

NAVCA Sport Partnership pilot

York CVS

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 an integral part of the local third sector. As part of this work NAVCA set up a pilot project to put some of this into practice.

York CVS and **East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS)** managed the pilots and received a grant of £2,000 to support their work with clubs. The pilot 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 York pilot

The York Sport Pilot Project was funded by Sport England and delivered between October and March 2009. York CVS 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 York CVS, York City Council, Active York (Community Sports Network) and North Yorkshire Sport (County Sport Partnership). This project group identified four objectives for the pilot, this case study will explore how these objectives were met

Progress towards objectives

Objective One: To include sports clubs on York CVS database

The alignment of databases formed an integral element of the pilot. York CVS had 14 sports clubs on their database; it now has 118.

Objective Two: Undertake community sport club health checks with clubs

Organisational Health Checks were completed with three clubs in the York District these were:

- Octopush (underwater hockey – pictured below)
- Athletics club
- Karate Club



The health checks were completed with clubs in February 2009 and action plans were agreed. Work with these clubs is continuing beyond the lifetime of the pilot.

Areas of work highlighted through completion of the health checks included governance, such as developing a constitution, policies and procedures, marketing, business planning and continuity, funding, and volunteering practice. These areas are the same as would be found working with traditional voluntary and community organisations.

Objective Three: To advertise and provide CVS functions to sports clubs

Information was cascaded using as many avenues as possible:

- E bulletin – Information on role of CVS distributed to all sports contacts.
- Voluntary Voice - York CVS newsletter was distributed to sports clubs, more than 100 clubs have signed up to continue receiving this.
- Aligning Websites
- York CVS AGM – November 2008 had a sport specific theme

"Since the pilot project, we have seen a significant rise in the number of sports groups accessing our general services."

Kate Tayler, Information and Development Manager, York CVS.

Objective Four: To improve partnership working between County Sport Partnerships, Community Sport Networks and Infrastructure Organisations

There had been no previous partnership working between partners and the pilot undoubtedly contributed to improving communications and enabling partnership work to happen.

Impact of the pilot

The pilot project was successful in achieving its objectives and has undoubtedly improved partnership working between sport and third sector infrastructure organisations and has contributed to embedding sport as part of the third sector in York.

Working in Partnership

"At the start of the project, York CVS had very little in the way of a working relationship with City of York Council's Sport and Active Leisure team. Through working together on this project, we now have a good understanding of the types of support we both offer, and are comfortable referring groups to each other. Developing this relationship has been invaluable"

Sian Balsom, Development Officer, York CVS

"York are delighted to have been involved in the project, and the benefits have been clearly visible in our work with the city's voluntary sports clubs. Primarily, the relationship between the local authority, the community sports network and the CVS has been strengthened threefold"

Jo Gilliland, York City Council – Sport and Active Leisure Team

Embedding sport as part of the third sector

"Local sports clubs are a popular and important part of the local voluntary sector, but their needs are often overlooked. This project has helped us to put this right."

Colin Stroud, Chief Executive, York CVS.

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

"This pilot has begun that process for us, and we intend to use our successful LAA bid to continue to raise awareness of our services to sports groups, and other sectors we have not traditionally engaged with"

Sian Balsom, Development Officer, York CVS

Contacts

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