

FIS GUIDANCE NOTE – 10th March 2008**Setting Improvement Targets for National Indicator 8 (NI8)**

The percentage of the adult population, aged 16 and above, in a local area who participate in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last 4 weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week).

Introduction

This guidance note provides information that will assist all those involved in the process of setting targets for NI8. It provides advice on:

- setting designated improvement targets;
- the feasibility of setting targets at different spatial levels and within different sub-groups in the population; and
- setting local targets other than NI8 that are sourced from the Active People Survey (APS).

Source data for NI8

The source data for NI8 is the APS. This is a large sample survey commissioned by Sport England. The guidance set out below is underpinned by the sample size parameters for the survey which in turn impact on the statistical significance of results at different spatial and sub-group levels. Targets can only be supported where they meet minimum levels of statistical significance.

The reference baseline for NI8 is the 2005/6 APS. The alignment of APS data collection periods and NI8 reporting periods is set out in Figure1 below.

The inclusion in NI8 of certain light intensity sports for those aged 65 and over will marginally increase local authority baselines from previously published figures. 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.

For further background details about NI8 refer to the CLG National Indicator Set Handbook:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicatorsupdate>. and to

the DCMS Technical Note on Sport and Recreation in the NI8:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/EA0AE0FB-FB70-47CA-B69B-49176AA2267C/0/march2008_NI8technicalnote_LAs.pdf

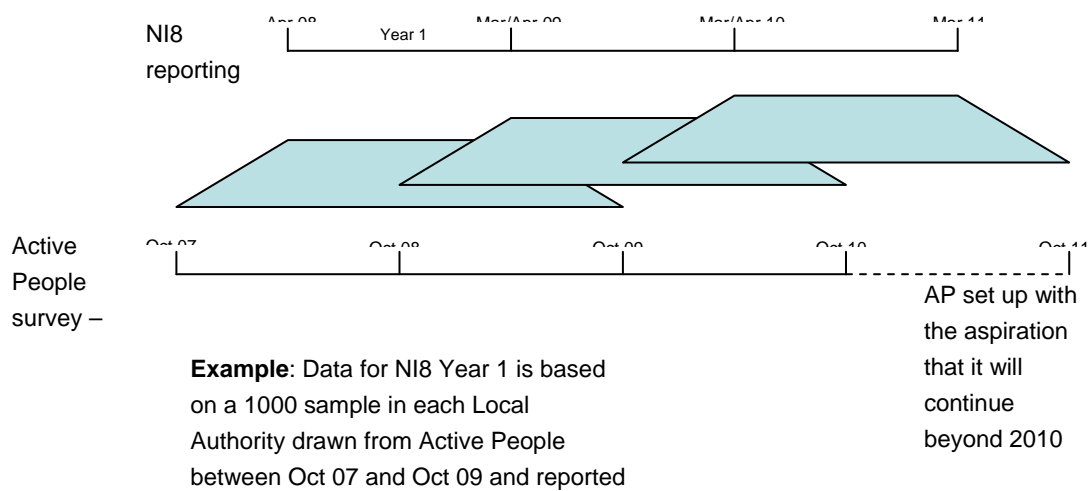
Designated Improvement Targets

Designated improvement targets are the local improvement targets derived from the national indicator set. In negotiating Local Area Agreements (LAAs) local authorities can have up to 35 designated improvement targets. The following applies to NI8 as a designated improvement target:

- a) the specified increase in participation should be at least 3% over three years (this provides for an average growth of 1% a year). To set a target of less than 3% is not possible for Unitary and Metropolitan authorities as sample sizes cannot provide a statistically significant measure at this level of precision. A target of at least 3% is considered challenging but realistic;
- b) at the end of the NI8 period (March 011) the total increase from the APS 2005/6 baseline should be at least 4%, recognising the need to factor in some movement between the baseline year and the start of the LAA in April 2008. The addition of 1% is in line with the national 2005-2008 Public Service Agreement target (PSA3) and takes into consideration work which would have been undertaken to achieve CPA thresholds.
- c) for Unitary and Metropolitan authorities the NI8 measure is based on a two year accumulated sample of 1,000 respondents (500 in each year). The first two year's accumulated sample (from the survey periods October 07 to October 09) will be available in November 2009 for reporting on Year 1 of NI8 - see Figure 1;
- d) for Shire Counties the sample size will vary according to the number of Districts in the county with each District having a minimum sample of 500 a year. As a consequence, assessment of the achievement of the Year 1 NI8 targets for

Shire Counties (where the target is a County wide improvement target) will be based on one year's sample (from the survey period October 08 to October 09) rather than an accumulated two year sample. This will also be available in November 2009.

Figure1: alignment of Active People data collection periods with NI8 reporting requirements



The feasibility of setting targets at different spatial levels and within different sub-groups in the population

The CLG LAA Operational Guidance (pages 18/19) states that local authorities may choose to break down data to levels below that of the national indicator to cover key equalities strands including age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, vulnerable people, and socio-economic classification, alongside data for small area geographies.

The guidance also states that when setting such targets it will be important to consider:

- The robustness of evidence being used to assess the need for the target



- Does it need to cover more than one place or group?
- How to decide where to draw the line between the priority places or groups to be included in the target and the rest?
- How to determine a stretching but achievable target?
- The impact on the relative national indicator?

Any potential displacement effects which would occur as a result of focussing on a particular group, or area, and in particular any groups or areas on which it could have a negative impact.

(a) Target setting for different spatial levels:

The following applies in relation to setting targets at different spatial levels:

- Targets **can** be set for an individual District or number of Districts within a Shire County area. The targets need to meet the same guidance standards as set out above for 'designated improvement targets';
- targets **cannot** be set for small geographical areas (eg Super Output Areas or Wards) within District, Unitary and Metropolitan authorities unless there was a sufficient boost in the sample for both the 2005/6 baseline and follow up survey periods;
- Sport England published statistics for Super Output Areas **cannot** be used for the purpose of NI8 as these are modelled estimates rather than direct measures of participation and as a consequence cannot provide a basis to measure locally specific change over time.

(b) Target setting for different population sub-group levels

- targets **cannot** be set in Unitary and Metropolitan authorities for different sub-groups in the population unless there was a sufficient boost in the sample for both the 2005/6 baseline and follow up survey periods;.



- Within Shire Counties, targets **can** be set for different sub-groups in the population at County wide level without any requirement for a boosted sample size. Sub-groups might include males/females, age groups, socio-economic groups, disability and ethnicity. The level of detailed specificity for sub-group targets will vary from County to County dependent upon the sample sizes – and advice can be provided by Sport England.

Setting local targets for sport

If NI8 is set as a local target the same guidance applies as for a designated improvement target.

Local targets for sport may be set that are based on other indicators provided by the APS. These may include, for example:

- increasing the % of adults taking part in 'organised sport' (i.e. receiving tuition from an instructor or coach, taking part in competition, member of a club where do sport);
- increasing the % of adults who do at least one hour of sport volunteering a week;
- increasing the % of adults who are satisfied/very satisfied with sports provision in their local area.
- reducing the % of adults doing no occasions of 30 minutes moderate sport and active recreation;
- narrowing the gap between actual and expected (standardised by socio-demographic variations) participation rates;

Sport England can provide specific advice on the potential range of indicators that can be measured by the APS and on what would be considered challenging but realistic targets for local indicators.



Version 1.0

Copyright Notice

All rights reserved unless expressly granted. Extracts from this document may be reproduced for non-commercial and/or training purposes subject to the acknowledgement of Sport England as the source.

Trademark Notice

Use of the Sport England name and logo (registered trademarks of the English Sports Council) is strictly prohibited subject to Sport England's express written consent.

Sport England hereby acknowledges the ownership of the trademarks that have been included in this document.

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein, Sport England cannot be held responsible for any errors, omissions and/or the completeness of such information. Sport England accepts no liability for the consequences of error or for any loss or damage suffered by end users of any of the information published.

© Sport England 2009