Sport Aberdeen

1. **Do you know how and when you can get involved with the Integration Authorities to influence decision making?**

Following the Initial establishment of Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) the opportunities to influence and work with them were limited at first. This was largely due to the AHSCP taking time to establish management structures and priorities. As a result, Sport Aberdeen had to actively find ways to be invited to events and involved in discussions or and consultations.

However, in the past nine months Sport Aberdeen have developed a much closer and positive working relationship with the AHSCP. This has resulted in an increase in the number of opportunities to influence and be involved. Consequently, we are now seen as an influential and pro-active partner.

2. **Were you consulted in the preparation of the strategic plans or involved with the work of the Strategic Planning Group?**

We were consulted but this came about as a result of Sport Aberdeen approaching the HSCP offering to provide feedback, rather than being approached directly by the partnership. Again, this was due to the partnership being in its early stages. Consequently, a team discussion was held during the initial strategy consultation which was delivered by an AHSCP Facilitator. Following this, Sport Aberdeen were asked to provide feedback on the initial and final drafts of the strategy prior to publication.

3. **Have you been involved with the work of the Integration Authority following the publication of the strategic plan?**

In much the same way that Sport Aberdeen had to involve itself in initial strategy discussion with the AHSCP, Sport Aberdeen had to actively involve itself in initial work and groups established through the AHSCP’s. For example, working groups or discussion about collaborations, such as Well Torry, a community consultation event run for partners working in the area facilitated by Thrive. This was supported via ACVO, Aberdeen Third Sector Interface.

Sport Aberdeen also took the lead in sharing the strategy discussions at an Active Aberdeen Partnership (AAP)¹ level and collated feedback from the AAP which was passed on to the HSCP.

Due to the initial effort and subsequent meetings between AHSCP & Sport Aberdeen Senior Management Teams to discuss and explore opportunities, Sport Aberdeen are now involved as a lead partner in an ever-increasing number of streams of work including:

**Membership of:**
- AHSCP Aberdeen Falls Strategy Steering Group
- Supporting Self-Management and Community Capacity Working Group (attendance at this group as a representative of the Active Aberdeen Partnership – AAP)
- South Locality Leadership Group (attendance at this group as a representative of the Active Aberdeen Partnership – AAP)

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¹ The Active Aberdeen Partnership is a strategic, dynamic, flexible and progressive body; comprising of ten organisations focused on making Aberdeen the most active city in Scotland.
4. Have you been involved with the work of the localities/ what involvement would you like to have?

We were invited to attend the “Kick off” event for the locality leadership group in the South of Aberdeen. A Sport Aberdeen member of staff attended as a representative of the AAP. As result of this they now attend The South Locality Leadership Group. There were discussions about representation on the other locality leadership groups but invites have not been forthcoming to date.

5. Do you think that your involvement with the IAs has had an impact on decision making?

Our relationship with the HSCP is in its infancy, and therefore our involvement is only just starting to have an impact on decision making. We believe that the establishment of the relationship has helped to encourage them to see things from the perspective of the third sector. As well as broadening their horizons, as to the role that non-traditional partners such as sport trusts can play in promoting or improving wellbeing and reducing health inequalities, either in an advisory capacity or as a result of commissioning. This has the potential to include the development and provision of a range of physical activity and wellbeing opportunities, which could benefit both HSCP staff and patients.

6. What could be done to improve the communication from the IAs?

Establish a communication plan, developed in consultation with all partners to ensure clear lines of communication with partners across all levels.

Do not rely on the Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) (as useful as they are) to communicate with all third sector organisations, not every organisation is connected in with their local TSI and there are other ways of connecting with organisations, especially on a local level.

7. What could be done to ensure greater collaboration and engagement in the decision-making process of Integration Authorities?

Ensuring broad representation on all groups/committees (of all levels). This should include membership that includes patients, carers and third sector providers.

Identify processes for ensuring that information is effectively communicated throughout all levels of the HSCP (and partners), no matter what level it enters.