



Offaly Local
Sports
Partnership

Operational plan 2009



GROWING OFFALY TOGETHER
Offaly County Development Board

Our Vision

A county with a vibrant sport culture which is inclusive of all people.

Our Mission

To increase participation in sport in County Offaly by promoting inclusion, building capacity, promoting sustainable infrastructure, and developing partnership.

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Terms and Abbreviations Used

Terms

- *Sport* - all forms of physical activities which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness or mental wellbeing, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.
- *Key providers* - agencies those that invest in, or have an influence on sport development in the county. Examples include Offaly County Council / Town Councils, Offaly Vocational Education Committee, and the Health Service Executive.
- *Key stakeholders* - those that deliver sport at the 'coalface' including individuals, schools, sports clubs, community organisations, and facility owners.
- *National Governing Body* - an organisation, recognised by the Irish Sports Council, that coordinates the development of a particular sport or sports through constituent clubs. (e.g. Gaelic Athletic Association, Basketball Ireland. etc).
- *Local, Rural and Community Development Agencies* - local non statutory companies with voluntary representation on their Boards of Management which are responsible for local delivery of national programmes funded by government departments and European Union.
- *Sport Sector* - the collective of the organisations and clubs that promote various codes of sport in the county (e.g. Ladies Football, Badminton, Community Games, Athletics, etc).
- *Community and Voluntary Sector* - the collective of the various organisations, groups and clubs that work in a range of areas of community services development in the county, and are ordinarily managed exclusively by voluntary committees (e.g. Irish Countrywomen's Associations, Youth Clubs, Active Retirement Groups).
- *Low Participation Groups* - groupings that engage in sport less than the mainstream.

Abbreviations

- *AAI* – Athletics Association of Ireland
- *BI* – Basketball Ireland
- *CARA C* -
- *CF* – Community Forum
- *CVYO* – Community, Voluntary & Youth Organisations
- *DKIT* – Dundalk Institute of Technology
- *ECDP* – Edenderry Community Development Project
- *ESCP* – Edenderry Schools Completion Programme
- *E YR* – Edenderry Youth Reach
- *FAI* – Football Association of Ireland
- *F WG* – Facilities working group
- *GFL* – Go For Life
- *HSE* - Health Service Executive
- *ISC* – Irish Sports Council
- *ISC ISM* – Irish Sports Council Irish Sports Monitor
- *ITT* – Institute of Technology, Tralee
- *LRCDA* - Local, Rural and Community Development Agencies
- *LSP* – Local Sports Partnerships
- *NGB* - National Governing Body (of Sport)
- *NS* – National Schools
- *O A* – Offaly Athletics
- *OAK P* – Offaly & Kildare Partnership
- *O C* – Offaly Camogie
- *OCC* - Offaly County Council
- *OCCC* – Offaly County Childcare Committee
- *OCIL* – Offaly Centre for Independent Living
- *O GAA* – Offaly Gaelic Athletic Association
- *O LF* – Offaly Ladies Football
- *OMIS F* – Older Men in Sport forum
- *OMIS WG* – Older Men in Sport working group
- *OSP* - Offaly Sports Partnership
- *OSP EC* – Offaly Sports Partnership Executive Committee
- *OSP MC* – Offaly Sports Partnership Management Committee
- *OVEC* - Offaly Vocational Education Committee
- *PS* - Private Sector
- *SAF* – Sports Ability Forum
- *SS* - Sport Sector
- *THU HSE* – Traveller Health Unit, Health Services Executive
- *TiS WG* – Travellers in Sport working group
- *TWO* – Tullamore Wider Options
- *UCD WERRC* – University College Dublin Women's Education Research and Resource Centre
- *VAI* – Volleyball Association of Ireland
- *VI* – Volunteering Ireland
- *WA WG* – Water Activities working group
- *WIS WG* - Women in Sport working group
- *WOP* – West Offaly Partnership

Section 1 - Operational Plan 2009

1. Introduction

Since the end of 2008 Local Sports Partnerships have been established in all counties in Ireland. The partnerships are the mechanism by which all people will be enabled to participate in sport in their own communities. The partnerships aim to build on work already being carried out by thousands of volunteers in sports clubs and community groups, increasing usage of sports facilities, and creating and implementing plans for the long-term sustainable development of sport in association with local statutory agencies.

2. Offaly Sports Partnership

Offaly Sports Partnership is an inter-agency group which has its origins in the County Development Board Strategy, is sponsored by Offaly County Council and supported by the Irish Sports Council.

The Management Committee of Offaly Sports Partnership is responsible for the formulation of policies and the implementation of strategic and operational plans, and comprises twenty persons from: -

- agencies which invest in various aspects of sport.
- the key *stakeholders* including sports clubs, the disability sector, the private sector and third level institutions.

The Partnership has a fulltime Coordinator and Administrator.

3. Strategic Plan 2008-2010

In 2008 Offaly Sports Partnership produced its first strategic plan which outlined the long term vision and mission the Partnership had for the county; *of a county with a vibrant sports culture... inclusive of all ..., with increased participation through the promotion of inclusion, sustainable infrastructure, the building of capacity, and the development of partnership.*

For the 2008-2010 period the Partnership's priorities are: -

- developing the capacity of the sport sector and;
- increasing the involvement of low-participation groups in sustainable sports structures.

The Partnership's intent is outlined in fourteen objectives set out under the four strategic themes of;

- promoting inclusion
- building capacity
- sustainable infrastructure
- developing partnership

4. Operational Plan 2009

In order to manage the delivery of the Strategic Plan most effectively, Offaly Sports Partnership committed to producing annual Operational Plans outlining measurable actions, and performance indicators.

This document outlines the work of the Partnership for 2009 and the agencies identified that will oversee the implementation of the various actions. The delivery of all actions is subject to the securing financial support.

5. Members of Offaly Sports Partnership

Patron – Matt O’Connor

Chairperson – Padraig Boland

An Garda Síochana – Sgt Ollie Baker

Disability Sector–

FÁS – Seán O’Brien

Health Services Executive – Clodagh Armitage

Local & Rural Development Companies – Padraig Boland (West Offaly Partnership), Ann Starling (Tullamore Wider Options), John Moran (Offaly Leader)

Offaly County Council – Ann Dillon

Offaly Vocational Education Committee – Miriam O’Callaghan

Private Sector Representative – Barry Keegan

Public Representatives – Cllr John Carroll, Cllr Percy Clendennen

Sports – Hughie Egan, Gráinne McIntyre, Karl Bond Snr, Georgina Tuohey, Jude Feehan

Third Level Education Sector – Joe Meegan



Staff of Offaly Sports Partnership



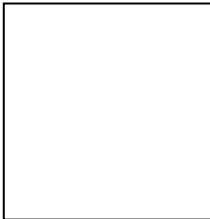
Eamonn Henry, Coordinator



Olivia Murphy, Administrator



Claire Grehan, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer



Student Placement for 2009 (being sought)

Section 2 – Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1. Promoting Inclusion

To increase the level of participation in sport by targeted low participation groups.

Introduction

Offaly Sports Partnership is committed to the ideal of *sport for all*, and believes that people of all ages, abilities, needs and interests have the right to partake in sport. Offaly Sports Partnership will strive for the provision of high-quality opportunities for all sectors of the population. Based on the issues highlighted in the Partnership's Strategic Plan, the focus in the short term will be on: -

- increasing sport involvement by targeted low-participation groups;
- broadening the range of sports on offer to cater for the needs, interests and abilities of the entire population;
- promoting and supporting greater inclusion, integration and equity in sport.

Strategic Objective	Actions 2009	Evaluation Indicators	Targets	Agencies
1.1. To monitor sport participation levels in the county.	Complete the Strategic Planning Evaluation and Knowledge (SPEAK) return for 2009	SPEAK completed	Draft document	OSP AIT or ITT
	Undertake research into participation levels of students of school going age in Offaly in extracurricular competitive sport for their schools	Draft research completed		OSP ISC ISM ITT
	Review relevant research that has a bearing on sports participation within Offaly (e.g. the Irish Sports Monitor, Emma Bunworth's thesis on motor skills of school children)	Set of actions agreed from review meetings		
1.2. To increase the involvement of people with a disability in sport.	Continue the roll out of the Sports Inclusion Disability programme in line with the proposal agreed by Pobal	Number of people with a disability participating	80 people with a disability participating on SIDO projects	OSP OCC CARA C
	Establish a structured Sports Ability Forum	Sports Ability Forum established	4 meetings of the Sports Ability Forum held	OSP SAF
	Identify a strategic direction for disability sports in Offaly	Strategic Plan for Disability Sports in Offaly to be developed	Terms of reference agreed Planning process commenced	OSP SAF
	Develop (in conjunction with the Offaly Centre for Independent Living) a peer led, three year business plan for submission to the	Business plan developed and submitted	Business plan completed Training of peer tutors commenced	OSP OCIL

	<p>Community Services Programme, with the aim of securing long term funding in order to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Further increase the participation of people with disabilities in sport ii. Establish a sustainable structure for their ongoing engagement and participation 			
1.3. To support increased participation in sport by low participation groups.	<p>Pilot an inter agency programme of sport and physical activity for disadvantaged young people in an urban area (Edenderry town)</p> <p>Continue to host an International Games Festival as a method of showcasing and creating an opportunity for migrant participation in sport</p> <p>Support a number of activities that encourage older people to participate in sport and physical activity such as: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Physical Activity Leader (PAL) training for new groups ii. Refresher PALs training for existing groups 	<p>Programme piloted</p> <p>Number of activities delivered</p> <p>Number of participants</p> <p>Number of participants taking part</p> <p>International Games Festival held</p> <p>Number of activities</p> <p>Number of participants</p> <p>Age of participants</p> <p>Number of new PALs trained</p> <p>Number of existing PALs undertaking refresher training</p>	<p>20 disadvantaged young people participating on a six month programme as a minimum</p> <p>50 migrants as a minimum participating in the Festival</p> <p>8 new PALs trained</p> <p>16 PALs to attend refresher training</p>	<p>Acorn Project</p> <p>OAK</p> <p>ECDP</p> <p>ESCP</p> <p>DKIT</p> <p>OSP</p> <p>OSP</p> <p>BI</p> <p>FAI</p> <p>VAI</p> <p>OSP</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>OMiS WG</p> <p>GFL</p>

	<p>iii. Competitive blitzes as part of the ongoing older men in sport project</p> <p>Commence the implementation of the three year business plan to be approved by Pobal, which is designed to employ members of the Traveller community on peer led programmes designed to increase participation in sport and physical activity by five specific target groups, namely: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Traveller children of primary school age ii. Young Traveller men iii. Young Traveller women iv. Older Traveller men v. Older Traveller women <p>Undertake a detailed piece of local research in relation to the participation of women within decision making structures of sport, and develop a comprehensive proposal to increase women’s participation in decision making structures for submission to the Equality for Women Measure of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform</p> <p>Pilot a “Fit for Girls” programme in secondary schools for teenage girls</p>	<p>Number of older men that participate in blitzes organised</p> <p>Level of funding secured to invest in the increase of Traveller participation in sport</p> <p>Number of Travellers employed and retained on the programme</p> <p>Number of Travellers participating from each of the five specific target groups</p> <p>Proposal completed and submitted</p> <p>Number of schools participating</p>	<p>30 older men participating in the blitzes as a minimum</p> <p>€100k secured as a minimum</p> <p>7 employed and retained</p> <p>70 members of the Traveller community participating in sport and physical activity as a minimum</p> <p>1 completed proposal</p> <p>2 schools participating on the programme as a</p>	<p>TWO THU HSE TIS WG OSP</p> <p>OSP WiS WG UCD WERRC</p> <p>HSE OSP</p>
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			minimum	
1.4. To support sport development in rural communities.	Pilot a masters (o35s) project for Gaelic Games with a view to encouraging people in rural communities to continue to participate in their later years	Number of people over the age of 35 participating on the pilot programme	100 people over 35 participating on the project as a minimum	O GAA OSP (O C O LF)

Strategic Goal 2. Building capacity

To build the capacity of sports clubs, schools, and communities to deliver high quality sporting experiences.

Introduction

The input of teachers, administrators, coaches, leaders and parents needs to be supported in order to deliver a high-quality service that meets a range of sporting needs, and ensure equality of opportunity by all. Appropriate support is required to ensure that volunteers continue to play a central role in sports development. Based on the issues highlighted in the Partnership's Strategic Plan, the focus in the short term will be on: -

- increasing the range and variety of sport in the county;
- building the capacity of the sport sector to deliver a high-quality service;
- positively promoting volunteerism and supporting initiatives to recruit and retain volunteers;
- providing localised education and training for those who lead sport.

Strategic Objective	Actions 2009	Evaluation Indicators	Targets	Agencies
2.1. To promote sports provision in Offaly	Update the website of the Partnership regularly	Frequency of updates Number of visitors to website		OSP
	Continue to publish newsletters detailing opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity in Offaly	Number of newsletters published Number of newsletter recipients	3 newsletters published Newsletters disseminated to 600 groups/clubs as a minimum	OSP
2.2. To develop a well structured, sustainable sport sector.	Update database of sports clubs in Offaly	Database updated annually Club database available on the website of the Partnership	20% of clubs giving permission	OSP SS
	Support the ongoing development of clubs	Number of new sports clubs established Existing sports clubs supported	3 new sports clubs established as a minimum 10 clubs supported as a minimum	OSP SS NGB
	Support the continued implementation of the Sports Club Development programmes in Offaly	Number of workshops offered Number of participants attending workshops	10 workshops held as a minimum 100 participants attending workshops as a minimum	OSP OVEC

	Allocation of club development grants	Number of clubs applying Number of successful applicants	30 clubs applying as a minimum 15 clubs receiving support as a minimum	OSP
2.3. To enhance the quality of introduction to sport for children.	Deliver Buntús training (both generic and sports specific) in primary schools	Number of schools participating Number of teachers trained Number of pupils in primary schools that benefited		OSP NS
	Deliver Buntús Start training in pre schools, crèches, etc	Number of pre schools, crèches, etc participating on the programme Number of childcare practitioners trained Number of children in pre schools, crèches, etc that benefited	20 preschools/crèches participating on the programme as a minimum	OSP OCCC
	Support primary school teachers in delivering aspects of the PE curriculum that they are least comfortable with	Number of schools and teachers receiving on the job support Number of pupils participating Teacher confidence in continuing to deliver areas of PE supported	10 schools & 40 teachers receiving on the job support as a minimum 1000 pupils benefiting from the programme Increased teacher confidence in delivering PE strands	OSP ITT

	<p>Support ongoing collaborative efforts between development officers for Athletics and Gaelic Games designed to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Rejuvenate juvenile athletics in the county ii. Improve core fitness for participation across a range of sports <p>Develop (in conjunction with national schools) a mechanism for the coaching of sports hall athletics in the autumn / winter months, and the annual staging of an inter schools competition in the sport. This action will be designed to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Allow children to participate competitively in a fun environment ii. Increase the number of extracurricular participation opportunities for school children (especially girls and particularly in the winter months) iii. Support the development of core mechanics in children, and addresses the low fitness levels identified in local research undertaken in 2008 	<p>Baselines of athletics fitness established for future comparison</p> <p>Number of children participating on the joint programmes planned</p> <p>Number of children progressing from programmes into organized mainstream activities</p> <p>Capacity of schools to deliver training without external instructors</p> <p>Administrative capacity of schools to run competitive programmes without external intervention</p> <p>Number of schools participating</p> <p>Number of children participating</p>	<p>150 children participating on the programme as a minimum</p> <p>Minimum 10% progression</p> <p>Medium to high capacity</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>16 schools participating on the programme as a minimum</p> <p>1,200 children participating on the programme as a minimum</p>	<p>OSP AAI O A O GAA ITT</p> <p>OSP NS CYVO AAI ITT</p>
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	Assist in the delivery of summer camps in disadvantaged areas and among disadvantaged communities	Number of camps delivered Number of participants	6 camps supported as a minimum 240 children participating on the camps as a minimum	OSP ITT LRCDA CYVO
2.4. To increase community involvement in sport development.	Deliver the Active Leadership Award training for community, youth and voluntary organisations	Number of leaders trained Number of community, youth and voluntary organizations receiving the programme	12 leaders trained as a minimum 3 CYVOs receiving the programme as a minimum	OSP CYVO
	Pilot the development and implementation of a community based plan for increased participation in sport and physical activity, in conjunction with schools, the community and the private sector in rural areas (most likely Ferbane or Banagher)	Plan developed Supports for delivery of plan sought	1 plan developed	LRCDA (WOP) OSP NS PS
	Develop and implement a volunteer recruitment and retention training programme in conjunction with Laois, Longford and Westmeath Sports Partnerships	Programme developed Programme implemented Number of clubs participating	1 programme developed Programme delivered in 1 location 15 clubs participating on the programme as a minimum	OSP LSP CF VI
	Convene an ad hoc water sports activities group with a view to developing a strategy for	Number of stakeholders participating in strategy	5 stakeholders engaged as a minimum	OSP WA WG O VEC

	maximizing opportunities in water sports participation in the county	development	Terms of reference for plan agreed Planning commenced	SS
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Strategic Goal 3.Sustainable Infrastructure

To support the development of sustainable sports facilities in the county.

Introduction

Forward planning for sports facilities should aim to marry the twin issues of inclusion (accessibility and affordability) and sustainability (the ability to maintain the facility at a high standard) in order that optimum usage is achieved. Based on the issues highlighted in the Partnership's Strategic Plan, the focus in the short term will be on: -

- supporting facility owners/operators in ensuring higher levels of usage, greater inclusion, and sustainability;
- promoting coordination between schools, sports clubs, and communities in facility planning and development at community level.
- promoting multi-use sports facilities, initiating strategic planning for the sustainable future development of sports facilities.

Strategic Objective	Actions 2009	Evaluation Indicators	Targets	Agencies
3.1. To initiate planning for the future development of sports infrastructure in the county.	Complete an audit of sports facilities in Offaly	Audit completed Facilities database developed Facilities database available on the website of the Partnership	Audit completed 30% of facilities publicized on the website of the Partnership as a minimum	OSP OCC AIT
	Establish a facilities working group to identify priorities for facility development in Offaly	Facilities working group established Priorities for facility development identified	Report of working group furnished	FWG OSP
3.2. To promote the development of inclusive, multi-sport facilities.	Deliver workshops which assist clubs and communities in applying for the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism Sports Capital Programme	Workshops delivered Applications made Allocations approved	3 workshops delivered as a minimum 20 applications submitted as a minimum 10 applications approved as a minimum	OSP OCC CF

Strategic Goal 4. Developing Partnership

To develop a partnership approach to sport development in the county.

Introduction

There is a need to increase collaboration between the key providers and stakeholders in sport in Offaly and to form relationships with the Irish Sports Council, National Governing Bodies of sport, other national agencies, and other Local Sports Partnerships. Based on the issues highlighted in the Partnership's Strategic Plan, the focus in the short term will be on: -

- communicating awareness of the partnership, and generating support for its strategic plan.
- facilitating greater coordination between all provider agencies in the County
- improving collaboration and coordination between providers and stakeholders in planning and developing sport in the future.
- establishing strategic working relationships with other agencies that impact on sport development.

Strategic Objective	Actions 2009	Evaluation Indicators	Target	Agencies
4.1. To effectively promote the identity of Offaly Sports Partnership.	Update the website of the Partnership regularly	Frequency of updates Number of visitors to website	Website updated once a month as a minimum 300 visitors to the website as a minimum	OSP
	Launch the website	Website launch completed	Website launched	OSP
	Continue to publish and widely distribute newsletters from the Partnership	Number of newsletters published Number of groups / clubs receiving newsletter	3 newsletters published as a minimum Newsletters disseminated to 600 as a minimum	OSP
4.2. To promote coordination and collaboration between key provider agencies in the county.	Develop and implement an inter agency Operational Plan for 2009	Partner agency involvement and investment	Plan developed	OSP All Partner Agencies
	Facilitate working groups to develop and oversee implementation of various actions as laid out in the Operational Plan	Actions overseen by working groups	5 working groups supported	OSP FWG OMiS F OMiS WG TiS WG WiS WG

4.3. To facilitate regular communication between all stakeholders in sport development inside and outside the county.	Organise regular meetings of the Offaly Sports Partnership Executive Committee and Management Committee	Regular meetings of the Offaly Sports Partnership Committees held	6 OSP Committee meetings held as a minimum	OSP OSP EC OSP MC
	Maintain contact with the ISC, LSPs, NGBs and other national agencies involved in sports development	Ongoing contact with ISC, LSP, NGB, etc maintained and recorded		OSP LSP NGB
	Continue to collaborate with other LSPs on projects of mutual benefit	Collaborative projects delivered	1 collaborative project delivered as a minimum	OSP LSP
	Continue to collaborate with NGBs on projects of mutual benefit	Collaborative projects delivered	1 collaborative project delivered as a minimum	OSP NGB
4.4. To operate an effective Sports Partnership.	Secure financial support to implement the Operational Plan for 2009	Level of financial support received from the ISC, Pobal, other local and national sources	300k secured as a minimum	OSP
	Continue to review systems established to effectively manage the affairs of the Partnership	Systems reviewed annually		OSP

