

#TeamCaerphilly
BETTER TOGETHER

Sport and Active Recreation Strategy Implementation Plan



Key

Black	Not yet started or too early to report any progress (achievements/changes)
Red	Started but not progressing well
Amber	Started with reasonable progress achieved
Green	Going well with good progress
Blue	Completed

Our First Key Outcome: Better Health

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>National Exercise Referral (NERS) Outreach Interventions</p> <p>The National Exercise Referral Scheme is a Welsh Government funded scheme delivered by Caerphilly Council. The Scheme aims to standardise exercise referral opportunities across all Local Authorities and Local Health Boards. The Scheme is an evidenced based health intervention that incorporates physical activity and behavioural change, it supports clients to make and maintain healthier lifestyle choices which will improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The aim of the Scheme is to reduce the inequalities in ill health by providing access to tailored and supervised physical activity. The target population is aged 16+ who are not used to being regularly physically active and are at risk of or currently experiencing a long term or chronic health condition. The Scheme is designed to provide opportunities to exercise that are fun, rewarding and that can be incorporated into everyday life.</p> <p>Referrals are received from a wide range of health professionals including: GPs, Consultants, Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Practice nurse specialists. Chronic condition pathways included Cardiac Rehabilitation, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Diabetes and Obesity program, Falls Stroke and Neurological Disorders pathway. Additional referral categories included were the primary prevention of cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary disorders, low back pain, mental health, and cancer rehabilitation</p> <p>In 2020 NERS was suspended by Public Health Wales due to Covid-19, however services were quickly moved online and clients were provided with continuity of their care virtually. 451 clients took the opportunity to participate in NERS activities virtually. A total of 274 you tube video classes were produced covering a wide range of options. These include aerobic exercise for fitness, chair based class for falls prevention, low impact and low intensity to general circuits, yoga and Pilates, create your own home gym classes, low back pain, and food wise for health.</p>	2007 onwards.	Ongoing

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>School Improvement Team</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly are working with the School Improvement team to address wellbeing in the new curriculum. With a lack of readily available resources for the new curriculum around wellbeing, Sport Caerphilly are supporting Education in writing a wellbeing strategy for primary and secondary schools. This will promote lifelong participation, support in areas of deprivation in the borough and funding has been accessed to support the mentoring and upskilling of teaching staff in physical literacy to assist in providing a positive experience of sport and physical activity.</p>	April 2023	In progress

<p>Healthy Walks</p> <p>As part of Healthy walks programme, our timetable of walks are back in place and proving as popular as pre pandemic levels, with The Pengam Strollers, Penallta Strollers, Bedwas Strollers, Islwyn Ramblers, Caerphilly Ramblers and Caerphilly Adventure Group all back leading weekly walks.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Challenge Series continues to go from strength to strength. The Council’s Countryside and Landscape Service, in conjunction with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Caerphilly Adventure Group, Caerphilly Ramblers, Islwyn Ramblers and other partners, host this annual event for walkers and runners of all abilities. In May 2023 480 walkers, a record number of entries, showed their mettle by completing the challenging routes of up to 22 miles across the stunning countryside of Caerphilly County Borough.</p> <p>Our Volunteer Training Progression Plan continues to grow with more volunteers getting involved in leading walks. To date training has taken place in healthy walks leading, Hill and Moorland leading, Mountain leading, national navigation awards and outdoor first aid.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Landscape Partnership has continued community engagement activities through close partnership working with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB). This has followed direct engagement and promotion of the project and its aim of encouraging members to enjoy the landscape on their doorstep, and to experience the health and well-being benefits of walking. The Rhacca Ramblers has continued following completion of the project in Graig-y-Rhacca. Following outdoor emergency first aid and walk leader training the community volunteers continue to independently lead the weekly walk without ABUHB staff. Unfortunately, no volunteers could be recruited to enable walks to continue in Lansbury Park.</p> <p>As part of the Caerphilly Landscape Partnership, all healthy walking routes have now been reviewed and graded according to level of work needed to bring up to standard. All walking guides have been updated and are due to be added to the green spaces website. A plan of physical works has been created which includes waymarking on route. A new brand has been created that will be rolled out and promoted over the next year.</p>	<p>Programme is on-going & set to continue.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Positive Futures</p> <p>A combination of funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Sport Wales is allocated to Sport Caerphilly is to deliver a Positive Futures programme that aims to encompass the mentoring of young people through a 1-1 process and provides an alternative Education pathway for those that have been excluded.</p> <p>Aside to day referral work, there is an outreach programme which is project based through activities such as skateboarding, rugby and various other sports. They address community safety and risk-taking behaviour through regular scheduled evening sports and activity sessions are delivered in areas of significant poverty, deprivation, and high crime levels. Delivery takes place within local leisure centres, community centres, Multi Use Games Area, streets or a patch of grass for young people to voluntarily attend, free of charge, in their local targeted area.</p> <p>Open access provision allows staff to fulfil a contextual safeguarding role for vulnerable young people due to their presence in the community where young people live and see what is happening in the young person's life; what they are eating and drinking, who they are hanging around with, where they go after the session. This information is vital to feedback to partners. Reactive responses to anti-social behaviour concerns identified via Gwent Police and or/and Safer Caerphilly are key to the work that is undertaken.</p>	2019	Ongoing
<p>Good Boost</p> <p>The Council has engaged with colleagues at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to roll out the Good Boost programme which aims to support residents who have been identified with Multi musculoskeletal issues through a range of activities that can either be delivered in a taught / class environment or individually through the use of a specially designed tablet. The approach provides residents with a flexible platform to manage their condition and maximises the facilities that are available through the leisure centre platform. Tablets have been delivered to identified sites and appropriate training will be delivered across the coming months. This will be supported by an appropriate communication plan.</p>	October 2023	In progress

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Green Prescriptions</p> <p>This is a form of social prescribing, a way for health and social care practitioners to connect with the people they are supporting with a range of non-clinical sources of support in the community. Working in conjunction with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Parks Services have been instrumental in developing an offering in the north of the county borough at Rhymney Park. This initiative allows participants to undertake community-based activities such as litter picks in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy. The group meet every Friday and other local events / activities are organised which include wildflower plug planting (involving the local primary school), ongoing use of the community garden at the rear of the bowls pavilion. Participants can also meet on a social level utilising the bowls pavilion for refreshments. Investment has already been made and an outdoor gym has been installed at the park to encourage physical activity.</p>	<p>Initial works are completed but the programme is set to continue.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Green Flag Award</p> <p>There are 34 urban and 6 country parks across the county borough. Three of our urban parks have successfully achieved Green Flag status (Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach Park and Waunfawr Park, Crosskeys). Two of our Country Parks also hold this prestigious accolade (Parc Cwm Darran and Parc Penallta). The Council's headquarters at Ty Penallta is also designated as achieving Green Flag Status, which is one of the very first workspaces in the UK to achieve this. More information in relation to activities and events can be found at www.greenspacescaerphilly.co.uk</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Ynys Hywel Covid Memorial Woodland</p> <p>During 2021, the Council were approached by Welsh Government to nominate suitable sites within their jurisdiction to develop a COVID memorial garden, the authority put forward Ynys Hywel Farm which is a holding of 120 acres. The farm, which is council owned, is primarily grazing land situated on the Valley side to the west of Cwmfelinfach. It is located within the Sirhowy Valley Country Park and is accessed via a country lane that serves several properties and leads to Mynydd y Grug. The farm holding had been developed to demonstrate traditional Welsh hill farming and has a complex of buildings including a barn, education room, office and storage areas.</p> <p>Subsequently plans were approved to approved by WG to utilise the site for tree planting which will not only be a focus for those who lost loved ones during the global pandemic but also as part of the wider carbon off setting objectives.</p> <p>The works took place in early 2022 and amounted to approximately 4 ha of which 1 ha was planted by community groups and volunteers during the second week of March 2022. The larger area was planted by the Council at a cost of some £64,000.</p> <p>Subsequently Welsh Government funding of £499, 000 has been provided for a project running through to 2028 to develop and manage the Covid Memorial Woodland. Additional tree planting is being supplement with the provision of stone dust footpaths, new timber entrance gates, drystone walling and timber benches. Ynys Hywel is one of three Memorial Woodlands memorial woodlands is intended to be a symbol of Wales' resilience during the pandemic, and one of regeneration and renewal as the new woodlands grow. It is hoped they will be places of quiet reflection for families and friends to remember lost loved ones.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Outdoor Facilities</p> <p>There are over 800 km of Public Rights of Way across the borough for our communities to access and enjoy, 120 grass sports pitches, 20 outdoor bowling greens, several tennis courts and cricket squares. There are 80+ allotments across the borough for our communities to utilise and enjoy physical activity whilst cultivating fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>Works to install a new jogger's path at the Showfield in Blackwood were completed in 2022 at a cost of £80K, which was funded by Parks Services and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme. Users can now safely walk, run or jog around the perimeter of the Showfield whatever the weather. The path measures a total circumference of 1.2 km and is accessible for wheelchair users and pushchairs.</p> <p>Play is key to a child's development; we currently provide over 177 play areas across the borough ranging from fixed equipped playgrounds, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), skate parks, youth shelters, kick walls and a splash pad. For something a little different we also have a linear assault course, the 'Ogilvie Olympics' at Parc Cwm Darran.</p>		
<p>The Ynys, Fleur de Lys</p> <p>The grass football pitch at The Ynys has not been usable for a number of years. A project to bring the pitch back into use has been completed involving the addition of many tons of topsoil, drainage works, and grass seeding to provide a completely new playing surface. This has been supplemented with 5 metre highball fencing behind each of the new goals and some recommissioning works to the pavilion at a total project cost of circa £100.000.</p>	<p>August 2023</p>	

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Tennis Courts</p> <p>As part of a borough wide collaborative investment in tennis facilities between the Council and Tennis Wales, we have improved facilities at Blackwood Showfield, Morgan Jones Park, Pontymister, Rhymney, Ynysddu and Ystrad Mynach Park. The investment includes court re-surfacing, anti-slip court and line painting (green courts/ blue surrounds / white lines), new posts and nets for all courts, fencing repairs and installation of an e-gate entrance system. The e-gate system will allow booking courts via an app. CCBC Parks Operations and Sports & Leisure Development are very excited to be working in partnership with Tennis Wales improving Tennis Facilities within Caerphilly County Borough.</p>	<p>October 2023</p>	
<p>Cwmcarn Fforest Drive</p> <p>Having closed in 2015 to allow for the felling of 150,000 trees affected by the disease Phytophthora Ramorum, Cwmcarn Fforest Drive reopened in 2021 following significant investment from Natural Resources Wales and Caerphilly Council. Visitors can enjoy the spectacular Cwmcarn Forest and breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Children can burn off some energy in three adventure playgrounds, sensory tunnels, and a woodland sculpture trail or follow the several all-ability trails along the route.</p> <p>Caerphilly Adventures relocated to Cwmcarn Fforest Drive in June 2018 and several additional enhancements have followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changing rooms have been developed for water sports users ➤ E-Bike storage facility has been installed in Caerphilly Adventures area. ➤ Water sports storage container has been installed offering easy access to the Lake with funding from Welsh Government play sufficiency capital investment. ➤ An orienteering course has been established. 	<p>2018</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Duke Of Edinburgh Award (DofE) Caerphilly Council has been offering DofE to schools for more than 30 years and holds a Duke of Edinburgh's Award direct licence to deliver and support DofE across all education and youth provision in the local authority. Caerphilly Adventures currently has the delegated responsibility for the day-to-day management of the programme, employing a Development Officer working alongside a School Improvement Officer to re-engage and support schools and young people across Caerphilly. The Council Authority is continuing to work in partnership with DofE Wales to increase opportunities for young people in Caerphilly to take part in and achieve a DofE Award. DofE is the perfect way to help young people build life-long belief in themselves, supporting them to take on their own challenges, follow their passions, and discover talents they never knew they had. The services provides an annual update with Education and did this in February 2023.</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Free Swim Initiative Welsh Government Free Swimming Grant is used to support our Aquatic Development Pathway and Education Curriculum by funding top up lessons during holiday periods in the 6 swimming pools. We also use this funding to support GAVO in offering Free lessons to those who would not traditionally access swimming lessons. As part of a Free Swim Review in the Summer 2023 we have also started to work with Families First to target primary schools in deprived wards and offer Free swimming lessons and parent/child sessions to children that would not have the opportunity other than school to take part in swimming lessons.</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action and Progress	Implementation Date	Status
<p>60 Plus Active Leisure</p> <p>Within the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales (HWHW) Action Plan 2020-2022 Sport Wales have been given responsibility by Welsh Government to oversee annual investment into a national leisure offer for over 60s to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices. This is intended to ensure a targeted approach to reduce health inequalities and reduce social isolation. CCBC have £37,355 per year for this programme. The scheme aims to enable the 60 Plus population in Wales to live longer, better and happier lives by improving their physical activity levels, confidence, strength and balance.</p> <p>The following investment priorities are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted provision of physical activity opportunities to contribute to the reduction of Health Inequalities amongst the local 60 Plus Population that are currently inactive or the least active. • Integration alongside other initiatives such as exercise referral, Free Swimming Initiative (FSI), social prescribing, and other local 60 Plus provision to provide a menu of opportunities for this population <p>CCBC have invested the funding in providing 60 plus outdoor e-bike activities. This gives people the opportunity to know a bit more about their bike, with a bike maintenance session and then taken on lead rides across the great outdoors.</p>	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Our Second Key Outcome - Healthier and Prosperous Communities

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Community Asset Transfer (CAT)</p> <p>In May 2019, the Council formally adopted a set of guiding principles in relation to the transfer of playing fields and or pavilions to sporting organisations. In the current financial climate, it is acknowledged that the Council has limited financial resources to improve playing fields and changing room provision. Whilst our ethos is to get more people, more active, more often, the adoption of a set of guiding principles will allow officers to work closely with sports clubs to reach their aspirations, obtain grant funding to improve facilitates (which we as a Council cannot access) and subsequently protect our assets for future generations. This also aligns with the principles set out within the Council’s adopted Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.</p> <p>5 projects are currently with the legal team for completion. 1 project is awaiting allocation within Property Services. 3 projects are preparing paperwork to progress to the next stage. A further 10 projects have been mooted and the interested parties are considering them.</p>	<p>On-going and set to continue as applications from clubs are received.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Be Active Wales Fund</p> <p>With the introduction of the Be Active Wales Fund during Covid19 this has been a catalyst in making sporting community clubs and organisations within in Caerphilly CBC to become stronger, sustainable and stop them from closing during such challenging times. The Be Active Wales Fund offers grants from £300 to £50,000 for projects in Wales that intend to do at least reduce inequality, create long-term sustainability or/and introduce new or diverse ways of operating their clubs. Clubs have accessed the funding to upskill volunteers, purchase equipment, deliver physical activity /sport in new ways, use technology to support further and engage more people and support communities that are in deprivation.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly have supported numerous clubs across CCBC in accessing just under £250,000 of funding through the BAWF during 2022/23. This continues to be a priority area for us especially during the cost-of-living crisis with a target of £275,000 in 2023/24.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Progressing well</p>

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Oakdale Athletics Hub</p> <p>A flood lit synthetic running track area will on the school fields located at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School – 300m x 6 lane plus a 6 lane sprint straight. The facility includes provision for off field events e.g. high jump, long jump, shot put, javelin and discus. These new sports facilities provide an opportunity for 90 schools and the community to use an athletics track supporting the increase in demand for this type of sporting provision as well as the drive to increase participation to include women and girls through targeted interventions and partnership working with the Authority’s Sports Development team, Sport Caerphilly, Disability Sport Wales and a number of our key partners.</p> <p>The total cost of the project was £755,000 and funded from Welsh Government’s Community Learning centre capital grants programme. The site is open to local schools through the school day and then the community for public open sessions, and the local Athletics club, Rhymney Valley Athletics Club and the wider community in the evening.</p> <p><i>Link to Launch Press release 4th March 2022-</i> https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news/news-bulletin/march-2022/the-leader-is-thrilled-to-open-the-new-community-a</p> <p>The facility supports the development of Athletics Clubs across the county borough, the delivery of primary and secondary PE lessons, along with offering a safe place for individuals to visit and train throughout the year. A further investment has recently been made to provide a classroom/meeting room facility that encourages a range of education and developmental programmes, along with enhancing the environment on a day to day basis.</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Penallta Parkrun</p> <p>Taking place within Parc Penallta, Parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate. The Parkrun is 5k and takes place every Saturday morning and the junior Parkrun is 2k, dedicated to 4–14-year-olds and their families, every Sunday morning. CCBC and Sport Caerphilly assist Parkrun in getting this community event up and running for its launch on 27th June 2015. This event has flourished since its launch and has as of 10th August 2023 had 55,294 finishers. Parkrun is positive, welcoming, and inclusive, there is no time limit, and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome.</p>	<p>June 2015</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Caerphilly 10K</p> <p>Now a regular feature in the sporting calendar the Bryn Meadows Caerphilly 10K is set to return in 2024 on Sunday 12 May along with the Bryn Meadows Caerphilly 2k. With 2,500 runners of all abilities expected to descend on Caerphilly from across the country to enjoy the event, we are looking to the 2024 event to be bigger and better to support the health and wellbeing of our residents.</p>	<p>May 2024</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Let's Go Girls</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly's <i>Let's Go Girls</i> campaign aims to get more women, more active, more often. By doing so, it will increase confidence to allow them to be the best version of themselves physically, mentally and socially while allowing physical activity to be the 'norm' in everyday life. We work with a number of community clubs and partners to provide various opportunities to allow females to find the best place to support them in their journeys.</p> <p>Current provision is heavily focussed on young girls in secondary schools (years 8/9) which has been a great success. A new programme addressing pre/post-natal exercise with mums has been launched and received well. There is scope to deliver this further 23/24 and target further areas of deprivation in the Borough.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Families First Targeted Youth and Family Engagement Project Welsh Government Funded project working in partnership with the Youth Service delivering Outdoor Experiences for vulnerable families.</p> <p><u>Families First- TYFE Provision</u></p> <p>Caerphilly Adventures receive funding from Families First to provide outdoor activities for families referred to the Targeted Youth and Family Engagement Project and Young Parents. The projects aim to promote family cohesion, confidence through a wide range of activities. Caerphilly Adventures has been working in partnership with Families First since 2019. In that time, they have worked with approximately 184 families.</p> <p><u>Family Engagement</u></p> <p>Family Engagement supports families with children and young people adversely affected by poor relationships. Group sessions focus on improving relationships through building trust, supporting personal development and well-being and skills development. Group sessions bring relevant family members together to support specific needs, to introduce families to new activities and experiences and to provide information and advice to families on a range of topics, along with introductions to new services where needed.</p> <p><u>Young Parents Project</u></p> <p>The Young Parents Project supports new and expectant young parents up to the age of 25 who would benefit from meeting other young parents their own age, making new friends and receiving support for a variety of challenges. Young Parents can receive information and advice, participate in a range of activities that will build confidence, help develop new skills and experience learning with their babies and children.</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Workforce / Volunteer Development</p> <p>Caerphilly Adventure Group is continuing to train and develop volunteers to help run its walking and water-sports programmes.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly deliver a volunteering and coaching pathway which provides young people the opportunity to develop their skills to lead / coach in sporting settings such as schools, community clubs and events. With COVID19 putting our coaching and volunteering pathway on hold it has taken some time to rebuild. The programme is now in a good place and is going from strength to strength and we have recruited a further 10 coaches who will enhance opportunities we can deliver. This pathway continues to grow and allow community clubs to increase membership and participation through school clubs links.</p> <p>As Caerphilly Sport and Leisure Services emerged from the Covid lockdown, it was clear that every swimming pool we managed, like many in the UK, had lost a number of swimming teacher staff members and that we would have to approach our future swimming teacher recruitment slightly differently. We explored the potential of using volunteers within our communities and train them up as the future generation of Swimming Teachers. The first cohort of Aquatic Volunteers were recruited in April 2021 and 9 volunteers aged from 14 year to 66 years were deployed at our swimming pools. These volunteers received the following training prior to their deployment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBS checks • Adult and Child Safeguarding training • Health and Safety training • CCBC corporate training • A site-specific induction training sessions. <p>In July 2021 they were then deployed at sites with a swimming teacher mentor, to assist them through the first 12 weeks of volunteering. After 6 months of volunteering with hours being logged, they were then able to attend the ASA Level1 Swimming Teachers Course, with 6 of our Aquatic volunteers now trained up and actively teaching as part of our Learn to Swim Programme.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Coach of the Future</p> <p>This programme is an opportunity to support and develop the best young coaches, in addition, to gaining valuable experiences and life skills – not just in coaching. The focus of the programme is on key aspects of personal development such as confidence, organisation, teamwork, problem solving, self-belief, leadership, and communication. The pupils who undertake the programme will complete and achieve Community Sport Leadership Qualification via Sport Leaders.</p> <p>During the academic year of 2021/22, 24 pupils completed the course, with 26 during 2022/23 and 21 selected for 2023/2024.</p>	<p>July 2023</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Elite Caerphilly</p> <p>The Elite Caerphilly Scheme has been established to assist the development and potential success of sports people. The scheme aims to reduce the financial burden of training costs for talented athletes, many of whom aspire to participate and represent both Wales and/or Great Britain in their respective sports on the international stage.</p> <p>Aspiring athletes who live in Caerphilly County Borough can apply to receive free access to train at sporting facilities operated by CCBC sport and leisure services. This funding aims to support talented people across our county to fulfil their potential and realise their sporting aspirations.</p> <p>Eligible applicants are those competing within Olympic, Paralympic, Deaflympic and Special Olympic official sporting disciplines at a regional level or above. Confirmation of athlete’s clarification and level will be sought from relevant sport governing bodies to ensure CCBC sport and leisure services are supporting pathways appropriately within each respective sport.</p> <p>The number of people engaged in the programme are:</p> <p>2020- 33 (Covid Lockdown) March 2020 2021- 4 (Covid Lockdown) March 2021 2022- 35 2023- 23</p>	<p>2019/2020</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Caerphilly Leisure & Wellbeing Hub

The Council have been successful in securing £20m funding as part of Round 2 UK Government Levelling up Fund (LUF). Together with £13.6 million of approved match funding from the Council the £33.6 million project will see the development of an accessible and affordable leisure and wellbeing offer that is attractive to residents (memberships and access to a range of free and low-cost services), sports clubs, community groups and a range of public sector partners (schools, GP referrals and social prescribing, youth services, skills providers, Council’s Employability Team, third sector organisations etc.) The new Leisure & Wellbeing Hub will replace Caerphilly Leisure Centre which was built in 1962 and will include:

- A six-lane community swimming pool with pool pod access, learner pool, leisure pool with flumes and interactive water features;
- Wellness spa;
- Children’s adventure soft play
- Tag Active Arena
- 4 court sports hall
- 2 squash courts
- 100-station fitness suite
- Multi-purpose community room
- Future studio/group exercise studio, cycling studio, wellbeing suite and consultation room.
- Changing rooms, in addition to a reception area and café providing community space.

There will also be a multi-agency health and wellbeing offer that complements the leisure offer, with the intention to support residents to become more physically and economically active. Providing a base for public and community partners to deliver programmes, including the Local Health Board and third sector organisations (delivery of wellbeing programmes (e.g. smoking cessation and National Exercise Referral Schemes)). Affordable multi-purpose community spaces will be available to third sector organisations, community groups, sports clubs and private residents (for local sport competitions, community events and birthday parties etc.).

January 2026

In progress

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>The facility will provide gateways to employment, through the delivery of skills training, events and support and the creation of meaningful employment, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities</p> <p>The Wellbeing Suite will support people aged 55+, including those with long term health conditions, and those rehabilitating by providing a social and non-intimidating environment with state-of-the-art equipment.</p> <p>The Leisure & Wellbeing Hub will be 660 metres, an 8 minute walk, from the town centre's Transport Interchange Hub and situated within the active travel corridor, promoting accessibility and inclusion, increased footfall in and around the town centre and Basin and will actively contribute to the objectives</p> <p>Current timelines indicate that the facility will be open for full customer use from January 2026.</p>		
<p>Islwyn Indoor Bowls Club</p> <p>Since the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 Islwyn Indoor Bowls club (IIBC) was not able to deliver full provision, i.e. Bowls and Hospitality. All activities were closed during periods of lockdown and the Club lost all their paid staff. When Welsh Government Covid restrictions were lifted indoor activities were one of the last activities to start back and by this time the IIBC committee made up of club volunteers were running the operational duties of opening and closing the club and keeping the bowls section going.</p> <p>Approval was given for Officers to procure a commercial operator and implement an appropriate commercial agreement on behalf of the Council, so it can act as the catalyst for investment at IIBC to fulfil the potential of the facility within the community and reduce the risk to the Council.</p> <p>A cabinet report was approved on 25th January 2023 and officers have developed a process to go to the market in July- August 2023, in preparation for a commercial operator to commence in September/ October 2023.</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>In progress</p>

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Tots Sessions</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly provides tots sessions in a variety of sports such as hockey, netball, football and athletics. The aim of the community sessions is to develop the physical literacy skills of children aged between 3- 6 years across various leisure centres in the borough. The sessions are well attended and have coaches and volunteers supporting its delivery. Coaches and Volunteers are also upskilled to increase and develop their knowledge to provide high quality and informative sessions to children and parents. This programme is a huge success, and it is our plan to develop it further across more sites in the Borough. This year we have run the following sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbridge LC – Football Tots – Tuesdays – 5pm-6pm • Newbridge LC – Netball Tots – Thursdays – 5pm-6pm • Newbridge LC – Athletics Tots – Thursdays – 5pm-6pm (Summer Term) • Caerphilly LC – Football Tots – Thursdays – 5pm-6pm • Sue Noake LC – Hockey Tots – Tuesdays – 6pm-7pm • Sue Noake LC – Netball Tots – Tuesdays – 5pm-6pm <p>Numbers attending, across all sessions average 17 per session</p>	2019	Ongoing
<p>Working collaboratively</p> <p>We work collaboratively with partners and other deliverers where there is an identified need and/or others can deliver more effectively and efficiently. Sport & Leisure have engaged with a number of providers across a number of levels to deliver programmes that support the aims and ambitions of ‘more people, more active, more often’. Work will continue in this area to either support local providers or work in a more directly focused manner to deliver where Sport & Leisure does not have capacity or expertise. For example, programmes have been delivered in partnership with organisations such as Forces Fitness, Cwac Cwac and the Urdd.</p>		Ongoing

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Communication & Digital First</p> <p>The service has developed a significant digital presence to support regular communication and engagement with existing and new users across a range of platforms</p> <p>The service utilises all available social media platforms, has developed a service specific app (with circa 43k+ downloads), has a dedicated website that offers access to all part of the service area, utilises the Gov Delivery platform (with circa 10k+ users registered), along with engaging with customer experience and communication platform Net Promotor Score.</p> <p>The service will continue to explore further developments in this space, including at a local / site level to enhance the customer experience, improve efficiencies and ensuring we remain at the forefront of health, fitness and wellbeing solutions</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Carbon Reduction</p> <p>The service has recognised the importance of acknowledging, recognising and contributing towards the Councils ambition in relation to carbon reduction and the climate emergency. Steps have been taken to replace 3G pitch floodlights, internal facility lighting, the use of inverters and pool covers to support carbon reduction and increased energy efficiency. An energy design and advice note is also being prepared in relation to the Caerphilly Leisure & Wellbeing Hub to ensure that the facility maximises all available funding and technology is support of a low carbon, energy efficient building.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Our Third Key Outcome: securing a more efficient and financially sustainable future offer

Action:	Implementation Date	Status
<p>Facility Investment</p> <p>The Sport & Active Recreation Strategy established a position that investments would be focused in strategically beneficial areas that would provide high quality, aspirational facilities that will support the ambition of increased level of engagement in an active lifestyle. Investments must meet the requirements established within the Strategy and are financially viable from both a capital and revenue perspective. The service will also pay close attention to maximising external funding opportunities from a variety of sources that will allow for investment opportunities to be maximised. Strong progress has been made in this area with a number of investments detailed above that have significantly improved the service offer. These include:</p>		
<p>Newbridge Leisure Centre</p> <p>£800k investment in redeveloping the Fitness Suite with a supporting Dance and Group Cycling Studio to a fit for purpose, contemporary offer that accurately reflects the ambition set out the strategy.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Newbridge Leisure Centre</p> <p>£50k pool play equipment that significantly enhanced the offer and experience available to children and young families in support of utilising the safe and fun use of water as part of engagement in active recreation</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Newbridge Leisure Centre</p> <p>£25k changing room refurbishment that provides a dedicated, contemporary in facility changing provision that enhances the offer to Fitness Suite users along with providing an additional layer of safeguarding to support the joint use offer.</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Newbridge Leisure Centre</p> <p>3G pitch replacement</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>At tender process</p>

<p>Sue Noake Leisure Centre</p> <p>An investment of £390,000 through Sport Wales and CCBC funded replacement surfaces at Idris Davies School and Sue Noake Hockey Hub that provides a significantly improved facility to support both curriculum delivery and community use provision. The project developed the county borough's first Hockey Hub.</p>	2021	Complete
<p>Bedwas Leisure Centre</p> <p>£315,000 replacement of the outdated Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) and supporting infrastructure, including fencing, lighting and changing rooms at Bedwas LC to a modern, fit for purpose dual use rugby and football 3G pitch.</p>	2022	Complete
<p>Lewis School, Pengam 3G</p> <p>An investment of approximately £90,000 funded through retained underspend reserves was initiated to replace the outdated Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Lewis School Pengam with a new dual use 3G football and rugby pitch. The upgraded facility will support both improved access for curriculum delivery and community access, supporting development opportunities across a broad range.</p>	2021	Complete
<p>Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni</p> <p>An investment of approximately £90,000 funded through retained underspend reserves was initiated to replace the outdated Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni with a new dual use 3G football and rugby pitch. The upgraded facility will support both improved access for curriculum delivery and community access, supporting development opportunities across a broad range.</p>	2021	Complete
<p>Idris Davies 3-18 Community School</p> <p>An investment of £390,000 through Sport Wales and CCBC at Idris Davies School and Sue Noake Hockey Hub funded replacement of the outdated Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) with a new dual use 3G pitch that provides a significantly improved facility to support both curriculum delivery and community use provision.</p>	2021	Complete
<p>St. Cenydd Community School</p> <p>Using Welsh Government's Place for Sport fund allocated to Sport Wales a new dual use 3G pitch has been installed to replace the previous Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP). At a cost of £110,000 the upgraded 3G pitch provides a facility for pupils, leisure centre users and the wider community to use to play and train all</p>	2020	Complete

year around. The multi-use pitch can be used in all weather and is utilised by a number of different sports including football and rugby.		
<p>Heolddu Leisure Centre</p> <p>A £100,000 refurbishment of the Fitness Suite has provided a range of new cardio equipment including rowers, air bikes and SkiErg ski machines as well as new resistance machines and free weights. The new facilities will benefit students at Heolddu Comprehensive School, the local community and new and existing Leisure lifestyle members.</p>	June 2023	Complete
<p>Heolddu Leisure Centre</p> <p>Heolddu Leisure Centre offers a 25 metre swimming pool, Health Suite, Fitness Suite, Squash Court, 3G pitch and dedicated Group Cycling Studio. Heolddu Leisure Centre is circa 50 years old is co-located with Heolddu Comprehensive School and that options for its future will be considered in connection with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p>	2028/29	
<p>Cruyff Court Aaron Ramsey, Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre</p> <p>The facility has been built in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council and the Aaron Ramsey Foundation with the help of funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery at a total cost of £73,000. The Cruyff Court Aaron Ramsey at Trinity Fields School is dedicated to children with additional learning needs which was one of Johan Cruyff's initial motivations as he sought to connect sports and children. The Cruyff Court provides a safe place where children and young people can interact with each other socially and develop healthier lifestyles.</p>	June 2023	Complete
<p>Nelson Handball Court</p> <p>Nelson Handball court had a resurfacing and repainting programme of works in July/ August 2023. This works was to upgrade this landmark and is recorded as the only full-size handball court on mainland Britain. The investment was £15,445.</p>	August 2023	Complete
<p>Risca Leisure Centre ATP</p> <p>The artificial turf pitch (ATP) at Risca Leisure Centre is coming to the end of its useful life. Site investigation works are being undertaken to inform options for replacement.</p>	March 2024	
Abercarn Primary School Mini 3G	2023	At Procurement stage

<p>To replace the current schools mini-ATP with a modern 3G surface and floodlights, that will allow this facility to be opened up outside of school hours to support community sport and clubs.</p>		
<p>Centre for Vulnerable Learners, Pontllanfraith Under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme the Council is planning to build a Centre for Vulnerable Learners on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site. The new facility will accommodate between 80 - 120 pupils and be equipped with high quality learning opportunities, indoor and outdoor sporting provision and will enable community use of the facilities outside school hours.</p> <p>Sporting facilities will include a 4 court sports hall, with associated changing facilities, and a 3G pitch (size 40 x 30 metres i.e. not full size).</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	
<p>Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and the immunisation programme that followed, Pontllanfraith LC has acted as the county borough's Mass Vaccination Centre (MVC) from September 2021 until June 2023. The 3G pitch has maintained a full programme of community use, however the users of the indoor space have relocated to alternative facilities.</p> <p>The council is committed to repurposing elements of the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site with the development of a new Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) and respite centre. The new CVL will include a 4-court sports hall and a multipurpose 3G pitch, albeit not full size. As a result of these and wider developments there is requirement for the council to adopt a position on the future of the site as part of the broader place shaping ambition.</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Demolition of former comprehensive school in progress</p>
<p>Community Focussed Schools Sport & Leisure have initiated discussions with three Secondary Schools to maximise the use of their community assets. Sport facilities at Islwyn High, Blackwood and Ysgol y Gwindy will be managed by the service ensuring a consistent delivery model and availability. Further discussions are scheduled to take place at the completion of the PFI process at Lewis School Pengam and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.</p> <p>The position builds upon the aspiration within the Strategy to create more sustainable facilities by managing and promoting community use by managing within the Sport and Leisure facility portfolio.</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	

Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy

In November 2020, the Council formally adopted a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy. The scope of the strategy was broad in its outlook and includes elements of GI such as: -

- Parks and Gardens (urban and country and formal gardens)
- Amenity greenspace (informal recreation, housing green spaces, domestic gardens, village green, urban commons etc.)
- Natural and semi natural green spaces (woodland, scrub, grassland, heath, derelict land etc.)
- Green corridors (rivers, canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, hedgerows, public rights of way)
- Other features such as allotments, farms, community gardens churchyards, green roofs, recreation grounds etc.

The strategy was developed in conjunction with key partners / stakeholders to generate widespread support and understanding and the full role and function of green spaces across the county borough. It identifies and prioritises GI within the borough as well as on a regional and national context. It identifies clear and practicable mechanism for delivery and clearly measured targets and outcomes and provides the foundation and supporting document for the future preparation and submission of grant bids to relevant funding bodies. A five-year rolling delivery and action plan sets both local and regional delivery priorities.

An update report was received & noted by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 25th October 2022. An all-members Seminar was held in October 2022 to raise awareness of our Bio-Diversity Duty, the Gwent wide 'Nature isn't Neat' campaign and our grass cutting regimes going forward.

Regional working through the Gwent Green Grid Project has continued both on the ground and in policy terms with the preparation of both a Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy and Strategic Access Plan. Developments within country parks have included both revised land management and recreation provision. Emphasis has been placed on biodiversity and decarbonisation/landscape improvements with a range of nesting and hibernation infrastructure being put in place and the second phase of the Covid Memorial Woodland being planted.

2020

In Progress

<p>Additional grant funding from the National Lottery for pan Gwent GI improvements was secured and preparatory planning commenced to secure funding for capital GI improvements, bio-diversity support and Local Places for Nature until 2025.</p>		
<p>Community Centres</p> <p>There are currently 35 Community Centres as part of the CCBC supported network. Each facility plays a key role in the delivery of sport and active recreation at a local level. The vast majority of programmes are delivered in a low cost, encouraging environment delivered by local groups and organisations. There are also examples of high-level activity being delivered in some Community Centres, particularly in martial arts.</p> <p>In accordance with the Welsh Government 'Facilities for Future Generations' framework, Community Centre are classified as providing local, door step options for those who either prefer this environment or have difficulty accessing a larger facility. Significant improvements have been made by both CCBC and the local Community Centre management committees to improve and enhance both the fabric and structure of the facility, offering a more engaging and inclusive environment.</p> <p>Sport & Leisure Service will continue to support both ongoing facility investment where appropriate and required, along with providing advice and guidance to those delivery partners active within local communities.</p> <p>The service has committed to a formal review of the Community Centre Service to establish a long - term vision that aim to ensure that there a sustainable and appropriate delivery model that is needs lead and supports local communities.</p>	<p>2024</p>	
<p>Armed Forces</p> <p>Sport & Leisure have continued to provide Free Swimming to all Armed Forces personnel in receipt of a Defence Card and this is offered across all 6 swimming pools</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>Refugee Support</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

<p>Sport & Leisure have provided support through the provision of free memberships to those individuals and families who have become refugees in Caerphilly as a result of major issues in their home countries. There has been a steady take up of the offer and positive feedback from those families that have engaged in the scheme</p>		
<p>Gwent Drug & Alcohol Service (GDAS) In partnership with GDAS, the service has provided free supported access to those residents that are engaged in programme of self / supported help to utilise the benefits associated with engaging in active, healthy lifestyles</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

