



Meath Local Sports Partnership



Annual Report 2013



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Meath Local Sports Partnership Annual Report 2013

Introduction

Meath Local Sports Partnership was formed in 2002 with a fulltime coordinator being appointed in July of the same year. Following an expansion of the Board and broad consultations in 2003, a three year strategic plan 2003 –2007 was launched. We have since launched our second strategic plan 2007—2012 “Sport & Physical Activity—a Way of Life” which focuses on three thematic goals and was launched in 2008. 2013 saw a review of this plan and the Disability Sport strategy undertaken.

Meath Local Sports Partnership is core funded on an annual basis by the Irish Sports Council and also receives additional funding from other state agencies.

Vision

“Sport & physical activity - a way of life in Meath.”

Mission Statement

Our agreed **mission** is to increase the level & quality of participation in sport and physical activity together with the people of Meath through activities which

- introduce people to sport and physical activity
- encourage sustained and increased involvement
- develop the quality and accessibility of sports organisations and facilities
- increase effectiveness of service delivery through better partnership between relevant agencies

Our Values

Our agreed **values**, which will be evident in all we do, are:

- Inclusion – MLSP is committed to developing and delivering programmes, policies and procedures in sport and physical activity based on equality, inclusion and participation for all.
- Quality – MLSP will strive for quality in all activities, demonstrating transparency in decision-making, responsiveness to emerging needs, openness to challenge and ensuring that all resources are used effectively and efficiently.

- Integrity – MLSP is committed to basing all of our actions on an internally consistent framework of principles. Depth of principles and adherence of each level to the next are key determining factors. This concept of integrity is directly linked to responsibility in that implementation spawning from principles is designed with a specific outcome in mind.
 - Fairness – MLSP is committed to the value of fairness, both in terms of promoting the need for fairness of outcomes for everyone engaging with MLSP, and ensuring that the Partnership's own policies, procedures and practices are demonstrably fair.
 - Partnership - MLSP recognises the importance of working in partnership with local groups, clubs and agencies as being key to the development of the sports partnership.
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Strategic Goals 2007 – 2012

1. To increase levels of participation rates and quality experiences in sport and physical activity
 2. To improve the quality of programme delivery and accessibility to facilities in sport and physical activity in Meath.
 3. Develop a strong partnership approach to the development and delivery of sport and physical activity in Meath.
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Foreword

The following report gives an overview of the work which was undertaken by Meath Local Sports Partnership in 2013. It provides for a brief synopsis of the year documenting changes to the operating environment, staffing and the Board of the Partnership itself. The Annual Report 2013 outlines activities under its three strategic goals.

This report facilitates the sharing of best practice and innovative interventions across the county. It allows Meath LSP to monitor trends in local sport and acts as an effective mechanism to highlight areas of concern and challenge.

Again as in previous years, Meath LSP has made significant advances and increased the number of locally delivered programmes and training opportunities. Target groups focused on during 2013 included children and young people, people with a disability, unemployed and women. Meath LSP is also continuing to deliver projects to increase the participation and involvement of harder to reach groups such as those living in disadvantaged communities.

A particular highlight from the report has been the continued success our mass participation initiatives:

- Royal County 5k
- An Post Meath Heritage Cycle Tour

This is in addition to the growth of our Older Adult programmes, Women in Sport initiatives, training and education programmes and our disability programmes.

In total over 11,803 people took part in our programmes. Both the Royal County 5k and the An Post Meath Heritage Cycle Tour attracted larger numbers than previous years, with the cycle tour attracting a massive 3300 participants. The cycle tour has fast become the flagship event for Meath LSP, with increased awareness and profile of the sports partnership being one of the main benefits.

All credit to the staff for their continued commitment in promoting and organising these events. The enthusiasm and enjoyment evident from both the participants and volunteers in these mass participation events demonstrate the value and importance of these events for local communities.

In 2013, we engaged the services of an external consultant to review our strategic plan 2007 – 2012 and our disability strategy 2009 – 2012. It is evident from the findings of this review that Meath LSP is focused and effective in its work and operates in an efficient manner. Over the timeframe of this strategic plan, we have grown our range of activities, identified and developed a range of programmes, integrated ourselves within the sports network of the county and become a significant and credible agency/resource for recreational sports development and participation whilst at the same time sourcing significant human and financial resources in order to deliver on our mandate.

In what continues to be an ever changing and demanding environment, the Meath LSP team continues to work successfully with partners within sport and health promotion and with the local authority to bring in substantial investment and opportunities to further develop sport and physical activity in Meath. Each year Meath LSP continues to be encouraged by the level of support given to the LSP by statutory, community and voluntary groups across the county. The continuing commitment by the Irish Sports Council, Meath County Council, HSE, FAS and other partners towards providing financial and in kind resources to Meath LSP is very much appreciated by the board. In these current difficult economic times it is heartening to see that quality of life is still high on national and local political agendas.

In particular we would like to thank and acknowledge County Manager Jackie Maguire for her continued support; the Irish Sports Council and Minister Ring, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for their continued support which enables us to do our job. This is a testament to the increasing value of the Meath LSP in delivering on the common aims of health, well being and social inclusion.

Meath Local Sports Partnership is determined that sport and physical activity will remain high on the agenda of all of its partners and will ensure that sport and physical activity contributes at the highest level to the delivery of the shared priorities of those same partners. There are considerable challenges ahead to sustain and grow the provision of such tailored programmes and initiatives for sport and physical activity; but Meath LSP is determined to rise to this challenge.

Lastly, Meath LSP thanks all those who have contributed to the compilation of the report and also those who have been involved in the delivery of the activities described therein. Special mention goes to the Meath LSP Administrator Marcella Mitchell, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Aine Coogan, Sports Development Officers Ruairi Murphy & David McCaffrey, Be Active Project Facilitator Jenny McAloon and FAS CE worker Joe Faulkner.

The Meath LSP board would like to take the opportunity to invite all statutory, community and voluntary groups with an interest in increasing participation to link in with Meath LSP locally. The benefits the Local Sports Partnership bring to areas such as health, education and social inclusion cannot be underestimated particularly in these challenging times.

On behalf of Meath LSP, we would like to thank the Meath public for their continued support in 2013 evidenced by the large numbers that participated in Meath Local Sports Partnership programmes. We would like to congratulate the Board of Meath LSP and staff for a job well done in 2013 and look forward to more of the same for 2014!

Finally we commend this report to you and hope that you will enjoy reading it.

John Holian

Chairperson

Mary Murphy

Coordinator

Overview of the year

This report has been compiled using the SPEAK self-evaluation system.

Background, Resources and Funding

- Meath LSP is a central pillar, within Meath, of the Irish Sports Councils plans for increasing participation in sport to 45% by 2020
- €940,859.00 was invested in Meath LSP in 2013. This figure includes benefit-in-kind funding
- Funding from the Irish Sports Council accounts for 42.4% of the total LSP funding in 2013, the remaining 57.3% is raised from other sources.
- In 2013, 6 people worked full-time on behalf of Meath LSP. 2.5 were directly funded by the ISC, 2 co funded by Meath Co.Co, 1staff through the HSE and 1staff member through the FAS CE scheme. In the case of the 2 SDO`s half of one position is funded by Meath Co. Co, with remainder funded through income generated by Meath LSP..

Despite the challenges of a more difficult operating environment, there are many positives to be taken from 2013:

- The Irish Sports Council has remained fully committed to Meath LSP providing funding totaling €193,233 to the partnership – this represents a 5% reduction in funding from 2012.
- €286,079.00 (5% decrease from 2012) secured in funding from partner agencies, income from courses and local/national grant schemes. Total figure reflects funding received from Meath County Council, HSE, Road Safety Authority, Dept of Transport, Dept of Environment and grants for Go for Life, Bike Week and monies generated from programmes and activities.

Funding Source	Amount (EURO)
Irish Sports Council	193,233.00
ISC Programmes Fees	7,480.00
Local Authority	35,000.00
Be Active ASAP	74,587.00
LSP Programmes	27,237.00
Women in Sport	18,437.00
SIDO Programme	20,074.00
Older people	8,798.00
Go For Life Grant Scheme	1,600.00
An Post Fees & Grant	92,866.00
Total	479,312

BIK 461,547.00

Total funding to Meath LSP €940,859.00

Sustaining Meath LSP

- Although a relatively recent addition to the sports infrastructure in Co Meath, all the evidence produced to date demonstrates that Meath LSP has become a success.
- There is a wide range of sports and physical activity programmes available through Meath LSP Programmes that had not previously been provided on such a comprehensive basis and would not be undertaken were it not for Meath LSP.

- The Board is compact and efficient, its members carry the interests of their partner organisation to the Meath LSP board meetings and there is evidence of Board members also linking the interests and opportunity of Meath LSP back to their organisation. As suggested in the review, our Partner organisation needs, expectations and their synergies with us, might benefit from being formally agreed upon. Such a process would increase the synergy between Meath LSP and our partners.
- The programmes of Meath LSP are fit for purpose and are innovative in their format and application. However the resources of Meath LSP are increasingly strained as the number and diversity of these programmes grow. In order to best manage these demands on Meath LSP resources, a regular “portfolio” review (twice annual), and formal clarity regarding their exit strategies is suggested.
- The work of Meath LSP amongst individuals with a disability is significant and has a meaningful and a likely long-term impact on participants. There is a realistic commitment and realisation to the mainstreaming of people with disabilities within sports and amongst sports organisations and, increased participation is apparent. More of the same is required however resource uncertainty threatens staff continuity and additional hard data and individual case studies are required to highlight the impact of these activities. Increased awareness of the participation opportunities provided by Meath LSP in this area is also required.
- Measuring the impact of Meath LSP is important both to determine its real effectiveness and in order to communicate the role and importance of the organisation to others. More detailed data is required to truly evaluate the impact of Meath LSP. This is challenging however as such a data gathering and analysis process can be time consuming and distracting. However some form of more detailed data sampling and analysis is required.
- It is evident that the makeup of some of the communities in County Meath are changing particularly within the new dormitory towns in the East and South of the County. It is likely that these new residents have a limited affiliation with County Meath. This is a significant challenge for a number of agencies within the County and Meath LSP has a role as part of a multiagency response to this issue.
- In addition to the role of Meath LSP in supporting new communities, economic issues such as unemployment and reduced incomes have increased the role for sport and physical activity as a means of managing personal wellbeing. However Meath LSP has limited and somewhat uncertain resources. While the Active Communities initiative and other Meath LSP programmes appear to present an effective response to these sports and physical activity needs, additional resources and/or a sharper focus on the future actions of Meath LSP are required.
- The recession appears to have aided a growth in participation in sports amongst adults and especially in the sports of running, cycling and swimming. This increased awareness and demand for participation opportunities is an opportunity for Meath LSP to deliver on its mandate. However its core role in increasing participation amongst the sedentary members of the community should not be subsumed by the demands and the optics of these mass participation opportunities.
- The focus of Meath LSP has changed from primarily delivering participation opportunities and programmes to one of coordinating resources and increasingly to providing leadership in recreational sports for the County. This transition is on-going and it requires an acknowledgement by the Board, Partners and staff in order that it can be clarified, structured and resourced appropriately (additional staff training, changing Board role and deeper partner relationships).

In conclusion Meath LSP meets its mandate within the limitations of its resources. Meath LSP engages with a variety of target groups and the staff and Board have an awareness of the changing economic environment and the impact that this is having on the County Meath community. The subsequent Meath LSP strategic plan is likely therefore to continue with a similar direction and approach of the present plan. However the changing context of Meath LSP with respect to uncertain resourcing, additional demand for MLSP services and a growing strategic/leadership role for Meath LSP, requires the future vision and actions of Meath LSP to be redefined.

Finally it is worth noting that the recent significant increases in sports participation evident anecdotally and through research (Irish Sports Monitor), may signal a golden era for sports participation in Ireland. Future decisions regarding the operation of Meath LSP should take advantage of this opportunity.

MLSP Board and Staff

Board of Meath Local Sports Partnership as at 31 December 2012

Name	Position Held	Finance	Executive	Director	Organisation
Mr. John Holian	Chairperson		✓	✓	Athletics
Ms. Deirdre Dowling	Vice Chairperson		✓	✓	Outdoor sports
Mr. Patrick O Reilly	Treasurer	✓	✓	✓	Corporate sector
Ms. Yvonne Gilsean			✓	✓	Health Service Executive
Mr. Paddy Kelly				✓	Meath GAA
Mr. Fran Power				✓	Athletics County Board
Dr. Nazih Eldin				✓	Health Service Executive
Mr. David Byrne				✓	Meath County Council
Ms. Audrey Farrell		✓		✓	Disability Services
Cllr. Gerry O Connor				✓	Meath County Council

Changes to Board of Directors during 2013:

The board and staff of Meath Local Sports Partnership would like to thank the following Directors who resigned during 2013 for their valuable contribution and support:

- Mr. Ken Lynch
- Mr. Declan Sheridan

Staff of Meath Local Sports Partnership as at 31 December 2013:

- Mary Murphy – Sports Co-ordinator
- Marcella Mitchell – Office Administrator
- David McCaffrey – Community Sports Development Officer
- Aine Coogan – Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
- Ruairi Murphy – Sports Development Officer
- Joe Faulkner – Community Employment Office Assistant
- Jenny McAloon – Be Active ASAP Coordinator

The Future of Irish Sport – Vision 2020 (courtesy Federation of Irish Sport)

John Treacy – Chief Executive Officer, Irish Sports Council – *“Irish sport has had a great year in 2013. Sport has travelled a long way in recent years but is only at the beginning of its potential. By 2020 the Irish sports sector will be making an even greater contribution to our economy and society.*

Over the next decade we hope to see continuing increases in the number of people participating in sport and physical activity. The focus of the Local Sports Partnerships is on “hard to reach” groups and they are very successful in activating people who face barriers to participating in sport. Over time we want to see more people participating but also greater consistency in numbers across all social groups.

There is a huge talent and commitment within the community to continue to build the sector so that we will be recognised nationally and internationally as a healthy and sporting nation”.

Susan Marron – Chairperson, Irish Primary PE Association – *“By 2020 Physical Education (PE) will be at the heart of children`s education. A child`s experience of PE will help develop their physical, social and emotional competences to participate in physical activity and appropriate extra-curricular and community sporting opportunities.*

PE will be inclusive, fun and maximise physical activity opportunities in lessons. PE will be supported by physically active schools which maximise opportunities to promote physical activity at lesson transitions and break times and which encourage active travel to and from school. Optional extra-curricular activities will be supported by the Local Sports Partnerships, National Governing Bodies of Sport and the HSE”.

Sarah Keane – Chief Executive Officer, Swim Ireland – *“We are lucky in Ireland to have a number of really talented and capable women in leading roles in sports administration right around the country. Sport is for everyone and that includes women. Women`s passion and commitment no matter the nature of their involvement in sport is just as fierce as men`s. I would hope that by 2020 female participants in sport feel their contribution is as recognised and as valued as that of men and that girls and women of all ages are encouraged to get involved in sport to the same extent as their male counterparts..truly sport for all”.*

2013 Participation Summary Report

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Course	Participants 2013	Participants 2012	Details 2013
Bunts Start	-	59	No funding for programme in 2013 –ISC review for 2014
Buntus Generic – New Teacher Training	17	31	2 training sessions – 1 for new teachers, 1 special needs specific
Play Rugby Initiative	600	600	20 schools (approx. 30 children per school)
Be Active ASAP Programme – Teacher Training	1487	721	27,943 children participating, 2390 parent volunteers, 323 schools
School Sports Day Training	17	13	11 schools represented
Girls in Action	75	150	2 Schools in 2013
Safe Cycling & Training Skills Programme in Primary Schools	1312	1011	65 Schools
School Hall Athletics	450	232	10 Schools
SHINE Programme	13	13	15 participants over two yr prog.
First Tee Golf Initiative	85	158	

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Course	Participants 2013	Participants 2012	Details 2013
Code of Ethics	180	143	12 workshops
Children's Officer	32	25	2 workshops
Sports First Aid	10	21	1 workshop – review delivery for 2014
Sports Matters Conference	68	151	1 workshop
Disability Inclusion Training	16	20	1 workshop
TY Disability Awareness Training	31	80	1 workshop- Loreto College
Capital Funding Workshop	-	81	Funding not available in 2013

WOMEN IN SPORT

Course	Participants 2013	Participants 2012	Details 2013
Walk for Fitness Navan	46	-	10 week programme in total - 2 rollouts

Walk for Fitness Kiltake	25	-	5 week programme
Walk for Fitness Kells	11	-	5 week programme
Learn2Run Navan	54	50	10 week programme
Learn2Run Windtown	38	-	10 week programme - extended from navan
Learn2Run Kells	69	63	Programme extended due to demand – 16 weeks in total
Learn2Run Kiltale	23	34	10 week programme
Fleetfeet Navan	10	20	5 week programme -
GAP Programme	-	150	Programme under review

DISABILITY PROGRAMMES

Programme	Participants 2013	Participants 2012	Details 2013
Wheelchair Basketball	5	4	Club Established
Ticket2Try	112	141	Reduced number due to sustainable programmes est. in 2012
Football for All Club	-	18	Programme ceased due to lack of commitment from the club
Power Soccer Club	6	6	Club Sustainable
Learn2Cylce Programme	33	32	2 courses
Learn2Run- Family Programme	16	-	Run in partnership with The Meadows respite centre for children with disabilities
MDI Sports Day	0	13	Did not take place in 2013
Sandsailing Come and Try It Day	0	33	Did not take place in 2013
Rehab Sports Day	0	131	Did not take place in 2013
Learn2Swim	10 children per 6 week course	-	New club set up and made sustainable under Aura Navan
Hockey4All Club	20	0	New club set up and made sustainable under Navan Hockey Club
Xcessible Leisure Initiative	0	20	Did not take place in 2013

OLDER PEOPLE

Course	Participants 2013	Participants 2012	Details 2013
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Mature Movers - Navan	60	250 participants across all areas	Well Established group in Navan (5 years)
Mature Movers - Trim	55		Well Established group in Trim (3 years)
Mature Movers - Dunshaughlin	50		New venue in 2013
Mature Movers - Carlanstown	30		Well Established group (2 years)
Mature Movers - Kells	25		New venue in 2013
Mature Movers - Athboy	30		New venue and 1 new tutor in Athboy area in 2013
Games for Life Initiative – Total impacted	750	680	42 groups have availed of equipment
Games for Life Training	-	35	42 groups have availed of equipment
Games for Life Activity Morning	80	-	Introduced new game Flisk
Games for Life Bowls League	90	80	New format very successful in 2013
Games for Life Boccia League	135	160	45 teams in 2013
Games for Life Kurling League	100	96	25 teams in 2013
Easy Movers Programme	31	35	1 Aquatics Programme and 1 Fittle Sticks programme
Fitness Made Easy	26	34	Plan to roll out again in Jan 2014

COMMUNITIES

Course	Participants 2013	Participants 2012	Details 2013
An Post Meath Heritage Cycle Tour	3158	2989	1 day event, 4 routes, 300 volunteers
Royal County 5k	387	480	
Operation Transformation Walk	800	1600	
Meath Active Week	-	280	
Bikeweek Events	860	2700	
Race Around Ireland	45	30	
Meath Coast Run	220	300	