

Summer of Sport 2026

Partners briefing



Introduction

1. Scottish Government announced plans for a '**Summer of Sport**' to provide opportunities for children and young people age 3 to 26 years, to help them get active, stay active and improve their lives. Opportunities should be **free, targeted or at a reduced cost** to maximise engagement and is intended to address barriers to participation. Funding will be available for activities planned though to March 2027.
2. This investment forms part of the national Summer of Sport 2026 programme and sits alongside complementary funding for national partners, live-site activity linked to Glasgow 2026, and a coordinated national communications campaign. Findings from previous summer of sport approaches have been fully considered as part of this approach (*Further information for reference is in appendix 1*)
3. The funding will be integrated into **sportscotland's** 2026/27 investment agreements with local partners in April 2026. This annual investment process is in place and by including the Summer of Sport funding, it will provide a great opportunity to maximise resources, integrate and collaborate with other funding streams, programmes and partnerships.
4. In addition, national partners (appendix 2) and SGBs will be invited to submit a proposal to **sportscotland**, outlining their intention to deliver against the outcomes, including how they will support local partners.
5. This investment provides an opportunity for partners to focus on **one or more** of the following:
 - **Opportunities:** Deliver a range of safe, welcoming and inclusive opportunities that reduce barriers to participation
 - **Pathways:** Provide accessible pathways from short term activity into sustained participation in school, club and community sport
 - **Enhancement:** Build on existing provision, particularly during the summer period and beyond, avoiding duplication and strengthening what already exists
 - **Targeted:** Introduce targeted initiatives where gaps exist, with a focus on long term engagement beyond the funding period
 - **Workforce:** Recruit, train and retain coaches, officials, volunteers and leaders to grow local workforce capacity
 - **Profile:** Contribute to raising the profile of and celebrate sport

Approach

6. Approaches should focus on creating **positive, inclusive and inspiring** experiences for children and young people. We want children and young people to benefit from an inclusive system which leads to longer-term participation. When planning for provision for children and young people over the summer months and beyond, the following approaches should be followed:

6.1 Effective Partnerships: To maximise funding, minimise duplication and to ensure provision is coordinated and resources shared:

- Local authorities and leisure trusts, where applicable, will **co-design the approach**, share and maximise the resources
- **Wider partnerships** will be required with third sector, charitable organisations and other national partners such as Scottish Sporting Futures, Scottish Disability Sport and ENABLE as examples.
- The **integration of services** which supports the provision of food and wider family support should be considered fully.
- **Involvement of tertiary education** providers, to deliver areas such as volunteering, facility access, and workforce development, as well as being a focal point for target populations of participants.
- **Partnership with education** to access support for learning assistants for example to provide 1-2-1 support for people with disabilities.
- **Partnerships with Scottish Governing Bodies and clubs** to help clubs be in a strong position to support the transition for children and young people. Engagement with community-based clubs out with local authority leisure facilities will be supported.
- Build on **trusted relationships**, established programmes and proven delivery models such as Active Schools, Community Sport Hubs, student sport and local clubs.
- Resources will **strengthen delivery of local partners priorities and outcomes** across active schools, community sports hubs and club and community sport.
- **Partnerships with sports clubs and any other community groups** to support the transition from summer of sport activities into club and community activity.

6.2 Co-creation: The summer of sport will have children's rights and wellbeing at its heart. Any local provision should be shaped around the needs of children and young people. A person-centred approach should be adopted to ensure those in target groups help shape delivery plans and support reaches those who would most benefit. An intersectional approach is encouraged to ensure that the needs of individuals with intersecting identities are considered and met through co-design.

6.3 Build on existing services, assets and knowledge of what works: This funding can be used to enhance existing provision, building on and learning from existing practise. The funding will support improved coordination of existing provision, fill gaps, and create new opportunities, led by local knowledge and experience. The focus will be on providing opportunities for children and young people into regular sport and physical activity and designing an approach which would best facilitate this.

6.4 Target Groups: This fund should provide a universal offer to all children and young people, aged 3-26 years primarily, while specifically targeting those that are at a higher risk of poverty, including from the following family types:

- Lone parent families
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a disabled adult or child
- Families with a mother aged 25 and under
- Families with a child under one
- Families with three or more children
- Young Carers
- Looked after and accommodated young people

The needs of these target groups, their views and priorities, should be considered when planning, to ensure that are able to fully participate. Local partners should use local data, insight and relationships to ensure that provision is shaped around the needs, interests and circumstances of these groups.

6.5 Rurality: Consideration should be given to how activities are delivered in remote/rural areas. Accessible transport requirements should be considered.

Funding

7. **sportscotland** will allocate funding to local authority partners, through existing investment mechanisms. Where leisure services are delivered also by a leisure trust, a partnership would be formed to maximise resources.
8. Local partner planning should include:
 - a. How specific community needs have been considered
 - b. How they are applying the approach outlined in section 6
 - c. A clear progression from taster / participation into club and wider community provision
 - d. Plans to target those at higher risk of poverty, while remaining open to all.
9. Planning can be in line with partners current annual plans for active schools and community sport and be an additional element to them or it can be a stand alone plan for the authority incorporating their partners activities. Partners are encouraged to work with their local authority partnership manager to share their plan ahead of delivery starting as we are keen to maximise the connectivity with national partners as well, but can also make changes throughout the year to incorporate post summer activity for sustained participation. By Fri 26th June, it would be good for a copy of plans to be submitted to summerofsport@sportscotland.org.uk this will help us connect any work with national orgs, partners and SGBs and also help facilitate the sharing of practice across local areas.
10. National partners will be invited to submit a short proposal to **sportscotland** outlining how they could contribute to the summer of sport and add value to its delivery and support the longer-term engagement of children and young people in sport and physical activity. Funding will be available for national partners to apply for including Scottish Sporting Futures, Scottish Student Sport, Scottish Disability Sport, ENABLE, others as recognised by **sportscotland**, and other national organisations on a case by case basis.
11. A summer of sport campaign toolkit and associated marketing materials will be given to partners as part of the funding conditions to use for all summer of sport related projects. This will ensure consistent branding & attribution, and profile raising activity.

What is being funded

12. The funding will enable local authorities to work with local and national partners to coordinate and deliver activities in a number of ways, with a flexible approach being supported. It can be used to build upon what is already in place and respond creatively to what children and young people want. An indication of what would be within the parameters of the funding is outlined in *appendix 2*

Timing

12. The programme will start and be ready for delivery in June 2026, running through the Commonwealth Games and continuing afterwards until March 2027, to ensure greater opportunities for children and young people to transition into community and club settings.

What would success look like

13. The Summer of Sport could potentially lead to an enhancement of the sporting system, with:
 - a. more children and young people accessing local sport
 - b. more inclusive provision
 - c. stronger and more effective partnerships
 - d. a more diverse and skilled workforce
 - e. accelerated local plans
 - f. engagement of a wide range of partners
 - g. enhanced culture of co-creation of local services for sport
 - h. more children and young people in poverty accessing local sport
14. To understand the impact of the Summer of Sport funding, partners will be asked to use existing data collation methods to provide **sportscotland** with information on a focussed set of data relevant to the funding. Information such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Number and range of delivery partners
 - b. Number and range of sessions delivered
 - c. Number of children/young people and families engaged (including % from target groups)
 - d. Number of new coaches and volunteers engaged.
15. This will be supported by a national participant survey (led by **sportscotland**), and a proposed externally commissioned evaluation which partners may be asked to engage in. Further information will follow in due course.

Key Contact

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Appendix 1 – findings from previous summer of sport approach

[Infographic Get into Summer 2022/23](#)

Appendix 2 – Example of national partners considered for application (this is not an exhaustive list)

ENABLE

Scottish Club Sport

Young Scot

Scottish Association for Mental Health

Scottish Disability Sport

Scottish Student Sport

Scottish Sport Futures

Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport

Youth Sport Trust

Consideration of others (case by case)

Appendix 3 – what can be funded

Below outlines examples of what is in scope for funding:

- a. Free holiday time activities which are active, fun and creates social connections
- b. Current holiday programmes at a subsidised rate
- c. Expansion of current holiday provision into communities
- d. Post summer sessions leading to club and community opportunities
- e. Maximizing use of outdoor space
- f. Multi-sport camps, festivals and taster events with explicit transition into clubs
- g. Connecting schools and community provision such as buddy sessions, join-in weeks
- h. An inclusion uplift for activity targeting families at a higher risk of poverty
- i. Travel costs for those on low incomes and / or in rural communities
- j. Family activation grants for partners to remove immediate barriers (e.g. transport, childcare, family taster sessions, kit)
- k. Purchase of equipment and facility hire (any specific equipment to support inclusion of people with disabilities)
- l. Training and development for young leaders and volunteers
- m. Approaches to recruit / retain volunteers and young leaders
- n. Provision of additional training around inclusion, trauma-informed practise, disability inclusion for example
- o. Workforce costs including coaches, sessional staff and volunteer expenses
- p. Supporting local clubs to ensure children and young people can access local sport (e.g. open days, club fees)
- q. Administration and / or coordination costs
- r. Targeted outreach and engagement activity
- s. Residential opportunities for staff and deliverer training
- t. Reducing barriers to longer term participation for target groups
- u. Supporting PVG applications for volunteers and deliverers