Sport England Secondary Teacher Training programme: Briefing for Active Partnerships

Sport England is investing £13.5 million of National Lottery funding into a Secondary Teacher Training programme, designed to provide teachers with access to professional development as well as put pupil’s enjoyment and whole school outcomes at the heart of PE and school sport.

This briefing document has been prepared by Sport England, working closely with the Active Partnerships national CYP group, to provide information about the programme and ask for your support to promote this huge funding opportunity for secondary schools.

1. Secondary Teacher Training programme: how does it work?
We know that young people’s attitudes to sport and physical activity are shaped heavily by their experiences at school, and Sport England research has shown that having a bad experience of PE can put a young person off physical activity for life. Sport England has designed this professional development programme to give teachers the support and training they need to engage all pupils in physical activity, regardless of sporting ability.

The programme has been designed with the Teaching Schools Council, Youth Sport Trust, Association for Physical Education and Activity Alliance. Funding is distributed via the network of Teaching School Alliances (TSAs) and other appropriate school partnerships where there is not an appropriate Teaching School available to lead a project. TSAs and partnerships are awarded £3,350 for every secondary school included in their project.

After signing up and attending a national orientation day event, TSAs and partnerships are given free support by an expert consultant from either the Youth Sport Trust or Association for Physical Education to: plan a project based on the needs of their staff and students, access relevant mentoring and training, implement the project in school, and measure the impact of their work. Sheffield Hallam University have been appointed as the national evaluators for the programme and ask each TSA/partnership to conduct baseline and follow up surveys with their staff and students.

The programme is delivered in a series of phases:

- Phase 1: October 2018 – December 2019
- Phase 2: December 2018 – July 2020
- Phase 3: March 2019 – December 2020
- Phase 4: July 2019 – April 2021
- Phase 5: November 2019 – July 2021
- Phase 7: June 2020 – April 2022 (EOI deadline: 22 May 2020)
- Phase 8: November 2020 – July 2022 (EOI deadline: 23 October 2020)

2. What can the funding be used for?
It’s a flexible programme – the funding can also be used to upskill teachers, improve the quality and breadth of PE, and develop schools’ PE offer so that it acts as a lever for wider educational outcomes. TSAs/partnerships are expected to identify what training they need through
consultation with their staff and students – there is no ‘menu’ of training offered centrally. We encourage TSAs to develop projects and training that:

- Develop pupils’ mental wellbeing, confidence and resilience through PE, school sport and physical activities that prioritise pupil enjoyment. For example, this might include some training on how to develop a PE, school sport and physical activity offer/curriculum that meets these needs.

- Create opportunities for all pupils – including those who don’t like PE – to try new activities so they can discover ways to be physically active that work for them. For example, some TSAs are training teachers to deliver new activities such as yoga, cheerleading, volleyball and boxercise.

- Explore how PE, school sport and physical activity can contribute to or complement core curriculum subjects by finding ways to bring activity into other subjects’ lessons. For example, some TSAs have used the funding for teacher release so PE staff can mentor other colleagues.

3. What impact is this programme having?
Our pilot phase, which launched in spring 2018 with 38 schools across England, has shown that:

- This funding has enabled students to have greater choice in what activities they do in PE and how competitive they want to be. 92% of students experienced new activities in PE.

- Over half of the students surveyed enjoyed PE more than last year, with over 90% experiencing new activities in PE.

- Teachers reported an increased perception of the importance of PE and physical education in school, and a greater number of teachers agree that they have a responsibility to discuss and encourage physical activity.

4. How can Active Partnerships support the programme?
Sport England would really welcome the support of Active Partnership colleagues – we want to fund as many secondary schools as possible, and in return we hope to create networks of schools committed to developing their PE, school sport and physical activity offers. In your strategic conversations and work with secondary schools, please help us to raise awareness of this funding opportunity and signpost them to the information on Sport England’s website.

Resources to support you:
- **Key messages** are attached at Annex A.

- Some **example text for use in newsletters or communications** is attached at Annex B. Please feel free to adapt this to fit your local context.

- If you’d like to promote the programme on **social media**, here’s an example tweet to use: @Sport_England is investing £13.5million of #NationalLottery funding into a professional
development programme for teachers. Over 1650 secondary schools have signed up to the programme so far but there’s still time to register your interest. ☝️ [http://bit.ly/2nq1BEZ](http://bit.ly/2nq1BEZ)


- Sport England has developed a **mapping tool** to track engagement from secondary schools across England – you can view it here: [http://arcg.is/XuTiy](http://arcg.is/XuTiy). This will show you which schools in your region are currently receiving funding through this programme, and those we haven’t been able to recruit yet. **Please use the information in the map sensitively and do not share this link any wider than Active Partnership colleagues.** It is intended for information only and to guide our recruitment efforts. We do not want schools to feel pressured into signing up and it must not be shared with any providers who could use it to try and sell products or services.

If you have any other queries about the programme, please contact Georgina Howe, Head of Children and Young People at Sport England: [Georgina.howe@sportengland.org](mailto:Georgina.howe@sportengland.org) / 07826 239794

**Annex A: Secondary Teacher Training programme key messages**

- Sport England has a dedicated funding programme for secondary school PE – don’t miss the opportunity to access this funding. There’s funding available for every secondary school in England.

- Over 1650 secondary schools are involved so far. This is the last year to sign up.

- The funding is distributed via Teaching School Alliances and partnerships. Make sure you speak to your headteacher and/or TSA lead and encourage them to sign up for your school.

- The Secondary Teacher Training programme is about professional development for PE teachers, senior leaders and other subject teachers – it’s a brilliant opportunity to develop and enhance your PE, school sport and physical activity offer.

- You will have the flexibility to focus on the needs of your staff and schools. Depending on the priorities of your school, you could benefit from:
  
  o Bespoke support and mentoring to review your current curriculum offer to ensure it is relevant and enjoyable for all students – regardless of sporting ability

  o Training that will enable you to deliver a broader range of activities in PE and extra-curricular clubs

  o Support and training to advocate for the role PE, school sport and physical activity plays in supporting whole school improvement and pupil wellbeing.

- You will be given free support by an expert consultant throughout – they will be there to help you navigate the process.
Annex B: Example newsletter text

NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR PE DEVELOPMENT

Sport England is investing up to £13.5million of National Lottery funding into secondary schools across England via the Teaching School Alliances and other school partnerships. Their Secondary Teacher Training programme is designed to provide teachers with access to professional development, and test how pupils’ enjoyment and whole school outcomes can be placed at the heart of PE and school sport.

Over 1,650 secondary schools are already involved in the programme – don’t miss the chance to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

Any state school that educates students aged 11-16 years is eligible (independent, primary schools, middle school deemed primary, sixth form or Further Education colleges are not eligible). All eligible schools will be accepted onto the programme (subject to due diligence checks).

How does it work?
Each TSA/partnership is given free support by an expert consultant over three academic terms to design a bespoke project based on the needs of their staff and pupils, access relevant mentoring and training, deliver interventions in school, and measure the impact of their project.

TSAs/partnerships and their secondary schools can invest this funding according to their priorities. Sport England encourages projects that:

- Develop pupils’ mental wellbeing, confidence and resilience through PE, school sport and physical activities that prioritise pupil enjoyment.
- Develop pupils’ understanding of the benefits of physical activity and how to live a healthy lifestyle.
- Create opportunities for all pupils – including those who don’t like PE – to try new activities (such as non-traditional sports and fitness classes) so they can discover ways to be physically active that work for them.
- Explore how PE, school sport and physical activity can contribute to or complement core curriculum subjects by finding ways to bring activity into other subjects’ lesson plans.

How to get involved:
Please visit the Sport England website for more information and details on how to sign up: https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/children-and-young-people/secondary-teacher-training-programme/

The deadline for the next phase of the programme is 5pm, Friday 7 February 2020.