



Offaly Local  
Sports  
Partnership

# Operational plan 2008



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.**

## **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**

- *AI* - Athletics Ireland
- *AIT* - Athlone Institute of Technology
- *CVYO* – Community, Voluntary & Youth Organisations
- *HSE* - Health Service Executive
- *IRFU* - Irish Rugby Football Union
- *ITT* – Institute of Technology, Tralee
- *LRCDA* - Local, Rural and Community Development Agencies
- *NGB* - National Governing Body of Sport
- *OCC* - Offaly County Council
- *OCCC* – Offaly County Childcare Committee
- *OCG* - Offaly Community Games
- *OSP* - Offaly Sports Partnership
- *OVEC* - Offaly Vocational Education Committee
- *PCDP* - Portarlinton Community Development Project
- *PS* - Private Sector
- *SS* - Sport Sector
- *WIS (WG)* - Women in Sport Working Group

## **Section 1 - Operational Plan 2008**

### ***1. Introduction***

By the end of 2008 Local Sports Partnerships will 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 origins in the County Development Board Strategy, and is sponsored by Offaly County Council.

The Management Committee of Offaly Sports Partnership is responsible for the formulation of policies and the implementation of strategic and operational plans 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 outlines a long term vision of *a county with a vibrant sport culture which is inclusive of all people* and its' mission *to increase participation in sport in County Offaly by promoting inclusion, building capacity, promoting sustainable infrastructure, and developing 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 2008***

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 2008 and agencies identified that who will oversee the implementation of the various actions. The delivery of all actions is subject to securing financial support.

#### ***5. Members of Offaly Sports Partnership***

*Patron* – Matt O’Connor

*Chairperson* – Padraig Boland

*An Garda Síochana* – Sgt Ollie Baker

*Disability Sector*– Eimear Kelly

*FÁS* – Seán O’Brien

*Health Services Executive* – Clodagh Armitage

*Local & Rural Development Companies* – Padraig Boland (West Offaly Partnership), Pat League (OAK 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



Emma Bunworth, Student Placement

## 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 range of related issues highlighted in the consultative process the key focus in the short term will be on: -

- identifying low-participation groups in the county.
- 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 2008	Evaluation Indicators	Agencies
1.1. To monitor sport participation levels in the county.	Develop a framework for monitoring overall sport participation in County Offaly.  Implement a <i>Women in Sport</i> initiative which will (a) establish a Working Group (b) conduct research into participation in sport by women and (c) host a conference to present local/national data.	Draft framework document agreed.  Research and conference completed.	AIT, HSE  WIS(WG)
1.2. To increase the involvement of people with a disability in sport.	Appoint a Sports Inclusion Development Officer for people with a disability and delivery of work plan in line with funding application.  Establish a <i>People with a Disability in Sport</i> Forum.	Sports Inclusion Development Officer appointed.  People with a Disability in Sport Forum established.	OCC  OSP
1.3. To support increased participation in sport by low participation groups.	Develop Phase 1 (Training and Business Planning) of an <i>Increasing Traveller Participation in Sport</i> initiative.  Support activities that involve migrant participation in mainstream sport.	16 Tutors trained and 3yr business plan agreed and funded.  Number of participants involved in activities.	OSP, LRCDA, HSE  OSP

	<p>Support the implementation of a <i>Soccer on the Green</i> Project for disadvantaged young people in Local Authority Housing Estates.</p> <p>Implement a project to increase participation in a selected minority sport amongst disadvantaged young women.</p>	<p>Number of participants. Potential for project to be replicated.</p> <p>Number of participants. Potential for project to be replicated</p>	<p>OSP, OCC, PCDP</p> <p>OSP, OVEC, CYVO</p>
1.4. To support sport development in rural communities.	Formulate an initiative to increase participation in sport by older men.	Draft initiative agreed.	OSP, SS, HSE, LRCDA

## 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 during the consultative process the key focus in the short term will be on: -

- developing sport participation baselines in order to inform future planning.
- 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 2008	Evaluation Indicators	Agencies
2.1. To promote sport provision in County Offaly	Develop an Information Point promoting opportunities for sports participation in Offaly during 2008.	Information point developed. Number of users/hits	OSP, PS
2.2. To develop a well structured, sustainable sport sector.	Update database of sports clubs in Offaly.	Number of sports clubs in the county.	OSP
	Link with National Governing Bodies to develop new clubs as a result of actions outlined under 1.3., 2.3., and 2.4.	3 new sports clubs.	OSP, NGBs
	Deliver a <i>Rugby Development Programme</i> targeted at children of school going age.	200 children introduced to rugby. Trained volunteers.	OSP IRFU, OCG
	Organise and deliver a 2008 <i>Sports Club Development Programme</i> with a focus on strategic planning and coach education.	8 workshops delivered to 40 participants.	OSP
	Administer a <i>Sports Clubs Grant Scheme</i> .	Grant Scheme administered.	OSP

2.3. To enhance the quality of introduction to sport for children.	Deliver <i>Buntús Teacher Training</i> for Primary Schools.	18 schools attending.	OSP
	Deliver <i>Buntús Start Training</i> for Pre-School leaders.	12 pre schools attending.	OCCC, OSP
	Deliver an <i>Athletics Development Programme</i> for children in the school and community setting.	Number of participants Increased fitness levels.	AI, AIT, ITT, SS, OCC, LRCDA
	Assist the delivery of summer activities/camps in disadvantaged communities.	Number of activities/camps/participants.	OSP, OCC, LRCDA, CYVO
2.4. To increase community involvement in sport development.	Formulate a pilot inter-agency project to empower communities develop and implement locally relevant plans to increase participation in sport.	Draft of pilot project agreed.	HSE, LRCDA

### **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 during the consultative process the key 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 2008	Evaluation Indicators	Agencies
3.1. To initiate planning for the future development of sports infrastructure in the county.	Conduct an analysis of National Sports Facilities Strategy (subject to its publication) and identify key issues as they relate to County Offaly.	Analysis completed - key issues identified.	OCC, OSP
3.2. To promote the development of inclusive, multi-sport facilities.	Deliver a workshop which assists clubs and communities with application for Sports Capital Programme and promotes inclusion and multi-usage of facilities.	25 Sports Capital Grants allocated to County Offaly.	OSP

### **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 during the consultative process the key focus in the short term will be on: -

- communicating awareness of the partnership, and generating support for its strategic plans.
- 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 2008	Evaluation Indicators	Agencies
4.1. To effectively promote the identity of Offaly Sports Partnership.	<p>Launch <i>Strategic Plan 2008-2010</i>.</p> <p>Promote <i>Strategic Plan 2008-2010</i> to sports clubs, schools and communities.</p> <p>Develop Offaly Sports Partnership Website.</p>	<p>Strategic plan launched</p> <p>Awareness of Offaly Sports Partnership.</p> <p>Website developed and number of hits.</p>	OSP All partner agencies
4.2. To promote coordination and collaboration between key provider agencies in the county.	<p>Develop and implement an inter-agency <i>Operational Plan</i> for 2008</p> <p>Create and facilitate working groups to plan/oversee implementation of various actions.</p>	<p>Involvement and investment by partner agencies.</p> <p>3 new Project Working Groups established.</p>	OSP All partner agencies
4.3. To facilitate regular communication between all stakeholders in sport development inside and outside the county.	<p>Organise regular meetings of Offaly Sports Partnership.</p> <p>Maintain ongoing contact with the Irish Sports Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport and other national agencies involved in sport development.</p> <p>Explore potential to collaborate on projects with other Local</p>	<p>6 meetings of partnership.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation with national bodies and other Local Sports Partnerships.</p>	OSP

	Sports Partnerships.		
4.4. To operate an effective Sports Partnership.	<p>Secure financial support to implement 2008 Operational Plan.</p> <p>Establish working group to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- seek funding to resource the appointment of a Sports Development Officer;</li> <li>- examine the potential of securing corporate and private sector investment for sports development in Offaly.</li> </ul> <p>Establish systems to effectively manage the affairs of the Partnership.</p>	<p>Level of funding sourced from Irish Sports Council and generated from other sources.</p> <p>Degree to which Strategic Plan is being implemented.</p>	OSP