**COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB GUIDELINES**

**Overview**

A Community Sports Hub maximises local sports facility usage through linkages with local Schools, Community groups, Sports Clubs and other physical activity groups. The key objective is to increase the number of people of all ages participating in sport and physical activity in their communities targeting disadvantaged areas with a specific focus on adolescents / young people.

The main aims of a Community Sports Hub are to:  
• Adopt a joined up approach to the provision of sport in local communities  
• Provide a safe place which provides sport for all opportunities for all in the community  
• Create a location where a number of sports can work together  
• A forum to provide additional training and development to support capacity building  
• Facilitate access to sport for those most marginalised and disadvantaged in communities

**Expressions of Interest must include the following:**  
• Potential Sporting and Physical Activity Initiatives   
• Clear understanding of the needs of the community  
• Evidence of additionality – must be additional to what is already available in the community  
• What your community can contribute to support the Sports Hub- facilities, volunteers, natural resources, equipment, management and direction  
• List of potential partners to participate in the Community Sports Hub  
• A genuine collaboration of sports interested in working together for the good of the community  
• Projected outcomes gained from the development of the Community Sports Hub initiative

Any application / expression of Interest must involve a number of organisations within the local community and be submitted on the understanding that the proposed project will add value to existing activity in the community and will be of benefit to the whole community and not any one organisation exclusively.

**Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs**

A Community Sports and Physical Activity Hub (Hub) is a collective of progressive sports clubs and other local organisations that want to work together to improve the sport offered in their local community. The Hubs will operate within the existing structures of the Local Sports Partnerships.

The Hubs will provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in disadvantaged areas to get involved and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle. The Hubs will recognise the diversity of their local communities and will seek to reach out and increase participation from all corners of the community.

Each Hub will be unique, however they are all meant to work to certain principles, namely grow participation, engage the local community, promote community leadership, offer a range of sporting opportunities and bring all appropriate (key) partners/ groups/people together.

**Vision and Mission of the Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs:**

**Vision:** The vision of a Hub is to increase the number of people of all ages participating in sport and physical activity in their communities.

**Mission:** The mission of the Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs in disadvantaged areas is to bring local people together and provide a home for local clubs and sports organisations.

**Types of Hubs**

A Hub must be focused on one of the following themes:

**1. Community Sports Hub**

This is a Hub where the community is at the heart and is centred around community participation. This includes developing and strengthening linkages between the community, sports clubs and other physical activity groups.

**2. School Community Sports Hub**

This is a Hub that maximises sports facility usage through linkages with the local schools, community, sports clubs and other physical activity groups.

**3. Outdoor Community Sports Hub**

This Hub will focus on the development of the outdoor space as a hub, increasing the linkages between the community, sports clubs and other physical activity groups.

Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs can be either:

**1. Area based**

Maximise participation, improve the access to and usage of a range of existing facilities, enhance shared learning amongst the groups / clubs etc.

2. **Site based**

This is a focus on a centre or a single-venue hosting many clubs. Maximise participation, improve the access to and usage of a facility, enhance shared learning amongst the groups / clubs etc.

A Hub can be located in an urban or rural area.

**Target Group**

Hub applications must target people who are economically or socially disadvantaged, educationally disadvantages or who have a disability. Hubs which can evidence a focus on or are located in areas of deprivation according to the Pobal Deprivation Index will receive additional points in the assessment of applications.

**Sustainability**

Projects must demonstrate the ability to have a legacy potential once the Dormant Accounts Funding ceases.

**Goals and Objectives of the Initiative**

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| **Goals and Objectives of the Initiative Goal** | **Objective** | **Activities specifically supported under this Initiative** |
| Providing the pathway | More opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity  A home where a range of local sports clubs can work together  A welcome and safe place to take part in sport and physical activity | Research into community profiles and needs assessment  Marketing and promotion activities, including outreach by sports clubs  Development of joint initiatives between sports clubs and recreational physical activity groups    Delivery of training and development courses for sports volunteers  Rollout of joint club ‘come and try’/taster sessions to increase membership  Develop and pilot a range of inter - linked sporting opportunities  Development/upgrade of an amenity or facility  Purchase of equipment |
| Well-trained people | Training and development of the people that make sport happen |
| Strong organisations | Self-sustaining sports clubs / organisations  An integrated approach from local partners  A social environment that engages members of the community  Better organised and connected local clubs  Genuine community engagement and leadership |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Quality Facilities | Quality facilities | Improved access for local people and sports clubs at affordable prices  Integration with local facility planning and programming | | Improved access for local people and sports clubs at affordable prices  Integration with local facility planning and programming |  |

**Funding Structure:**

Applications are sought by Sport Ireland from Local Sports Partnerships in a competitive bid process under the three theme areas highlighted above.

An Expression of Interest form the Community will be considered by Monaghan Sports Partnership if it is felt that the interest meets the criteria for the programme and that a substantial application can then be made to Sport Ireland.

Your Expression of Interest is not an application – Monaghan Sports Partnership reserves the right to consider all received ‘Expressions of Interest’ and make a decision on whether or not to pursue and application.

An expression of interest should demonstrate that a number of organisations are prepared to work together to address a need in their community – to encourage more people to become more active, assist with the training and education of sports club volunteers and to collectively work towards improving their local area through programming and a variety of initiatives that reach out to all people in the Community regardless of age, ability, gender, social status and should primarily work towards engagement of people who are currently excluded as a result of one of the above factors.

If you wish to discuss ideas or possible Expression of Interest in more detail please contact Monaghan Sports Partnership on 042-9755126