**Opening School Facilities – Phase 2 Brief**

As part of the Governments cross departmental School Sport and Activity Action Plan, Sport England and DFE have announced that they will provide £10.1m funding for a project to support schools to open up their sports facilities, in order to broaden the offer of extra-curricular and out of school sporting and physical activities available to pupils and the wider community.

This funding follows on from a 12 month pilot Opening Schools Facilities Project in which North Yorkshire Sport led a collaborative project with County Durham Sport as one of 19 national pilot areas. Sport England will work with the nationwide network of Active Partnerships to distribute the funding.

This investment comes at a vital time given the impact COVID-19 has had on the activity levels of children and young people and given the significant decline in the number of schools offering after-school clubs for pupils as well as opening their facilities for community use.

Active Partnerships are being asked by Sport England to support their local schools to understand the challenges in opening their facilities in a COVID secure manner and could include a range of approaches to help them, including new equipment for sports and activities, as well as arranging additional cleaning and clear signage to help maintain social distancing.

Learning from the pilot shows that increasingly schools do want to open their facilities as a way to strengthen their links to the local community. As a result, there is a timely and significant opportunity for schools to position themselves at the heart of local recovery plans from Covid by providing a safe, trusted and accessible space for their pupils and wider community to be more active and help re-build their physical and mental wellbeing.

This resource will help schools to open up their facilities after the school day, at weekends and during the holidays. The pilot was a learning exercise and helped us better understand the County picture, barriers, solutions and success factors. The pandemic had a significant effect on the usage of schools by community groups and clubs, further adding to a range of issues and barriers that were present pre-pandemic.

The available funding through North Yorkshire Sport will help schools make better use of their premises outside the school day and ensure this approach benefits pupils by promoting a strong and varied offer of extra-curricular sporting and physical activities available.

Deliverables:

1. Support schools to open up their sport facilities outside the school day (after school, weekends and school holidays): local intelligence used to identify schools that do not use, or only have limited access to, their school sport facilities outside the school day, identify the barriers to opening up their premises and facilitate solutions to support schools.
2. Ensure that this is supported by a strong and varied offer of sport and physical activity that appeals to young people in the schools and communities being targeted.

A recent survey undertaken in December 2020 by EVERFI EdComms on behalf of Sport England, highlighted that of the schools surveyed, 91% would open for community use when there were no restrictions. This funding will be important to help schools re-open their facilities for local sports clubs as only 52% were able to do so during the past year as restrictions allowed.