

Environmental Social Governance Action Plan for Active Lancashire

Introduction

In April 2023, Active Lancashire made a public commitment to promoting physical activity and well-being in Lancashire in a way that is socially responsible and sustainable. We recognise the importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors in creating long-term value for our stakeholders. In alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>. We have developed an ESG policy that outlines our commitment to making a positive impact on the environment and society. This Action Plan articulates what we will do as an organisation through the delivery of our 2021-2031 Strategy in our leadership, development and delivery role to achieve our ESG policy.

Vision

Active Lancashire aims to create a healthier and more sustainable future by promoting physical activity in alignment with the principles of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) best practices. This action plan outlines our commitment to aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integrating ESG considerations into our system leadership work, operations, programmes, and initiatives.

Actions in support of UN Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being:

Goal: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.

Actions:

Promote Physical Activity: We will lead and facilitate collaborative activity with local schools, partners, communities, and health organisations to create awareness about the benefits of physical activity for long term health, particularly for communities experiencing the greatest inequalities. We will provide research and evidence, creating a compelling narrative for the benefits for physical activity, which will be communicated through workshops, social media, Strategies and demonstration events which will be focused on developing a social movement “Activating Lancashire”, engage individuals of all ages and partners across our communities to support our messages.

Mental Health Integration: We will integrate mental health awareness into physical activity programmes working with our lead strategic and delivery partners. We will support partners through our skills based approach to deliver support and resources to participants, focusing on the link between physical activity and mental well-being.

Inclusive Programs: We will continue to work with communities and local partners to develop specialised programs catering to diverse groups, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and disadvantaged communities. We will ensure that we understand the needs of our communities and will continue to work with partners to develop a comprehensive range of physical activity opportunities which are accessible to everyone.

SDG 4: Quality Education:

Goal: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Actions:

Physical Education Enhancement: Collaborate with schools / School Games partnerships to enhance physical education offer and curriculum. Provide training for educators on incorporating active learning methods and emphasise the importance of physical activity in wider education.

Community skills and capital: Provide and facilitate workshops for learning, inclusive skills development pathways and opportunities for network collaboration that enable the significance of physical education and the long-term benefits of active lifestyles to be understood, capability to be developed and best practice to be developed . Engage parents, teachers, and community members to promote education on physical well-being and engage in a skills based approach to ensuring quality provision is available to all.

SDG 5: Gender Equality:

Goal: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Actions:

Women are Empowered through Physical Activity and Sport: Build on existing National and Local initiatives to empower women and girls through sports and physical activities. Lead the development of a Lancashire Women in Sport network, promote women-only fitness classes, leadership workshops for our delivery networks, and mentorship programmes to build confidence and skills across our voluntary sector partners.

Awareness Campaigns: Step up promotional campaigns highlighting the importance of gender equality in sports and physical activity. Partner with local influencers to amplify the message of equal opportunities for all genders, cultures and contexts.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:

Goal: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Actions:

Local Employment: Lead collaborative activity with our local networks to create job opportunities in the leisure, health and wellness sectors which provide us with the capacity and skills to drive the Activating Lancashire movement. Support leadership and where necessary provide training pathways, coaching and certification for individuals of all backgrounds to enable provision of a high standard that is inclusive and meets the needs of our communities.

Partnerships with Businesses: Partner with local businesses to promote and where necessary provide workplace wellness programmes. Encourage employers to support physical activity among their employees for improved productivity and well-being.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:

Goal: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Actions:

Urban Green Spaces: Advocate within strategic plans for the creation and maintenance of parks and play grounds, green spaces, and recreational areas in urban communities. Promote community clean-up events and tree planting to enhance the ownership and profile of the green environment.

Active Transport: Promote cycling, walking and wheeling as sustainable modes of transport through the co-development of strategy, action plans and campaigns. Collaborate with Local Authorities to develop safe pedestrian and cycling paths, encouraging active commuting in line with best practice design principles.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals:

Goal: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Actions:

Stakeholder Collaboration: Collaborate with Local Government, educational providers, healthcare, and businesses to collectively promote physical activity and wellness. Build a network of partners invested in the well-being of the community and supporting the Activating Lancashire social movement.

Data Sharing and Monitoring: Improve our networks and systems to collect data on participation rates, the effectiveness of practice, and community impact. Proactively share this data with stakeholders to track progress and make informed decisions across the system and at Place.

Additional Cross-Cutting Measures:

Data Collection and Reporting: Establish a robust data collection system to measure the impact of our initiatives on ESG indicators. Regularly report progress to stakeholders and the public through our Active Lancashire annual report.

Employee Training: Provide ongoing training to staff members to raise awareness about ESG principles and empower them to integrate this learning into their leadership and delivery roles.

Sustainability in Operations: Implement sustainable practices within our offices and facilities, such as reducing waste, increasing recycling efforts, and adopting energy-efficient technologies including the annual reduction in Co2 expended by the organisation.

Education and Awareness: Organise workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of ESG practices and their connection to physical activity and community well-being as a cornerstone of our Activating Lancashire approach.

Summary

By aligning our operations and programmes with the United Nations' SDGs and integrating ESG principles, Active Lancashire aims to create a positive impact on the environment, society, and governance while promoting physical activity and healthier lifestyles within our communities at system and Place levels.

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