

NAVCA Sport Partnership pilot East Riding Voluntary Action Service (ERVAS)

Background

NAVCA's sports partnership project aims to demonstrate the value that local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) can bring to sports clubs and to ensure that LIOs recognise community sports organisations as part of the local third sector. As part of this work NAVCA set up a pilot project to put some of this into practice. Both **York CVS** and **East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS)** managed a pilot and received a grant of £2,000 to support their work with clubs. The pilots aimed to:

- Improve communication and collaboration between sports clubs and LIOs.
- Encourage greater partnership working between statutory, sports and third sector bodies in the delivery of local area agreements.
- Encourage and develop infrastructure support to sports clubs.
- Demonstrate links between National Indicators: NI6 (increase in volunteering), NI7 (environment for a thriving third sector) and NI8 (increase in adult participation in sport).

Delivery of the East Riding pilot

The East Riding Sport Pilot Project was funded by Sport England and delivered between October and March 2009. East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS) received £2,000 to participate and lead on the pilot and provide support to community sports clubs. The pilot project was overseen by a local pilot project group, which included East Riding Voluntary Action Service (ERVAS), East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Sports Development Unit), Humber Sports Partnership the CSP.

Pilot partners had worked together previously, so the pilot provided the opportunity to build upon that. The pilot focused on seven clubs from Pocklington Club Forum. Each club received a £100 bursary at end of pilot project. Sports supported include Cricket, Football, Pentathlon and interestingly a Polo Club.

Progress towards objectives

1) **ERVAS undertaking Health Checks on clubs to increase effectiveness and build capacity**

Organisational health checks were completed with participating clubs on a one to one basis, with organisational needs identified in a development plan. Support was then provided by relevant staff within ERVAS such as the Community Accountant or Funding Adviser. The health check was also aligned to ERCAS (East Riding Club Accreditation Scheme) which prepares clubs for the Clubmark quality mark.

2) **To support and strengthen existing sport forums and networks**

- Partners and clubs attended local sport forums ran by the Local Authority.
- Attendance at Local Networking events such as VYON (Voluntary Youth Organisations Network) was encouraged to promote and share best practice e.g. aligning training needed by sports clubs to safeguard children to the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board, ensuring it did not duplicate Sports Coach UK or other NGB training
- Information on clubs and sport was left in numerous venues including community halls, leisure centres and local authority buildings.

3) **To provide local infrastructure functions to sports clubs and networks**

Infrastructure support was provided to all participating clubs. The services accessed by sports clubs during the lifetime of the pilot were:

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| NGB and local accreditation support. | Support to develop Policies & Procedures |
| IT | Funding and Fundraising ideas |
| Financial accounts advice | Registering club with Volunteer Centre |
| Promotion and marketing support | Support to become a registered charity. |

4) **To improve partnership working between County Sport Partnerships, Local Authority Sports Development and Local Infrastructure Organisations**

Activities to improve the effectiveness and reach of the pilot included:

- Promotional and Marketing material was distributed through ERVAS e-bulletin contacts and newsletter
- Sports clubs were invited to the Annual awards ceremony
- Signposting information to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and advertising in Humber Sport Partnership 'sport report' magazine.

Impact of the pilot

The pilot project was successful in achieving its objectives and has further cemented the partnership work between sport and third sector infrastructure organisations in the East Riding. Since the end of the pilot, the support offered by ERVAS has meant an additional £15,000 worth of funding into sports clubs.

“Three groups who were in need of funding to support club development have all been successful in achieving grass roots funding, this came about through working with the groups from the NAVCA sports pilot. Again it shows the importance of CVS’s working with sport clubs.”

Paul Hamlett, ERVAS

Embedding sport as part of the third sector

“...The feedback from the clubs has been extremely positive, and strong relationships have now been formed with all participating clubs. Other clubs are also aware of the support available to them from ERVAS as a result of the pilot and this will enhance the work of the CVS.”

Paul Hamlett ERVAS

Supporting Clubs

“On a scale of 1-5 I would put the value of the NAVCA project as 5 very high”

David Farmer, Woodhouse Grange Cricket Club

“The project was a useful exercise to take a wide look at the needs of voluntary sports clubs across the East Riding of Yorkshire. The project enabled clubs to focus on their strengths and weaknesses and then we were able to provide practical support to build on their weaknesses and further enhance the infrastructure of their club”

Adam Toes, East Riding Sport and Play Development Service

Delivery of LAA Indicators

The short timescale of the pilots means it is not possible to demonstrate fully the contribution LIOs working with sports organisations can make to achieving National Indicators. The pilot project will be promoted as part of the LSP Review and Refresh, and partners will lobby to seek inclusion of this activity in LAA indicators and identify opportunities to influence staff and resources.

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