**Sport England announces first major investments as it builds a movement of organisations committed to tackling inequalities and helping the whole nation get active**

Today, Sport England has announced the first 43 partner organisations to benefit from its new longer-term funding model, as part of its mission to level up access to sport and physical activity right across the country.

The 43 partners - including the youth charity StreetGames, disability charity Activity Alliance, talented young athletes’ charity SportsAid, National Governing Bodies of sport from England Boxing to Goalball, and Active Partnerships working across England from County Durham to Devon – have been chosen because they have a foundational role within the sport and physical sector, and because they have committed to tackling inequalities and helping level up access. They will receive funding for up to five years, with over £193 million of government and National Lottery funding being invested between the partners.

This is the first step on a journey to revolutionise Sport England’s approach to long-term partnerships. The new funding model provides the critical financial security needed to deliver Sport England’s Uniting the Movement strategy to help transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity, especially relevant as organisations seek to recover and reinvent from the Covid-19 pandemic. The foundational partners are just one type of partner Sport England will work with as it builds a wider movement made up of other innovative organisations, place-based partners, and delivery partners, all working towards the same goals. There will be other funding routes available for wider partners via Sport England’s open funds: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds#ouropenfunds-16832>

Sport England research shows that some groups are less active than others – like women, people with long-term health conditions, disabled people, people from ethnically diverse communities and lower socio-economic groups. The pandemic has exacerbated these existing inequalities, meaning that the work to get inactive groups engaging with physical activity requires a more focused and strategic approach.

The 43 organisations were chosen for their unique position to be able to influence positive change and improvement throughout the sector, their own networks and beyond, to tackle inequalities.  The partners will focus on having strong governance and integrity, diversity of leadership and workforces, and creating inclusive and safe cultures within sport and physical activity. Examples of organisations include:

* 26 Active Partnerships across England playing a role to connect communities and local organisations, to change the conditions locally that mean opportunities aren’t equal for everyone and supporting others to create more equal and inclusive places for people.
* 14 National Governing Bodies of Sport which will use their influence in governing and developing a wide range of sports to diversify their professional and volunteer workforce and reduce barriers to ensure all communities are welcome and better represented at all levels.
* Activity Alliance as a leading disability organisation in the sport and physical activity sector as well as StreetGames and Sported, with their focus on the potential of sport in developing communities and individuals.

**Tim Hollingsworth, CEO of Sport England, said:**

“Uniting the Movement aims to help everyone play sport and get active– no matter who they are, where they live, or what their background is.

“But right now, the opportunities to get involved in sport and activity depend too much on background, gender, bank balance and postcode.  Certain groups are more likely to be inactive and need targeted and innovative support.

“We can only tackle these inequalities with collective action, and a focus on long-term change. That’s why our new longer-term funding model should have transformative impact.

“The 43 partners we’ve announced today all play a foundational role in the sport and physical activity sector; they are uniquely placed to create the conditions for change and co-deliver Uniting the Movement in partnership with Sport England.”

**ENDS**

For more information contact media.team@sportengland.org

**About Sport England**

Sport England is a public body and invests up to £300 million National Lottery and government money each year in projects and programmes that help people get active and play sport. It wants everyone in England, regardless of age, background, or level of ability, to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. That’s why a lot of its work is specifically focused on helping people who do no, or very little, physical activity and groups who are typically less active - like women, disabled people, and people on lower incomes.