



# Increasing adult participation in sport through a thriving third sector

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The Sport Partnership Pilot Project





NAVCA is running a national pilot project to develop greater partnership working between sport and local infrastructure organisations. Funded by Sport England, the pilot will explore the relationships between sport and the wider third sector, in particular focusing on local area agreements. We hope to demonstrate the links between National Indicators (NIs) 6 (increase in volunteering), 7 (an environment for a thriving third sector) and 8 (increase in adult participation in sport). The pilots began in September 2008 and will run for six months.

## Objectives

- To improve communication and collaboration between sporting organisations and LIOs/volunteer centres
- To encourage greater partnership working between local strategic partnerships, local authorities, county sports partnerships, community sports networks and local infrastructure organisations in the delivery of local area agreements
- To encourage and develop infrastructure support to sports clubs, as part of the wider third sector, to improve their effectiveness and reach

## Who is involved?

Although the pilots will have national significance, they are based in the Yorkshire and Humber region. **York CVS** and **East Riding Voluntary Action Services Ltd (ERVAS)** have been selected to lead the pilots and will deliver activity. They will each receive a grant of £2,000 for participating in the pilot.

Key partners involved in the delivery of the pilot will include Sport England, county sports partnerships, local authority sports development units, community sports networks and others.

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## So what will the pilots do?

The two pilots have adopted different approaches.

East Riding of Yorkshire, a rural unitary authority, has adopted NIs 7 and 8 only. The pilot will work specifically with Pocklington Club Forum which brings together more than 30 sports clubs from Pocklington and its neighbouring villages.

ERVAS will undertake 'health checks' with clubs and provide support to a maximum of 10 clubs from the village. Those that take part in the pilot will receive a £100 bursary on completion.

York City Council has adopted NIs 6, 7 and 8. As a result, York CVS will provide both CVS and volunteer centre functions to participating clubs. The York pilot has taken a different approach and has three distinct strands:



1. Identifying opportunities for future database alignment and management.
2. Identifying appropriate communication channels, e.g. sport networks, newsletters and emails, to keep clubs informed about the third sector.
3. Undertaking a series of health checks with clubs in the city. By targeting clubs at various sizes and stages of development, they hope to demonstrate their differing needs and the support available.

The completion of a health check is an important aspect of both pilots. These health checks will identify areas of development for sports organisations, including strengths and weaknesses. Areas covered by the health check include:

- financial management
- organisational planning
- aims and objectives
- resources
- sustainability
- partnership working
- communications.

Development workers from the LIO will support the sports clubs through this process.

## What do the pilots hope to achieve?

We hope that as a result of the pilots, those involved will continue to work together in partnership.

The pilots will aim to demonstrate the effectiveness and contribution LIOs working with sports organisations can make to achieving NIs 6, 7 and 8. We hope it will encourage local strategic partnerships to identify and provide resources to support the provision of infrastructure for community sports clubs as part of LAA delivery plans.

We believe the approach and the benefits of this approach can be shared and replicated throughout England.

If you would like more information on the pilots, please contact:

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