



DCMS technical note on sport and active recreation for National Indicator 8 – adult participation in sport and active recreation

March 2008

NI8 – what does it measure?

The template defining NI8 is included within the first tranche of final technical definitions published by CLG on 29 February. These can be found at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicatorsupdate. This note provides further detail.

Measurement of NI8 is based on the same range of sport and active recreational activities as currently measured in the C17 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) indicator. As with C17, NI8, measures participation in at least moderate intensity sport and active recreation for adults aged 16 and over.

The only change from C17 is to include certain light intensity sports for those aged 65 and over. Those sports are: yoga, pilates, indoor and outdoor bowls, archery and croquet. These light intensity sports place a degree of physical demand on older participants and are included for those aged 65 and over, to recognise the health benefits for that age group.

As with C17, the range of sport and recreational activities will be those measured by the Active People Survey. As set out above, any activity would have to be undertaken for at least 30 minutes, at least at moderate intensity.

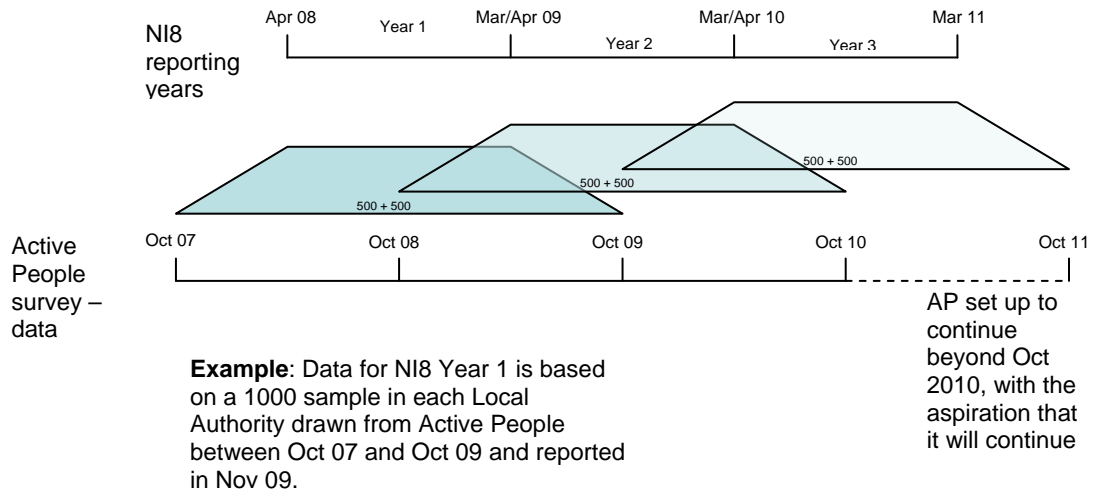
Examples of activities not included in NI8 are: utility walking and utility cycling, gardening, DIY, watching sport, animal racing and dancing for social and artistic purposes.

How will NI8 be measured?

NI8 will be measured by Sport England's Active People Survey. Since October 2007, Active People is being run as a continuous annual survey, with a sample of 500 people per year in each Local Authority. A contract is in place until October 2010, with the aspiration to run the survey on a continuous basis, beyond that date subject to funding availability.

The alignment between survey fieldwork years and NI8 reporting years is set out in the diagram below. Each year's report will be based on an accumulated sample of 1000 people built over two years. This sample size will be able to show a statistically significant change of 3% over three years. This would merit good performance. Active People data is reported in November each year with survey fieldwork completed in mid October.

Diagram setting out how Active People data will be used to report NI8



What are the baselines for NI8?

The baseline for NI8 will be the 2005/06 Sport England Active People Survey, which sampled 1000 people in each Local Authority area.

The inclusion of certain light intensity sports for those aged 65 and over will marginally increase Local Authority baselines. Sport England will recalculate and publish the NI8 baseline for each Local Authority by April 2008. No Local Authority baseline will go down as a consequence of this re-calculation.

What are the links to PSA21 and DCMS Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs)?

The sport component of the 'cultural and sporting participation' indicator in PSA21 will measure the same breadth of sport and active recreational activities as NI8, to provide consistency between the national and local indicators. The data source for national level PSA21 and the DCMS DSO will be the DCMS Taking Part Survey. This is a separate survey from Active People and will be used to report data for PSA21 and the DCMS DSOs. The DCMS DSOs are being finalised – more information will follow on the DCMS website.

Wider Context

Sport - Sport England's new strategy

Sport England is developing a new strategy for how it will deliver a world leading community sport system, within which local authorities will be a key partner, along with National Governing Bodies of sport. The aim is to focus Sport England on sport,

rather than wider physical activity, to ensure that funding for sport is maximised and helps deliver the lasting legacy of a world leading community sport system.

The aim is to give everyone who plays sport the opportunity to enjoy a quality experience and to achieve their potential; to ensure those with talent are identified and supported to achieve an increase in the pool of talent available to progress to the elite level; and to encourage a steady increase in the numbers of people participating in sport in England.

The new direction is not shifting way from community sport to elite; it is about ensuring community sport is of a high quality. This ambition will be achieved through high quality facilities; a well developed and flexible club infrastructure; and larger numbers of qualified active coaches, officials and volunteers.

Active Recreation - Treasury-led physical activity review

Investment in active recreation and wider physical activity falls to government departments and agencies who have the policy and funding lead for these areas. A cross-Whitehall review, led by the Treasury is considering the Government's approach to active recreation and wider physical activity and will report its findings in March. The Department for Health are playing a key part in this review. The Local Government Association is contributing to the review.

The new Sport England strategy will feed into the Treasury-led work. The review will look at provision across the sport and physical activity continuum to ensure that no gaps in provision or funding appear.