



TaAF Ribble Valley

Position Statement as of August 2023

This summary is intended to remind of some of the key elements of the approach of Together an Active Future (TaAF), backed by Sport England, highlight some of the successes and challenges so far for Ribble Valley TaAF and update on the focus and goals for the next phase of this exciting work.

Context

- Together an Active Future (TaAF) in Pennine Lancashire is one of 12 places selected by Sport England (SE) to explore new ideas and approaches to how to help more people be physically active
- SE knew that traditional thinking and approaches to the challenge of inactivity for a large group of people wasn't working and so they provided TaAF with the freedom to take its time, think differently, get things wrong, get things right and learn from the experience to share with others
- Ribble Valley TaAF is one of six districts who have already made an impact by testing out a number of different ideas and approaches (Pathfinder phase) and are now accelerating their work and applying their learning in specific areas unique to their place (Accelerator phase)

Pathfinder (up until 2023) - Page 2 highlights just some of the impact and successes of this work so far

Community Action Network	Strengthening the Community Action Network to grow in terms of numbers, representation, reach and value to Ribble Valley partners and residents
Rural Isolation	Testing a 'Whole Village' approach in Dunsop Bridge by working with a local, trusted partner to enable a community to embed being active into village life
Active Schools (part of TaAF's Pennine Lancashire AS programme)	Supporting St James CofE to implement changes at all levels (practice, process, policy etc) to help children be more active in their school day

Challenges and learning include

Committed considerable time to bring RV partners with strong reputation for direct delivery, on a journey of change, without the success we hoped for - Whilst there were some successes, there was a reluctance to do things differently in line with Sport England and TaAF's ambition

A different way of working challenges RV Councils structured processes - The TaAF approach doesn't fit into a 'box' which can cause issues when there is inflexibility in terms of process. There have been delays and frustrations on both sides as TaAF and RV Council colleagues work this out

Accelerator (now up until end of 2025) - Page 2 highlights the ambitious goals for this work

Active Connections for long term health	A Ribble Valley wide upskilling programme for community partners to reach a level of accreditation , so that partners such as GP's and the strengthened CAN network have a trusted, stronger and broader range of physical activity options to refer RV residents with Long Term Conditions (LTC) to, knowing its localised and right for them – 'trust a trader' type model – positive change for hundreds of residents with LTC
It Takes a Village – a whole village approach to physical activity	Taking the learning from Dunsop Bridge across all of the Ribble Valley 'villages' to enable a local resident champion led approach to embedding physical activity at the heart of village life – positive change affecting thousands of villagers
Active Schools	Taking the learning and successes from St James CofE school collaboration to enable 6 more schools to implement changes that lead to more children being more active in a school day - positive change for more than 1,000 children

A few of the impacts and successes in Pathfinder

Community Action Network

The strengthening of CAN was needed to help TaAF's long term goals, but is benefitting all of Ribble Valley right now

- ✓ **130 individuals now part of the CAN**, an increase from 30 when TaAF support began
- ✓ Great **inclusion from a range of sectors, including police and GP's**
- ✓ **Partnership working in the Ribble Valley, openness and connections between partners and sectors stronger than ever**

It Takes a Village – a whole village approach to physical activity Dunsop Bridge

- ✓ Dunsop Bridge community, coordinated by funded local Village Champion, crowd funded a **Hodder Sport Equipment Library, a resource owned by village residents, housed by the Parish Council**
- ✓ **GP Practice actively referring to our champion for free 1:1 physical activity sessions and signposting to activities**. Leading to some of the older participants establishing their own class called 'waiting for God'

Active Schools

St James CofE

- ✓ **274 young people have more opportunities to be physically active throughout the school day**
- ✓ **13 teachers trained in physically active learning pedagogy (PALS)**
- ✓ **20 members of support staff trained as playtime activators**
- ✓ **15 young people from school council co-designed active playtimes**

Snapshots of some of the goals for Accelerator

Active Connections for long term health	2023 A new referral process trialled successfully with the CAN network to broaden the offer for residents	2024 Huge upskilling programme for community partners to gain level 3 accreditation	2025 Expand the Active Connections referral process into Primary Care and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
It Takes a Village – a whole village approach to physical activity	2023 Active Village (AV) model, based on Dunsop Bridge impact and learning, created as the foundation for expansion	2024 3 more 'villages' become Active Villages AV accreditation developed and awarded	2025 All Ribble Valley villages accredited AV It Takes a Village TV show?!
Active Schools	2023 St James CofE evaluated as a more active school Next 2 schools identified and ready	2024 2 more schools introduce changes in practice and policy (examples above) meaning more children more active in school	2025 4 more schools introduce changes in practice and policy (examples above) meaning more children more active in school

Thoughts from Justine Blomeley – Sport England Strategic Lead – Place



"Thank you to Ribble Valley Council for supporting TaAF, and to RV TaAF for embracing the 'doing it differently' approach. This is important for Sport England, as we needed something different to the traditional grant allocation approach which we know isn't successful or effective long term.

Ribble Valley's geography creates unique challenges for wellbeing and physical activity which we're keen to learn from so it's great to see TaAF focus on village life, rural isolation/inclusion and how communities can lead change for themselves with the right local support."