active derbyshire

Annual Review

2025/26

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.

1 Creating a culture where everyone can be active and move more

Sport Welfare Lead – Creating Safer and More Inclusive Cultures

The Sport Welfare Lead role continued to gain momentum across Derbyshire, supporting clubs, leisure providers and physical activity organisations to create environments that are welcoming, inclusive and safe from the moment someone walks through the door. Our lead has provided direct support to clubs on safeguarding, welfare, inclusion, mental health and safer cultures. This included one-to-one work with clubs, training sessions, and ongoing guidance around policies, reporting and day-to-day practice.

The launch of the **Mental Health Friendly Clubs** programme brought together sport, mental health and voluntary sector partners to support clubs to take meaningful action on wellbeing and suicide prevention. Alongside this, work with National Governing Bodies supported neuro-friendly clubs, dementia-friendly provision, digital harm awareness and women and girls in sport (periods and menstruation). Alongside this focus on women and girls, we shared period packs for coaches to start and normalise the conversation in clubs. **The Safer Spaces, Stronger Minds** conference focused on violence against women and girls in sport and leisure. The aim of this work is to shift cultures so that people feel safe, supported and able to stay active for life.

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

Click to find out more

TALKING SPACE
#MakingourMove

Sharing Learning and Lived Experience

Talking Space sessions continued to provide a platform for partners to explore issues linked to physical activity, inequality and system change.

Across the year, sessions addressed topics including active practices, racism and micro-aggressions, walkable communities, empowering communities, supporting activity during Ramadan, and active bystander approaches. These open learning spaces brought together partners from health, local government, sport, the voluntary sector and community organisations, creating opportunities to share lived experience and challenge traditional ways of working.

Feedback from participants highlighted the value of hearing directly from people with lived experience and the relevance of these conversations to real-world decision-making.

Links to sessions held in 2025/26 are here

Celebrating the work in our communities

Throughout the year, storytelling remained an important way of sharing learning, challenging assumptions and celebrating local impact. Films and stories highlighted everyday experiences of movement, including living with a long-term health condition, being active within cultural and faith settings, youth leadership, community walking and place-based change.

These stories were shared across events, partner networks and online platforms including our **Derbyshire Celebration Event**, which was held in July 2025.

The stories have helped us and partners to better understand barriers that are not always visible, such as confidence, safety, fatigue or stigma, reinforcing the importance of inclusive, flexible approaches to physical activity.

Here are a selection of the stories created this year:

- Spoon Theory
- Community Model of Health Referral
- All Move in Erewash
- Bolsover Youth Ambassador Programme
- Exercise Referral in Erewash
- Bolsover PALS service
- Walking to School Bus

Investment

Secured £252,697 in funding from **Place Partnership** and **Place Universal Offer** to work with our communities facing greatest inequalities to develop opportunities to be active and move more.

Supported 7 organisations to secure **£66,256** in funding (primarily through **Sport England's Movement Fund**). Projects focus on expanding community physical activity opportunities, including introducing hockey in schools, women's activity sessions, and walking programmes for the Ukrainian community. One capital grant secured accessible equipment for disabled young people at an outdoor centre. In addition, we **provided over 64 organisations** funding advice.

Held two funding specific online sessions, around **easyfundraising** and the **Movement Fund.**

Environmental Sustainability

We have been spending time working out how we can support our environmental sustainability aims and have taken steps this year to share learning around what we can all do to create a positive impact on our environment. We created a resources page our website sharing hints, tips and small actions.

Click to find out more

We also hosted a Movement Fund Workshop in October to highlight how the fund can support environmental sustainability ambitions.

Click to find out more

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

THIS GIRL CAN

Girls Active – Co-creating Confidence, Choice and Belonging

Girls Active continued to evolve as a youth voice-led programme, supporting girls to shape activity experiences that feel relevant, inclusive and empowering. In schools in Derby, girls took on leadership roles, influencing both the activities on offer and the environments in which they take place. Teacher training, ambassador visits and celebration events supported schools to embed Girls Active principles while keeping youth voice at the centre.

Place-based insight led expansion of Girls Active in areas such as Bolsover, where low confidence, aspiration and access to opportunity had been identified as key barriers. By working collaboratively with schools and local partners, Girls Active became an opportunity, not only for increasing activity levels, but for developing leadership skills, confidence and positive identity. The programme continues to demonstrate how co-design and safe spaces can transform experiences of physical activity for girls and young women.

Insight, Data and Tools to Support Change

SPORT ENGLAND

The Active Lives Young People Survey continued to provide vital insight into how young people feel about physical activity, capturing attitudes, motivations and barriers across our areas. Thousands of responses across Derbyshire gave schools and partners access to tailored reports, supporting evidence-based decision-making and local action.

In 2024-25 there were 6873 responses from young people in Derbyshire.

Alongside this, the **Children and Young People Mapping Tool** was increasingly used by partners to identify need, align provision and reduce duplication. Feedback showed the tool helped organisations work more deliberately with communities and cohorts who need support most, strengthening the collective response to inactivity and inequality.

Click to find out more

Open School Facilities Programme (OSF)

Opening School Facilities

Opening School Facilities (OSF) supported schools across Derbyshire to open their spaces for community use, creating local opportunities for children and families to be active closer to home. Funding supported equipment, staffing, training, transport and partnerships with community clubs, enabling a wide variety of activities to take place both during and beyond the school day.

A key focus this year was sustainability, with schools supported to consider how activities could continue beyond the life of the funding. The impact of the work showed that the funding acted as a catalyst for further collaboration between schools, voluntary organisations and local providers. Relationships built through OSF also enabled other programmes, such as Girls Active, Teach Active and School Games.

School Games – Inclusive, Intent-Driven Experiences

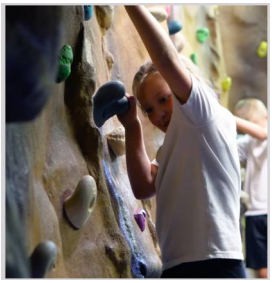
School Games events across the year focused on inclusion, intent and positive experiences rather than competition. Inclusive events for young people with SEND, delivered in partnership with universities and specialist providers, were shaped directly by youth voice – with activities selected based on what young people said they wanted to try. Feedback consistently highlighted increases in confidence, enjoyment and willingness to be active again.

Planning for events such as the Derbyshire Forest Games also reflected learning from data and insight. Year 3–4 pupils were deliberately targeted as the least active age group, with schools invited to bring children who would benefit most from outdoor, non-traditional activity. This was to ensure School Games continued to align closely with tackling inequality and supporting those who are less likely to engage through traditional sport models.

DERBYSHIRE SCHOOL GAMES

DERBYSHIRE FOREST GAMES
#DerbyshireSchoolGames

Click to find out more



3 Working with people and communities who experience the greatest inequality

Across Derbyshire, we continued to work alongside communities to understand lived experience and support people to be active in ways that work for them.

This place-based approach looked different everywhere, reflecting local context, relationships and priorities. In areas such as Chesterfield, Amber Valley, Erewash and North East Derbyshire, neighbourhood scans, focus groups and engagement activities helped identify barriers such as safety, access, trust and health inequalities.

Insight informed both delivery and system change. Examples included Learning Labs in Chesterfield to strengthen collaboration across sectors, co-production work in Barrow Hill and Clay Cross, and community-led activity emerging from neighbourhood scans in Somercotes, Riddings and Ironville.

Work focused on aligning services, funding and workforce around what communities say they need, rather than expecting people to fit pre-designed programmes.

Amber Valley

Amber Valley saw significant progress in linking community voice, health systems and local delivery. The **Move More Amber Valley** partnership continued to develop, supported by insight from neighbourhood scans in Somercotes, Riddings and Ironville. These scans captured lived experience and barriers faced by residents, informing system partners and shaping practical action.

To find out more about the Neighbourhood Scans and the insight gathered, click here

Click to find out more

Strong collaboration with **Primary Care Networks** helped embed community-based wellbeing sessions, blood pressure checks and signposting into everyday settings, with many people connecting to physical activity opportunities as a result.

Work with people living with long-term conditions and disabilities remained central. **The Community Model of Health Referral** and **Couch to 5X** continued to evolve, supported by new referral routes including housebound engagement through GP home visiting services.

In one of two pilots around **Parks and Play** there has been the development of an **Amber Valley Play Strategy** which was designed to complement the **Move More Amber Valley Plan.** Community engagement was delivered for the refurbishment of several play areas and a series of recommendations around procurement, external funding, engagement frameworks and policy have been taken forward. The work has resulted in the Council becoming a pilot for the **Active Design Workforce Programme.**

To view the video detailing this work, click here

Click to find out more

Bolsover

In Bolsover, the year focused on shaping a shared, long-term approach to movement through the development of the **On the Move Bolsover Active Wellbeing Strategy**. System partners from across health, education, leisure, community and voluntary sectors came together to define priorities and begin co-producing a shared action plan. Lived experience featured strongly within this process, ensuring the strategy reflects local needs and aspirations rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

Youth voice continued to provide opportunities for change. Building on the **Bolsover Compass** work, young people took on leadership roles through ambassador programmes, designing and delivering community events that encouraged residents to explore their local area and move more. Insight gathered through place-based work also led to the expansion of **Girls Active** across all secondary schools in the district, addressing low confidence, aspiration and access to opportunity among girls and young women.

Chesterfield

Work in Chesterfield centred on strengthening collaboration across the system and deepening place-based approaches to tackling inequality. A system maturity matrix process brought together partners from different sectors to reflect honestly on how they work together and where change is needed. This learning fed into the creation of a **Learning Lab** - a dedicated space for partners to connect, explore new ways of working and align action across strategic partnerships.

In neighbourhoods such as **Barrow Hill** and **Holme Hall**, activity was grounded in community voice and local leadership. Walk Derbyshire investment supported community-led ideas, while **Going Live Barrow Hill** meetings brought services together under one roof, helping organisations see how their work connects and overlaps. This is helping to strengthened relationships, reduced duplication and ensure residents are better supported through joined-up, community-focused action.

Derby

Work focused on strengthening system leadership and embedding physical activity into wider health, community and place agendas. We came together for a system maturity matrix, which created a shared understanding of how partners across the city are working together and what needs to change to better support residents to be active. This led to the development of a city-wide **Theory of Change**, co-created with partners, helping to articulate how different actions and interventions contribute to a more active, healthier city. **Primary Care Networks** played an increasing role, developing ways to embed physical activity within everyday healthcare conversations and pathways.

Community-focused initiatives continued to grow with development of the **Community Directory**, bringing together health, voluntary sector, community safety and council partners to improve visibility of local opportunities. **Active Derbyshire** also supported city-wide bids and investment opportunities, including work connected to **PlayZones, football hubs and green infrastructure** through the **Derby Nature Collective**. Together, these efforts helped strengthen the connections between people, place and partners.

Derbyshire Dales

Across Derbyshire Dales, the focus was on addressing inactivity and isolation within a largely rural context. Partners worked together to develop a **Move More Derbyshire Dales Plan**, aligned with the **Dales Local Integrated Group**, ensuring physical activity is embedded within wider conversations about health inequalities. Community insight played a key role, particularly through engagement in places like Bradwell, where rural isolation and access were identified as significant challenges.

The **Bradwell Community Engagement Pilot** helped shape new social and activity opportunities, including work led by the **Farming Life Centre** to support rural residents who may feel disconnected. This work highlighted the importance of tailored, place-specific solutions in rural communities.

THE FARMING LIFE CENTRE
SUPPORTING FARMING & RURAL LIFE IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

Erewash

Erewash continued to develop a strong and coherent place-based approach, driven by priorities around youth voice, health inequalities, active environments and community capacity. The **Sport England Place Partnership** gained momentum, supported by strengthened governance, leadership development and stakeholder engagement. A Place Partnership stakeholder session brought together local partners and community members to shape future priorities and agree a shared direction.

All Move in Erewash (AMiE) remained central to health-focused work in the borough, supporting people with long-term conditions and disabilities through lived-experience-led approaches. AMiE Champions were recruited and played an increasing role in inspiring others and shaping future priorities. While work with Primary Care Networks and wider partners explored how physical activity can be better embedded into non-medical wellbeing pathways. These approaches supported workforce development and helped connect community provision, health services and system learning in meaningful ways.

The **Walk Derbyshire Active Neighbourhood Pilot** continued across Cotmanhay, raising awareness of antisocial behaviour (ASB) in young people through ASB and disability role plays in collaboration with the Safer Neighbourhood Team – promoting empathy, respect and inclusion. Nordic Walking sessions were launched for people with long term conditions, and newsletters were hand delivered highlighting local events opportunities to over 3000 addresses in Cotmanhay. This work strengthened community connections, increased participation in physical activity and enhanced local engagement, building a strong foundation for ongoing collaboration, inclusion and wellbeing across Cotmanhay.

High Peak

In High Peak, the year was marked by a strong emphasis on place, environment and system collaboration. Community-led engagement shaped the redesign of Manor Park in Glossop and Ashwood Park in Buxton, ensuring safety, accessibility and inclusion were central to design decisions. These projects demonstrated how listening to residents can directly influence physical environments that support everyday movement.

Work also continued through neighbourhood groups in Buxton, New Mills, Glossop and Gamesley, strengthening connections between activity-based initiatives and broader priorities.

The Move More Better Health communications campaign, featuring local people in local places, helped normalise everyday movement and was piloted within GP surgeries. Alongside this, system maturity work supported partners to reflect on how collaboration can evolve further in response to changing system structures.

A pilot was delivered which involved community engagement being undertaken alongside the procurement of a play equipment manufacturer and included the installation of a new concept multi activity space.

Kompan wanted to test a new design of play/activity equipment that would engage multiple generations and **Kakou CIC** engaged communities to adapt the provision and gain support for the innovation. This was delivered in **Manor Park, Glossop**. The pilot also included the refurbishment of a playsite in **Buxton**, with consideration of how it supported an active travel route from the priority **Fairfield Estate** into the town centre.

A video showcasing this work is **here**

North East Derbyshire

North East Derbyshire focused on building on the legacy of the **Active Neighbourhood Pilot in Danesmoor and Clay Cross**, transitioning from project-based delivery to a broader, system-informed approach.

The refreshed **Clay Cross Healthy Futures Group** brought together partners to align activity, health and community agendas, while new governance arrangements helped create clearer feedback loops between community insight and system decision-making.

CLAY CROSS
Healthy Futures

The opening of **Clay Cross Active** illustrated the role of community-centred facility that goes beyond leisure, with space for advice services and health provision. Alongside this, work continued on walking, wellbeing and neighbourhood engagement, ensuring local residents shape the future direction of investment and activity. The focus remained on sustainability, capacity-building and long-term impact.

South Derbyshire

Work in South Derbyshire included developing a collaborative vision through the **Get Moving South Derbyshire Active Wellbeing Strategy**. Partners across the system worked together to shape priorities around active health, communities, workforce and environments, ensuring the strategy reflects both insight and ambition. A co-led action-planning workshop helped translate strategy into practical next steps.

Community engagement and co-production were central to the Walk Derbyshire - Community Engagement and Co-production Pilot. Community Movement Champions were recruited and supported to engage others in movement, particularly those who are less active or face multiple barriers. Progress was also made around active travel and school engagement, connecting climate, education and physical activity agendas.

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

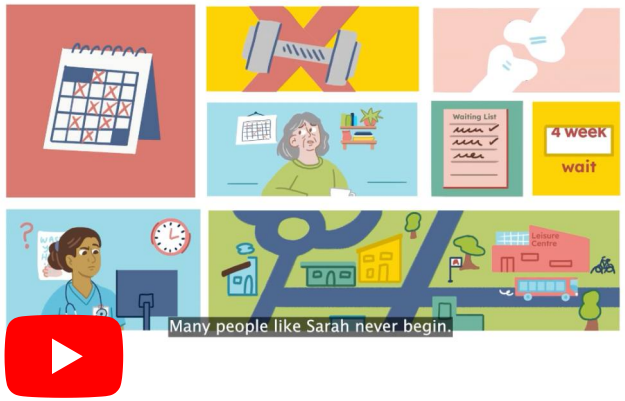
Physical Activity for Health Pathways

The Derbyshire Physical Activity Collaborative continued to bring together health, leisure, public health, local authority and voluntary sector partners to strengthen physical activity for health pathways. Work over the year included reviewing **Exercise by Referral,** improving data and insight, and exploring new models such as community-based triage and flexible pathways beyond traditional gym-based offers.

Engagement with **Primary Care Networks**, **Integrated Care Board** colleagues and national **Communities of Practice** supported alignment with wider health priorities, including falls prevention, long-term conditions and mental health. While challenges remain around workforce capacity and complex referrals, progress continues in embedding physical activity as a core component of prevention and care.

We've just released a new film which explains more about this work and exercise by referral

Click to find out more



Work began on a test-and-learn initiative in Derby exploring how to better support people in the period following hospital discharge, with a focus on helping them not just be safe at home, but to re-engage in meaningful everyday life.

Working in partnership with **Derby City Council** and **Derbyshire Community Health Services,** capacity was given to work across discharge settings and people's homes, with the focus on bringing together health, social care, and community partners to understand what prevents recovery in practice.

A key feature of the work is its focus on the factors that shape outcomes, such as confidence, anxiety, identity, and access to community, alongside its emphasis on continuity across traditional services. The work is continuing with learning shaping future service delivery.

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

Active Environment Network – Connecting People, Place and Movement

The Active Environment Network provided a growing space for partners involved in planning, transport, housing, leisure, health and community development to come together. Workshops and conferences explored themes such as safe open spaces, community activity hubs, embedding movement into planning policy, and connecting nature and movement.

By bringing different sectors together, the network helped build shared understanding of how environments influence behaviour and health. Community voice featured strongly, reinforcing the need to design places that feel safe, welcoming and relevant to local needs.

A conference in October provided an in person opportunity to connect, learn and share good practice, with key speakers from **East Midlands County Combined Authority**, **Nottinghamshire's Police and Crime Commissioner** and several local authorities.

We also shared the lived experience of a wheelchair user to highlight some of the challenges to walking and wheeling more as part of everyday lives, to watch this story, click here:

Click to find out more

Walk Derbyshire – Everyday Movement, Community-Led Change

Walk Derbyshire continued to support walking as an accessible, inclusive way to move more, through local pilots, volunteer development and system-wide engagement and learning. Communities worked together to identify local accessibility barriers, improve signage, install benches, run events and co-design walking opportunities that reflected local needs and priorities.

#RunWalkTalk events held in collaboration with **Jog Derbyshire** and other local system partners in Amber Valley and North East Derbyshire highlighted the benefits of movement and nature on improving mental health and connectivity, with over 130 people participating over both events. Further events are planned across the City and County over the coming year.

Evaluation highlighted the importance of trust, partnership and time in building sustainable walking initiatives and **Ripple Effect Mapping events** with **Leeds Beckett University** helped consortiums to recognise the impact of the work so far. Workforce development, including walk leader training, joint working with Jog Derbyshire and additional leader training around safeguarding and mental health awareness, strengthened knowledge and capacity across the county. Digital tools such as the Walk Derbyshire app and storytelling initiatives helped extend reach and share learning widely.

For more details and evaluation reports, click here:

Click to find out more