



Our Active Community Thanet



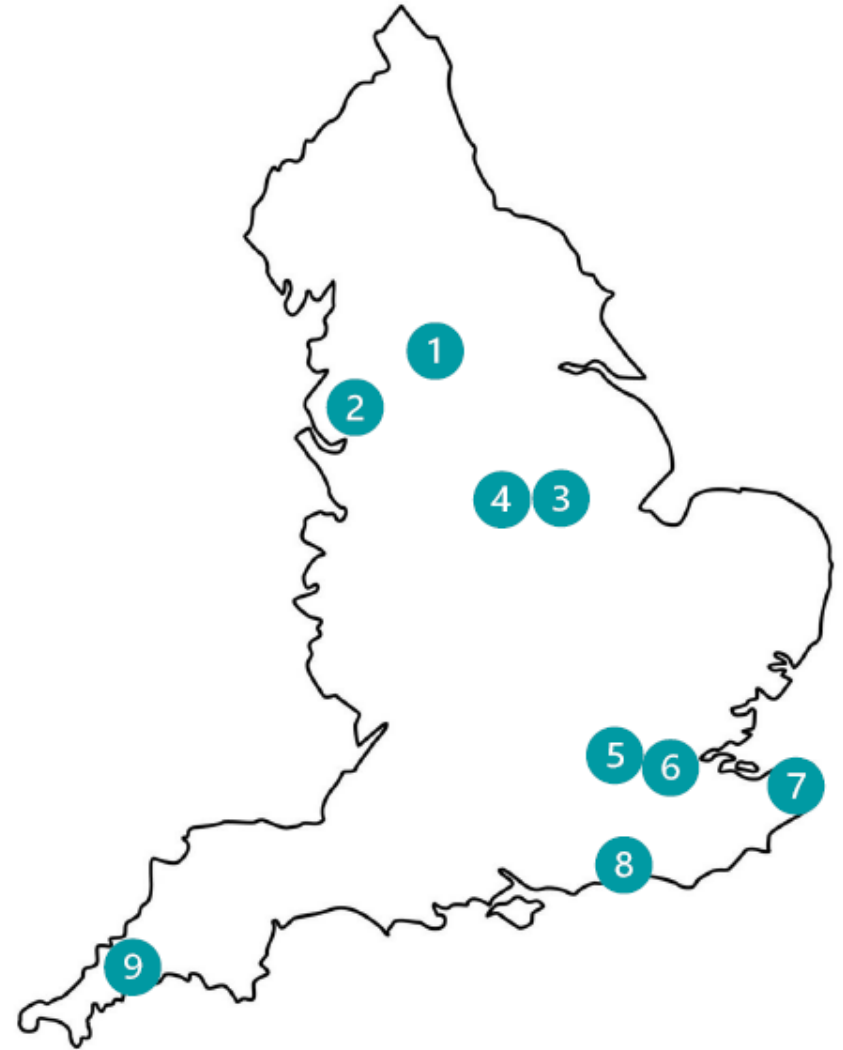
About the project

- Sport England funded project through to April 2027
- Supporting 9 different communities to work together to increase opportunities for people with a learning disability to get active
- Community-led way of working, asset based and co-produced, this will be led by people with learning disabilities at the core
- Supported by myself and a community connector



Our 9 communities

1. Bradford & District (West Yorkshire)
2. St Helens (Merseyside)
3. Nottingham City (Nottinghamshire)
4. Derby City (Derbyshire)
5. Ealing (London)
6. Greenwich (London)
7. Thanet (Kent)
8. Worthing (West Sussex)
9. St Austell & the Clay Country (Cornwall)



Our vision

People with learning disabilities, and the communities in which they live, are physically active, happy and healthy.

We will do this by:

- Supporting 9 communities to become active ecosystems
- Inspiring a wider movement for change across the sector
- Entirely community driven



How will we work together

With the support of Community Partners and Community connectors together we will:

- Ensure people with a learning disability are at the heart
- Engage a range of people and organisations
- Listen to what the community wants and build a shared vision
- Build on existing strengths and assets
- Test out new ideas with seed funding



What are the changes we hope to see

- Wider community engagement
- Stronger mutual relationships
- Better understanding and use of local resources and assets
- More inclusive, co-produced opportunities
- Development of skills and knowledge
- More sustainable activity

Seed funding

- **Aims**

To support the growth of opportunities within the community for people with a learning disability and the communities in which they live to get and remain active, happy and healthy.



Seed funding

- **Guidelines/Principles**

- Led by people with a learning disability
- Building on existing assets
- Engagement with programme and community forum
- Collaboration, awareness and understanding of community
- Supporting the whole community
- Sustainability
- Accessible format

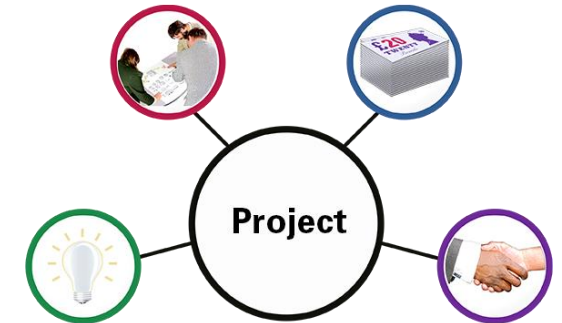
- **Examples**

- Training
- Venue hire, coaching costs, equipment, transport
- Marketing
- Campaigning
- Awareness raising



Seed funding

- **Who can apply?**
 - Organisations
 - Individuals
- **Process**
 - Submission
 - Straightforward as possible
 - Accessible for community action panel
 - Decisions
 - Regular action panels
 - Decisions or feedback within locally agreed timeframe
 - Monitoring
 - Reflect the amount
 - Stories, case studies, videos, pictures
 - Longer-term impact and sustainability



Seed funding

- **Launch dates**
 - Vary in each community
 - Follow forum and community action panel
 - Within programme, not a public launch
- **Amounts**
 - Up to £20k per community per year
 - Up to £60k total to end of March 2027



Mencap Active Communities

Our Vision...

Develop and facilitate an extensive network of likeminded individuals and groups all of who share our vision and ambition to drive innovation, development and ultimately wider systemic change across the whole country

We will do this by:

- Events & workshops. Mixture or virtual and face to face. Spaces where members can learn from and support each other.
- Improvements to the Mencap Sport/Activity/Health information on the Mencap webpages.
- Creation of web based 'directory' of network members.
- Newsletter
- The Learning Disability and Sport workshop.



The goals we want to achieve March 2027:

- People with a learning disability know how to access local support opportunities to get active and healthy
- Organisations have a better understanding of how to support people with a learning disability within their setting
- We create a better mindset with both people with a learning disability and communities that they can be healthy and active in their communities

Jon Stonebridge

Network Development Partner and Learning Disability and Sport Workshop

Jon.Stonebridge@Mencap.org.uk

07808 182 224



SPEAR

As part of Our Active Community, Mencap has commissioned an independent evaluator to share insights and demonstrate the impact of our work.

The chosen evaluator is the Centre for Sport, Physical Education & Activity Research (spear) at Canterbury Christ Church University

Some of you may already have had a chance to meet them and have some initial conversations.



SPEAR

Why is the research important?

- To collect experiences and perceptions from you as a stakeholder and people in the community
- Demonstrate the impact of your work in your community to provide opportunities to those with a learning disability
- To inform practice and provision moving forward, whilst also supporting further funding investments

What is expected of you?

- Not a lot! The aim is for this to be as unburdensome as possible
- They will arrange to have a short informal call 2 or 3 times a year
- Two visits to your community between 2024-2027

SPEAR

What is the benefit of being part of the research?

- To be valued and have a voice in how we can support those with a learning disability to be active, happy and healthy
- To help improve service delivery in the community and share best practice
- To support in promoting systematic change
- Receive a tracking case study of your community that will demonstrate your great work in the community and the impact it has had. There will also be Reports and Video Snapshots delivered to Mencap.

