The future of Local Authority Sport and Leisure services

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The future of Sport and leisure Questions

- O Why do we provide sport and leisure services?
- O What do you think is the role of Councils in providing sport and leisure services going forward?
- What impact do <u>you</u> think COVID-19 is going to have on future service delivery
- o Can you help and contribute to the conversation?

Co produced review-The future of public sport and leisure (starting a conversation)







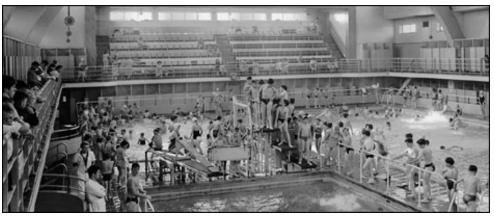
Scope

- Provision of Leisure Centres, Pools and Sports facilities, indoor and outdoor (but not grass sports pitches)
- Sports development/community sport
- Physical activity interventions/Supporting the development of physical activity opportunities.



History







Current issues/ Questions

- Connectivity to Health eco-system essential, but more difficult in 2 tier
- Community Sports development often gone (replaced by a focus on inactive)
- Sport and Leisure facilities of varying standard and ageing.
- Supporting people to be active outdoors (for free) more cost effective than indoor facilities?
- Leisure centre financial model based on generation of significant levels of income, and now hard to move away from. Efficiencies often lost from the system forever.
- Focus on bottom line rather than purpose? Are these services increasingly focusing on those that can afford it?
- Importance of leadership and skills within the Council (irrespective of delivery model).
 Systems leadership increasingly important.
- Diminishing capacity with COVID response
- Government support for services welcome (eg NLRF), but not enough looking ahead.
 Uncertain consumer behaviour moving forward.
- Positive feedback on Sport England approach, but focussing on those that are inactive, levelling up. (e.g. Sport England "Uniting the movement")
- What makes Public sport and leisure services unique?

The World Health Organisation (WHO)

Framing the role of public sport and leisure services

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have produced a Global action plan for physical activity 2018-2030. The WHO paper sets targets to reduce world Physical inactivity by 10% by 2025 and 15% by 2030 using:

- Active Societies (social norms and attitudes/what people see)
- Active Environments (Spaces and places)
- Active People (programmes and opportunities)
- Active Systems (governance/policy enablers and collaboration)

ISPAH

https://www.ispah.org/res ources/key-resources/8investments/

8 INVESTMENTS FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



1. WHOLE-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMMES



於為 2. ACTIVE TRANSPORT



3. ACTIVE URBAN DESIGN



4. HEALTHCARE



5. PUBLIC EDUCATION, INCLUDING MASS MEDIA



6. SPORT AND RECREATION FOR ALL



7. WORKPLACES



8. COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMMES

Early findings from Survey and roundtable discussions

- Over 250 responses
- Roundtable discussions ongoing
- Significant further savings and cuts of 10% or more (more than 1 in 4 Councils/respondents). But most likely understated?
- Main drivers for Sport and leisure centres are a) Health and wellbeing and b) Inequalities/inclusion c) Pools/swimming/learn to swim.
- Main drivers for physical activity are the same with young people
 3rd replacing pools/swimming/learn to swim.
- Nearly 40% thought services position had weakened since COVID. However, nearly 40% said they thought it had strengthened. Confidence not high?

Early findings from Survey and roundtable discussions

- Financial drivers more significant than wider outcomes
- More can be done to a) provide better evidence and b) scrutinise outcomes
- Pockets of good practice but not at scale? A very high % felt they could be commissioned to do more, (there is capacity for more transactional commissioning), but need to better align with health sector and is the sector skilled up enough to deliver at greater scale?.
- One in three adults now can't swim. Likely to worsen?
- Public sport and leisure services should be doing a lot more to support levelling up and health inequalities. Whilst there are high volumes of users, most are relatively well off. Services should be redesigned along Marmot principles. (but how?)
- Do we need a consistent clear narrative about the (unique) public sector role sector? Sport/Leisure/Recreation/Wellbeing/Health? How important is it in terms of how we describe ourselves? Perception by central government?

Discussion

Part 1

- Why do Councils provide these services?
 - Is there a need for a clear national narrative on the role of Councils in this sector? Does central government understand?
 - What makes public sport and leisure unique?
- How can the sector support work on health inequalities? (Marmot)
- How should these services support COVID recovery?

Part 2

What change (if any) is needed?

- How to change?
- Role of local, regional, national networks?
- How to balance the need/desire for change whilst also seeking investment support and recognising ongoing budget pressures.