

# Active Partnerships



Engaging Communities, Transforming Lives



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# 1. About Active Partnerships

Active Partnerships is a nationwide physical activity and sport network that exists to create a healthier, fairer nation. We take a place-based approach to reducing inequalities through our network of 43 local Active Partnerships.

We partner with local and national stakeholders to transform lives through physical activity and sport and affect widespread social change. Our focus is on creating conditions in communities that enable sustainable impact.

For more information on the work of Active Partnerships, go to: [Home](#) | [Active Partnerships](#)



## 2. Purpose of the Sport Welfare Officer (SWO) network

- To add capacity and expertise to the existing safeguarding work of NGBs and Active Partnerships
- To promote good welfare practice and safe sport at a local level
- To support club environments to move from welfare compliance to effective culture



# Purpose of the SWO role

Our role is to;

- ✓ Provide additional, local support for club welfare officers
- ✓ Signpost clubs to the right advice and guidance
- ✓ Work with club welfare officers to create a safer culture within their organisation
- ✓ Facilitate local training opportunities and events
- ✓ Create networks so that volunteers and staff feel better connected and informed
- ✓ Recognise, share and develop best practice
- ✓ Help raise awareness of safeguarding and welfare for young people and adults at local events

It is **not** the Sport Welfare Officer's role to;

- ✓ Advise on or manage concerns – all concerns must be referred without delay in accordance with National Governing Body / Club Safeguarding Policy.

# 3. About the SWO network

- Professional network of 63 dedicated officers introduced in phased approach Autumn 2023 – Summer 2024, to **support Club Welfare Officers**
- Employed and based within **Active Partnerships** nationally, working with **National Governing Bodies**
- **Programme developed in collaboration** by a project group including Active Partnerships, National Governing Bodies, Child Protection in Sport Unit, Ann Craft Trust and Sport England. A new **Project Oversight group** is forming to oversee delivery and evaluation.
- Funded by **Sport England** through an investment of **National Lottery money**.



# 4. The wider context

## [Uniting The Movement \(January 2021\)](#)

‘Putting an even stronger spotlight on safeguarding, so children and young people feel and are safe when being active, and parents are confident it’s a safe choice with the welfare of their children paramount’

‘Helping build a sector where those taking part do so in a safe and positive environment, whether they’re in the paid workforce, volunteering or being active’

## [Whyte Review \(June 2022\)](#)

‘Reassess the level of safeguarding responsibility delegated to volunteers at regional/local level’

## [Whyte Review policy response \(January 2023\)](#)

‘Fund a national network, who will work with National Governing Bodies and their network of local clubs, to promote good practice and safe sport on a local level’



# 5. Progress made to date

## **National network**

- Nationwide coverage by summer 2024

## **National Governing Bodies**

- Relationships and engagement developing

## **Universal delivery model**

- Collaborative approach shaping universal cross-sport support, plus development of local innovative approaches

## **Skills and knowledge**

- Skills audit of SWOs complete with training plan in design

## **Programme evaluation**

- Stakeholder consultation on MEL framework, tools and systems ongoing



# 6. Ways of working



ann craft trust



Child Protection in Sport Unit

NGB's



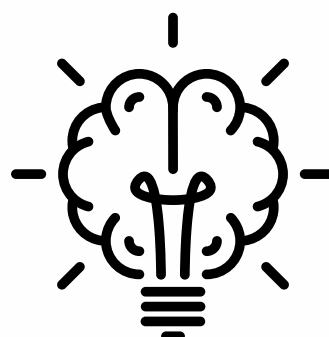
Collaboration & co-design



Positive impact children, young people and adults



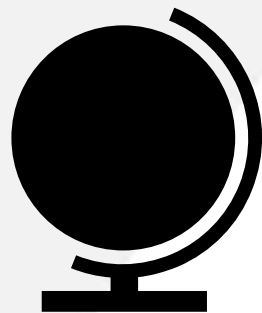
Common work areas with local flexibility



Add capacity and expertise



Focus on NGB



Local Insight



Tackle Inequalities



Building Sustainability



CPD



Monitoring & Evaluation