



active
derbyshire

Annual Review

2024/25

MAKING
OUR MOVE



Together with our partners, we are working to address inequality and empower everyone to be active in a way that works for them.

Making our Move – our shared vision and approach to Uniting the Movement in Notts and Derbyshire

describes how we are going about this.

We've been working across Derbyshire and Derby in a number of places and on a range of programmes, some of which we've been leading on and some we've been supporting our partners to lead.

This document gives a snapshot and a brief summary of some of that work, categorised under the five aims listed opposite as well as some district-specific work.



Creating a culture where everyone can be active and move more

The **Sports Welfare Lead** is a relatively new role, that is funded by **Sport England** and **The National Lottery** to support clubs and physical activity providers to develop safer and more inclusive spaces.

This work aligns to our Making Our Move strategy by supporting positive and inclusion cultures that help break down some barriers to participation.

Our Sport Welfare Lead works with clubs and physical activity providers to help influence and shape environments that know how to support participants from when they first walk through the door, offering a space that is welcoming, accepting and can support wider needs around safeguarding and welfare should it be required.



Feedback: The work you have done for us so far has been great. You have opened the rest of our Committees eyes as to how important safeguarding and welfare is within sport and our club and making us aware of areas that we hadn't perhaps considered previously. South Derbyshire based football club.

What has happened over the last year?

- Supported a number of national, local and county wide event and competitions – raising awareness to safeguarding and welfare whilst there
- Visiting a number of clubs offering direct work for example training, sharing resources, offering support around signposting, supporting policy and procedure updates
- Delivering youth voice initiatives
- Supporting clubs in developing warm welcomes
- Offered training around Play their Way – child first coaching
- Offered training around Understanding gangs, knife crime and criminal exploitation
- Delivered Active Bystander Training

Our Sports Welfare Lead shares a monthly newsletter raising awareness to various topics to create safer sporting environments:

[Click to find out more](#)



Making our Move Event

We held the Making our Move event on 03 October at Eastwood Hall, bringing together 174 people from various organisations across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The day focused on how we can work together to lead change in our communities.

A key part of the event was a workshop on including lived experience in decision-making, exploring how we can make this a part of everyday policy and practice.

TALKING SPACE

#MakingourMove

We held Talking Spaces throughout the year to share learning and lived experience from our local communities.

-  **May 24** Putting insight into action
-  **June 24** Creating walkable communities
-  **Oct 24** Turning strategy into movement
-  **Jan 25** Empowering people to create walkable communities
-  **Jan 25** How benefits help or hinder movement
-  **Jan 25** Supporting people to be active during Ramadan
-  **Feb 25** Active Bystanders, what this is and how we can all support people to be more active

We created stories to share just some of the fantastic work happening across our city and county along with some key learning we've gathered along the way:

-  **Erewash's Walking to School Bus**
-  **Living with a long term health condition explained with the Spoon Theory**
-  **Bolsover Compass's Youth Ambassador Programme**
-  **Working in partnership with Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity in Derby**
-  **Transition Chesterfield's Litter pick**



Enabling children and young people to have positive experiences of being active throughout their childhood

The **Children's Healthy Weight Core** working group met to look at next steps following the **Children and Young People's Healthy Weight Summit** in June. At the summit, discussions took place with system partners.

Focused on helping schools get free **Teach Active licenses**, giving them fun online resources to make maths and English lessons more active. By working closely with Public Health, education teams, and DCCT, we've targeted schools where young people face the biggest challenges.

So far, **12** schools are using **Teach Active** regularly, and after presenting at **Derby's Mental Health Leads Network**, 4 more schools have joined in.



Girls Active was relaunched in February 2025 which includes a Derby school.

Young leaders from City of Derby Academy and The Bemrose School were among those to take part in a **Girls Active** event which they co-created, co-designed and co-delivered.

It included activities focussing on strength, flexibility and functional fitness, self-love, self-appreciation, girls' empowerment, female solidarity, nutrition and healthy eating and how that affects physical activity, and a focus around how girls feel when being active as opposed to just how they look.

All of the elements on the day were chosen following input from the girls.

Taking learnings on from last year's Girls Active event, to create a safe space for the girls the event included only female deliverers and staff, long sleeve t-shirts were offered as well as short sleeve t-shirts, free sports hijabs were given to those girls who wanted them, and a healthy breakfast was offered at the start of the day.

Click to find out more



**BELIEVE
MOVE
ACHIEVE**

**DERBYSHIRE
SCHOOL
GAMES**

Young people from Brackenfield SEND School were among those who took part in the **Believe. Move. Achieve. School Games event** at the University of Nottingham's David Ross Sport Village on June 10, 2024.

All of the young people took part in a variety of activities such as archery, martial arts and circuits, as well as a workshop focussing on teamwork and building resilience which was led by athlete mentor and BMX champion Kelvin Batey.

The event was aimed at young people with special educational needs, and was co-created and shaped by the young people themselves – with sessions held in school prior to the day to gather insight into what activities the young people would like to take part in.

Feedback showed that almost all of the young people felt their confidence had increased after attending the event.

[Click to find out more](#)

Open School Facilities Programme (OSF)

Thirty-three schools across Derbyshire, including 10 in Derby City, are now actively delivering their Year 3 activities through the **Opening School Facilities (OSF) programme**. A total of **£409,705** has been allocated to support a wide range of activities and resources, including equipment, staff training, community clubs, coaching, and transport for swimming. There are some standout examples, such as Brackenfield Special School, which won an Active Erewash award, and St Andrews School in Derby, which has used OSF to build wider partnerships.

A key focus this year was on sustainability, with schools asked to show how they would keep activities going beyond March 2025, when OSF funding came to an end. Many schools showed promising plans for long-term continuation. Partners are continuing to visit schools, develop case studies, and gather feedback to help share good practice across the network.



Active Lives Survey

150 schools in Derbyshire were chosen to take part in the **Active Lives** survey in 2024-25, helping us gather valuable insight into how young people, teachers - and in some cases, parents - feel about physical activity. 48 schools completed the survey, giving us useful data to help shape future work.

The more responses we get, the better we can understand and support young people's activity levels across the county. We are currently working hard to promote the survey and talk about its benefits with all our partners.



Working with people and communities who experience the greatest inequality

Working with others, we have been engaging with communities to understand lived experience and empower people to be active in a way that works for them. This work is happening in all of our districts, boroughs and cities and as the work is place based, looks different everywhere. Here are just some of the examples:



Amber Valley

From talking to a local resident who lives with a disability in Somercotes and some other people across Derbyshire who face similar challenges. We created the '**Living with a Long-term Health Condition or Disability Explained Through the Spoons Theory**' [video](#) to demonstrate what it is like to be physically active, the expectations, misconceptions and challenges they face daily.



It also focuses on how they manage their energy and the mental and physical aspects of living with a health condition. The video was voiced by another person in the community who faces similar challenges and has a walking group for people with health conditions, we hoped having someone from the community would directly connect with people and make the message stronger.



Bolsover

We joined the **Bolsover Compass Youth Ambassadors** in October for their first public event designed and run by the Youth Ambassadors. The idea was to introduce residents to more places in the community and get them more involved in the area.

For the Youth Ambassadors it was an opportunity to build confidence, meet new people, develop skills for the future and contribute more to their community. The work is in partnership with **Junction Arts**, **Bolsover District Active Schools Network** and **BLAST** (Building Lives Around Shirebrook Town) who have supported the young people to share their voice and ideas.



Chesterfield

Strong relationships have been developed amongst partners as we have developed our place-based approach to addressing inequalities. We have had a focus on how we work together and the action we can take collectively. This has led to the development of the **Chesterfield Learning Lab** and a broader network of partners coming together across different layers of the system.

In Holme Hall, **Walk Derbyshire** investment has been extended into year 3 of the programme, enabling £50,000 to be carried forward to support new ideas led by the community consortium, **Holme Hall Active Community Network**. New partnerships have been built, bringing together local organisations, to help deliver the ambition.

Working with partners, we've supported the work in Barrow Hill, investing in approaches to hearing resident voice and working with others to build the capacity of the workforce.





Derby

Over the past few months in Derby, we have built strong relationships across **Locality 5**, supporting youth engagement strategies, community safety, and health and wellbeing through local partnerships. Much of our recent focus has been on shaping the **Sport England Place Partnership**, including supporting the induction of new team members, strengthening cross-sector collaboration, and contributing to wider system leadership efforts across the city.

We supported the City Council to submit a bid to the Sport England **Multi Sport Activation Fund** which will support the coordinated use of the new PlayZones, LTA sites and the Football Hub.

Active Derbyshire also played a part in the establishment of the **Derby Nature Collective** and the successful Expression of Interest to the **Nature Towns and Cities Fund**.



Derbyshire Dales

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, Derbyshire Dales focused on developing a district-wide strategy to address physical inactivity and health inequalities, with strong collaboration between Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire County Council (public health), and ICB. This work is aligned with the Dales Local Integrated Group (DLIG) and partners have enabled conversations with DLIG partners about how they can play a role in addressing inequalities relating to physical activity.

The **Bradwell Community Engagement Pilot** provided valuable insight into the challenges faced by isolated rural residents, particularly within the farming community, leading to new social initiatives spearheaded by **The Farming Life Centre**. Public Health's locality funding has enabled some work with children and young people involving opportunities for physical activity, supporting organisations like **SEND Dynamic and Wild Roots**, aiming to improve mental wellbeing and community engagement. Changes in personal across the system have brought about both challenges and opportunities moving into the next year and beyond.



Erewash

Over the past year, strong collaboration with local partners led to a successful Partnership Summit in May, the development of the Sport England Place Partnership, and ongoing support for key community projects like **Parkside CIC** and the **Active Neighbourhood Pilot** in Cotmanhay.

We supported local schools, health providers, and community organisations through initiatives such as Exercise by Referral research, youth-focused strategy development, lifestyle medicine sessions, and inclusive physical activity programmes like All Move in Erewash. The **All Move in Erewash (AMIE) Physical Activity Inclusion Officer** post was filled in summer 2024. A stakeholder event in January brought together over 35 community members and partners to inform the next phase of work, ensuring the voices of those with lived experience remain central.

Two key roles have been recruited to drive the Place Partnership forward, a leadership group is now established, and we continue to gather insight, build connections, and align efforts across health, education, sport, and community sectors for long-term impact.

High Peak

There has been a continued focus on **Move More High Peak** over the last 12 months, exploring new and different ways to enable people to move more. Move More specific groups have been embedded within the Community Neighbourhood Networks, enabling wider connections to creating opportunities in our communities.

Moving for Better Health has been a key focus, driven by partners and was the focus of the joint Health and Wellbeing Board and Neighbourhood Alliance meeting.

Working alongside others, we've aligned resource and investment to support the continued **place working** in Gamesley.



North East Derbyshire

In North East Derbyshire, the emphasis was on building collaborative frameworks to promote physical activity and tackle health inequalities through place-based approaches.

The Active Neighbourhood Pilot in Danesmoor and Clay Cross evolved into a much broader health and wellbeing approach, featuring events like the **Clay Cross Games** and supported by a growing consortium of partners. Engagement activities, including through the likes of new litter picking activity, across the Danesmoor community has helped gather insight.

The opening of **Clay Cross Active**, the regenerated leisure centre, presents new opportunities for our place based approach and conversations are ongoing about how this facility can cater for local people who may not ordinarily access it. Priorities are now on building on the legacy of the work in Danesmoor and partners are continuing to look at sustaining the work via added capacity and new investment.

Working with the **Place Alliance** conversations have been had about how we strategically connect with other partnerships to understand need in communities and align prevention agendas, guided by the Building Blocks of Health framework. There has been a recognition of the changes coming for ICB and Place Alliances over the next year so, despite good progress, this work has been paused.

South Derbyshire

Over the past year we have been working to understand ways to connect and hear the views of a wider range of communities about what inspires them to move more and their existing experiences. Working through the Community Engagement and Co-production Consortium to develop a new approach to recruit 'Community Movement Champions'.



Maximising the potential of being active to improve physical and mental health

We've collaborated in different ways across Derby and Derbyshire depending on what's needed locally. Some of the examples of the work happening are illustrated here:

Became involved in a **Community of Practice (COP)** with [Move Consulting](#) as part of the **National Physical Activity for Health Pathways initiative**.



The COP supported a co-development approach to create practical and effective guidance for designing physical activity for health pathways. The aim was to make it easier for people living with or at risk of long-term health conditions to access the support they needed to move more.

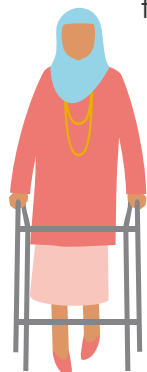
[Click to find out more](#)

Derbyshire Physical Activity Collaborative

The Derbyshire Physical Activity Collaborative is making good progress, with Move Consulting appointed to lead the countywide review of Exercise by Referral. The review, running from August until December, includes data analysis and an engagement session with over 50 stakeholders from health, leisure, public health, councils, and the VCSE sector.

The collaboration is contributing to wider discussions about embedding physical activity in health and care, aligning with ICS-led falls prevention work, and starting local conversations around heart health and lifestyle change. Health professionals have also been involved, including through a session with the High Peak Primary Care Network.

Some key new connections over the last year have been joining the **ICB Improvement Collaborative** – a collaborative group looking at pathways, integrated ways of working, workforce support etc around falls prevention, and connecting with the ICB Sustainability Programme Manager around ways to influence the refresh of their NHS Green Strategy for Derby and Derbyshire around active travel.



[Click to find out more](#)

Creating accessible, safe, and inclusive places and environments for physical activity



This year we launched the Active Environment Network - The Active Environment Network is a space for anyone who works to provide safe, active and inclusive places and spaces to come together so we can share learning, develop opportunities and engage in supporting people to make movement a part of their lives.

April 2024 – Creating Safe Open Spaces

July 2024 – Creating Community Activity Hubs

Dec 2024 – Embedding Health and Movement into the Planning System

Jan 2025 – Connecting Nature and Movement



Walk Derbyshire Pilots

Walk Derbyshire made strong progress through its local pilot projects, helping more people get active through every day walking and building stronger community links.

Work included infrastructure developments such as acquiring new benches, identifying new signage needs, working with communities to map routes and identify local assets such as parks and local community hubs.

Consortium groups also worked with communities to understand barriers and coproduce solutions such as creating local events and community activities, train volunteers and support new and existing led walks.

Evaluation

Rebecca Sutton, our embedded PhD student helped evaluate the Pilot and overall Walk Derbyshire work, showing the importance of building trust, working in partnership, and taking a joined-up approach. Her stage 1 findings, which includes examining the initial processes of developing diverse consortia and the broader Walk Derbyshire initiative itself, can be found here:

Click to find out more

Wider Connections

Walk Derbyshire also held events to share learning, helped shape wider county strategies, and raised awareness of how walking can improve health and reduce inequalities at events such as the **Derbyshire Assoc Local Councils (DALC)** AGM where we hosted a round table discussion around everyday walking and how Parish Councils can support their communities to be more active and the Children's Healthy Weight Network, where the system approach to walking, in particular through the Pilot programme, is integrated into their action plan.

Comms and Engagement

The **Walk Derbyshire app** launched in July 2024, a free community led tool helping people find and explore local outdoor spaces and short walks in their neighbourhood. The aim of the app is that people can directly contribute to the content on the app by sharing their own local walks and outdoor spaces.



Within a month of launching, we had **868 downloads** and by the end of 2024 we had **1,384 downloads**. Walk Derbyshire also has a quarterly newsletter with 4 editions sent from April 2024 to March 2025. During that period it gained **58 new subscribers** totalling **495** newsletter recipients, gained an average of 25% individual opens and 53% total clicks per newsletter.



Workforce

In 2024 alone, across our 8 districts and boroughs our accredited Walk Leader Training has reached:

- ✓ **Over 140 volunteers trained by district and borough leads**
- ✓ **Over 90 individual walking groups supported**
- ✓ **Over 30,000 attendances at led walks**

Powerful feedback also evidenced walking groups as a vital social connection:

"what you don't realise is that this is the only social interaction I have all week - this is my lifeline"

Jog Derbyshire and Walk Derbyshire co-ordinators have also been working together to train existing Jog Derbyshire groups to offer a walking option to existing jog groups.



Funding/Invest

Over the past year, we promoted **Sport England's new Movement Fund**, which launched in April 2024, offering up to **£15,000** for projects helping people to be more active—particularly disabled people, girls aged 5–16, and culturally diverse communities.

We supported several successful bids, bringing in investment of **£96,219**. We also helped secure **£10,000** from the **Postcode Lottery**. The funding newsletter continued to grow, increasing circulation by 30% from July 2023 to July 2024. We hosted funding information sessions, including one with links CVS that led to further one-to-one support.

