



Recommended Facilitators for Place Partnerships – Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ document provides a general introduction to the [Active Partnerships network, place-based working](#) and the reasons why we are creating a list of recommended facilitators for our partners to work with.

For more specific details about the role of a facilitator and the type of skills and experience that we are seeking, please take a look at the ***role profile that we have developed***.

Introducing place-based working and the Active Partnerships network

What is the Active Partnerships network?

Active Partnerships is a nationwide movement, physical activity and sport network that helps people, especially those who face barriers, to live a more active life.

This network includes [43 local organisations](#) and the Active Partnerships National Organisation (APNO), which helps to connect, strengthen and enable the 43.

All of the organisations within the network receive funding from [Sport England](#) and they all work to help deliver [Uniting the Movement](#), a 10-year vision and strategy led by Sport England, to transform lives and communities through sport, movement, and physical activity.

Active Partnerships work with communities and organisations in their local area to help those people who need the most support to be active. Each Active Partnership has a detailed understanding of the needs of the people and the places in their local area. They are the local experts.

What is place-based working?

We help to create the right conditions in local places, to address inequalities and build relationships that create positive change and support active lives for all. We work in this way because the evidence tells us that the place where a person lives, and their individual circumstances, can have a huge influence on how active they are. This approach involves engaging with people who live or work in the area, using their insights to help make positive changes.

You can read more about this here on the National Evaluation and Learning Partnership's [website](#) which summarises their work with Sport England and people working in local Place Partnerships to develop whole-systems, place-based approaches to reducing inequalities in physical activity.



What is the aim of this work?

Ultimately, the aim of this work is to tackle inequalities and increase physical activity levels in the places across England that need the most support.

By taking this place-based approach, we can better understand the barriers that people are facing, and then use our knowledge, insight, and resources to help overcome these barriers and even things up, ensuring everyone has access to activity.

Who is involved in this work?

Sport England is investing **£250 million of National Lottery and Exchequer Funding** into places across England. This investment is being made via **Active Partnerships** because they are so well connected locally and already know the organisations and communities they need to work with. By working with a range of **local partners**, Active Partnerships can ensure that this funding reaches the local people who need the most support to be active.

Sport England is also providing the funding to support our recruitment of facilitators that we will recommend to Active Partnerships and their partners.

What are Place Partnerships?

Active Partnerships do not work in isolation. They collaborate with a range of partners from the local area (often from different sectors), building trust and great working relationships. We call these Place Partnerships.

How many places are receiving funding from Sport England?

Sport England is investing the funding into more than 80 Place Partnerships. This has been done in phases, with 53 Place Partnerships receiving funding to expand their work in places in the first phase and 27 in the second phase. The Place Universal Offer (PUO) will also be rolled out across the country and ten Active Partnerships have been selected as early testers for this.

What is the Place Universal Offer?

A portion of the £250 million investment has been set aside to create the Place Universal Offer. This will ensure that even more places will receive some level of funding, helping even more local people to be active. You can read more about this on the [Sport England website](#).

Questions and answers about the opportunity

Do I need to understand sport and physical activity to be selected as a facilitator?

No. We believe that facilitators will have transferable skills and experience, which can be used no matter the sector. The **facilitator's role profile** we have compiled outlines the skills and expertise we are seeking to help solve the complex problems that may be



faced such as physical inactivity, homelessness, food poverty, and drug addiction. We welcome applications from anyone who feels they match the role profile.

Do I need to be a consultant to apply?

No. We welcome applications from anyone. We ask that you clearly set out in the expression of interest form how you would see your role being resourced. Public funding is being used to support this recruitment process, so we will ensure that transparent governance is at the heart of our approach.

How much work will there be for facilitators?

It isn't possible to provide any guarantees about the amount of work that a facilitator would be selected for. The support required will be identified in each place so this will naturally vary. However, we do think that over the year we will need facilitators to support the majority of our [43 Active Partnerships](#) and their partners. Based on the work currently being carried out by facilitators, in each place, we know that this typically includes support for multiple days over a period of several months.

Where will facilitators be required to work?

This will be agreed with each facilitator but what we do know is that we will require some people to work regionally and nationally. We do, however, understand that some facilitators may want to focus on working in their local area, and we are happy to accept applications on this basis too.

Who will the work be contracted by?

All contracts will be between specific Active Partnerships and their selected facilitators. The Active Partnerships National Organisation will recruit a list of facilitators but will not get involved in contracting. We are currently considering whether we will ask the facilitators that we recruit to sign an agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding to outline our expectations and the level of commitment we are looking for.

How will facilitators be assigned to places?

Approximately every three months the Active Partnerships National Organisation and Sport England will analyse investment applications submitted by Place Partnerships and use these to determine the future need for facilitators.

These applications set out how places will be using [Sport England's £250m place expansion investment](#). We will then assign facilitators who can support the needs identified in these applications.

We know there will also be a need for some reactive support (eg, ad-hoc requests from Place Partnerships) and we will confirm soon how we will manage this type of request.



What investment applications are currently being analysed to determine the need for facilitators?

Initially, we will be identifying the need for facilitators in the rolling out of the Place Universal Offer (see above for a description of what this is). The Active Partnerships that have been selected as early testers are involved in this work.

What if I have a specific specialism, is this opportunity still open to me?

While we broadly know what the work required in places will look like, we also know that at times there will be specific requests for support. This might include supporting partners to deepen their understanding of complex social issues in the places that they are supporting. This could include issues such as racism or climate change, so there may well be an opportunity for specialists to work with us.

Eventually, we would like to develop a list of recommended facilitators that includes general facilitators as well as specialists.

Is this project an extension of the Sport England place-based leadership programme facilitators?

It is connected but there are differences, as the leadership programme facilitators deliver specific two-day leadership programmes. Many of the activities and skills required will be similar, however our recommended facilitators for Place Partnerships will be offering support in more flexible ways. For example, they will have regular meetings with partners, ongoing coaching support, and frequent drop-ins with colleagues.

We welcome applications from anyone involved in the Sport England place-based leadership programme, but you do not need to have been involved in order to apply.

What will success look like?

Our aim is to get the right support to the right places at the right time. We want to do this in a way that will improve the conditions in places, making it easier for everyone to enjoy an active life. Facilitators will help us to achieve that aim.

We have created a theory of change for this work, and this sets out short and long-term outcomes. We will be refining this with our facilitators, Active Partnerships, and partners in the coming months.

Do I have to be part of the Recommended Facilitators List to work with places?

No. However, we need to strike an important balance between working with high quality facilitators that understand what works when it comes to addressing physical inactivity, as well as ensuring that we have a diverse group of facilitators and that we are being



efficient with public money. Having created a list of recommended facilitators, we will be encouraging Active Partnerships from across the network to use these suppliers.

**If you have any further questions, please email
info@activepartnerships.org**