



Our 2022-2023 highlights



THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY



SPORT
ENGLAND

Our vision is for a vibrant, healthy and prosperous Yorkshire through movement, physical activity and sport.

We know moving more, being active or taking part in sport can help improve lives. Most of us already benefit from being active, but too many people also face challenges to build activity into their day-to-day lives.

Rather than our usual annual review, the year had been so busy we wanted to take a different approach.

There had been so much happening that we didn't just want to print out our whole website. So we asked our team to nominate their high points of the year, and they didn't let us down.

The following pages, in no particular order, give a flavour of the things we helped happen, working together with people and groups across our work landscape.

We want to thank all the great people and organisations we work with for their continued support.



Nigel Harrison
Chief Executive
Officer



Paul Reid
Chair
2015-2023

#1 Opening School Facilities

#2 Doncaster strategy

#3 Make Space for Us

#4 Creating Active Schools

#5 Olympic Legacy event

#6 Rotherham conversations

#7 Together Fund

#8 Wakefield Systems

#9 School Games festival

#10 Best Companies

Plus: A year in numbers

#1

Opening Schools Facilities

In March, we were awarded a share of £57m **Opening School Facilities** investment from the Department for Education. The funding will help 49 schools open their sporting facilities for community and school users outside of the normal school day.

We worked with partners to identify communities and people that would most benefit from better access to facilities and be more active.

Schools can use this funding for equipment, for new or additional clubs, help staff with qualifications to deliver more activities and pay for activity deliverers to run the clubs. They can also use funding to open their pools for pupils, providing valuable swimming and water safety lessons.

Priority has been given to supporting activities for young women and girls, disadvantaged communities, culturally diverse communities, those supporting special educational needs and people with disabilities or long term health conditions.

The Active Partnerships National Team were awarded the funding with partners StreetGames, ukactive and the Youth Sport Trust.

The group will help the local partnerships meet their objectives through collaboration and co-designing activities with those that will use them.

Helping those that need the most support find more positive experiences of physical activity will help narrow inequalities in our communities.

Dan Wilson, Director of Development at Yorkshire Sport Foundation, commented: "This grant will make a real difference for our schools and communities."



"We know that 77% of sports halls and 61% of artificial grass pitches are on school sites. While many of them are open to the public, many are inaccessible outside of the school day.

"This money will help to provide more inclusive and accessible activities for young people and their families in areas that need them the most. It will help schools stay open longer and open up the range of activities that they can offer.

"This money will enable thousands more people use their local primary or secondary school as a community hub for sport for many years to come."

#2

Strategy development in Doncaster

In September 2022, **Get Doncaster Moving (GDM)** launched a new strategy. The content reflects the ambitions, ideas, and aspirations from many people across the borough, and presents a bold vision for what Doncaster can collectively achieve through physical activity and sport.

At the beginning of 2022, YSF was asked to lead the review and refresh of the GDM strategy. James Brown, our Director of Local Support and Partnerships, is a member of the Advisory Board for GDM and led the team.

The aim was to:

- Produce a new, refreshed GDM strategy that is fit for purpose and the future to achieve ‘healthy and vibrant communities through movement, physical activity and sport’.
- Emphasise that the process is as important as the strategy itself.
- Bring together in a wide range of conversations for inclusion and diversity of input.

Our Data and Insight team provided support around what was working well in the current approach, and what could be improved. Research included consultation with communities throughout the year.

In order to build a truly collaborative strategy and foster collective efforts, there were different ways for people’s views to be heard and to get involved.

It was important to get a strategy that was right to bring all the different strands and agendas together. We are extremely proud of playing our part in the continuing development of GDM for all the people of Doncaster.



#3

Make Space for Us report launched

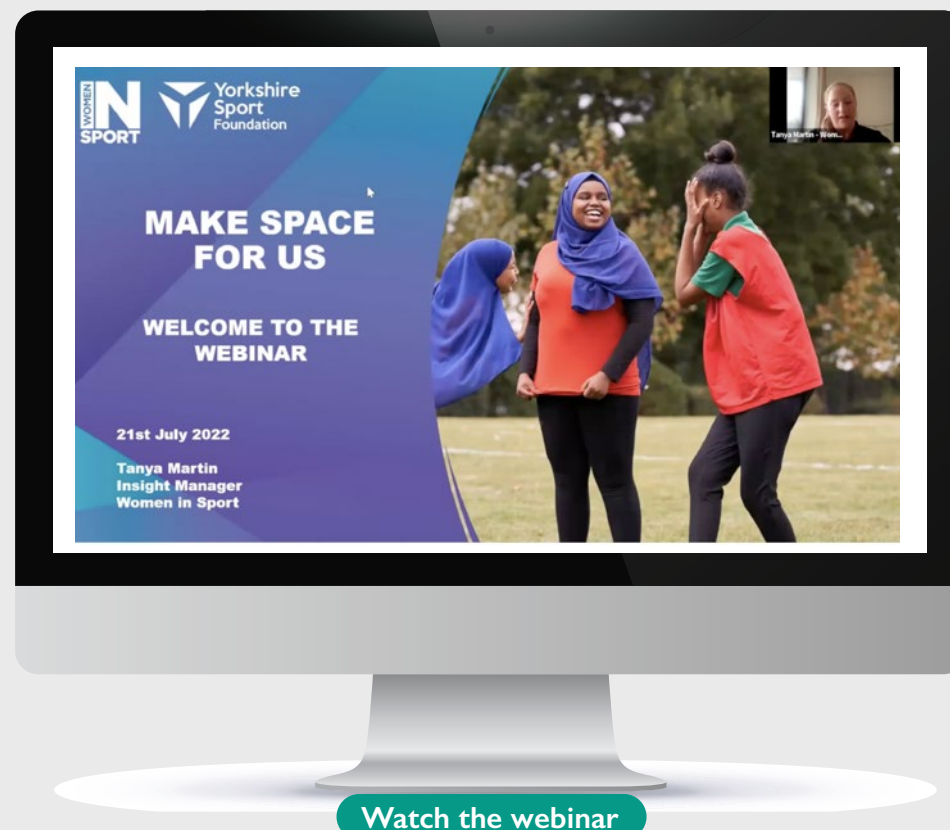
In July 2021, we first spoke with **Make Space for Girls**, a charity set up to campaign to make parks and public spaces more welcoming to teenage girls. They told us there was little research to understand if parks were truly inclusive spaces, and somewhere teenage girls felt they could visit and be active.

We commissioned **Women in Sport** as a research partner and worked with them over ten months to understand the use of three parks across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire among teenage girls.

Released in July 2022, the **'Make Space for Us'** details the research that Women in Sport carried out with teenage girls and boys and shares the insight and recommendations that they have found.

The report found that twice as many girls as boys feel unsafe exercising in their local park, with many being worried about harassment and anti-social behaviour, and looks into ways to make people feel safer.

[Read the full report](#)



#4

Creating Active Schools

A major piece of work in education has been building on the **Creating Active Schools (CAS)** framework, helping schools build movement into the heart of everything they all do.

This year 130 primary schools have been supported to bring the framework to life, and we are starting to see strong evaluation of the impact it is having.

An **insight report** on the 21/22 school year produced a list of recommendations on aligning physical activity to whole school improvement strategies and the difference that makes. The report showed pupils understood the benefits of regular physical activity. Most enjoyed opportunities to be active through the school day and understood it helps support learning.

The framework has now been expanded across England through the CAS national pilot programme working with other Active Partnerships.


CAS Insight report



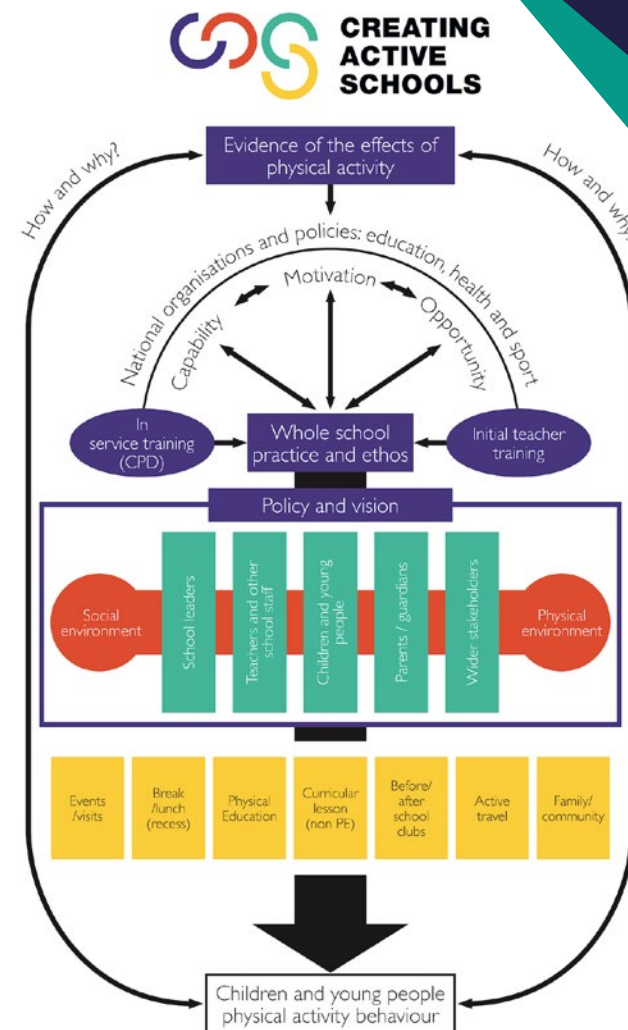
Yorkshire Sport Foundation
Creating Active Schools Framework
South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Insight Report

Read the report

CAS in action



Watch the video



#5

Olympic Legacy event in Sheffield

We hosted a three-day event at Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park to mark 10 years since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Tom, our Development Manager in Sheffield worked with Olympic Legacy Ltd and partners to organise the event in June - traditionally 'Move More Month'. The event was to include schools, communities and inclusive sport.

The **Olympic Legacy in Action** event attracted over 2,000 people to the park which includes the English Institute for Sport Sheffield, iceSheffield, Sheffield Hallam's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre and the Community Stadium.

Over 1,000 children from 50 schools took part in a Colour Smash. 200 Year 9 girls enjoyed a 'This Girl Can' event including ice skating, dance and yoga.

Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA and Sheffield City Trust helped deliver an inclusive football tournament to over 140 young people with a range of disabilities including a Cerebral Palsy and a Visually Impaired Football session. Both now run weekly with support from YSF and Sport England's Together Fund.

A Community Day saw 31 organisations help 1,000 local people try 20 activities from kayaking and paddleboarding on the Sheffield Canal, to netball and basketball.



#6

Changing the conversation in Rotherham

Working closely with Rotherham Council and their Chief Executive we agreed a process to consider how physical activity could address a range of outcomes in the district, with a particular focus on health inequalities.

Our Strategic Director engaged with the Health and Wellbeing Board in Rotherham which led to the formation and delivery of Rotherham’s **‘Big Active Conversation’**.

Three events throughout the year helped build the vision, ambition and future plans for physical activity across Rotherham. These were a way for people and organisations to come together and say what was important to them.

This has helped embed physical activity in the Borough priorities through the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Culture Board.

A jointly-funded post was created between ourselves, Rotherham Council and the Rotherham Health Board to continue to lead the work.

We employed Norsheen in August 2022, who now leads on the delivery of the action plan. Moving Rotherham, the District Activity Partnership, is now progressing that work and leading the drive for physical activity on behalf of the district.




We also supported the UEFA Women’s Euros Legacy plans in Rotherham.

[Read the blog](#)



#7

Together Fund

Nearly half a million pounds was used to help create opportunities to be active where people need it most.

We've distributed £434,000 from Sport England's **Together Fund** to support more opportunities to be active in communities that stand to benefit the most. The funding has supported 88 different projects across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, aimed at four priority audiences:

- Lower socio-economic groups
- Culturally diverse communities
- Disabled people
- People with long-term health conditions.

The fund evolved from the Tackling Inequalities Fund that was set up in 2020 as part of Sport England's support package to help the sport and physical activity sector through the coronavirus crisis.

Sport England invested a further £20 million of National Lottery funding to help the groups that research showed were being disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and this was significantly reducing their ability to be physically active.



Together Fund helping men to overcome addiction



[Read the full report](#)

Leeds skating group keeps on rolling thanks to Together Fund



[Read the full report](#)

#8

Navigating the local system in Wakefield

The **Navigating Local Systems (NLS)** work began in the autumn of 2019 and sits alongside the work of Sport England’s Local Delivery Pilots, although working with a significantly smaller amount of investment. It focused on working with three localities, including Wakefield, and we have been working on this with Wakefield Council.

The idea was to

- help places better understand the system they work in;
- help develop strong, resilient and collaborative local partnerships;
- work together within the local commissioning and co-production landscape and
- help drive change across the system and within the place.

The second phase of NLS funding finished in 2023. Different approaches were used to bring people from organisations and services together for conversations around working together, and this created a strong base to build from.

The project was launched at a maize maze, using the analogy of ‘whole systems work’ being like navigating a maze. This was followed by a series of ‘coffee mornings’.

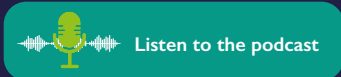
Three further events were built around:

- Growing connections and networks. How does great collaboration grow from small seeds?
- Focusing on what’s strong, not what’s wrong. How can working in an asset-based way build strong foundations?
- Building momentum. How can we rise to the sustainability challenge?

Further events back at the original maze location and Aspire@ThePark shared our learning, and we started to co-design draft ambitions for the medium and long term.

We have recently secured further investment for 2023-2025 to build on the success of the work so far.

The approach had seven different elements, all discussed in a special episode of The YSF Podcast.



#9

Students design successful School Games festival

The West Yorkshire Summer Festival was designed to engage Year 7s who stand to benefit the most. But, it wasn't designed by us.

School Games ambassadors, Year 9 pupils from across the county and were tasked with gathering peer-on-peer research within their own schools. This research was then brought to the day and helped to plan the Summer Festival.

The Festival took place at Leeds Road Sports Complex, Huddersfield with activities including football, capture the flag, boxing, orienteering and skateboarding. All five activity providers were chosen because they had positive community links and experience in engaging a diverse range of children and young people.

The day ended with a Colour Smash which helped show physical activity can take many forms, and in doing so, can engage the least active young people.



“At drop off I was thinking ‘Oh I do hope they enjoy it’, and on return home it was just so lovely to hear that they had. We really have had an breakthrough in enjoyment of physical activity, so I just wanted you to know how positive a day like this can be for children - and their parents. ”

#10

Best Companies recognises staff engagement

In May 2022, we received the news we had been recognised as a ‘Very Good’ company to work for by ‘Best Companies’.

The process recognises excellence in the workplace and uses insight from employee surveys to create league tables across various categories. The accreditation signified very good levels of employee engagement.

In the Quarter Two tables for 2022, we were ranked 12th in all UK charities, and 40th for all organisations in the Yorkshire and Humber league table. Nationally, we were also 48th in the ‘Small Companies’ category.

We took part in the Best Companies programme as part of our strategic priority to be ‘An ethical employer and great company to work for.’



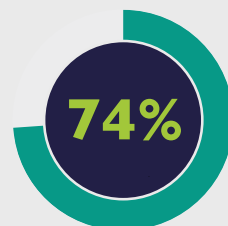
In the survey, our team said:



are proud to work for us



believe our organisation is run on strong values and principles



said that working for us was good for their personal growth

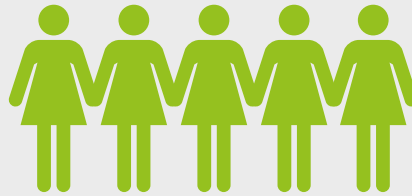


Together Fund

£434k

was invested in **88 projects** in response to local need

UEFA Women's Euros Legacy plans in Rotherham

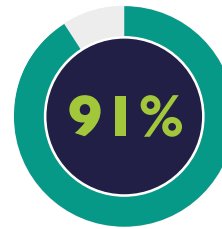


We helped the plans involved **1,200 girls** and **630 women**, with **18 new teams** and football being offered to girls in **24 schools**

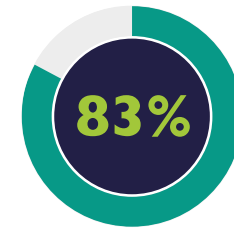
Active Dearne Project



In the Dearne Valley, almost **3,000 people** have attended programmes of activity



said their mental health had **improved**



felt less isolated

PE Conferences

Over **550 people** have attended **six PE conferences** aimed at senior leaders, teaching and support staff to support district strategies



Creating Active Schools' framework

130 primary schools have been supported to implement the framework



School Games' programme

19 live events + **two virtual events** involving almost **3,000 children**



Opening Schools Facilities' programme

49 schools

submitted plans for over

£200k of investment



Find out more at
yorkshiresport.org

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