a stand-alone DLRSP website. This will be launched in Spring 2009 and will be a key information source going forward (Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown LSP).

For established LSPs, the findings confirm that as they have become more established in their communities, their ability to become key drivers of sports development has grown, as has their capacity to engage with partner agencies and deliver more opportunities for people to become involved in sport and physical activity.

# 4

## Next Steps



## 4.1 Introduction

This section examines the context in which LSPs find themselves, as they face the years ahead. The key questions involve:

- What challenges do LSPs face?
- How are the LSPs equipped to address these challenges?

## 4.2 Challenges

LSPs have identified a broad range of internal and external challenges.

### Internal Challenges

Foremost among the internal challenges are the following:

- Maintaining existing levels of funding from the Irish Sports Council and other partners during the current economic downturn
- Sustaining existing staffing levels in order to maintain and improve the current level of service delivery and quality of programming. A significant number of Sports Development Officer positions are linked to short term funding streams
- Raising awareness of LSPs and their function as a sports hub among the people of their counties and cities continues to be addressed by the Partnerships
- Ensuring that each LSP maintains good governance and has sound policies and procedures in place
- Time management and prioritising workloads continues to be a challenge. As LSPs become more established and embedded in the local sports infrastructure increased demands are placed on staff and partners to continue to deliver and roll out quality sustainable participation programmes and training and education initiatives
- While much time is dedicated to programme delivery a challenge exists in relation to having the necessary resources for programme evaluation

Similar to last year, dedicated funding from the Irish Sports Council represents the most important factor in the ability of LSPs to continue to provide the full range of local services and supports. Given the current economic crisis the biggest challenge facing LSPs in 2009 is managing service delivery against a backdrop of budgetary restrictions. It is likely that every agency represented on LSPs Boards will face pressure on their budgets. On the other hand, there is much evidence that partnering and cross-sector collaboration, as evidenced in LSPs, can be a highly effective and sustainable model in times of economic difficulty. Whilst in a recessionary cycle, working together to achieve sustainable development goals in partnership is more feasible, attractive and necessary.

### Matched Funding

A great need exists within the sporting community for project funding. The LSP experience is that sourcing funding for programmes and the management and distribution of that funding can in many instances be challenging and time consuming. Allied to this challenge, the Matched Funding recommendation from the 2005 Fitzpatrick *Review of Local Sports Partnership Programme* of 50% of

LSP costs provided locally will come into effect in 2009. The LSP network has made significant progress in this area in recent years, both through direct monetary funding and in-kind support from partner agencies. Nevertheless, given the current economic difficulties this will be a challenge to maintain.

### SIDOs

The presence of 20 dedicated full-time staff working in the area of inclusion targeting the disability sector has greatly enabled LSPs to increase participation in sport and physical activity by people with a disability in 2008. Continuation of service and support to this key target group will need to be addressed beyond 2009.

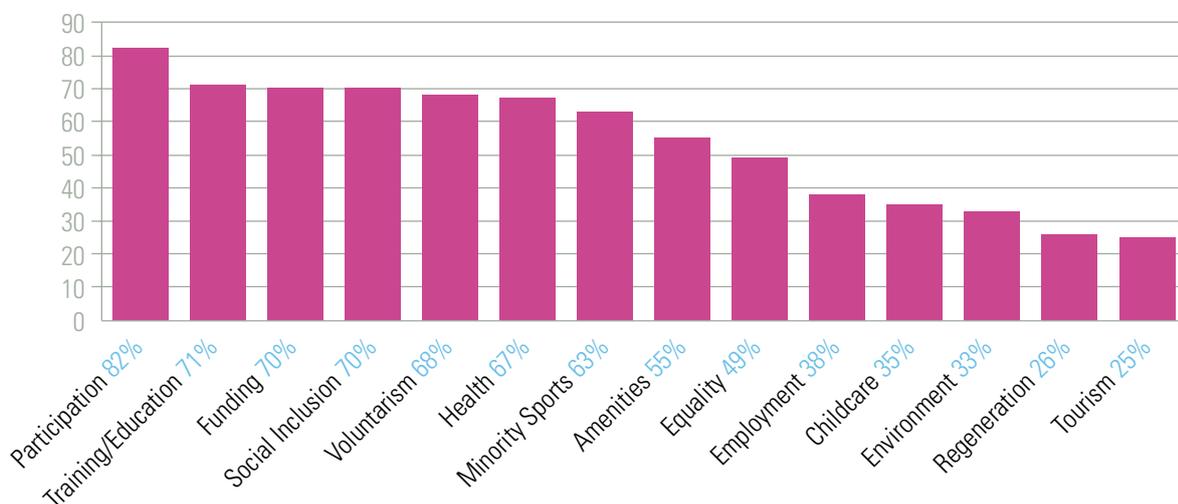
### External Challenges

Increasing participation in sport and recreation amongst the hard to reach target groups continues to be the priority challenge. The degree of resources and innovation necessary to engage in effective capacity building with these groups is high. Other external challenges facing the LSPs relate to the following:

- Ongoing challenge with regard to the recruitment, retention, recognition and motivation of volunteers. Maintaining, developing and supporting a well educated community of volunteer coaches, leaders, administrators and parents to enhance participation in sport and physical activity within the community is essential
- Awareness of the need to engender a culture of healthy lifestyle based on lifelong activity and participation throughout a person's life. There continues to be a lack of awareness of the benefits of physical activity and the adverse consequences of this in terms of various health related issues
- The need for enhanced co-ordination of facility usage and development. There is also a need to make a greater impact in the area of planning for open spaces, cycle-ways and initiatives to support active living
- A further challenge relates to enhancing communication and co-ordination between local sporting bodies and agencies, although many LSPs note that considerable recent progress has been made on this issue
- Size, diversity and population density of some rural counties presents challenges in relation to sports participation particularly in relation to transport and distance from sports clubs or participation programmes

The LSPs have examined key external development challenges once again in 2008. The following table presents an overview of the ranking of key issues by the LSPs.

**Figure XIX – Key external development challenges facing LSPs**



Participation, training, funding and social inclusion have been ranked highest among the key issues identified by the LSP network. Increasing participation in sport and recreation remains the key priority for all LSPs and in particular for the identified target groups. Linked to this is the issue of funding to support the LSP network and the sporting community to deliver the necessary programmes and activities to ensure that participation rates are maintained and grown.

Rising unemployment has emerged as a significant issue in 2008 and in turn this creates challenges in terms of affordability and access to participation amongst a target group that research evidence suggests are more likely to be sedentary. However, this may also present an opportunity for LSPs to attract new volunteers. Volunteering and getting involved in sporting organisations gives an enormous boost to self-esteem, it provides an opportunity to network and meet new people as well as the chance to develop new skills or to simply use and develop existing ones. As such, volunteering in sport could be an attractive outlet for recently unemployed people.

## 4.3 Addressing Development Challenges

Despite the challenges highlighted, there are common factors which ensure that LSPs continue to be well positioned to face and meet the difficulties that lie ahead.

### ISC Commitment

Dedicated funding from the Irish Sports Council represents the most important factor allowing each LSP to continue its work. Since the first LSPs were established in 2001 the ISC has invested over €28m in the LSP network. This funding has enabled LSPs to grow and develop to the stage where there is now a full national network of 33 LSPs providing national coverage. The ISC remains committed to providing funding to each LSP to provide as wide a range of services, supports and participation opportunities for target groups and volunteers at local level as possible.

### Partner Support

The level of local cross-sector multi-agency support that underpins the work of the LSPs place them in a strong position to weather the current recession. The cooperation, commitment and ‘buy-in’ from partner agencies as evidenced through their contribution of monetary funding, benefit-in-kind support, staff time and development expertise has contributed to the quality and success of individual LSPs and the network as a whole. The partnership model and continuing partner commitment places the LSP on a sound, solid footing to face the challenges that lie ahead. This positive model of mutually beneficial partnerships is replicated at national level by the ISC’s close working relationship with other statutory agencies such as the HSE.

### Increased Policy Influence

There is growing evidence of LSPs increasing their capacity to influence local policy and decision-making processes. This increasing influence has come through participation on local committees, and through consultation and input on a wide-range of local tasks such as sports facility development, Local Authority planning and health, play and childcare strategies. This will have positive practical consequences for local sports participation in the future.

## Peer Networks

The completion of the national network has ensured a high level of co-operation, information sharing and pooling of knowledge and resources between LSP staff. LSP Co-ordinators and Sports Development Officers meet both nationally and regionally on a regular basis. These networks are extremely valuable for the individuals to support their roles within their organisations. It allows for discussions, information sharing, best use of resources and ensures more efficient and effective work practices. These meetings allow for support around common issues, problems and challenges that arise within the Partnerships.

## Building Relationships

Year on year the LSPs are developing positive relations with an increasing number of sports clubs, community and voluntary groups and local agencies. This is the cornerstone of much of the work of LSPs and is a vital factor in establishing and delivering projects and programmes. In addition, the positive response of programme participants, sports leaders, coaches and teachers to the work of the LSPs is encouraging and often leads to important intended and unintended impacts.

## 4.4 Summary

2008 saw the LSP network expand dramatically to now cover the entire country. This national network has received increasing amounts of investment from the ISC since initial pilot sites were established. It is now time to take stock of the considerable progress made and to consolidate that for the benefit of all involved. Efficiencies and improvements can be made to the way in which things are done now the network is completed. Sustainability is the key focus but opportunities must still be found to take an innovative approach.



# Appendices

**Appendix A – LSP Boards**

**Appendix B – List of Local Sports Partnerships**

**Appendix C – Explanation of Working Methods**

**Appendix D – Glossary of Terms**

**Appendix E – Images**



## Appendix A – LSP Boards

Breakdown of the level of working partner participation on the boards of management of the 29 LSPs.

Working Partner	Number of LSPs
Local Authority	28
VEC	28
HSE	27
Community/ Voluntary Forum	23
Registered Sporting Organisations	22
Disability Organisations	21
Third Level Institutes	20
Area Based Partnerships	17
FÁS	17
County/ City Development Board	17
Sports Forum	13
Gardaí	13
Other Sporting Organisations	12
Youth Services Organisations	12
Community Organisations	12
Pobal/ LEADER	9
Post-Primary Schools	8
Primary Schools	7
Irish Sports Council	3
Education Centres	3
Chamber of Commerce	3
Age and Opportunity	2
County Childcare Committee	2
Other Government Departments	1
Tourism Agencies	1
Cara APA Centre	1

### Responsibilities of the Board

The Board is responsible for all the activities of the Sports Partnership. These responsibilities can be divided into six main areas:

- To govern the LSP through the proper administration of its affairs
- To provide leadership for the LSP
- To plan the strategy for the development of the LSP
- To establish partnerships with other organisations who can help develop the LSP
- To manage the people involved in running the LSP
- To implement the strategic plans for the LSP and monitor their progress
- To ensure a realistic programme of participation and performance in the LSP as a consequence of the previous six responsibilities

## Appendix B – List of Local Sports Partnerships

Local Sports Partnership Network	Year Established
North Tipperary Sports Partnership	2001
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership	2001
Roscommon Sports Partnership	2001
Clare Sports Partnership	2001
Donegal Sports Partnership	2001
Kildare Local Sports Partnership	2001
Laois Sports Partnership	2001
Fingal Sports Partnership	2001
County Cork Local Sports Partnership	2002
Meath Local Sports Partnership	2002
Waterford Sports Partnership	2002
Limerick City Sports Partnership	2002
Kerry Local Sports Partnership	2004
Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership	2004
Mayo Sports Partnership	2004
Westmeath Sports Partnership	2004
Carlow Sports Partnership	2006
Offaly Local Sports Partnership	2006
Monaghan Sports Partnership	2006
County Limerick Local Sports Partnership	2007
South Tipperary Sports Partnership	2007
Galway City Sports Partnership	2007
Cavan Sports Partnership	2008
Louth Sports Partnership	2008
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Sports Partnership	2008
South Dublin County Sports Partnership	2008
County Galway Sports Partnership	2008
Wexford Sports Partnership	2008
Cork City Sports Partnership	2008
Longford Sports Partnership	2008
Leitrim Sports Partnership	2008
Dublin City Sports Partnership	2008
Wicklow Sports Partnership	2008

## Appendix C – Explanation of Working Methods

### Provision of Information

Refers to the number of information resources that an LSP has developed for the community in the current year. This may be a regular newsletter, a directory of summer events, an information leaflet or an eBulletin. It also includes the numbers of individuals using the LSP as a source of information, either by phone/email contact or through visiting the LSP office in person.

### Club Support Work

LSPs provide ongoing help or support to a wide range of sporting organisations and community groups. This incorporates both club development work and providing funding information and support.

- Club Development work - Local Sports Partnerships engage in specific work to support the development of sporting clubs and clubs promoting physical activity in their communities. This may involve support with regard to the delivery of sporting activities, as well as help with organisational and policy issues
- Providing Funding Information and Support - This relates to work done making groups and clubs aware of available sources of funding as well as advising groups of relevant sources of funding. Supporting groups and clubs in making funding applications and in fund raising are other important aspects in this working method

### Education and Training Courses

Organising, promoting and delivering training and education courses, such as Active Leadership, First Aid, Speed Agility Quickness (SAQ), Defibrillator Training, Coach Education Training, as well as other training courses that have a specific local focus.

### Delivering ISC Programmes

This includes delivering the Irish Sports Council's Buntús and Code of Ethics training. Buntús programmes have been developed to support teachers and other adults in introducing young people to sport and helping to develop their interests. The Code of Ethics training programme targets sports leaders and adults involved in the organisation of sport for young people to promote child protection policies and procedures.

### Women in Sport Programmes

This refers to delivering or helping to deliver projects and participation initiatives within the Women in Sport Programme. The Women in Sport Programme is an Irish Sports Council initiative designed to increase the number of women participating in sport and physical activity.

### Delivery of Local Programmes

LSPs are instrumental in developing and/or delivering local programmes and initiatives designed to increase participation in sport and physical activity. It incorporates a range of local projects and initiatives that the LSP has been a key actor in setting up.

### Local Networking

Local Networking includes establishing or helping to establish networks, sports forums and linked initiatives locally. It also incorporates local activities in which the LSP engages in order to promote the key message of the Local Sports Partnership. This may involve membership of relevant local committees or structured involvement in awareness raising events.

### Policy Work

LSPs aim to involve themselves in activities that have an implication for policy. It refers to all work undertaken to influence or promote change in the area of sport and physical activities. This could be work undertaken locally – but it is more likely to have a significance beyond their own community.

## Appendix D – Glossary of Terms

**Active Leadership Award** – An Irish Sports Council/Sport Northern Ireland award designed to provide trained, knowledgeable and enthusiastic community based physical activity leaders.

**Buntús** – An Irish Sports Council programme developed to support primary teachers and childcare practitioners in introducing young people to sport and physical activity.

**Cara Adapted Physical Activity (APA) Centre** - the CARA Centre is a National Resource Centre aimed at coordinating, facilitating and advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities in sport, physical activity and physical education.

**Dept of JELR** – Government Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, working for a safer, fairer Ireland.

**Dormant Accounts Funding** - A scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed for projects and programmes designed to alleviate poverty and social deprivation. The Dormant Accounts legislation targets three broad categories of persons for support from the fund: Those affected by economic and social disadvantage; those affected by educational disadvantage; and persons with a disability.

**FETAC** – Further Education & Training Awards Council (FETAC) is the national awarding body for further education and training in Ireland

**FÁS** – Foras Áiseanna Saothair. Irelands National Training and Employment Authority

**Go For Life** - The Go for Life Programme aims to increase participation among older people in recreational sport activities, and is supported by the Irish Sports Council.

**HSE – Health Service Executive.** The HSE is a statutory authority responsible for providing Health and Personal Social Services for everyone living in the Republic of Ireland.

**ISC - Irish Sports Council.** The Irish Sports Council is a statutory agency that aims to plan, lead and co-ordinate the sustainable development of competitive and recreational sport in Ireland

**LEADER** - LEADER is the EU Community Initiative for Rural Development that provides approved Local Action Groups with public funding (EU and National) to implement multi-sectoral business plans for the development of their own areas.

**NGB** – National Governing Body. An organisation recognised by the Irish Sports Council, that coordinates the development of a particular sport or sports through constituent clubs.

**NPAR** – National Action Plan Against Racism. The overall aim of the Plan is to provide strategic direction to combat racism and to develop a more inclusive, intercultural society in Ireland

**PAL** – Physical Activity Leader. A Physical Activity Leader is someone who can lead members of their own groups or communities in short exercise routines, straightforward dances and recreational sports.

**POBAL** - Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU.

**RAPID** – Revitalising Areas by Planning Investment and Development. The RAPID Programme is a Government initiative, which targets 45 of the most disadvantaged areas in the country by focusing state resources available under the National Development Plan.

**SDO** – Sports Development Officer. SDOs aim to provide opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity for all sections of the community.

**SIDO** – Sports Inclusion Disability Officers. SIDO’s aim to provide opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity for people with a disability.

**SPEAK** – Strategic Planning , Evaluation and Knowledge system. The SPEAK system is a product of NEXUS Research (a not-for-profit research co-operative based in Dublin) which offers organisations the capacity to self-evaluate, leading to a comprehensive understanding of the work of the organisation and the impacts of that work.

**VEC** – Vocational Education Committee. VECs are local statutory education and training authorities. Their service encompasses Second Level Schools, Further Education Colleges, Adult and Community Education, Literacy Support and Youth Support Services

**WIS** – Women in Sport. An initiative of the Irish Sports Council to increase participation of women in sport, through providing alternative opportunities and developing specific programmes.

## Appendix E – Images

Irish Sports Council wish to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for the images used in this document.

Page 9 Irish Sports Council CEO John Treacy at the launch of the National Network of LSPs in April 2008

Page 13 Courtesy of the Waterford Sports Partnership

Page 31 Courtesy of Go For Life

Page 37 Courtesy of Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership

Page 43 Courtesy of County Cork Sports Partnership





