

## Opening Schools Facilities: Application Details (April 2021)

Please ensure the following information has been fully read prior to completing an application (see attached). Errors and omissions could mean an application is viewed as ineligible, based on not meeting the criteria, or could delay the application beyond the cut-off date.

### Context

Opening School Facilities delivery funding, provided by the Department for Education, has now been approved by Sport England for Greater Essex and stands at circa. £300,000. This funding will be available for schools to apply for through Active Essex and is aimed at supporting secondary schools across Greater Essex to deliver extra-curricular activities, opening their facilities and outdoor spaces during evenings, weekends and school holidays (i.e. outside of the normal school day).

This investment comes at an important time given the impact coronavirus has had on the falling activity levels of children and young people and will provide rapid support to schools to further support the health and wellbeing of young people and their local communities.

### Criteria

The objective of this work is to support schools to open their facilities and outdoor space outside of the normal school day, allowing local young people more places and opportunities to be physically active. The desire is for prompt intervention with expectation of young people being able to benefit from this funding during the school summer term 2021 and then beyond.

#### **All secondary schools can apply but funding will be prioritised towards schools that:**

- have a high percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals
- have the least active pupils
- can provide more opportunities for pupils with SEND to take part in activities (mainstream or SEND schools)
- do not use, or only have limited access to, their school sports facilities outside of the school day
- previously had an out of school hours/community offer that has since ceased due to Covid restrictions

Young people should be consulted and engaged in designing the offer/programme to ensure it meets their immediate and future needs (costs for consultation process can be included within application).

The longer-term objective is that more schools will be able to develop sustainable income generation from leasing their facilities to external groups or organisations at affordable rates. Pupils will also benefit from having greater access and opportunity to take part in activities after school, at weekends and during holidays, on a regular basis.

### **What can this funding for schools be used for?**

We expect funding to be used to help schools to offer extra-curricular opportunities including opening facilities in a COVID-19 secure manner. Examples include:

1. Helping schools with their own on-site swimming pool to safely open these – this can include purchasing water testing kits and plant servicing etc., following guidance from Swim England
2. Helping schools to meet Covid-19 measures by purchasing additional signage, touch free entry points, perspex screens etc., and additional cleaning equipment
3. Purchase of additional sports, activity, and storage equipment
4. Improving the accessibility of school sports facilities, especially for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. This could include procuring adaptive sports equipment
5. Where appropriate, providing funding for additional short-term staffing challenges which currently prevent a school from opening facilities or delivering activities.

**Please note: Large scale capital / building works are not eligible items of expenditure, nor is loss of revenue due to closure of facilities during the period of restrictions.**

Active Essex will liaise with local leisure provision and sport providers, including National Governing Bodies of sport, to coordinate local need for facilities within schools. This could include making links between schools to maximise use of affordable facilities across a local area. Active Essex will be utilising consultancy firm KKP (who have led work on return to play within the leisure sector) to support schools with consultancy capacity, guiding and shaping sustainable programmes.

### **Application process**

We expect applications to be of **at least £500** and we envisage being able to support between 60-100 schools across Greater Essex, dependent on volume of applications.

Whilst this funding is aimed at secondary schools, we will consider applications from primary schools (including infant/junior schools) that have appropriate facilities. Such applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and weighed within the limit of funds available.

- Please complete and return the Excel application form, in full, as directed
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, against the above criteria and local insight priorities by a selection panel
- A receipt of application will be issued (to the lead contact email address) and we aim to notify applicants on outcome within 10 working days
- We will endeavour to work with applicants to ensure submissions are successful (where these are able to meet the required criteria)
- Successful applications should aim to commence operation as soon as possible to bring maximum benefit to local young people.

Deadline for receipt of applications: Friday 21 May 2021

**For more information, or if you have any further questions, please contact:**  
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