



APPENDIX C

Creating Safe Spaces and Opportunities

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Context:

With over 130+ Satellite Clubs establishing each year and a desire to delivery safe, positive experiences for all young people attending them, London Sport needed ways to effectively govern the delivery.

Activity:

With the grant management system in place it was possible to build control questions into the application process before a project could be submitted. This meant London Sport could ensure only eligible partners could access the programme. The portal allowed London Sport to capture safeguarding policies for all submissions in a manageable way. This meant that no projects since 2019 were funded without London Sport first seeing the organisation's safeguarding policy.

After the award of funding, London Sport continued to develop wider governance controls. London Sport holds a commitment to the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), that at least 10% of all funded children and young people projects would receive a session visit.

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Impact and Success:

The visiting of session(s) was conducted by the Satellite Clubs project team. However, this was not an efficient use of staff time due to the spread of projects across the capital. To ensure that London Sport could visit as many of the projects as possible all London Sport staff were upskilled to undertake at least one session visit a year.

This helped to further embed Satellite Clubs in London Sport. Session visits provided vital opportunities for staff to develop relationships with delivery partners and view the work London Sport had funded. They also uncovered examples of poor safeguarding practice. The Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Officers then supported these organisations to develop their safeguarding procedures, and where necessary, feed back to the relevant National Governing Body and CPSU for their awareness or input.

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Challenges and Missed Opportunities:

The pandemic had a big impact of conducting session visits, as it was no longer safe for staff to travel across London.

In addition, with limits on numbers participating in activities, travel restrictions and social bubbles, physical session visits became impractical.

Whilst it was possible to update the safeguarding requirements, we placed upon projects e.g. making sure policies were accessible to all participants and guardians online or through being sent copies, developing viable mechanisms for undertaking sessions visits during the pandemic and as restrictions eased to upkeep our governance commitments has been difficult.