

# Using nature's assets to improve Health & Wellbeing: creating an offer to promote active lifestyles

Stuart Batchelor & Zoë Sewter South Derbyshire District Council

## Agenda

- The importance of greenspaces to health and wellbeing
  - South Derbyshire
  - Challenges
  - Aims
- Maintaining communication and community involvement
  - How do we do this? Parklife a case study
  - Actions
  - Activities
  - Outcomes
  - What makes success?
  - What next?

# The importance of greenspaces to health and wellbeing

- Parks and green spaces are our natural assets - Natural Health Service
- Well documented benefits to social, mental and physical wellbeing
- Maintaining people's link with the natural environment
- Well connected network of open spaces, accessible to all

## South Derbyshire

- Heart of the National Forest
- Reclaimed landscape from black to green
- Rural district good access to countryside and large parkland estates
- Well connected public rights of way network including canals & greenways
- Urban Parks and accessible woodlands
- Council embraces a partnership ethos

### Challenges

- Derbyshire health stats high obesity, low participation rates, gaps in life expectancy related to deprivation, ageing population, high growth
- Understand barriers to participation through consultation and engagement
- Managing expectations
- Keeping the costs down
- Sustainability of activity beyond the funding

# Maintaining communication and community involvement

- get physically inactive people more active
- increase use of greenspaces and parks
- encourage people of all ages and abilities to take up and enjoy more physical activity, not just sports
- providing a range of free or low-cost activities using green space to increase use of the urban parks
- encourage ownership by involving local people in site management

#### How do we do this?

#### Parklife – a case study

- 3 year project now in final year
- Partnership funded role, including Physical Inactivity grant
- Wide range of activities on offer all free
- Engage all age groups
- Sustainability built in where possible training, support, skills development

#### **Activities**

- Capital improvements e.g. outdoor gyms, skateparks
- Social senior tennis, table tennis & bowls development projects intergenerational
- Community Woodfuel groups & conservation days
- Walks and trails teddy, buggy, heritage, wildlife, all ability
- Wildlife surveys and activities
- Outdoor learning and environmental activities
- Supporting externally run events such as boot camps and parkrun
- Consultation, marketing and promotion



#### **Outcomes**

- Increase in people becoming more active
- High levels of participation and satisfaction
- Repeat customers and wider audience
- Strengthened partnerships
- More community engagement with sites
- Increased awareness and satisfaction with parks
- Raised political profile of parks and greenspaces

#### **Evaluation**

- A dedicated officer to develop, manage and promote
- Branded product clear message
- Use existing and develop new networks and partnerships to aid delivery – collaborative working
- Respond to demand a flexible approach
- Not just about "sport" appeals to all ages & abilities

#### What next?

- Lessons learnt successes and failures
- Sustain activities and groups support
- Roll out to wider area
- Target areas of high population growth new residents
- New model for future delivery link to emerging strategies

Thankyou for listening!

Any questions?