

# Active Partnerships

Engaging Communities, Transforming Lives



## Extending pupil and community provision through new floodlit facilities

Active Lancashire, Unity College and Haslingden High School





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**Unity College** (Burnley) is based in an area of high deprivation and was rebuilt under the 2005 BSF programme and subsequently occupies new premises. The school is a PFI building. It is larger than average and is set to grow further in the next couple of years and will be extended to increase the number of children on roll.

The last Ofsted rating was in 2018 and was graded as good. Unity hold Gold School Games Mark and have a good enrichment offer their students. Unity has in place a school sport coordinator who works with a cluster of primary schools (10).

**Haslingden High** is based in the rural district of Rossendale and in the ward of Greenfield. Deprivation or crime isn't as high in Haslingden than where Unity is based, but due to the geographical nature of the local district (rural, hilly) access to local facilities and the amount of available facilities for clubs, or young people to access is problematic.



### Were any other partners involved?

Please name and give a brief description of the role they played in this project

- Rossendale & Burnley SGO/SSP
- Local leisure trust – school sport coaches
- Unity/Haslingden High/

### What was the starting point for this project?

Due to the pandemic there has been a reduction in the number of schools willing to open for community clubs or deliver after school provision for their pupils. We therefore felt we needed to encourage and support schools who hadn't opened up their facilities or had significant challenges to deliver after school provision to do so.

In October 2020 we wanted to make an impact and provide a practical solution for schools to help get people active during this period. This has come in the form of purchasing portable floodlights for Unity & Haslingden High.

#### Transition Club - Supporting after school provision:

Unity have a user agreement in place with 2 feeder primary schools who use the site for extra-curricular, there is no charge for this. The SSCo hosts cluster primary school events on site. They do not hire out facilities for community use after 5.00pm. Whilst Unity have good facilities the outdoor facilities are not floodlit so running events in the Autumn and spring terms proves troublesome and the hall is used for exams. There have been occasions when parents and spectators have to light the playing surface with their car headlights!

The school are located next to a large primary school and they have a good link with this school through the SSCo and they use the school facilities one night a week for their own extra-curricular provision. The school acknowledge that they have limitations due to lack of floodlights and want to explore the idea of running Y6/7 transition events

to support young people from the Primary school next door. The floodlights will support these sessions to take place.

#### Community Support:

Haslingden High have a new 9v9 3G AstroTurf football pitch, however in the Rossendale district there are only 3 outdoor lit 3/4G pitches, and this is not one of them. The school has grass pitches that are used by a number of local community clubs and these clubs have a good relationship with the school.

However, these same clubs cannot use the AstroTurf due to it not being lit. We have purchased the floodlights for the school so a number of these community clubs will be able to access the AstroTurf pitch for training and small sided games during the autumn and winter months.

Rossendale district has been identified through the Lancashire FA and the Football Foundation for further investment into floodlight 3/4G pitches. We hope the lights will accommodate the demand for outdoor play in the area. And help support clubs who cannot access facilities due to the impact of COVID.





## What did you set out to achieve with this school (s)?

**Unity:** Improve their offer to primary schools and to develop a new year 6/7 offer that supports transition. Building young people's confidence and familiarity of the school settings before they join in Year 7.

**Haslingden High:** By purchasing floodlights this will help the pitch get utilised more, create income for the school in the form of bookings, and help a number of community clubs that haven't been able to find a facility to train and play once again. In the long term it will also allow PE and after school clubs to take place in the winter and autumn on the AstroTurf as lighting will now be possible.

The SSP/SGO will also get access to these lights and will be able to deliver more events, this will help support new schools and new pupils into the School Games, as previously they had to travel to the other side of the district to access events.



## Who did you work with at the school on this project and why?

SGO (Burnley-Unity) (Rossendale- Haslingden High)

SSCo (Burnley)

PE Lead (both schools)

## What key activities were undertaken as part of this project i.e. What did you do and why?

We are currently undertaking youth Insight in Y6/Y7 with Brunshaw Primary School and Unity High and this will continue in 2021. Questions are based around; What activities would they be interested in and why, what are the barriers to them taking part.

Community coaches who have worked in primary schools are deliver coaching and competition sessions, along with SSCO and the SGO. The provides a familiar face for both the Y6's and Y7's.

At Haslingden High we consulted with the school and Rossendale Valley football club to ensure they would be interested in hiring the facilities, and also that the school would use the lights to extend their after school provision. Due to this project only commencing and being discussed from October we have had to move very quick and be decisive with our decision making.

We have provided support with policies, pricing and COVID compliance to ensure when the full allocation of lights arrive in January 2021, the school and club can commence with their agreements. We will in the new year support Haslingden High with gathering insight from their pupils for their after school provision offer.



What activities would they be interested in and why, what are the barriers to them taking part.

## What did success look like?

**Success for Unity/Brunshaw:** Confidence of young people in Year 6 going to Unity is improved, and they are familiar with the school site in preparation for Year 7. Also the consultation with both Year 6 & 7 has allowed the school to identify suitable activities and barriers to being active for this cohort.

**Haslingden High School:** Providing the school with floodlights to open up the Astroturf pitch for community lettings and extend their after school provision. Income generation for the school. Rossendale Valley football club and other local community clubs now have access to a 4th floodlit pitch in Rossendale.

**Success for Active Lancashire:** We have improved our knowledge of young people in both Burnley and Rossendale. A practical solution has been provided to a couple of schools to ensure provision is extended, and more people in Lancashire can remain or become active because of this investment.

We have also provided policy support to Haslingden High and increased their staff's knowledge of managing facilities so they are ready for community bookings to commence in January 2021 when the full allocation of lights arrive.





## What did you, the school, CYP and the community and partners learn through the various parts of this project?

We have learnt that there is significant demand for facilities in the Rossendale Area (Haslingden) but supply of facilities isn't catering the demand.

Haslingden High have received a number of queries from clubs but they haven't been able to support as their facilities weren't floodlit.

The school would have struggled to access the funding, so the Opening school facilities investment has allowed the school to overcome a massive barrier.

We have also learnt that despite the challenges surrounding COVID, we have been able to come up with practical solutions to impact and support both the community and pupils.

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The use of portable floodlights at Haslingden High School will have a hugely beneficial impact on both our school provision and our community links. To be able to offer after school sports beyond the normal 4pm winter cut off will support students in both their sporting development and with their personal health and wellbeing.

During 2020 our after school sport offer has been cancelled and the thought of being able to offer not only summer after school sport but also winter sport in 2021 due to the new lights is very encouraging. Our local football team Rossendale Valley FC have already agreed to run nightly football sessions throughout winter once we have the lights. This will benefit their club but also the students from our school who will now have a direct link from after school football into a club. The lights will also allow us to host primary and secondary school sports tournaments throughout the winter months.

Haslingden High.

