

Sport England grant funding

Introduction

Sport England has adopted a 10-year strategy, Uniting the Movement, which includes a focus on the broader systems that can create opportunities for all people to take part in sport and physical activity, and tackle the inequalities that affect participation. As part of this strategy, Sport England wishes to establish a portfolio of system partners that it will fund and work with to develop those opportunities using a bottom-up, systemic approach. The intention of this approach is to increase collaboration, encourage strong governance and support action on integrity, diversity and inclusive and safe cultures. The investment approach will enable Sport England to work with and support links across the portfolio of system partners, and ensure all partners can and do play their part in making sport and activity more inclusive.

Grant type - Systemic and Governing

Period	Funding Source	Amount of Confirmed Grant	Amount of In-Principle Grant	Total Grant Amount
Year 1 - 22/23	Lottery	312,460	0	312,460
Year 2 - 23/24	Lottery	444,014	0	444,014
Year 3 - 24/25	Lottery	543,905	0	543,905
Year 4 - 25/26	Lottery	482,937	0	482,937
Year 5 - 26/27	Lottery	407,559	0	407,559

Systemic Role Vision (Long Term)

NB, When the term 'we' is used in this submission, it refers to the collaborative partnership between the British Mountaineering Council, the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC), Mountain Training UK & Ireland, Mountain Training England and the National Indoor Climbing Award Schemes (NICAS).

We will be recognised as the trusted leader of the sector, influencing outside of our historic boundaries, made possible through the strong, collaborative relationships that we have built with and between a network of national partners.

We will have used our knowledge, leadership, and position of influence to create the right conditions for participation in our activities by all members of society – establishing a truly inclusive community of participants.

We will be able to lead the national agenda, by bringing together a powerful coalition of partners to influence government and other significant bodies on key issues relating to climbing and hill walking.

We will deliver this vision by working in partnership across the sector to develop a clear and hyper-connected system – building upon existing relationships to gain greater economies of scale, and in doing so support participants from all demographic groups.

Systemic Role Goals (Medium Term)

- TRG 1.** Work with partners to build a fully inclusive multi-dimensional, interconnected 'network of opportunities' that spans from indoor climbing across the full range of mountain sports. Linking together the activities of a wide number of partners to develop a hyper-connected, participant-focussed mix of opportunities that are 'enabling' in supporting the enjoyment of outdoor and adventurous activities by a broader demographic.
- TRG 2.** Working with innovators within the sector such as Black Girls Hike and ClimbXr and partners such as the YHA and Outdoor Industry retailers to develop volunteer-led, community-owned, multi-activity adventure clubs, that are specifically focussed on the sustained delivery of UTM outcomes.
- TRG 3.** To continue our research into inequalities (Your Movement Matters) in the sports under our purview, allowing us to better understand motivations and the underlying causes of underrepresentation, as well as the impact of the UTM initiatives delivered by the partners. Then use this information to inform and guide the sector and create a powerful coalition behind tackling inequalities.
- TRG 4.** Create an interconnected workforce of both professional and volunteer roles from across the full range of partners involved in the delivery of the 'network of opportunities' - to build community and sense of purpose, as well as supporting knowledge share, enhanced insight and the rapid review and iteration of initiatives.

Governing Role Vision (Long Term)

The BMC has established oversight of the sport of Competition Climbing, and as partners we will have supported the sector to ensure that all indoor climbing is inclusive, representative of the national demographic, is appropriately overseen and well governed with exemplary safety and safeguarding.

We will be respected for the way that we work with climbing walls, clubs, climbers and the workforce that are the enablers for the sport. We will achieve this through leadership in governing and oversight; in raising the profile of the sport, and in supporting the sport's growth and ongoing development; we will place the participant experience at the core of what we do.

We will have played a leading role in creating a sector-wide, self-sustaining quality-marked system of coaches, clubs, and venues to ensure minimum standards are met in safeguarding, anti-doping, facilities, and coaching provision. Our shared commitment to integrate equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) will create a sport where its participants, workforce, and administrators will be reflective of the nation's demographic. Our participant centred approach will ensure that climbers will have access to quality provision tailored to their needs and aspirations, from recreation to competition, from grassroots to the podium.

We will have created a sense of community within the sport; climbers will feel part of something with a distinctive culture that is warm, friendly, and adventurous. Whether enjoyed with friends or alone, the spirit of climbing is an activity that can build communities and create lifelong friendships.

Governing Role Goals (Medium Term)

GRG 1. Safeguarding

GRG 1.1 We will combine this increased capacity with existing (separately funded) safeguarding provision - to ensure consistent safeguarding coverage across all the activities that we oversee, and to ensure that any new standards are rolled out across the full sector. In our competition activity, we will embed a culture that focusses on climber welfare, and ethical, doping-free competition.

GRG 2. Safety

GRG 2.1 Play an ongoing and overarching role in developing good practice safety advice and guidance.

GRG 2.2 Develop Wall and Club "quality marks", to ensure that consistent minimum operating standards for safety, welfare, and EDI as well as participant experience, are applied across the indoor sector.

GRG 2.3 Continued development of skills training and national award schemes, to support the development of a solid foundation of skills in new and improving climbers and support those wishing to transition into competition or climbing outdoors - opening up our active environments to a much wider demographic.

GRG 2.4 Improving access to 'how to' and 'get into' information and other learning material by making use of the Digital Marketing Hub and associated expertise to reach new audiences in ways that are most likely to engage them.

GRG 3. Governance and Oversight

GRG 3.1 We will improve professional standards by establishing a coach licensing scheme, with those accredited working to our safeguarding and anti-doping standards and able to demonstrate CPD.

GRG 3.2 We will further develop workforce standards and good practice guidelines for coaching, route setting and officials.

GRG 3.3 We will develop a programme of anti-doping education for coaches, parents, support personnel and athletes, relevant to climbing and in collaboration with UKAD.

GRG 4. Clubs/Communities²

GRG 4.1 We will develop a wide-reaching network of clubs, within a quality assurance framework, creating nationwide provision of volunteer-led, community-owned indoor climbing clubs that are built in a way to ensure the sustained delivery of UTM outcomes.

GRG 5. Workforce

GRG 5.1 We will create an interconnected workforce (both professional and volunteer roles), through the development of an ecosystem that supports collaboration between coaches, route setters, officials & other volunteers - focussing on the long-term engagement with, and development of, both the participant and those delivering to them.

Grant type – Talent

Period	Funding Source	Amount of Confirmed Grant	Amount of In-Principle Grant	Total Grant Amount
Year 1 - 22/23	Exchequer	0	180,000	180,000
Year 2 - 23/24	Exchequer	0	204,000	204,000
Year 3 - 24/25	Exchequer	0	216,000	216,000

Talent Role Vision (Long Term)

Transform and establish an evidence based, England talent pathway with multiple transition points, appropriate to athlete maturation and development (age & stage). Holistic athlete planning supports positive athlete experiences, preparing them equally for life as a performer and for life beyond the competitive arena.

The England talent pathway will be an inclusive environment, where talented athletes thrive and flourish, with a sense of belonging as they transition through each stage. The Pathway will constantly develop cohorts of English athletes ready to graduate onto the GB Climbing Academy and Podium performance programmes.

We will have a broader infrastructure of grassroots talent provision, working in partnerships to develop accessible competitions and environments through the establishment of talent clubs and hubs. To support a wider and deeper reach, we will tackle inequalities, and reduce the barriers associated with affordability and geographic accessibility. We will have an inclusive and diverse workforce ecosystem, reflective of the nation's demographic, for volunteers, coaches, officials, and route-setters. This workforce will work in tandem to deliver new nationwide competition structures, that increase the competitive opportunities that are so critical for the progression of talented athletes, from grassroots through to performance.

Talent Role Goals (Medium Term)

- TRG 1. Consistently deliver local environments, with an embedded development curriculum/framework that is age and stage appropriate.
- TRG 2. Working in partnership, to tackle geographic and economic accessibility barriers, by establishing a network of talent clubs that feed into talent hubs - to support greater reach in an area that is currently an ungoverned commercial sector.
- TRG 3. Develop a coherent, progressive pathway complemented by appropriate service delivery by DiSE, TASS etc.
- TRG 4. Working in partnership with the commercial sector, increase the number and type of grassroots competitions, reducing economic and geographic barriers for competitors, supporting increased opportunity for talented athletes to participate in appropriate competition.