

 **wesport**
INSPIRING ACTIVE LIVES
Voscur
In partnership with

A photograph of three people swimming in a body of water. One person in the foreground is wearing a green swim cap and goggles, with their head tilted back. Another person in the middle ground is wearing a light blue swim cap and goggles, smiling. A third person is partially visible in the background. The water is calm and greyish-blue.

THE TACKLING INEQUALITIES FUND

**2020
- 2022**

The Tackling Inequalities Overview

Overview of the 3 funding phases




The Tackling Inequalities Fund (TIF) was part of the emergency response package delivered by Sport England during COVID-19. It quickly became clear that certain groups of people were being disproportionately affected by the pandemic and it was significantly impacting their ability to be physically active. A key aim of this fund was to invest in partners who had direct access to the priority audiences for this fund. These audiences are:

- People with Long Term Health Conditions
- Disabled People
- People on Low Incomes
- Culturally Diverse Communities



Across the 3 phases we partnered with 103 organisations. 83% of these organisations had never received Sport England funding before.

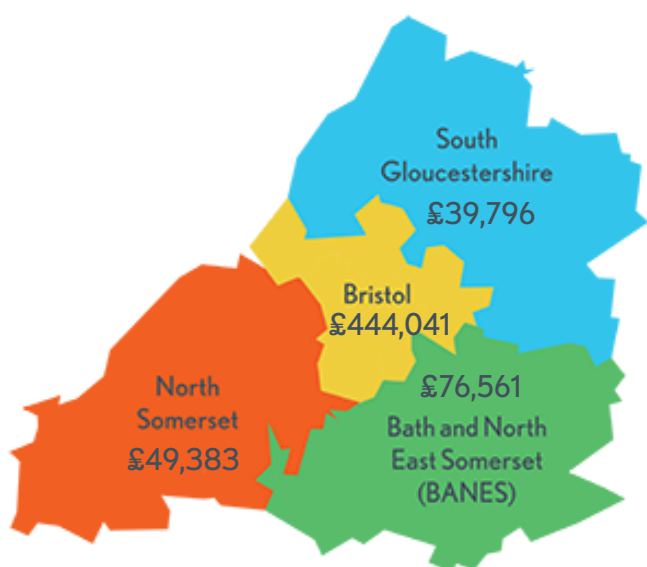
Throughout TIF we have tried to create a programme of ongoing support that exceeds the funded period for partners:

-  We have delivered learning calls to engage with partners hearing direct feedback to help adapt and directly steer the investment over time.
-  Sharing this learning and creating a network of support where partners have independently connected and offered help to each other.
-  Accessing further investment through other systems to make it easier for partners to access opportunities i.e. Green Social Prescribing (GSP).

The Tackling Inequalities Overview

Overview of the investment across the 3 phases

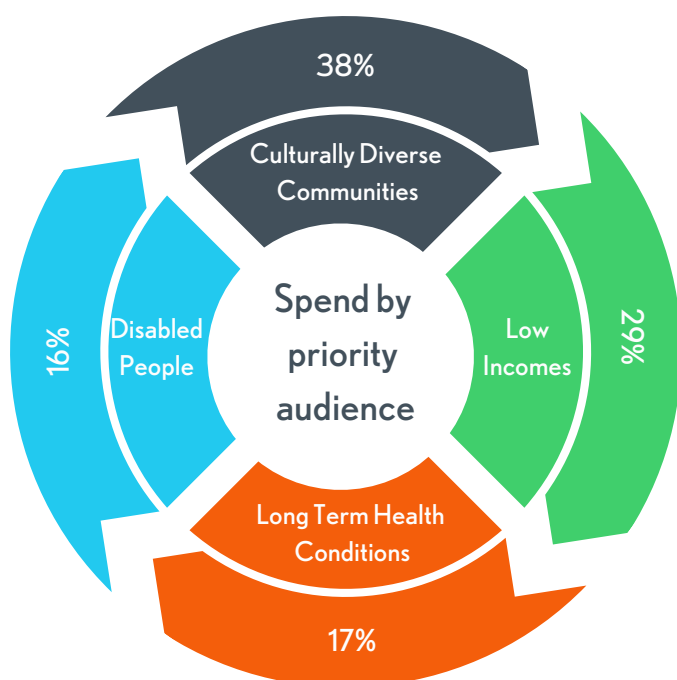
Investment Split by Unitary Authority.



Overall Investment



Audience Breakdown



Participant numbers



Phase 1 April 2020 – September 2020 At a glance

At a glance

Sport England used the Active Partnership Network to distribute TIF, utilising the access the network had to reach the priority audiences this fund was aimed at.

Key funding information

During phase 1 Wesport received £198,000 worth of applications. Wesport utilised funding from other programmes to support as many applications as possible.

£ 80,000
Awarded to Wesport

76,813
spent on 37 awards engaging 2029 participants

CHALLENGES

- Sudden closure of services provided at community level.
- Response to support communities with little coordination.
- Fear for participants who were cut off from provision.
- Partners losing contacts and closing their doors.
- Shrinking of network with furlough being used widely.

WHO DID WESPORT WORK WITH

To reach higher levels of the priority audience we engaged with:



Community Associations



Activity providers focussed on referral pathways



Youth Organisations

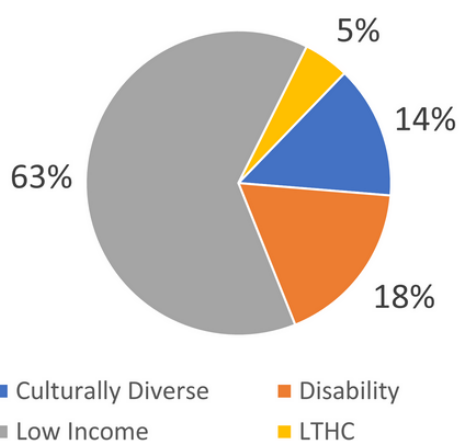


Providers not focussed on sport

RELATIONSHIP WITH SPORT ENGLAND

Sport England were actively listening to the funded partners feedback whilst designing how partners would be able to access this funding. National calls were hosted to bring partners together to speed up the rate of learning and interaction. This valuable time enabled Sport England to respond to the need and adapt quickly to the changing environment during the COVID-19 restrictions.

TIF Phase 1 Audience Split



Phase 1

April 2020 – September 2020

THE PROCESS



Sport England used the Active Partnership Network to distribute TIF to reach the priority audiences. Across England (and beyond), local sport groups/organisations were struggling with the environment they were trying to operate in.

To reach the target audience and those we knew were already less physically active, Wesport tailored this programme to engage community groups/organisations who could use movement, physical activity, and sport as an engagement tool for their communities. These community groups/organisations typically had a known and trusted relationship with their direct communities, most being place-based and delivering directly to the residents and communities in the streets and areas immediately around their venue bases.

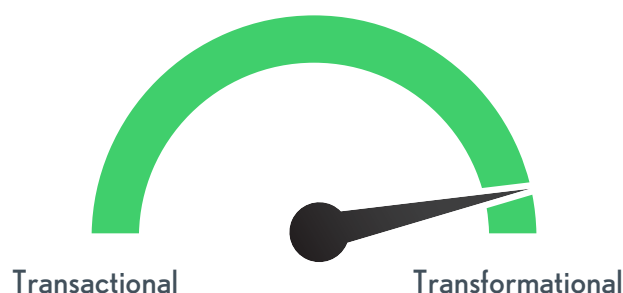
Funding applications were processed quickly and grants paid upfront once basic minimum standards were shared to enable partners to take swift action.


Within 6 weeks of receiving the funding from Sport England, Wesport had allocated 95% of the funding awarded to community partners.

LEARNING FROM PHASE 1



Wesport kept in constant contact with funded partners to understand how delivery was going, how they were responding to the constantly changing environment and where other support could be provided. The focus was on developing transformational rather than transactional relationships with organisations.





"With the impact of the long unexpected lockdown children in the poorest areas of the country are the ones that were affected the most. This kit will make a huge difference to their physical and mental health."

Barton Hill Activity Club

Phase 2 September 2020 - March 2021 At a glance

At a glance

Wesport applied for phase 2 funding from Sport England and started working in partnership with Voscur.

Key funding information

During phase 2 Wesport partnered with Voscur to allocate £281,322 worth of joint investment.

£ 80,000
Awarded to Wesport

281,322
invested by Voscur and Wesport on 62 awards engaging 2088 participants.

FOCUS AREAS

- Reinvestment in phase 1 projects.
- Solicited bids from South Gloucestershire due to little engagement in phase 1.
- Focus on projects supporting culturally diverse communities.
- Hyper local work in Weston-Super-Mare

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

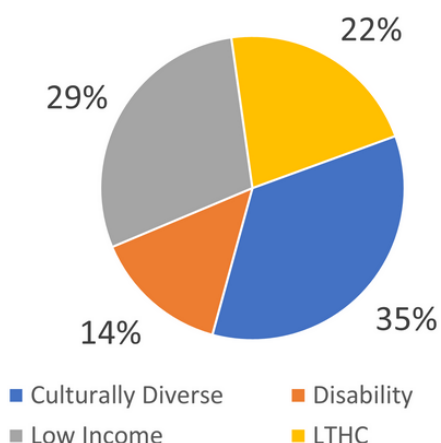
Wesport started working in partnership with Voscur to avoid duplication, reduce any confusion about the fund at community level, and ensure we were all working as efficiently as possible.

Wesport had been administering the fund, Voscur and Black South West Network had unique access to audiences and were working to support bids from partners who had never received Sport England funding before.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SPORT ENGLAND

Sport England maintained national calls encouraging partners to share concerns and offer solutions together. They maintained their flexible approach and supported partners to adapt their delivery to ensure they could still support their audiences. This ease of funding parameters enabled us to maintain engagement with partners and encourage them to continue to support their communities.

TIF Phase 2 Audience Split



Phase 2 September 2020 - March 2021

THE PROCESS



Wesport applied for phase 2 of TIF from Sport England as demand from the community groups/organisations funded in the first round was still very high. During Phase 2 of TIF, Sport England continued to invest TIF throughout the Active Partnership Network across England. The following National Partners were brought on board during phase 2 to help continue to drive focus on priority audiences:

- Street Games
- Age UK
- Versus Arthritis
- Voice 4 Change England

Using mapping we plotted where the existing funded delivery was taking place as well as the reach into the priority audiences across the West of England.

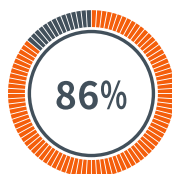
During phase 2 Wesport joined forces with Voscur, the VCSE lead for Bristol. We aimed to avoid duplication, reduce any confusion about the fund at community level and ensure we were all working efficiently to reach more culturally diverse communities. Wesport had been administering the fund, Voscur and Black South West Network (BSWN) had unique access to audiences and were working to support applications from community groups/organisations who had never received Sport England funding before.

Wesport still had demand that was far greater than the investment we received for Phase 2 of TIF. We quickly proposed these projects to be funded through Voscur's allocation of TIF to speed up our response whilst waiting for the next phase of TIF to be allocated.

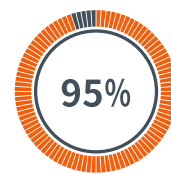
LEARNING FROM PHASE 2




During phase 2 of TIF, funded community groups/organisations responded overwhelmingly positively about the impact that the continued investment was having:



of community groups/organisations reported that activity levels of inactive participants had increased because of their TIF project.



of community groups/organisations shared that they would continue to use movement, sport, and physical activity to achieve their organisational outcomes.



"Thank you for helping us take this initiative off the ground during the peak of COVID. Because of your timely support, we were able to help transform the lives of more people through cycling"

Lifecycle UK

Phase 3 April 2021 - March 2022 At a glance

At a glance

Partnership working led to a coordinated approach to the funding released for Phase 3 of TIF.

Key funding information

Wesport and Voscur worked collaboratively to bid for £256,000.



256,000

Awarded to Wesport and Voscur



251,646

invested by Voscur and Wesport on 65 awards engaging 4079 participants.

FOCUS AREAS



- Key focus on 13 wards in Bristol with the highest population of culturally diverse communities.
- In North Somerset 15 ward areas exceeded the England average for population levels of people with Long Term Health Conditions and Disabilities.
- Across the West of England socioeconomic data was mapped with levels of deprivation to highlight areas in each unitary authority area that would be a focus.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Our partnership working led to a coordinated approach to the funding released for Phase 3 of TIF which saw Wesport and Voscur working collaboratively to bid for £256,000.

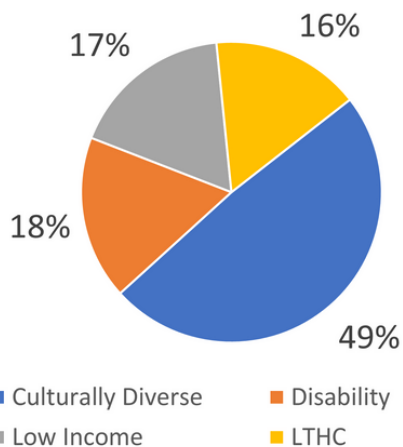
- Wesport led the grant distribution ensuring the line of sight to sport and physical activity is clear.
- Voscur led on the organisational support and resilience building of community partners with both existing and new applicants.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SPORT ENGLAND



With the inclusion of National Partners to the TIF family alongside the Active Partnership Network the language and interaction between everyone needed to change. Sport England brought the network together to help co design what the future of TIF would look like, partners felt informed and able to plan ahead more meaningfully with future investment.

TIF Phase 3 Audience Split



Phase 3 April 2021 - March 2022

THE PROCESS



Our partnership working led to a coordinated approach to the funding released for Phase 3 of TIF which saw Wesport and Voscur working collaboratively to distribute £256,000 with one simple grant process.

Our Phase 3 programme was the largest to date. As part of the ambition and to effectively work across the West of England, Voscur engaged the other VCSE infrastructure organisations from each Unitary Authority area:

- 3rd Sector Group BANES (3SG)
- South Gloucestershire CVS
- Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS)

A focus on walking

Walking projects have been the most popular funded projects throughout the pandemic. Many organisations started to utilise walking to reach their isolated audiences. Wesport & Voscur brought funded walking projects together to host a 'Let's get Talking about Walking' discussion. Local conversations had seen an increase in confusion over safe delivery, lack of access to training opportunities and concern over the walk leaders being appropriately supported when hosting participants with a very high level of need. In response, training was developed by ActiveBeing and delivered as part of the bespoke offer through the Voscur Support and Resilience package.

USE OF MAPPING



The Power BI tool below enabled us to see where funded projects were being delivered.

Culturally Diverse

Disability

LSEG

LTHC

Total Projects

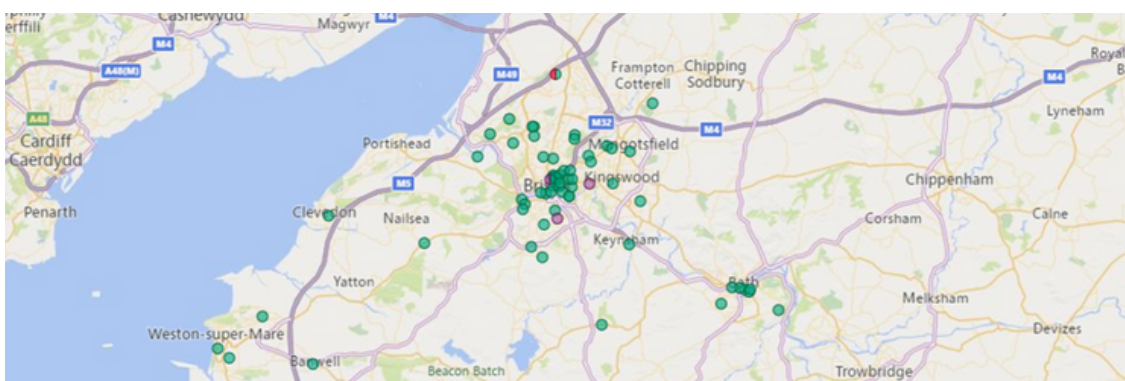
24

18

40

19

101



Phase 3

April 2021 - March 2022

SUPPORT AND RESILIENCE PACKAGE

Phase 3 also saw the introduction of Voscur's Support and Resilience package which would be offered to the existing and new TIF family of funded community groups/organisations.

The package was modelled on requests for support that both Wesport and Voscur knew partners wanted but also collated at point of application. The programme was delivered alongside the funded period of phase 3 with partners encouraged to attend online thematic workshops.

In phase 3 these sessions covered:

Online resources & checklists

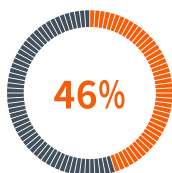
One to one advice surgeries

Training sessions

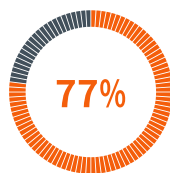
Document review

- 30 session delivered
- 96 unique participants attended
- 62 organisations engaged in the programme

LEARNING FROM PHASE 3




of funded groups/organisations were not sport and physical activity providers



of funded groups/organisations described participants' activity levels had improved from inactive to fairly active.



reported that they would continue to use sport, physical activity and movement beyond their funded period

A young child with dark hair and a red long-sleeved shirt is standing on a colorful inflatable play structure. The structure features a large rainbow graphic and the text 'JumpBOUNCE' and 'www.jumpbounce.co.uk'. The child is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a playroom or gym.

“It gave an opportunity for my son to play, to exercise, to explore and it gave him great satisfaction. Seeing him use the equipment and how happy he gets makes me happy and also feels good that I am doing all what's possible to meet his needs.”

Gympanzees

JumpBOUNCE
www.jumpbounce.co.uk



System Connections & Together Fund

SYSTEM CONNECTIONS



As the programme developed, Wesport and Voscur recognised that there was a need to maximise the reach of this investment locally and to create system efficiencies as a blueprint for future funding programmes. Within phase 3, the Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care System (ICS) became a test pilot site for Green Social Prescribing (GSP) funding. Through both funding sources it was evident that there was a link to physical activity and a crossover in the organisations applying for the funding. As a positive approach projects from GSP with a direct link to physical activity were passported to TIF. This had a positive impact on the organisations applying with a decrease in administration and an increase in connectivity.

Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) - In the context of the pandemic, temporary initial accommodation sites (TIAs) were planned across the area to house people seeking asylum in Bristol. Voscur created a partnership with BRASP to incorporate physical activity opportunities into the newer temporary initial accommodation sites (TIAs) in the West of England.

TOGETHER FUND



Wesport and Voscur were jointly awarded £461,674 for the 2022/23 Together Fund programme to design and deliver a co-ordinated activity to distribute £381,556 in grants to Bristol/West of England VCSE organisations for sport and physical activities with target groups. Our approach is built on Wesport's specialist expertise in managing the funding, engagement and long-standing relationships with sports organisations, with Voscur providing support to community organisations to apply, deliver activities and develop their organisations' resilience.

Wesport and Voscur are supporting partners towards the end of the Together Fund in September 2023, we look forward to sharing with you a report from this final phase of delivery.

