



Report for:	Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	13th October 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	DBC Physical Activity and Sports Action Plan
Contact:	Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer(s): Mark Gaynor (Corporate Director (Housing & Regeneration), Housing & Regeneration) Layna Warden (Group Manager - Communities) Alex Care (Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team Leader) Claire Foster (Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer, Sport and Physical Activity)
Purpose of report:	Update Members on the Physical Activity & Sports Action Plan.
Recommendations	That Members note the report
Corporate objectives:	Building strong and vibrant communities and A Clean Safe and Enjoyable Environment
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> The delivery of this action plan is contained within existing budgets within the people and communities group.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> All projects that are being delivered within this action plan will be scrutinised by officers and Members to ensure they are being delivered in a way that provides value for money.
Risk implication	Individual risk assessments will be completed, where required, for the individual tasks/projects in the Action Plan.
Community Impact Assessment	Individual community impact assessments will be completed, where required, for the individual tasks/projects in the Action Plan.

Health and safety Implications	Individual health and safety assessments will be completed, where required, for the individual tasks/projects in the Action Plan.
Consultees:	Everyone Active, Dacorum Sports Network, Sportspace (DST), West Herts College, Dacorum School Sports Coordinator, Apex in the Community, Community Action Dacorum, Herts Disability Foundation and Herts Sports Partnership
Background papers:	DBC Physical Activity and Sports Strategy
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	In October 2018, the Community Partnership and Wellbeing Team gained Cabinet Approval for the DBC Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. The strategy is a high-level document that set outs the DBC's objectives and commitments to sport and physical activity in Dacorum. It was agreed, that a detailed action plan would accompany the strategy, which would include the details of sport and physical activity tasks/projects that are developed to support the strategy.
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	<p>APG – Adventure Playground</p> <p>AGP – Artificial Grass Pitch</p> <p>DST - Dacorum Sports Trust</p> <p>DSN – Dacorum Sports Network</p> <p>FTE – Full Time Equivalent</p> <p>KPI – Key Performance Indicator</p> <p>OSC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1. In October 2018, the Community Partnership and Wellbeing Team gained Cabinet Approval for the Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. The strategy is a high-level document that set outs the DBC's objectives and commitments to sport and physical activity in Dacorum.
- 1.2. At the Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Meeting it was agreed that a detailed action plan would accompany the strategy, which would include the details of sport and physical activity tasks/projects that have been developed to deliver on the commitments set out in the strategy.
- 1.3. This report sets out the progress since the last Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee update in October 2020. It shows the

projects that are being developed across the Council, not just those happening within or linked to the Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team. Supporting resident wellbeing (both physical and mental) through physical activity and sport is part of the Council's Corporate Plan and the objective to build strong and vibrant communities. This report highlights some of the ways that more sports and leisure opportunities have been created for residents across Dacorum and how the Sports and Physical activity action plan is being delivered.

2. Progress

- 2.1. The Physical Activity and Sports Action Plan is presented as an Appendix to this report. As requested from the previous meeting this has been split for members information and Appendix 1 details some financial details and statistics. Appendix 2 contains all completed initiatives in the last 12 months and Appendix 3 to 5 provides details of the progress of each project/initiative split by the organisation leading on delivery between DBC, APEX and Dacorum Sports Network (DSN)
- 2.2. The Community Partnerships and Wellbeing team has 1 FTE resource which is dedicated to sports and leisure activity projects. The Sports and Physical Activity officer leads on the coordination, management and reporting of the Action Plan for the Council to ensure progression of the commitments set out in the strategy.
- 2.3. The DBC Physical Activity and Sports Strategy has four key commitments around Governance, Facilities and Infrastructure, Tackling Physical Inactivity and Partnership Working. The Action Plan clearly identifies which commitment(s) each project or initiative links to, to show the golden thread that connects all the work. Of the projects being developed:
 - 33% relate to Facilities and Infrastructure
 - 24% relate to Tackling Physical Inactivity
 - 38% relate to Partnership Working
 - 5% relate to Consultation
- 2.4. The Covid-19 pandemic has provided a number of challenges but also opportunities to local organisations in increasing sports and physical activities. To support this the Sports and Physical Activity officer worked with organisations to apply for funding. As a result Dacorum was funded a total of £100,139 across 21 organisations, with individual organisation amounts ranging from £300 to £10,000. The funding pot across Hertfordshire was a total of £599,801. The officer also supported the delivery of 200 Physical activity packs to residents of Dacorum through the Family First Team to support children at a primary age who need it most.
- 2.5. The implementation of the new Service Level Agreement working with Apex in the Community which started in April 2021, has created 8 initiatives which have been added to the Partnership Working total which can be found below. There are additionally 2 initiatives which have been added through the partnership with Dacorum Sports Network with regards to Facilities and Infrastructure. The Everyone Active outreach programme re-started in September 2021 following the Everyone Active Communities Manager

returning from Furlough and will ensure that KPI collection can be completed to report from January 2022.

2.6. There have been 17 DBC and 1 Apex initiatives that have been completed since the last OSC meeting. These are summarised below:

- **Cupid Green Playing Fields Tennis Courts** – the facility was transformed and resurfaced utilising S106 funds providing x4 tennis and x2 netball court, gated access, seating areas, equipment storage areas new bins
- **3G Pitches Grovehill APG and Adeyfield APG** – Led by the Community Safety Team in response to the lack and demand of 3G pitches in Dacorum. S106 funding was invested in an artificial pitch at Grovehill APG and Adeyfield APG
- **Wake Up and Dance Project** - Virtual 10 minute weekday dance sessions on Zoom running throughout lockdown to connect the community engaging 136 participants a week on average
- **Lets Dance Online Seated Dance** – Working with Dacorum Community Dance to provide Online zoom sessions to target those with limited mobility. Average of 10 participants per class per week
- **Walk Dacorum 2021** - A virtual walking challenge for the month of March, fundraising for the Daisy Cave Foundation. We asked participants to walk 154,800 steps across the month which is the amount of Dacorum residents. 125 tickets sold raising £720 for Daisy Cave Foundation
- **Virtual Your Town Dacorum 2020** - 5k/10k Fun run held across Dacorum focussing on bringing communities together. 102 participants took part across the weekend raising £710 for Raise, our local NHS charity
- **Golf Access** – 5 ladies took part in this partnership course with Little Hay Golf Club and Hertfordshire Golf to encourage new participants to play for the first time along with helping people progress from the driving range to playing on the course
- **Active Dacorum's 12 Days of Christmas** – 230 online participants joined the Active Dacorum Team for 12 days of online festive fun! From 1st-12th December the team posted short Christmas themed activity each day
- **Community Grants 2020 - Summer Round** - £17,741 has been awarded in the Summer Round of which £4,837 was for projects related to sport and physical activity
- **Empower** – 38 boys and girls aged 9-11 years took part in the Empower Mental health and wellbeing programme at JFK School
- **Herts Health Walks** - Working with Age UK Dacorum and Sheltered Housing to start new walking activity, however this session did not go ahead due to failed risk assessment due to routes. Funding was moved to a Walking Football programme.
- **Sporting Chance Programme x3 sessions** – The funding was rolled into one session in response to Covid and restricted budgets. 18 unique participants took part in the programme with sustainability linked to Warriors Boxing Club
- **Beginner Nordic Walking** – x3 sessions ran across Dacorum with a total of 11 participants taking part
- **Inclusive Cycle Events** - 1 to 1 cycling offer for those with learning difficulties or special needs. 21 attended Jarman Park Session August 2020, 17 attending Ashlyn's Berkhamsted event August 2020
- **TAG Community Dance Event** - An intergenerational dance programme across Hertfordshire, celebrating Herts Year of Culture. Project was delayed and adapted delivery due to Covid-19. Finale weekend 11-13th Dec: Potten End Workshop, Online Performances, Webinars and Podcasts. Total of 211 participants took part from Dacorum
- **Grovehill Scouts/Beavers Tennis** - To introduce Local Scouts/Beavers to Tennis and help them to achieve various Badges. 20 participants took part accompanied by Parents attended and were informed of other local Tennis Opportunities

2.7. A combination of verbal feedback, figures and statistics, social value calculations and testimonials are collected where appropriate to understand the success of these initiatives. A number of partnership meetings are also beneficial to share best practice and learn from previous initiatives which help shape future programmes to meet the needs of Dacorum residents.

2.8. There are now 37 live items within the action plan, of which 28 are new since the last OSC meeting showing the development of this plan, in particular to meet gaps and demand identified as we start to focus on recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. These projects/initiatives are split between DBC, Apex and DSN as the lead organisation to facilitate delivery and require collaboration with a number of partners. These also cover a wide range of sports and physical activities and an example of some of these are detailed below:

- **FWG - Football Working Group Meeting** - to facilitate an effective working partnership between DBC, Clubs and the FA/Football Foundation; one that can enable better communication, facilitate quicker and easier resolution of issues, effectively exploit opportunities for community benefit and facilities improvement, and deliver a better understanding of the needs, capabilities and limitations for all parties. Group to meet at least every quarter. Positive feedback from ongoing meetings.
- **Planning & Sports Working Group Meeting** - purpose is to take oversight of the borough's future Sports facilities and ensure all organisations are working collaboratively towards the delivery of the Local Plan and the Active Dacorum strategy. Being used for best practice on LA HSP Meetings, Third meeting was held in September 2021, group will next meet in Feb 22. Group feeding nicely into Local Plan and internal DBC planning group
- **Basketball Northridge Way Developments** - resurfacing and extending the basketball court. A further £22,000 has been donated by a local electrical company to further improve the facilities. Now looking at a total new build with the £17,000 we already have, along with seating area and x2 brand new posts. Works are now confirmed to start January 10th 2022
- **Your Town 2021** - 5k fun run held in Hemel Hempstead Town Centre focussing on bringing communities together. All funds raised by the event will go to a Mayor's Charity. Date confirmed as 17th October 21. Support of lead officer for event - Mayors Event Officer. 102 tickets have now been sold. Looking for volunteers and stall holders
- **Wellness Festival 2021** – 415 participants took part in a weeklong event to promote local activity facilitators/organisations across Dacorum to celebrate wellbeing such as; MIND mental health podcast, HIIT class, sleep talk and healthy cooking demonstrations. Evaluation report to be finalised
- **Active Local** – is a working partnership with Herts Sports Partnership as a Hertfordshire's collaborative place-based initiative to reduce inactivity. It aims to support targeted areas in highlighting their strengths whilst also responding to local need and identifying where support, intervention or extra capacity is needed to create a more joined-up approach to tackling inactivity. £52,587 worth of funding generated by Active Local now in total
- **HAPpy Programmes** - An extension of the Fit, Fed & Read Programme to provide holiday provision for those who see a holiday drop off. Funding provided through the Holiday Hunger Campaign via Marcus Rashford - 22 Camps ran across Summer in Dacorum, awaiting final figures from HSP and programme has been extended to Christmas holidays 2021
- **Sporting Chance ProFormance Football** - Working with HSP to tackle Knife Crime Prevention. Linking to Community Safety Partnerships as a strategic priority. 30 participants on average attending across the x2 sessions
- **Shape Up Programme 2021** - Partnered with Watford Community Trust fund to deliver a 12 week weight management programme for overweight males in

Dacorum. May programme great success in new area (Tring), 28 people running over capacity. September programme due to start end of September 21/25 spaces filled. Additional Public Health Funding secured to run another x3 programmes - Jan, March Sep 22

- ***Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club - Construction of new Hockey AGP with Floodlights*** - Fundraising continues (£180k pledged so far). Commercial Bank engaged to define Loan potential. Pre-Construction Planning Works: Archaeological Investigation Plan Submission (Summer 2021). Sports Continuity Plan, Ecological Plan and Road Management Plan to follow

2.9. Following feedback from the previous OSC, Members will note the addition of data within the action plan in relation to the number of residents engaged and financial figures. A breakdown of the below can be seen in the statistics tab

- In the financial year 2020/21 1608 Dacorum residents were engaged with, an increase of 172 participants from 2019/20. Additionally 4751 residents have already engaged with activities in 21/22 with 5 months to go a considerable increase on last year.
- In 2020/21 a total of £346,766 was invested into Sport and Physical Activity by DBC, Public Health, Funding Applications, HSP and S106 funds.

3. Monitoring progress and next steps

3.1. The Action Plan has been developed in partnership with a number of key stakeholders, including Everyone Active, Dacorum Sports Network, Dacorum Sports Trust, West Herts College, School Sports Coordinator, Apex, Community Action Dacorum and Herts Sports Partnership. These stakeholders now constitute the Action Plan Project Board which meets quarterly to discuss the progress of projects, identify areas to work together and gaps in provision (both geographical and activity gaps). Whilst the Project Board are involved in the oversight of the Action Plan, the document is wholly owned and managed by the DBC Sport and Physical Activity Officer. There has been a good mix of partners in attendance so far and the meetings have been very valuable in the creation and progress of the action plan. The feedback has been very positive and partners appear to be keen to help shape the work and identify how the whole group be make a positive impact to the community.

3.2. The Internal Communications team is aware of the activities within the Action Plan and have supported the Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team with the promotion of activities and events through our varied channels including the website, Facebook and Twitter. Following a change in direction and the implementation of virtual events due to the pandemic, for example the Virtual Wellness Festival, the Communication team have played a part in helping with the setup and launch of the Active Dacorum YouTube channel. Partnerships with the sports stakeholder organisations have also ensured that communications are coordinated between the organisations.

3.3. A few challenges have been presented, as expected with many projects, where on occasions there are issues that prevent work progressing as expected. These have included:

- Length of time for key partner performance data to reach us in a format that meets our requirements
- Covid-19 and the lockdown and cancellation of project and events
- The impact of Covid-19 around certain vulnerable groups still in isolation
- Furlough of partner staff members
- Funding streams change in priority of direction (due to Covid-19) resulting in unsuccessful applications and removal of funds; e.g the Sporting Chance programmes

3.4. These issues have been addressed through effective partnership working in particular through the Project Board and working groups which have helped identify collective solutions.

3.5. While events and activities have been paused because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Sports and Physical Activity officer utilised the time to focus on development, obtaining funding and planning future activities and initiatives. This has been evident in the increase in engagement at the point where restrictions were reduced and online and in-person initiatives took place.

3.6. With activities and initiatives re-started, the increase in project and event workload will impact the time available for the Sports and Physical Activity officer to focus on future plans and initiatives. Senior officers are aware of this potential risk and identifying solutions to ensure the continued delivery of the action plan. Additionally the structures created by the officer ensure that monitoring of strategy and action plan will continue through the board.

4. Recommendations

4.1. That Members note the report and a further update to OSC will be presented in Oct 2022.