



— SLIGO SPORT —
— & RECREATION —
PARTNERSHIP
— SPORT IRELAND —

Annual Report 2023



SPORT IRELAND
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS



We extend our sincere thanks to all our partner agencies, sports clubs and community organisations who supported us throughout 2023 in realising our vision of 'Making Sport and Recreation: A Way of Life in Sligo'.



msletb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiluina
Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim
Education and Training Board



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh



SLIGO LEADER
PARTNERSHIP
n.l.a.



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Chairperson's Statement

As Chairperson of Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership (SSRP), I am delighted to present the Annual Report for 2023. This report highlights some of the programmes, events, and services facilitated throughout the year, which contribute to sports development, enhance health and well-being, and improve quality of life.

2023 has been a very eventful and positive year for SSRP which saw a diverse array of opportunities facilitated for people of all ages and abilities to get and remain active in sport and physical activity.

Throughout the year, the staff demonstrated innovation, adaptability, and resilience and on behalf of the Board, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to our CEO, Deirdre Lavin, and all our staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment to achieving SSRP's ambitious goals throughout 2023. A special welcome to Community Sport Development Officer Eimear Mc Hugh who joined the SSRP staff in 2023.

The leadership and strategic direction provided by the Board of Directors has been fundamental to SSRP's success. I am deeply grateful for their steadfast commitment and effective oversight throughout the year. I also wish to acknowledge the significant contributions of our various committees in supporting the Board's work.

Interagency collaboration is central to how SSRP operates and in this context I extend my gratitude to our local statutory agencies for their ongoing investment and support, which is integral to enabling SSRP to create more opportunities for sport and physical activity across our communities.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the invaluable role played by our partners and volunteers in sports clubs and community organisations and I sincerely appreciate their efforts in fostering a vibrant sporting community.

Also, I would like to thank Sport Ireland's Chief Executive, Dr Una May, and her team for their continued funding, support, and guidance throughout 2023.

At a strategic level 2024 promises to be a busy year for SSRP with a new strategic plan for SSRP to be developed while we look forward to supporting Sligo County Council in the development of a Local Sports Plan, a key action outlined in the National Sports Policy. Also, SSRP will undertake Board renewal in 2024 and in doing so will be mindful of and actively pursue the 40% gender balance requirement.

I hope you enjoy reading this comprehensive report and SSRP looks forward to continuing to support the sporting community in 2024, as we strive to realise our vision of making 'Sport and Recreation: A Way of Life in Sligo'.

**Emer
Concannon**

Emer Concannon | Chairperson



Chief Executive Officer Statement

I welcome the Annual Report for 2023 which reflects a successful year for Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership.

Throughout the year, SSRP was very effective in creating opportunities for sport and physical activity, building capacity, supporting robust sporting organisations, and providing valuable information. Notably, there was significant growth in participant places in SSRP supported initiatives with a total of 24,115 participant places facilitated in 2023, a substantial increase from 21,380 in 2022.

We had many standout achievements throughout 2023 including the facilitation of the highly impactful 'Stronger for Longer' programme for older adults while physical activity in the outdoors continued to flourish. Also, an external evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub presented strong evidence of the positive impact of SSRP's work in the West Sligo community.

Collaboration with volunteers in sports clubs and community organisations throughout County Sligo is fundamental to our mission. I wish to acknowledge all our partner organisations and their volunteers for supporting SSRP in promoting sport and physical activity with various target groups. A special thank you goes to our team of community coaches for their dedication and expertise in delivering our programmes across communities.

A key strength of SSRP is our positive engagement and partnership with statutory agencies. I extend sincere thanks to Sligo County Council, Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB, Health Service Executive West, Sligo Leader Partnership Company, and Atlantic Technological University for their ongoing investment and support.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued support and guidance from Sport Ireland; the positive engagement with the network of Local Sports Partnerships around the country on shared initiatives is greatly appreciated.

My deep appreciation goes to our Chairperson, Emer Concannon, the Board of Directors, and the various committees for their leadership and commitment in successfully overseeing the organisation and for their support throughout the year.

The SSRP staff did outstanding work in collaboration with community stakeholders to promote sport for all. I sincerely thank them for their commitment and professionalism demonstrated throughout the year. The key achievements outlined in this report for 2023 would not be possible without their motivation and dedication.

The key outcome sought from the work of SSRP is to have 'More People, More Active, More Often' and the report reflects significant progress in achieving this and we look forward to continuing to work collectively towards increasing participation and contributing to active communities across County Sligo.

**Deirdre
Lavin**

Deirdre Lavin | CEO





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Governance & Structure

Section 1: Governance & Structure

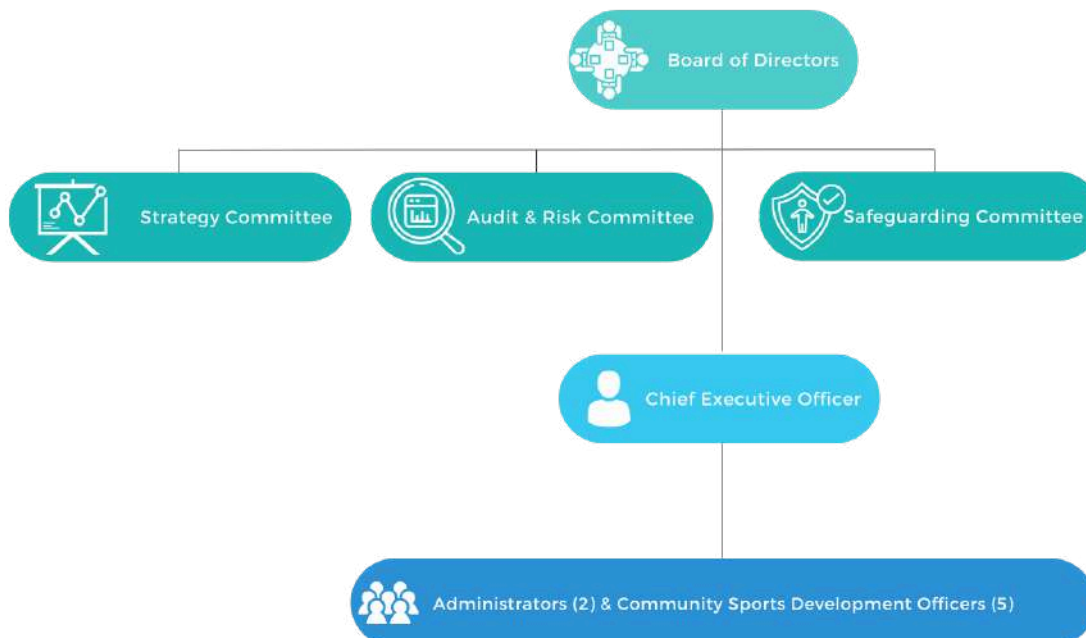
Name of the Organisation:	Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership CLG
Organisation Type:	A Company Limited by Guarantee
Company Number:	360763
Registered Office:	Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB, Quay Street, Sligo. F91 XH96
Auditor:	Porter and Co, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors, Millennium House, Stephen Street, Sligo. F91 E7KH
Principal Bankers:	Bank of Ireland, Stephen Street, Sligo. F91 CC89
Solicitors:	Carter Anhold & Co, 1 Wine Street, Sligo. F91 X58H

Our Governance Structure

Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership CLG (SSRP) was incorporated in August 2002. Our governance is underpinned by the SSRP Constitution. In addition, the Board of Directors Handbook (developed with support from the Institute of Public Administration in 2021) and associated policies inform the work of SSRP. We adhere fully to the Governance Code for Sport overseen by Sport Ireland, achieving full compliance in September 2021.

Organisational Structure

SSRP is governed by a Board of Directors, with diverse representation from statutory agencies, sports clubs, and community organisations. All Directors are non - executive and serve on a voluntary basis. The Board is comprised of individuals with a range of expertise in areas including governance, finance, marketing, research, community development, strategic planning, and community sport. Board recruitment is conducted through nominations sought from statutory agencies, targeted seats through the Public Participation Network, and open calls for expressions of interest from sports clubs, thereby ensuring representation and diversity.



Section 1: Governance & Structure

Recruitment and Term of Office

The Board, under the oversight of the Chairperson, assesses Board membership and representation, with a view to ensuring adherence to the following best practice principles:

- The Board encompasses a suitable blend of expertise and representation from target demographics, encompassing agency and community representation.
- The Board maintains an appropriate gender balance.
- The Board possesses the requisite range of skills, encompassing financial acumen, human resources proficiency, and governance expertise.



The term of office for Board members spans 5 years, aligning with the tenure of each new Local Authority Council—a five-year cycle—ensuring a gradual renewal of sectoral representation. The exact commencement and conclusion of members' terms are maintained by the Company Secretary. While there is no legal mandate specifying a maximum number of terms for individual Board members, good corporate governance practice recommends a cap of two full terms, a maximum of 10 years on a Board. Within the SSRP framework, a limit of two full terms will apply to non-agency representatives from community and voluntary sectors, with SSRP managing the Board renewal process. Nonetheless, SSRP acknowledges that in the case of agency nominations, the ultimate decision rests with the relevant statutory body, and exceptions to the two-term limit may arise.



Section 1: Governance & Structure

Board of Directors 2023

Name	Representing	Specific Role	Skillset
Ms Emer Concannon	Sligo County Council Official	Chairperson, Board Member, Strategy Committee Member	Leadership/ Management/ Finance/ HR/ Governance/ Strategic Planning
Cllr Marie Casserly	Sligo County Council Public Rep.	Vice Chairperson (Jan-Jun 14th 2023), Board Member	Community Development/ Leadership/ Management/ Governance
Mr Jack Lynch	Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB	Company Secretary, Board Member, Strategy Committee Member	Leadership/ Management/ Finance/ HR/ Governance/ Strategic Planning
Mr Michael Carty	Sligo County Council Official	Board Member, Strategy Committee Member	Leadership/ Management/ Finance/ Governance/ Strategic Planning
Ms Liz Martin	Health Service Executive	Board Member	Leadership/ Management/ Strategic Planning/ Governance/ Health Promotion
Mr John Feerick	Sligo Leader Partnership Co. Ltd	Board Member	Leadership/ Management/ Community Development/ Governance/ Strategic Planning
Mr Ross Lappin	Atlantic Technological University	Board Member	Leadership/ Management/ Governance/ Community Development
Cllr Dónal Gilroy	Sligo County Council Public Rep.	Board Member	Community Development/ Leadership/ Management/ Governance
Cllr Gino O'Boyle	Sligo County Council Public Rep.	Board Member	Community Development/ Leadership/ Management/ Governance
Ms Kathleen Kane	Sports Club/ Organisation	Vice Chairperson (Jun 14th - Ongoing), Board Member, ARC Member	Risk Management/ Leadership/ Management/ Governance/ Sports Development
Ms Máire McCallion	Sports Club/ Organisation	Board Member	Research/ Health Promotion/ Leadership/ Management/ Community Sport/ Governance
Mr Tommy Cradock	Sports Club/ Organisation	Board Member	Sports Development/ Leadership/ Management/ Community Development
Mr Gerald O'Connor	Sports Club/ Organisation	Board Member, ARC Member	Risk Management/ Leadership/ Management/ Governance/ Community Sport
Ms Tina Beirne	Sports Club/ Organisation	Board Member	Leadership/ Management/ Community Development/ Sports Development
Mr Joe McDonagh	Community Representative/ PPN	Board Member, ARC Member	Risk Management/ Community Development/ Management/ Governance
Ms Geraldine Delorey	Active Age/ PPN	Board Member	Health Promotion/ Community Sport/ Community Development/ Management
Ms Rose McGowan	People with a Disability	Board Member	Disability Sport/ Leadership/ Management/ Community Development

The Role of the Board

The Board collectively assumes leadership and direction over SSRP, overseeing organisational management and reporting on stewardship and performance. This shared responsibility is typically outlined in the schedule of reserved functions, known as reserved matters, detailed in the Board Handbook. The CEO serves as the Board's accountable liaison for executing its strategic plan and operational objectives. The SSRP Board's duties, as outlined in the Board Terms of Reference, comprise:

- Establishing strategic direction and reviewing progress.
- Staying informed about strategic issues and changes impacting SSRP.
- Supervising organisational performance.
- Ensuring compliance with legal, regulatory, and governance obligations.
- Evaluating its own performance and that of its committees.

Section 1: Governance & Structure

The Board oversees the financial governance, management, and internal control of the organisation. As defined in its schedule of matters, the Board makes critical decisions concerning financial management. Specifically, the Board is responsible for:

- Approving the annual budget and operational plan, and monitoring their implementation.
- Approving the draft accounts of SSRP, prepared post-financial year-end, and engaging with the external auditor.
- Annually assessing the effectiveness of SSRP's internal control system, including financial controls such as roles, payment procedures, transaction recording, purchasing, and payroll.
- Approving banking arrangements.
- Endorsing delegated spending levels for the Company.
- Establishing and endorsing procedures to monitor, report, and enforce rules and requirements set by various funding sources contributing to SSRP.

Board Meetings and Attendance

The Board convenes a minimum of five times annually, with five meetings held in 2023 on the following dates: 15th February, 19th April, 14th June (& AGM), 27th September, and 22nd November. Attendance details are provided in Appendix 1. The CEO compiles reports for each meeting, outlining activities and outcomes against the annual operational and current strategic plans. Additionally, a financial report is prepared for each meeting, reviewed by the Strategy Committee prior to Board consideration. A minimum quorum of 6 members is required for a Board meeting.

CEO, Deirdre Lavin is assigned the responsibility for the day to day operations of the organisation, and works with a team of staff to deliver the annual operational plan. The CEO attends

meetings of the Board, by invitation of the Board, and is not a Director of the Company. The Company Secretary is a member of the Board. The SSRP Senior Administrator attends Board meetings to record the minutes.

Board Member Induction Process

Induction to the SSRP Board occurs promptly after an individual's selection, preceding their first meeting. Induction is the joint responsibility of the Chairperson, CEO, and Company Secretary and includes an introductory meeting covering SSRP's role, aims, governance structures, core activities, history, Board functioning, and member responsibilities.

New Board Member Induction Pack

New Board members receive an induction pack, which contains the following:

- SSRP Board Governance Handbook
- SSRP Board Code of Conduct
- SSRP Directors Conflict of Interest Form
- SSRP Registration of Company Directors
- SSRP Strategic Plan
- SSRP Constitution
- SSRP Audited Accounts
- SSRP Annual Report
- SSRP Board Meeting CEO Reports
- SSRP Statement of Financial Affairs

Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Loyalty

SSRP implements a Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Loyalty policy. Directors complete a Declaration of Interest Form upon joining the Board. At the start of each Board meeting, members declare any conflicts that may arise before discussing agenda items. If conflicts emerge, a member may need to excuse themselves from the discussion or leave the meeting temporarily. Instances of conflict are recorded in the minutes; one occurred in 2023.



Section 1: Governance & Structure

Summary of substantive decisions taken by the Board in 2023 included:

- Provided leadership and oversight of the SSRP operations involving 24,115 participants in a diverse range of sport and physical activity opportunities, embracing all ages, abilities and target groups.
- Approval of funding applications to Sport Ireland for Core Funding, Dormant Accounts, Sport Energy Support Scheme and Project Evaluation while also overseeing the submission of applications to various agencies including Sligo County Council, HSE and Department of Sport.
- Approval and ongoing monitoring of SSRP budget and operational plan for 2023.
- Conducted a full review of staff organisational structure with the outcome being the decision to review the expanding role and responsibilities of the Sports Co-ordinator with a title change to CEO agreed while also approving the appointment of a Programme Manager with the key functions being to support the CEO while also overseeing the programme of work for the CSDO team.
- In-depth consideration regarding the opportunity for SSRP to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Officer position, a pilot project available to 6 Local Sports Partnerships funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, with Board approval received to pursue with the application which was successful.
- Approved an application for a Social Innovation in Sport Officer through funding accessed by Sport Ireland under the European Social Fund, with funding approved and officer to be appointed in 2024.
- Strategic discussion undertaken with regard to the importance of aligning the SSRP new strategic plan with the Local Sports Plan to be initiated by Sligo County Council in 2024 and in this context, the SSRP Board approved the extension of the current SSRP strategic plan for one year on the advice of Sport Ireland.
- Strategic discussion conducted regarding linked projects with National Governing Bodies of Sport including the Pop Up Pool project with Swim Ireland and the appointment of a County Sligo Boxing Officer in conjunction with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association.
- Prioritised and provided approval and oversight for an evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub with external consultants S3 Solutions engaged to undertake the evaluation.
- Agreed to replace the existing Case Management Team with a Safeguarding Committee with Terms of Reference developed for the new committee.
- Ongoing monitoring of compliance with the Governance Code for Sport with approval provided for sign off on the Sport Ireland Code of Governance Compliance Record Form for 2022.
- Governance is an ongoing agenda item for all Board meetings with a number policies reviewed (10) and new policies developed (4).
- New Hybrid Working Policy reviewed and approved by the SSRP Board.
- The challenges regarding lack of office space was discussed and a review of the open plan office layout undertaken by professional office fitting company with a view to maximising space to include one additional office desk.

Note: Refer to Section 3, Goal 4 of this report for further detail of governance actions for 2023.

Section 1: Governance & Structure

Committees:

The Board is supported by three committees who act in an advisory capacity with clear Terms of Reference in place and available on the SSRP website.

Strategy Committee

This committee consists of four members (3 Directors and 1 co-opted member) who support the Board and CEO on areas relating to strategy, finance, governance, and human resources. It met five times in 2023 including; 3rd February, 5th April, 1st June, 18th September and 14th November. For membership and attendance see Appendix 2.

In 2023 the committee dedicated significant time to review the staff organisational structure while also considering a range of new posts introduced by Sport Ireland and in doing so brought recommendations to the Board. Also, the committee considered ongoing operational matters, including strategic project opportunities and financial operations, and made recommendations to the Board on relevant matters. A substantial amount of time was dedicated to reviewing policies and considering new policies in advance of adoption by the Board.

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

The ARC has four members including three Directors and a co-opted member with particular experience and skills in financial management. This committee assists the Board with financial governance, risk management, and control systems.

It held three meetings in 2022 including; 31st January, 31st May and 8th November. For membership and attendance see Appendix 3.

A notable area of work undertaken in 2023 included a thorough review of the SSRP Risk Register which incorporated assigning financial costs to the various risks, an exercise conducted for the first time. Also, the committee explored opportunities with financial institutions regarding investment options for some of SSRP reserve funds.

Safeguarding Committee

The Safeguarding Committee was established in 2023 as a new committee of the Board with the function of reviewing relevant policies and procedures in line with best practice in child protection matters and bringing them to the SSRP Board for consideration and approval. The committee met on three occasions including; 9th March, 24th April and 6th September. For membership and attendance see Appendix 4.

The committee considers and makes decisions with respect to child and vulnerable persons safeguarding concerns, including the outcomes of any child welfare and protection reports while also considering allegations of a general nature in regard to children and vulnerable persons, and also oversees Garda Vetting disclosures.

A key achievement of the committee in 2023 was overseeing a complete review of the SSRP Safeguarding Policy, Safeguarding Statement, Risk Assessment and Garda Vetting Policy.



Section 1: Governance & Structure

Staff

The day-to-day operations of the organisation are overseen by CEO, Deirdre Lavin, who collaborates with a team of staff to execute the annual operational plan. SSRP provides a range of services and supports with areas of work including the creation of sport and physical activity opportunities, capacity building and information management.

SSRP has a professional and experienced full-time staff of 8 who lead, respond, co-ordinate and facilitate a wide variety of sport and physical activity opportunities in Sligo with the support of a network of tutors, coaches and community partners.

In January 2023 SSRP welcomed a new staff member Eimear McHugh who took up the role of Community Sport Development Officer.

OUR TEAM



Deirdre Lavin
Chief Executive Officer



Andrea Davey
Senior Sports Administrator



Alan French
Sports Administrator



Shane Hayes
Sport Inclusion Development
Officer



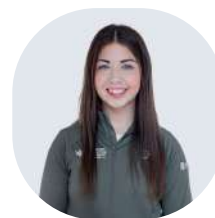
Diane Middleton Cox
Senior Community Sport
Development Officer



Theresa Kilgannon
Senior Community Sport
Development Officer



Kate Garvin
Community Sport Development
Officer



Eimear McHugh
Community Sport Development
Officer



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Organisational Purpose

Section 2: Organisational Purpose



Our Vision

'Sport and Recreation: A Way of Life in Sligo.'



Our Mission

Building a culture of sport and physical activity through planning, leading, and co-ordinating an integrated approach to sustained participation with sporting, community and statutory organisations.



Our Focus

In delivering this strategy 'Building a Culture of Sport and Physical Activity in Sligo 2018-2023', Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership (SSRP) will undertake a wide range of actions and supports across four key goals.

Goal 1 - Increase Participation

We will co-ordinate and facilitate a diverse range of sport and physical activities for all members of the community.

Goal 2 - Build Capacity

We will assist the organisations and volunteers who provide sport and physical activity to develop and grow.

Goal 3 - Enhance Communications

We will promote awareness of the needs and opportunities for sport and physical activity through a shared vision and collaborative approach.

Goal 4 - Strengthen the Organisation

We will facilitate high standards of planning, governance and transparency in SSRP.

Section 2: Organisational Purpose

SSRP Purpose

The primary aim of SSRP is to administer and advance sport and physical activity participation within the County, including allocating and distributing funds for these purposes. Objectives also encompass improving coaching standards in sport and physical activity and fostering greater local engagement in physical activity, particularly among specific target demographics. In addition, the objectives involve enhancing volunteer training, optimising the utilisation of sports facilities, and promoting and facilitating local sports programmes and physical activity events.

The Context in which we work

SSRP functions under the leadership and investment of Sport Ireland, and we collaborate to achieve their sports participation goals at local level. In addition, we are informed by the Sport Ireland Participation Plan, the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland and the Healthy Ireland Framework.

At local level, we are guided by the SSRP Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and the relevant plans and strategies of our local partners, including the Sligo County Council Local Economic and Community Plan.

Recognising the pivotal role played by Local Sports Partnerships in promoting sports participation, the National Sports Policy outlines their importance in facilitating the implementation of key actions. Out of the 57 actions outlined in the Policy, 26 are specifically tailored towards enhancing sports participation and are directly relevant to the overall objectives of Local Sports Partnerships.

“The LSP network plays a vital role and has been tasked, in particular, with increasing participation levels in sport and physical activity, especially among those sectors of society that are currently underrepresented in sport. Their capacity to remove barriers and ensure that opportunities for participation in sport are progressive, innovative and fully inclusive at a local level is a unique and valuable strength.”
National Sports Policy 2018-2027



Our Beneficiaries

The residents of County Sligo benefit from the initiatives of Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership. Our vision and mission at SSRP is dedicated to promoting an active lifestyle for all individuals within County Sligo. However, within Sligo's diverse population, we identify specific groups for targeted outreach, with a particular emphasis on engaging those who are least active to encourage their participation. The accompanying diagram illustrates our focus on these priority target groups.

Local Sports Partnerships in the context of the National Sports Policy

In 2018, the Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport launched the National Sports Policy 2018-2027. The Programme for Government has clearly defined and ambitious objectives for sports participation, notably aiming to increase adult participation to 60% by 2027. To achieve this target, the policy emphasises the necessity of addressing participation disparities by targeting demographic groups that engage in sports significantly less than the overall average.



Our Core Values and Beliefs

We believe that sport enhances quality of life and that physical activity opportunities should be available to all ages, abilities and backgrounds. We believe that sport and physical activity should be enjoyable, improve our health and wellbeing, increase our skills and introduce us to new people and places. We believe in Sport for All and Sport for Life.



Accountability

We are accountable for our performance and take a planned and managed approach to our work.



Equality

We support the right of all members of the community to be involved in sport and physical activity regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity and social-economic background.



Empowerment

We acknowledge the importance of empowering individuals, clubs, communities and organisations to shape and deliver sports and physical activities which are relevant to them.



Partnership

We achieve our goal of increased participation through working in partnership and building positive relationships with sports clubs, communities, schools and agencies.



Quality

We believe enjoyable, quality programmes are critical to increasing lifelong physical activity.



Sustainability

We promote and support sports participation opportunities which have the potential to be self sustaining.



3

Objectives, Achievements & Performance

With our partners our key achievements for 2023 were:

24,115
participants in sport and physical activity



Programme Participants:

901
Women in Sport Participants



1,174
Urban Outdoor Participants



6,208
Extra-Curricular School Sport Participants



1,251
Participants Involved in Athletics Fest



528
Open Water Swimming Participants



3,009
Community Sports Hubs Participants



619
Sports Inclusion Disability Project Participants



9,874
Disadvantaged Communities Participants



Building Capacity



215

Participants involved in Safeguarding training

336

Coaches, volunteers and community leaders supported in education and training

Funding



€953,640

Funding available to SSRP

€414,625

Invested in club/ community initiatives

Communication



2022:
2023:
Increase:



8,758
9,564
9.2%



2,013
2,532
25.8%



537
616
14.7%

• 'Participant' figures may include individuals counted more than once where they have participated in more than one activity.

Section 3: Objective, Achievements & Performance

Our Achievements and Performance in 2023

It is apparent based on ongoing monitoring of progress against objectives that SSRP is on track to achieve the objectives in the Strategic Plan 2018-2023. The current status regarding the delivery of the 22 objectives of the plan is that all objective areas are fully completed or largely completed.

Significant strides were made in 2023 towards the realisation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan as shown in Table 1 below with 24,115 participant places facilitated which reflects a 12.79% increase from 2022.

Summary of 2023 Achievements

Table 1 - Goal 1: Increase Participation	2023	2022
Children & Youth - Extra-curricular School Sport	6,208	4,172
Athletics Fest	1,251	1,212
Community Sports Hubs	3,009	1,242
Women in Sport Initiatives	901	965
UOA (Urban Outdoor Adventure Project)	1,174	376
Sports Inclusion Disability Project	619	737
Seniors Sport	789	341
Open Water Swimming	528	536
Men in Sport Initiatives	257	82
Special Project Participation Initiatives	4,615	2,315
Education and Training	336	446
Safeguarding	215	151
Other Programmes	4,213	8,805
Total:	24,115	21,380



Section 3 - Goal 1: Increase Participation

Our goal is to facilitate a diverse range of sport and physical activity opportunities for all members of the community.

2023 Highlights

- 24,115 participant places facilitated in physical activity programmes in 2023, an increase of 12.79% participants compared to 2022 (21,380).
- Facilitated a farewell event at the Tubbercurry Pop-Up-Pool with representatives from the community, Swim Ireland and Sligo County Council to celebrate the success of this initiative spanning September 2022 to March 2023, which involved a total of 1,078 places reflecting inclusive programmes across all age groups.
- Evidence based evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub conducted by external consultants S3 Solutions with findings including 3,739 participants engaged across 229 programmes delivered during the review period January 2021 to December 2023.
- Positive involvement in the Youth Sport West extra-curricular school programme saw 4,450 participants across various sports programmes, marking a notable 82.60% increase from 2022's figure of 2,437. Also, the Annual Primary Schools Athletics Fest engaged 43 schools and attracted 1,251 participants.
- Continued focus and development in Senior Sports with a highlight being the Annual Seniors Fest with 75 participants involved and the notable growth in demand for the 'Stronger for Longer' programme which engaged 275 participants at 4 locations.
- Positive engagement by the community in National Bike Week with 58 events supported involving 1,639 participants.
- Positive progress in the development of the Rural Outdoor Sports Hub with a key focus being the collaboration with Curry Community Group on the outdoor swimming pool initiative which included 168 participants in a variety of programmes including school swimming lessons, children swimming summer camp and aqua aerobics.
- Ongoing focus on engaging people with a disability in sport and physical activity through programming and addressing the issue of accessible infrastructure with an example being the collaborative work involving Sligo County Council and Swim Ireland on the provision of an access mat at Mullaghmore which was followed with a trial accessible open water session with Swim Ireland involving 2 women with physical disabilities.
- HER Outdoors Week was supported by SSRP with 18 events taking place and over 250 women involved.
- Successfully engaged with new communities in a variety of projects with the Access Tennis Foundation including Couch to Court, Social Tennis, , Women's Couch to Court and Junior Tennis involving 65 teenagers and adults.



Section 3 - Goal 1

Extra-curricular Sport Children and Youth

Introduction

Promoting involvement in school extra-curricular activities remains a key focus for SSRP. As indicated in Table 2, SSRP saw significant rises in participation levels compared to 2022. Of particular significance was the 82.6% surge in participation among Youth Sport West participants.

However, a decrease in involvement was noted in both the Girls Active Programme and festival. Teenage girls remain a demographic that SSRP persistently strives to involve, yet it has become increasingly challenging to connect with this target group. SSRP will continue to develop this programme to reach this demographic.

2023 Highlights

- 1,251 children from 43 primary schools participated in the Athletics Fest.
- Significant increase in Youth Sport West participation rates, with a 82.6% increase from 2022, (4,450 participants in 2023, 2,437 in 2022).
- 5 preschools received balance bike training with a further 10 receiving balance bike refresher training.
- 75 6-week Youth Sport West programmes delivered to 2,598 children.

Primary School's Athletics Fest

As part of European Week of Sport, primary school children from across County Sligo gathered at the Athletics Arena at ATU Sligo for the annual SSRP SuperValu Primary Schools Athletics Fest, co-ordinated by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership. With the participation of 1,251 children from 43 schools, the event marked its twentieth year with an emphasis on fostering participation, enjoyment, and fun. All children received certificates and event t-shirts as recognition of their sporting efforts. Supported by SuperValu stores, the event saw collaboration from County Sligo Athletics Association, local clubs, Special Olympics, Sligo Grammar School transition year students, and SSRP staff, ensuring a smooth and memorable sporting occasion.

Youth Sport West

The programme aims to expand extracurricular sports opportunities for primary and secondary school children, fostering an inclusive environment for participation. With a total of 75 programmes delivered, the emphasis lies on non-competitive and child-friendly settings, which have gained popularity among primary school students. These initiatives not only provide positive initial sports experiences but also encourage continued participation into adulthood. With a diverse range of sports, including multi-sport activities, orienteering, gymnastics, basketball and dance, the programmes cater to varied interests and needs. 2,598 participants engaged in programmes and 1,757 participants in taster days highlight the popularity of these opportunities, demonstrating the impact of quality sports programmes on physical activity and overall well-being.

Balance Bikes

The Balance Bike programme, catering to children aged 2 to 5 years, serves as a foundational step in introducing cycling and fostering active lifestyles from an early age. Incorporating engaging activities, each session enhances children's gross motor skills, spatial awareness, and physical literacy. Utilising lightweight, pedal-less bikes, children learn balance and propulsion techniques, promoting safe and enjoyable cycling experiences. With 5 new preschools receiving training and 10 preschools undergoing refresher training, the programme continues to expand its reach. In total, 267 participants, including trained staff and children, benefit from the programmes fun and practical sessions, enhancing their physical development.



Table 2 - Goal 1: Extra-curricular Children & Youth Sport	2023	2022	Variance	Variance %
Balance Bike Programme	267	196	71	36.22%
Ag Súgradh le Chéile	984	831	153	18.41%
Youth Sport West	4,450	2,437	2013	82.60%
Girls Active Programme	358	527	-169	-32.07%
Girls Active Festival	149	181	-32	-17.68%
Athletics Fest	1,251	1,212	39	3.22%
Totals:	7,459	5,384	2075	38.54%

Section 3 - Goal 1

Community Sport

Introduction

SSRP co-ordinated 3 Community Sports Hub (CSH) initiatives in 2003, including a Rural Outdoor CSH based in South Sligo, and 2 area-based CSHs in Enniscrone and Sligo East City. Each Hub has successfully implemented a partnership-based approach and has promoted meaningful collaboration between local sports clubs, sports providers, community organisations and SSRP, leading to increased sport and physical activity opportunities.

SSRP was pleased to welcome the publication of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub Evaluation Report in 2023 which highlights that investment in the development of a CSH has made a significant impact, improving opportunities for participation.

2023 Highlights

East City Community Sports Hub

- Linked with Sligo Traveller Support Group to provide sport and physical activity for Traveller Pride Day in Doorly Park, engaging 130 participants in relays, fun games and multi-sport events.
- Supported Abbey United FC to facilitate Disney Playmakers, a soccer programme for girls aged between 5-8. Almost 30 girls participated with a third of them joining the club afterwards.
- Assisted Cranmore Community Co-operative Society to develop and sustain a lunchtime Yoga programme, delivering 3 programmes with 14 participants benefiting.
- Northwest Mountain Bike Club continued to support an increase in the number of females participating in the sport by hosting a Women's only gravel event with 28 women attending and 16 women attended the HER Outdoors Week event. The club has seen women step into leadership roles on the committee with a female Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

Enniscrone Community Sports Hub

Rural Outdoor Community Sports Hub

- A Winter Kayaking course in partnership with Canoeing Ireland took place during midterm in November on Temple House Lake with 53 participants, (25 children and 28 adults). There is growing interest in the development of a club in the area.
- The week long daily school swimming lesson was revived at Curry Outdoor Pool after a 20-year break. During the week 160 children took part in the swim lessons delivered by Swim Ireland.
- Tokyo Olympian and Sligo native Mona McSharry delivered 2 swimming clinics in Enniscrone.
- AquaMoves, an aquatic programme running in line with Sport Ireland's 'Her Moves' campaign, aimed at getting teenage girls active was delivered at WaterPoint, in collaboration with Swim Ireland, West Sligo Family Resource Centre and SSRP.
- West Sligo Athletics Club facilitated a successful Summer and Autumn 3k & 5K Series in Easkey, Castleconnor and Enniscrone involving 440 participants.

East City Community Sports Hub

In 2023, the collective efforts of stakeholders including SSRP, Sligo County Council, Cranmore Regeneration, Cranmore Co-Operative Society, Abbeyquarter Community Centre, Cranmore Resource Project, Health Service Executive, and local sports clubs continued to support the East City Community Sports Hub to sustain sport and physical activity. Through sustained collaboration, a diverse range of programmes, including swimming, basketball, multisport, yoga, skateboarding, and resistance training were delivered. The inclusive approach adopted welcomed individuals of all ages, genders, and abilities.

A notable partnership initiative, the Couch to Court programme was developed in collaboration with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Tennis Ireland, and Sligo County Council, aimed at inclusivity. Two programmes were successfully delivered, involving 65 participants, with a significant representation from new communities, including Ukrainians and participants from IPAS centres. This initiative demonstrates SSRP's commitment to broadening access to sport and physical activity and encouraging community integration. SSRP will remain committed in our dedication to promoting sport, physical activity, and inclusivity in the East City area of Sligo Town.

Section 3 - Goal 1

Community Sport

Rural Outdoor Community Sports Hub

The Rural Outdoor Community Sports Hub is based in the South Sligo area and targets increasing opportunities for participation in outdoor sports with focus applied to cycling in Coolaney and swimming in Curry, with other activities such as walking, kayaking and archery promoted in the area.

Curry Outdoor Pool, a hidden gem in South Sligo has been given a new lease of life with support under the Rural Outdoor Community Sport Hub Initiative, with a strong committee of local people leading the drive and partnering with Swim Ireland. 160 children took part in swim lessons and 8 adults enjoyed water aerobics which continued into winter with weekly dips. This has revived usage of the outdoor pool, and this is the first time in over 20 years the amenity has been utilised for swimming lessons.

SSRP supported Northwest Mountain Bike Club and Connacht Cycling to host the first women’s only gravel cycle event to take place in Sligo on 5th February 2023 in Coolaney. The event was an introduction to this style of cycling which is gaining popularity quickly. 28 women took part and it followed on from the successful Winter women’s only mountain biking programmes hosted in Coolaney Mountain Bike Trail Centre supporting continued participation in off road cycling.

Enniscrone Community Sport Hub

SSRP was delighted to welcome Mona McSharry to Enniscrone on the 11th June to facilitate two swim sessions, one for young people at WaterPoint’s pool, and one for adults and teenagers at the Enniscrone Pier to enjoy a swim demonstration and Q&A with Sligo’s International swimmer. These events were co-ordinated as part the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub Initiative, and were supported by Swim Ireland, Enniscrone & District Community Council and WaterPoint. This was such a special opportunity as Mona is a fantastic ambassador and a true role model for so many young swimmers. She was very generous with her time to answer lots of questions, gave great tips and advice and allowed lots of time for autographs and photographs with all her local fans.

Open water swimming continued to be a popular choice of activity and a positive collaborative project between SSRP, Swim Ireland and the Enniscrone & District Community Council delivering 26 programmes and involving 428 participants at the Pier.

The Hub has increased the sustainability and accessibility of sport and physical activity programming in Enniscrone, increasing the capacity of local clubs, community organisations, coaches and volunteers whose training and experience will outlast the Hub, including the development of 3 new clubs, West Sligo Athletics Club, Razorbacks Basketball Club and Enniscrone Surf Lifesaving.

Table 3 - Goal 1: Community Sports Hubs Participants	2023	2022	Variance	% Variance
Enniscrone	2,013	838	1,175	140.22%
East City	639	404	235	58.17%
Rural Outdoor	357	N/A	N/A	N/A



Section 3 - Goal 1

Community Sport

Enniscrone Community Sport Hub Evaluation

SSRP was delighted to share the publication of the external Enniscrone Community Sports Hub Evaluation Report funded by Sport Ireland focusing on Years 1-3 of a 5-year project. The report celebrates the significant impact of this Hub, providing increased opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activity as well as enhancing their well-being. Some key highlights of the evaluation:

Findings: How much did the Hub do?



3,739

Number of participants engaged



229

Number of individual programmes delivered



11

Number of local groups associated with the Hub



21

Number of training and capacity building programmes delivered



155

Number of training and capacity building programmes and workshops



3

Number of new sports clubs created

Findings: How well did the Hub do?

78,386

Reach achieved through social media posts

77%

Of community respondents were aware of Hub

58%

Of Hub partners understood the purpose of the Hub

75%

Of Hub partners felt they had influence on what happens at the Hub

100%

Of Hub partners felt supported by SSRP and wanted to work with them in future

91%

Of Hub partners felt welcome at the Hub

77%

Of Hub programme participants felt welcome at the Hub

89%

Of community survey respondents were likely to participate in sport and physical activity in the area in future

Findings: Was anyone better off as a result of the Hub?

Impact on Hub partners:

92%

Of Hub partners felt the Hub brought people from different communities together

83%

Of Hub partners felt the Hub increased opportunities to be physically active

50%

Of Hub partners felt their relationships with other clubs and community organisations had improved

Impact on the Enniscrone Community:

94%

Of community survey respondents felt the Hub contributed to community cohesion

70%

Of community survey respondents reported that sport and physical activity opportunities had increased

Section 3 - Goal 1

Sport for People with a Disability

Introduction

SSRP continued to take a collaborative approach to addressing the sport and physical activity needs of people with disabilities in County Sligo. By offering a more diverse range of activities we are providing quality opportunities for all people to reach their potential. Creating a broad range of opportunities enables us to reach more people, increase awareness and improve access and choice for people with disabilities locally. This ensures that the physical and mental health and well-being associated with sport and exercise are accessible to all individuals, irrespective of any existing barriers they may face.

2023 Highlights

- Four new disability sporting opportunities established in 2023 with the introduction of High Five Boxing, Cycle Right for people with a disability, Inclusive Open Water swimming and ADITO (A Drop in the Ocean).
- Several highly successful inclusive cycling initiatives were delivered including Cycle Right for children with a disability, St Cecilia's Green Schools Cycle Day and Cycling for Children with Down Syndrome. These programmes provided cycling opportunities for over 70 children with disabilities including those with more complex needs.
- GAA All Stars club programme held an inclusive event at the Dome in Co. Mayo with nine GAA clubs (including two from Sligo) participating.
- Children with disabilities were able to attend the Schools Rowing Blitz which included an inclusive category with 37 participants.
- Sustained impact for local people with visual impairments to be physically active on a regular basis through parkrun guide runners programme.
- Disability Awareness and Inclusion Training and Autism in Sport Training delivered to over 120 coaches, students, parents and volunteers.
- Supported 18 young people to access the physical and therapeutic benefits of surfing and the ocean through the new child centered ADITO (A Drop IN The Ocean) programmes delivered in collaboration with Liquid Therapy.
- Increased numbers of volunteers to support sport and physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities through the training and recruitment of 17 new volunteers under the SSRP ATU Sligo Inclusive Volunteer initiative.

Boxing

One Good Connection, our pilot boxing programme for children and adults with disabilities was delivered in conjunction with the Gateway Boxing Club at their inclusive club facility as part of our summer activities programme. In addition to stepping into the ring for some fun pad work, structure and set up of the activities gave the children involved a fun introduction to the fitness and skills involved in boxing at a level where they felt safe and supported at all times.

Cycling

Cycling was identified as an activity that parents and staff supporting children and adults with disabilities would like more opportunities to participate in. Following this, a number of inclusive cycling skills programmes were established to introduce people with disabilities to cycling and access their level with a view to progressing their cycling skills based on their individual needs and goals. The cycling sessions targeted people who had not cycled independently before with the goal of progressing some participants to independent

usage of a bicycle, whilst others used the programmes to develop their balance, fitness and core strength using trikes with additional support from trained cycling coaches.

Guide Runners Parkrun

Following on from our Guide Runners workshop, delivered in collaboration with Vision Sports Ireland and Sligo Parkrun we now have a local team of runners, leaders, coaches and volunteers equipped with the training, information and experience to support blind and partially sighted people to run, jog or walk in the weekly Parkrun programme in Sligo. This has created a truly accessible and sustainable opportunity for people with a vision impairment to be physically active on a regular basis, whilst meeting new people and becoming more independent.



Section 3 - Goal 1

Sport for People with a Disability

Games 4 All Initiative

The Games 4 All programme involves a series of warm-up activities, skills sessions and fun games designed to get the participants active in a safe and fun environment. Sessions are delivered by experienced SSRP coaches and supported by volunteers who keep the interest and safety of the participants at the centre of everything and ensure that activities run smoothly, and all participants are fully involved. The activities, sessions and games are selected because of their inclusive nature and each of the participant's individual needs and ability levels are considered and catered for.

The programme provides the opportunity for adults and children involved to develop the key fundamentals of movement (agility, balance, co-ordination) and also the core fundamental skills in sport including throwing, catching, striking and kicking. Developing these skills is vital, as it supports the participants in their overall physical, intellectual and social development with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment.



Section 3 - Goal 1

Sport for People with a Disability - Accessible Spaces

Making Swimming Accessible

A full body workout, improved well-being, feeling calm and relaxed; these are all benefits associated with swimming, and some of the reasons why people all over the world love to swim. For people with a disability it is no different. Some SSRP participants love to swim, but have complex physical and intellectual disabilities. With limited swimming options available for these participants SSRP, Sligo Regional Sports Centre and Sligo County Council assessed the feasibility of making the changing facilities at Sligo Regional Sports Centre more accessible for people with more complex physical disabilities. Following this, funding was allocated through SSRP to purchase a new free-standing hoist and accessible changing plinth for the Sligo Regional Sports Centre facility at Cleveragh. This equipment is, as a parent of a participant stated “a game changer” for them in terms of enabling their son to go swimming at the pool.



Outdoor Beach Access

Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership supported Sligo County Council and Swim Ireland with the introduction of a beach access mat at Mullaghmore Beach, Co. Sligo. It is a fantastic initiative which will allow people of all abilities to enjoy beach access and will particularly benefit people with a physical disability, wheelchair users and persons requiring a more stable surface. The works comprised of car park resurfacing which facilitated the addition of 4 new disabled car parking spaces. Upgrading works to the 125m path leading from the newly surfaced carpark to the entrance of the beach was undertaken, providing accessibility for all users. Two new beach wheelchairs have also been purchased and can be booked for use by contacting Sligo County Council.

New Equipment for the Outdoor Gym

Being able to exercise outdoors in nature should be an accessible and disability friendly option for everyone. The increased benefits from exercising outdoors are well known and we wanted to increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to reap these benefits through our inclusive outdoor gym programme. Working together with our partners in the Parks Department at Sligo County Council we secured and allocated funding to install several new inclusive outdoor gym pieces at the accessible outdoor gym at Doorly Park. The installation of this equipment has made the outdoor exercise experience more encompassing for people with disabilities locally.



Section 3 - Goal 1

Senior Sport

Introduction

As the population of Sligo is ageing, SSRP understand the importance of providing quality sport and physical activity opportunities which enhance the physical and mental well-being of older people. With an even broader range of tailored activities including; Stronger for Longer, Activator Poles, Mature Movers, Outdoor Gym, Walking Football, Postural Stability now available on the senior sport and physical activity programme, we are supporting more older people in Sligo to meet the recommended physical activity guidelines and achieve a healthier, happier and more active lifestyle as they age.



2023 Highlights

- Stronger for Longer programme extended to four areas with 283 adults over the age of 50 participating.
- A successful Fitness and Mobility Exercise (FaME) postural stability programme started with HSE Health and Well Being Department with 20 older adults referred to the programme.
- Collaborated with Irish Men's Shed Association on Sheds for Life programme with five local men's sheds participating in regular weekly exercise sessions as part of the programme.
- Continued engagement and awareness of opportunities with local community resulted in 11 new older adult groups added to SSRP's Older Adult database in 2023.
- Facilitated Age and Opportunity Grant Funding workshop with 12 local groups attending and successful in funding applications.
- Over 40 older adults enjoyed our Walk and Talk event held in conjunction with Age Friendly Sligo promoting physical activity for positive physical and mental well-being.

Walk and Talk

Like many counties throughout Ireland Sligo's population is ageing rapidly, and the Sligo Age Friendly programme was established to improve the quality of life for people as they age. Supporting older people in Sligo to live healthier and active lives for longer is a key objective of the programme and SSRP is ideally placed to assist this through their Seniors initiatives. Walking as the easiest and most accessible form of exercise provided the vehicle for our Walk and Talk event bringing together over 40 older people to enjoy a leisurely walk and chat at the picturesque Riverside Walk along Doorly Park.

Mature Movers

SSRP's Mature Movers programme offers low impact exercise opportunities for older adults, delivered in a welcoming and friendly setting, enabling people to participate in fun activities at a pace and level they are comfortable with. Activities include chair-based exercise/ aerobics, movement to music, yoga, pilates, indoor boccia, Kurling and dance. The enjoyment and social benefits of the programmes were very much in evidence in 2023 with no less than 27 Mature Movers programmes being delivered across 21 different community groups and active age groups throughout County Sligo.

Senior Fest 2023

Physical activity for older adults can take on many forms, and this was the case at the 2023 SSRP Seniors Sports Fest held at the Knocknarea Arena, ATU Sligo. Delivering a combination of aerobic workouts (both standing and chair based),

walking, activator poles, dance and indoor kurling/ target games, this year's festival of sport again demonstrated the positive impact physical activity can have on the physical health and emotional and mental well-being of older people. 75 older adults, both male and female from 14 different active age groups were involved, all of whom embraced the activities on offer.

Activator Poles

As we age, maintaining balance and mobility becomes crucial in preventing falls. Designed by physiotherapists with a focus on individuals with balance and mobility issues, including those with knee or hip replacements, Activator Poles offer significant benefits for everyone. The activity and use of the poles promotes proper posture, engages the core, enhances stability, and reduces the impact on knees and hips, all important factors for older adults. Activator Poles programmes have been implemented across four sites: Sligo Town, Enniscrone, Tubbercurry and Castleconnor.



Case Study: Stronger for Longer

Overview



As we continue to age into our 50s and beyond, the body begins losing muscle, and practicing strength training is one of the only ways to hold onto what you have. SSRP developed the Stronger for Longer (SFL) programme with the overall aim of increasing opportunities for people over the age of 50 to be more physically active, and specifically to encourage them to participate in strength and conditioning based exercise. Increasing the number of people who are healthy at all stages of life is a key focus for SSRP and the programme offers a fun, accessible opportunity for older adults to be physically active and to build strength.

Aims



- Engage people over the age of 50 to participate in a strength and conditioning based exercise programme.
- Increase the confidence of people over 50 to participate in strength and conditioning training.
- Increase knowledge around the importance of strength and conditioning training as we age.
- Develop sustainable community based Stronger for Longer programmes in a number of target areas in Sligo.

Implementation

- Linked with several local communities to explore roll out of Stronger for Longer programme in identified areas.
- Supported local communities to promote Stronger for Longer programme in their area.
- Identified qualified instructors to deliver the programmes and supported instructors to build capacity and expertise to deliver the programmes effectively.
- Recruited participants for the programmes.
- Purchased necessary equipment for the programmes.
- Delivered and monitored weekly programmes in identified areas.
- Strengthened links between SSRP, local communities and Sligo County Council.



Outcomes

- Stronger for Longer programmes delivered in four community-based settings.
- Fourteen 8-week programmes delivered across the various sites.
- 283 men and women over the age of 50 participating in the programme.
- 6 fitness instructors employed across the programmes.
- Fitness equipment purchased to support local communities to continue and sustain the programmes

"I found the classes very enjoyable. The instructor is excellent in delivering the classes and is highly motivated. I was drawn to the class as it was for over 50s and the instructor gave plenty of guidance and options for doing the exercise at different levels. For that reason, I would very much like to continue with this".

Stronger for Longer Participant



Next Steps

- Continue with programme at current sites.
- Establish at least two new community-based sites in 2024.
- Develop men only Stronger for Longer programme to encourage more men to participate.
- Conduct in-depth evaluation of programme to guide future structure and delivery of programme
- Adopt Stronger for Longer as one of SSRPs key programmes for older adults.

Section 3 - Goal 1

Women in Sport

Introduction

The main objectives of the SSRP Women in Sport programmes are to raise the overall physical activity levels among women and girls and to support women in leadership roles in sports organisations. Projects supported by SSRP must have community ownership whereby clubs or community groups have the capacity to deliver the initiative while also supporting opportunities for sustained participation linked to pathways into club or community activities. In 2023 SSRP facilitated 43 women in sport initiatives with 901 participants.

2023 Highlights

- 76 women were introduced to trail running with the setting up of Irish Mountain Running Association (IMRA) events in Sligo.
- 36 females engaged in women in sport kayaking programmes.
- 47 women engaged in surfing initiatives.
- HER Outdoors Week was delivered by 95% female instructors and leaders within clubs.
- 70 participants attended Women in the Middle seminar targeting women in midlife.

HER Outdoors

HER Outdoors Week aims to encourage females to embrace the outdoors and highlight the opportunities available for participation in outdoor activities. SSRP supported 7 outdoor sports clubs to host female only events during the week including; kayaking, rowing, dragon boating, mountain biking, trail running and pony hunt. SSRP partnered with 2 NGBs; Orienteering Ireland and Swim Ireland and engaged with 4 commercial providers. During the week 250 women took part in numerous events. A networking event took place with 13 female coaches from outdoor sports clubs to acknowledge their efforts in increasing women's participation during the week.



Her Moves Surfing

The Making Waves Teen Girls Surf Initiative is an approved Her Moves programme, designed and delivered by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership in partnership with Rebelle Surf School. They use their female team of instructors for this programme, offering teenage girls an opportunity to engage in physical activity in a fun friendly non-judgmental environment while learning surf skills and much more including boundary workshops, strength exercises and ocean awareness. Target schools were Grange Post Primary School and Ballinode College with 45 girls participating in the programme.



Single Mothers Surfing

Single mothers are identified as a group who find it harder to avail of opportunities to engage in physical activity, especially outdoor activities such as surfing. The surf taster gave single mothers an opportunity to try surfing in a fun supportive environment, while an activity camp ran alongside the surf session for their children aged between 5 and 14-years. To support sustained participation the women were invited to join a women's surf WhatsApp group managed by Rebelle Surf to arrange free surf meet ups and support each other with childcare; they also received vouchers to attend sessions in their own time.



Section 3 - Goal 1

Men Over 35

Introduction

SSRP prioritised delivering men's only programmes to encourage men over the age of 35 years to get more active, have fun and improve their fitness levels. The emphasis of these programmes is focused on creating awareness and understanding of the importance of physical activity and the health benefits that exercise brings not only physically, but also for mental health and well-being. Successful programmes in 2023 included Men on the Move, Men's Indoor Rowing and Men's Try a Tri.

2023 Highlights

- 35 men completed Sligo Triathlon Club's Men's Try a Tri initiative.
- 146 men took part in Men on the Move programmes across the County.
- 76 men participated in men's only indoor rowing programmes.
- Men on the Move programmes incorporated wellbeing workshops to focus on mental as well as physical health.



Men on the Move

SSRP was delighted to partner with the local GAA Healthy Club committees from St. John's, Curry and Naomh Molaise Gaels GAA Clubs to host 5 Men on the Move programmes involving 114 men. In addition, Castleconnor Community Centre and Abbeyquarter Men's Group had Men on the Move programmes involving 32 men. The 6-week programme offers men the chance to learn and take part in safe, effective exercises tailored to suit their needs, led by a supportive and encouraging SSRP instructor, as well as an optional well-being workshop and resources.

Men's Try a Tri

Sligo Triathlon Club's Men's Try a Tri aims to provide a pathway into something more challenging yet attainable, to give those from all sporting and non-sporting backgrounds alike, a chance to push their own capabilities in a safe and non-competitive setting. The programme was a huge success with 35 participants, some of whom have progressed and joined the triathlon club as full members.

Men's Indoor Rowing

SSRP linked with Eastern Harp's GAA Healthy Club and Lough Arrow Rowing Club to provide men's indoor rowing programmes to 76 men which are set to music and combine rowing intervals with circuit-based exercises. The programme led by a SSRP instructor focuses on technique and gradually builds pace and distance offering a class to all fitness levels as each rower works at their own intensity. This low impact programme is the perfect balance of cardio, strength and flexibility training, getting every major muscle group involved and is designed to improve overall fitness.



“ I wanted to thank both Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership and Sligo Triathlon Club for running a fantastic Men's Try a Tri. At 46 and fairly unfit it was a hard decision to sign up to the fear of the unknown! However, the excellent coaching that we received in swimming, running and cycling, that suited all levels, and the support of all the lads made it a fun few weeks and very rewarding. We had some great craic along the way and made lots of new friends. I would encourage anyone to give it a go. ”

Try a Tri Participant

Section 3 - Goal 1

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives

Introduction

Outdoor recreation provides a broad range of activities and opportunities that both engage and provide benefits to people of all ages, social or economic backgrounds and abilities. There are so many ways to enjoy the great outdoors in Sligo; walking, swimming, cycling, orienteering, adventure sports like mountain biking, climbing and water sports such as sailing, surfing, kayaking and rowing. SSRP supports participation in outdoor recreation through a variety of programmes and events, supporting national campaigns along with supports for outdoor sports clubs.

2023 Highlights

- 2 Sligo community groups hosted large walking events – Cave to Castle Camino facilitated by Eastern Harps GAA Club and Sligo Camino hosted by Coolaney Development Company.
- 7 outdoor sports clubs and 4 commercial outdoor providers engaged with HER Outdoors Week from the 14th to 20th August to promote and increase female participation in outdoor adventure sports.
- IMRA (Irish Mountain Running Association) established a league of trail running events in Sligo for the first time with 161 individual runners and a committee of 14 volunteers.
- 69 leaders, teachers and coaches completed qualification to support the delivery of outdoor sports.

Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative (UOAI)

The Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative aims to promote greater participation in outdoor sports in the urban area. It involves sports clubs, schools, community organisations, agencies and NGBs working together to create greater opportunities for people of all abilities and backgrounds living in urban areas to participate in physical activity through adventure sports. Building on the successful orienteering developments of 2022, 2023 witnessed 217 primary school children take part in the schools' event. 20 new leaders were trained and 3 inclusive adult community events with 63 participants, of which 21 were people with a disability, were held. Other successful initiatives involved skateboarding, rowing and cycling.

Trail Running

The Irish Mountain Running Association established a committee in Sligo for the first time to introduce mountain and trail running to the Northwest region of Ireland. The volunteer committee of 14 individuals organised 5 runs in Sligo, with a total of 161 runners participating across the summer. SSRP further collaborated with IMRA to promote trail running to women during HER Outdoors Week, hosting a training evening for 25 women in August. This event received a nomination for the Outsider Magazine Diversity and Inclusion Award 2023, recognising its contribution to promoting inclusion in the sport. There is future planning in place for 2024 to build on this year's success.



Bike Week 2023

SSRP in association with Sligo County Council supported the Transport for Ireland National Bike Week 2023, which took place in May. Bike Week is a cross-community effort to highlight cycling as a fun, cost effective and healthy way to travel. A number of initiatives take place annually during Bike Week which are open to all including children's cycling skills and drills, adult learn to cycle lessons, leisure cycles, disability cycling sessions and mountain biking. There were 58 individual events held during Bike Week 2023 with 1639 participants of all ages and abilities getting on bikes during the week.



Case Study: Skate for your Gear

Overview



Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership through the Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative partnered with Zero Gravity Skate Park to deliver a skating initiative. The initiative targeted participants from disadvantaged backgrounds within the urban area of Sligo. SSRP worked with Diversity Sligo, Sligo Traveller Support Group, Cranmore Co-op and the Home School Liaison Service to recruit participants. The initiative provided an introduction to skateboarding and roller blading, it created awareness of local facilities, developed participants personal skills and provided them with equipment for sustainable participation.

Aims



- Engage youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in outdoor adventure sports based within the urban setting.
- Develop participants person skills and confidence levels for sustained participation in adventure sports.
- Increase knowledge and create awareness of opportunities to participate in adventure sports within the urban area of Sligo town.
- Develop sustained participation through the provision of skate equipment to participants.

Implementation

- Created a partnership agreement with the Skate Park for the delivery of the 'Skate for Your Gear' programme, taster sessions and provision of equipment.
- Identified the key target groups and link with partner agencies to recruit participants onto the initiatives.
- Rolled out the 8-week 'Skate for Your Gear' programme with small groups (maximum of 8 participants) to develop their skating skills and confidence.
- On completion of the programme and passing the safe skating informal assessment, presented participants with a set of skate equipment and safety gear to keep.
- Hosted a 'Skate for Your Gear' graduation to acknowledge participants achievements and meet participants from the other programmes.



Outcomes

- The integrated approach from all partners was successful at recruiting participants from key target groups (31 children completed the programme/ 110 participants involved in taster sessions).
- The programme developed participants confidence, skills, safety knowledge and provided the equipment for sustained participation after the programme had finished.
- Increased awareness of the Skate Park and the sports of skateboarding and roller blading.



Next Steps



- Expand the programme outside of the Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative to include it in Women in Sport programmes, as part of HER Outdoors Week and explore inclusive programmes for children and adults with a disability
- Support the skating volunteers in the development of an NGB for skate sports including skateboarding, roller blading and scooting highlighted this as a barrier for greater participation in the sports and club development.

"Something to give my Wednesday reason"

Participant 'Skate for your Gear' programme

Section 3 - Goal 1

Challenges encountered in 2023 and SSRP response

2023 Challenge	SSRP Response
Managing the extra demand for programmes following the pandemic.	SSRP successfully engaged with partners in sports clubs, community organisations and schools who had capacity to support the delivery of programmes. Also, SSRP pursued additional funding streams in order to support programming.
Responding to the drop off in participation in sport and physical activity by teenage girls.	SSRP aligned a number of programmes to the principles of the Sport Ireland Her Moves national initiative while also engaging with a number of NGBs to facilitate teenage girls programmes (IABA, Swim Ireland, Basketball Ireland). Specifically, SSRP undertook surveys with teachers and girls to identify challenges and opportunities.
Issues concerning accessibility of some facilities for people with a physical disability.	SSRP worked in collaboration with the Local Authority to make two beaches at Mullaghmore and Enniscrone more accessible. Also, SSRP engaged with a local leisure centre to support the purchase of a hoist and plinth to facilitate accessible swimming.
Significant increase in the need for inclusion of members of the Ukrainian community and migrants into sport and physical activity. Need for more clarity regarding roles and responsibilities relating to various intercultural officers in different organisations involved in sports and physical activity provision.	SSRP worked collaboratively with officers in Sligo Leader Partnership Company and key community organisations including Family Resource Centres to facilitate programmes.
Overcoming obstacles with regard to sports which have no National Governing Body of Sport, example; skate boarding.	In the absence of an NGB or club structure for skate boarding SSRP linked with a commercial provider to facilitate the sport of skate boarding. Also, SSRP supported local interested parties in the exploration of requirements for the setting up of an NGB for skate boarding.
Increase in operation costs in sports clubs and community organisations.	SSRP facilitated two additional grant schemes in 2023 in order to address the increased operational costs. A Return to Sport Grant Scheme was facilitated for programming costs while an Energy Support Grant Scheme was facilitated in order to address additional overhead costs including heat and light.
Addressing lack of women in sports leadership roles.	SSRP facilitated a very successful 6-week Women in Sport Leadership course with 16 participants involved.
Capacity of SSRP to respond to the volume of NGB requests for co-delivery of programmes and initiatives.	SSRP prioritised work with key NGBs in 2023. An example of prioritisation involved a strong collaboration with the IABA who recruited a new officer to work in Sligo to develop boxing in partnership with the LSP.
A need for SSRP to review its organisational structure in responding to the growth in demands for services linked to opportunities for additional staff.	Full staff organisational structure review undertaken by SSRP with a key outcome being a decision to create a Programme Manager position while also seeking funding for additional officer positions – ESF and ORO.
Lack of office space for SSRP team as number of staff increases.	SSRP engaged professional services to review the office layout which resulted in a new office layout with more efficient use of space.

Section 3 - Goal 2: Build Capacity

Goal 2 Building Capacity

2023 Highlights

- Sports clubs supported through the annual Special Project Participation Initiative with grant aid of €15,000 allocated across 25 organisations and representing 20 different sporting disciplines.
- 336 coaches and volunteers supported on a range of coach education courses.
- Ongoing review of the SSRP community coaches database with training facilitated to ensure all coaches have up to date Garda Vetting, Safeguarding and First Aid.
- 215 participants undertook Safeguarding training courses across 18 workshops which marks a 42.38% increase on 2022.
- Capacity building with sports clubs for example, supporting West Sligo Athletics Club to host their first 5k and 3k Summer Series with three events facilitated involving 394 participants.
- A very successful 'Women in the Middle' seminar was facilitated targeting women in mid life with 70 women in attendance.
- Significant investment in orienteering training for coaches and volunteers with 20 people educated from 17 organisations.
- Disability Inclusion Training facilitated with 140 participants.
- Coaching Workshop Series delivered to 125 participants representing a variety of clubs.
- Positive partnerships have been established with various national organisations and NGBs to achieve shared objectives in sports participation with an example being a collaborative relationship with the Irish Mountain Running Association (IMRA) which resulted in a trail running series taking place in Sligo for the first time, with 161 participants involved of which there was 32% female participation.

Coaching Workshop Series

SSRP offered a coaching series with three diverse workshops catering to various needs. The Youth Strength and Conditioning seminar empowered coaches with knowledge to enhance youth athletic development. Due to high interest, a practical follow-up workshop was organised with 52 coaches in attendance. Furthermore, one club sought support for their off-season youth programme.

'Women in the Middle' addressed training during menopause, prompting one club to collaborate with their NGB for a specialised workshop. Additionally, our First Aid course supported 10 clubs, with several coaches attaining qualifications, ensuring safer sporting environments. Overall, the series attracted a substantial turnout of 125 coaches, fostering skill development, collaboration, and safety within our sporting community.



Women in Sport Leadership

The Women in Sport Leadership Course, spanning 5-weeks, empowered 16 women from Sligo with the skills and confidence to excel in leadership roles within sport. Two participants were appointed chairpersons of their club's post-course, marking tangible success. Designed to offer training, guidance, and expertise, the programme facilitated networking and skill enhancement. Interactive blended classes allowed for personalised development alongside shared learning experiences. Topics covered included effective communication, values, networking, crisis management, influence and developing holistic leadership abilities. By equipping these women with additional skills and confidence, SSRP aims to cultivate a diverse and inclusive sporting landscape in Sligo, driven by empowered female leaders.

Section 3 - Goal 2

Club Development

Assisting in the development and sustainability of new clubs is a core function of Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership. In 2023, we provided comprehensive support to clubs through various initiatives aimed at strengthening their foundations and promoting long-term success. Our efforts included offering governance advice to ensure clubs operate effectively and adhere to best practices. SSRP hosted 18 Safeguarding workshops to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all youth participants and vulnerable adults. Additionally, SSRP facilitated coach education programmes, enhancing the skills and knowledge of coaches to improve the quality of training and development provided to members. Financial support was also made available, enabling clubs to manage their resources effectively and invest in their growth.

Grants Support for Clubs

The return to sport following the Covid-19 pandemic continued to be a focus in 2023 with SSRP securing funding of €60,850 to assist clubs, groups, and organisations with a return to sporting activity and programming following the pandemic. Support was provided across a wide range of target groups and areas of work including disability, seniors, the outdoors, schools, education & training and targeted club supports.

SSRP's annual Special Projects Participation Initiative grant scheme amounting to €15,000 was facilitated with 25 clubs across 20 sporting disciplines receiving support. This enabled 4,615 participants to be active.

A Sports Energy Support Scheme (SESS) 2023 was announced by the Department of Sport which was administered via Sport Ireland through the Local Sports Partnerships. SSRP facilitated a scheme in the Autumn to provide support to community owned sports facilities towards increased energy costs for those facilities who did not avail of other energy funding support opportunities through their Local Authorities, TBESS etc. SSRP provided grant aid assistance of €11,612 to the 7 applicant organisations.

Supporting Coaches and Volunteers in Sport

Supporting coaches and volunteers through training, education and guidance was prioritised in 2023. This included sports specific education support, safeguarding training, generic workshops on specific topics such as coaching children and coaching teenage girls, disability inclusion training and the hosting of the coaching series which included first aid, youth strength and conditioning and the 'Women in the Middle' seminar. In total 336 participants places were facilitated in 2023.

Table 4 - Goal 1: Training and Education	2023	2022	Variance	% Variance
Coach Education	336	446	-110	-24.66%
Safeguarding	215	151	64	42.38%
Totals:	551	597	46	-7.70%



Section 3 - Goal 2

Collaboration with National Governing Bodies of Sport

Our objective is to cultivate relationships, enhance capacity, and support collaborative participation initiatives with National Governing Bodies of Sport, with a particular emphasis on minority sports. This has been successfully accomplished by prioritising joint SSRP and NGB initiatives that address local needs.

Some examples of collaboration with NGBs in 2023:

Angling Council of Ireland

SSRP supported the Angling Council of Ireland to run a Sea Spinning Taster Session with Cranmore Co-Operative Youth Group at Streedagh Beach involving 6 participants.

Basketball Ireland

SSRP supported Basketball Ireland's Her Moves programme by promoting it and recruiting participants through the Girls Active Schools initiative for Sligo All Stars Basketball Club. This collaboration effectively promoted social basketball for teenage girls, enhancing visibility and driving increased engagement in the sport.

Connacht Rugby

SSRP was delighted to have Connacht Rugby deliver taster sessions at the Girls Active Festival.

Cycling Ireland

Linked with Cycling Ireland to attend Cycle Right for people with disabilities training workshop, with 19 participants.

Football Association of Ireland

Collaborated with Strand Celtic FC and the FAI Football for All National Officer to develop a Football for All programme. In addition, linked with the FAI to support Abbey United FC deliver a Disney Playmakers programme in the East City area.

GAA

Worked with GAA Diversity & Inclusion Officer to support local GAA clubs engaged in inclusive GAA All Stars programmes, the two local GAA clubs involved were St Mary's GAA and Curry GAA.

Gymnastics Ireland

A partnership approach involving Gymnastics Ireland, SSRP and DyNamo Gym Club has resulted in the GymABLE programme being sustained in 2023.

Irish Athletic Boxing Association

Collaborated with the IABA Development Officer to run Start Box community programmes for teenage girls in Sligo Town. In addition, linked with the newly appointed IABA Sligo Development Officer and Gateway Boxing Club to develop the High Five summer boxing programme for children with disabilities and provide Box Fit programme for adults in Sligo Mental Health Unit.

Irish Mountain Running Association

Supported the development of the IMRA Northwest League in Sligo with 5 events taking place. IMRA also supported the HER Outdoors Week event to introduce women to trail running.

Karate Ireland

SSRP invited Karate Ireland to deliver a taster sessions at the Girls Active Festival. This was the first time this NGB featured at the event and was a hugely enjoyed and welcomed by the participants.

Lawn Bowls Association of Ireland

Linked with the Lawn Bowls Association of Ireland and Sligo Lawn Bowls Club to develop inclusive opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in the game on a regular basis.

Section 3 - Goal 2

Orienteering Ireland

Through the UOAI 20 teachers/ leaders and coaches completed the 'Ready to Go' orienteering training course delivered by Orienteering Ireland. One Sligo coach completed their tutor assessment to become a tutor for this course. SSRP in partnership with Orienteering Ireland ran a Primary Schools event in Cleveragh Park with 217 participants. An accessible course was added to the Map Run 6 courses within geographic location of Cleveragh Park by Orienteering Ireland. Orienteering Ireland supported a HER Outdoors Week event in Cleveragh Park.

Squash Ireland

SSRP linked with Squash Ireland to support Sligo Squash Club deliver a taster session and an 8-week Spring into Squash women's programme.

Swim Ireland

A collaborative approach to improve beach accessibility at Mullaghmore, Tubbercurry Pop up Pool and open water programmes was facilitated. Linked with Swim Ireland to support a women's only swimming programme in the East City area.

Tennis Ireland

Linked with Tennis Ireland Connaught Development Officer to facilitate the 'Enjoy Tennis' adult programme. Also, linked with Tennis Ireland and the Access Tennis Foundation to support 'Couch to Court' programmes in Cleveragh Park.

Triathlon Ireland

Partnered with Triathlon Ireland to deliver several programmes including; Training Women in Midlife workshop, Women's Try a Tri, Men's Try a Tri. SSRP also delivered one Triathlon Ireland Tri Hero's programme to a local DEIS school.



Case Study: Razorbacks Basketball Club

Overview



Razorbacks Basketball Club was established in 2022. The club was established based on two separate ideas; the first centred on a youth team for the Enniscrone/ Castleconnor area and the second focused on a form of basketball called Socia-Ball; a programme designed to re-engage women in basketball using a social and non-competitive model. Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership were aware of both ideas and brought the relevant individuals together to form one club.

Aims



- Establish a sustainable basketball club within the community.
- Build local capacity of volunteers and coaches to manage the club.
- Deliver quality opportunities locally for members to participate in basketball.

Implementation

- SSRP responded to a request from a volunteer hoping to establish a youth basketball club, and provided guidance and support on club governance including the development of a safeguarding policy and vetting procedures.
- SSRP organised a basketball coaching course with support from Basketball Ireland to build local capacity to deliver basketball programmes.
- In parallel, SSRP responded to a request from Castleconnor Community Centre to support a pilot a recreational Socia-Ball programme for adults, providing governance support to the committee to facilitate a programme.
- Local demand for basketball was high and capacity to deliver was limited; SSRP encouraged and supported both areas to combine to form one club.
- Supported by an SSRP club start up grant, the club affiliated with Basketball Ireland.
- SSRP provided start up basketball equipment and a back board.



Outcomes

- 3 qualified coaches and 3 committee members in place to manage the club.
- 40 adult members and 45 youth members participating in club sessions.
- 2 weekly sessions for women and one for men.
- 3 weekly sessions for youth aged 8-14years.

"People are buzzing with the club. Some haven't played since school, and it gave everyone this injection of something and made them feel good again. The social side of it is great too."

Razorbacks Coach



Next Steps

- Recruit additional members to become volunteers/ coaches to support the growth of the club.
- Support additional education and training requirements to grow a coaching team to engage new target groups including adult men and teenage girls.
- Maintain a central focus on providing a non competitive environment.
- Ensure all partners sustain a collaborative approach.

Case Study: West Sligo Athletics Club

Overview



West Sligo Athletics Club was born out of the Enniscrone and District Community Council's concept for an athletics track. With considerable local interest for this development, the Community Council facilitated a public meeting which formed a club committee in 2022. SSRP and Athletics Ireland have supported the club committee with guidance, education/ training and support to establish a new club, with athletics beginning in 2023.

Aims



- Establish a sustainable athletics club within the community.
- Offer members the opportunity to participate in weekly activity sessions.
- Support the club committee with guidance, support, training and education to ensure the foundations of the club will remain solid.

Implementation

- Signed contractual agreement between SSRP and Enniscrone and District Community Council confirming grant aid towards the Castlefield athletics track. SSRP provided training, advice and support on club governance.
- Public meeting facilitated by Enniscrone & District Community Council to discuss a club development plan. A committee was subsequently formed.
- SSRP, with support from Athletics Ireland, provided subsidised coach education and training for new volunteers.
- West Sligo Athletics Club became affiliated with Athletics Ireland while SSRP provided them with new athletics equipment.
- Partnership agreements put in place between SSRP and West Sligo Athletics Club to support new club development programme and events.
- Outreach community links developed with the West Sligo Family Resource Centre and Sanctuary Runners to support a local programme.



Outcomes

- 5 committee members and 3 coaches in place.
- 55 adult members and 196 juvenile members.
- 4 weekly athletics sessions for members.
- Weekly cross country sessions targeting 8-17 year old participants.

"In Summer 2023 we held 3k & 5k events in Easkey, Castleconnor and Enniscrone to create awareness of our existence and to get people into athletics. Around 140-150 people took part and each race was held as a fundraiser". -

West Sligo Athletics Club Committee Member

Next Steps



- 3 -year club financial projections in place with a central focus on completing the athletics track.
- Continued focus on coach development to meet programme demand.
- Continued collaboration with SSRP, Athletics Ireland and the West Sligo FRC planned as well as the development of further community partners on future club development plans.

Section 3 - Goal 3: Enhance Communication

This section provides an overview of the significant accomplishments and outcomes achieved in 2023 in pursuit of Goal 3: Enhancing Communications. Effective management of communication channels and systems with both internal and external stakeholders is vital in ensuring the success of partnership initiatives within Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership.

The following are some of the key highlights for 2023.

2023 Highlights

- Over 50 posts on website with social media links to drive traffic back to website.
- Facebook visits increased from 16,783 in 2022 to 50,400 in 2023.
- Opportunity to work with national broadcast outlet RTE Radio 1 to promote and support Run with Ray 5KM.
- Social media presence and followers improving year on year.
- Successfully implemented year 2 of Communications Plan 2022-2024.
- Re-launch of quarterly newsletter, first edition focused on Q4 of 2023 and published in December 2023.

Communication Plan:

In 2022, SSRP enlisted the expertise of the Public Sector Marketing Institute to develop a Communications Plan for 2022-2024. This collaboration aimed to establish practices and procedures to enhance SSRP's brand communication, clarify its role, and streamline its communication channels and systems, with a particular emphasis on social media.

In 2023, the second year of the plan, the organisation focused on the following key areas:

- A key aim for the second year of the plan was to drive more traffic through the SSRP website. In response to this SSRP published over 50 posts on the website. The website link was used as a 'call to action' on social media to find out more information and for registration. By using the website and social media in tandem this has ensured traffic is directed back to the website which in turn highlights other areas of work of the organisation.
- Monthly communications updates at team meetings to plan the month ahead for social media campaigns.
- Special focus was given to producing a SSRP Quarterly Newsletter. The aim of the newsletter was to highlight the work completed by the organisation in a concise, informal and informative style and promote the SSRP brand to stakeholders and members of the public. The first issue was produced in December 2023 and this action will be an area to be prioritised in 2024.
- A strategic approach to scheduling content on social media to publicise events/ programmes. Planning social media in advance to give greater reach, engagement and visit rates was achieved.
- A key strategic approach adopted was to only use images of local people and locations to generate greater appeal to our target audience and to enhance engagement.
- SSRP CSDO sits on the Sport Ireland Communications Forum.
- SSRP CSDO and Administrator attend and participate in monthly Sport Ireland Communications update meetings, where best practices are shared, and the network of Local Sports Partnerships can have a more consistent communications voice.






COMMUNICATIONS PLAN 2022-2024



Section 3 - Goal 3

Effective channels and platforms for communication:

- **Social Media:** A continued focus was applied to further develop and manage SSRP's presence. A key learning from 2023 is to continue to tailor appropriate content to the appropriate channel. In 2022 SSRP's Instagram reach (those who have seen your content) was 27,681. This declined in 2023 to 14,881 (see table 6) even though more content was published on the channel. The target audience responds better to reels/ short video elements on this channel and SSRP's output of reels reduced.

- Facebook 
- Instagram 
- Twitter 

There was an increase in following and page visits across all platforms. Reach improved on the SSRP Facebook channel and declined on Instagram. (See tables 5, 6 and 7 below)

Table 5 - Goal 3: Enhance Communication Social Media Followers:	2023	2022	Variance %
Facebook Followers	9,564	8,758	9.20%
Instagram Followers	2,532	2,013	25.78%
Twitter Followers	616	537	14.71

Table 6 - Goal 3: Enhance Communication Social Media Reach:	2023	2022	Variance %
Facebook Reach	148,630	135,711	9.52%
Instagram Reach	14,881	27,681	-46.24%

Table 7 - Goal 3: Enhance Communication Social Media Visits	2023	2022	Variance %
Facebook Visits	50,400	16,783	200.30%
Instagram Visits	4,800	3,454	38.97%

- **SSRP Website:** The main focus for the SSRP website in 2023 was to drive more traffic through the site. In addition to the regular updating of information SSRP used the website in conjunction with social media communications to direct the user back to the SSRP website to learn more about events, programmes and news. Ongoing changes have also been made to the website in the area of cookies used by SSRP and this has resulted in an updated Cookie Policy in 2023.

- **Radio:** SSRP had the opportunity to partner with RTÉ Radio 1 to promote and support the Run with Ray 5Km in June 2023 with 250 participants. This event ensured national coverage for SSRP and the network of Local Sports Partnerships. Coverage of SSRP events through the local radio station was also achieved. A number of events and interviews were broadcast by Ocean FM Sport.

- **Resources:** A range of resources was developed and promoted for a variety of in-person and online programmes with a key focus on engaging disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups. In achieving this SSRP worked with local community organisations, family resource centres and statutory agencies to gain as much engagement as possible.

- **Local Print Media:** Regular press releases were submitted to local print media in Sligo; The Sligo Champion and Sligo Weekender.

- **Video resources:** A variety of videos were created in 2023 on the SSRP YouTube account.

- **Databases:** SSRP maintained an up-to-date directory of Sligo sports clubs, community organisations and target groups.

- **Publications:** A summer camp brochure was produced that promoted 55 summer camps throughout County Sligo.

- **Connections:** SSRP maintained regular contact with stakeholders and partners and developed new connections to support, improve and develop relationships and to highlight and create opportunities for sport and physical activity throughout 2023 and beyond.

Section 3 - Goal 3

Campaigns/ Programmes

SSRP linked with a variety of national campaigns promoted by Sport Ireland, the Federation of Irish Sport, and Transport for Ireland including; Women in Sport Week, Bike Week 2023 and the Volunteers in Sport Awards.

European Week of Sport

European Week of Sport promotes sport and physical activity across European nations. It is an inclusive event open to all, irrespective of age, background, or fitness level. Emphasising grassroots initiatives, the primary goal is to encourage Europeans to #BeActive consistently and cultivate opportunities for daily exercise. SSRP proudly hosted its flagship event during this week, the Primary Schools Athletics Fest, engaging 1,251 children.

#BEACTIVE
EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT
23 - 30 September



Bike Week

Bike Week 2023, in collaboration with Transport for Ireland and locally coordinated by Sligo County Council and SSRP, celebrated active travel, sustainable transport, and the joys of cycling. Held from May 13th to 21st, the event garnered support from numerous local cycling clubs and community organisations. SSRP led the charge by hosting a series of cycling-related events across Sligo Town and County throughout the week.

Federation of Irish Sport - Volunteers in Sports Awards 2023

The Federation of Irish Sport launched the Volunteers in Sports Awards sponsored by the Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships. The awards serve as a national platform to honour the dedication and commitment of individual volunteers within sports clubs and organisations throughout the country. The Volunteers in Sports Awards aim to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of these unsung heroes, who generously dedicate their time and effort to support their local clubs, thereby enriching the sporting landscape of their communities. These volunteers play a vital role in facilitating and fostering the growth of sport at the grassroots level, embodying the spirit of community that lies at the heart of sports clubs. #DedicatedToTheDedicated



Women in Sport Week



Women in Sport Week serves as a platform to honour and celebrate the invaluable contributions of women and girls across all areas of sport, including playing, coaching, officiating, volunteering, and leadership roles. The week aims to spotlight and elevate the ongoing efforts of Sport Ireland, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs), and other stakeholders in advancing gender equality within sport. Additionally, the week provides an opportunity to showcase some of the impactful programmes and initiatives funded by Sport Ireland's Women in Sport programme. Ultimately, the vision is a future where women have equal opportunities to realise their full potential in sport, fostering a lifelong passion for sporting engagement.

Winter Initiative

In its second year, this significant national campaign is aimed at promoting physical activity during the winter months. This 90-day challenge motivates participants to progressively increase their daily activity levels. Central to the challenge is the tracking of individual physical activities in minutes, encouraging a commitment to regular movement and overall well-being.



Section 3 - Goal 3

Run with Ray:

SSRP had the opportunity to partner with RTÉ Radio 1 to promote and support the Run with Ray 5Km in June 2023 with 250 participants. This event ensured national coverage for SSRP and the network of Local Sports Partnerships. The aim was to get communities outdoors and moving. Ray D'Arcy said: *"We're delighted to be back on the road for our Run with Ray 5k's! We know from previous years that these are special events; people who do them, go on to change their lives. I know that sounds like a big statement, but it really does get people into moving around, being more active. So, if you're out there and around Buncrana, Sligo, Mullingar, Wicklow or Dublin we'd love to see you!"*



Effective SSRP Data Management Systems:

SSRP continued to engage SSRP audiences and partners through effective use of data. 2023 witnessed SSRP make further progress in addressing areas highlighted in the GDPR Gap Analysis conducted by Privacy Engine in 2022. Several measures have been implemented to ensure more effective methods of data collection and GDPR compliance including:

- Continued enhancements to the SSRP website. As the website continues to grow and develop, a move to a more robust hosting platform is planned for early 2024.
- SSRP have migrated from a physical server to cloud based storage in 2023.
- Changes to registration to ask participants to opt in for further information, this database was then used to compile a newsletter database.
- Updated and revised Data Protection Policy approved by SSRP Board.
- Data Subject Rights Policy approved by SSRP Board.

- Data Processing Impact Assessments (DPIA) implemented.
- Data Processing Agreements (DPA) implemented.

Throughout the year, SSRP has progressed in refining and improving its established databases. These databases encompass grant applications, coaches, volunteers, clubs, training, education, Safeguarding participants, and policies.

A significant milestone achieved in 2023 was the successful implementation of our planned objective: the introduction of a quarterly newsletter tailored to our partners and participants who have opted to receive communications from SSRP. This dedicated database is now in operation and is managed to ensure that SSRP communicates exclusively with individuals who have actively subscribed to this service.

Section 3 - Goal 4: Strengthen The Organisation

This section details some of the key achievements and outputs delivered in 2023 relating to objectives under Goal 4 which focuses on Strengthening the SSRP Organisation.

Objective 4.1: Provide effective leadership and operations through a strong Board and staff.

Board Strategic Focus: The SSRP Board of Directors has agreed a Strategic Plan for the organisation which articulates the vision, goals, objectives and values of SSRP. In 2023 strategic discussion took place with regard to the importance of aligning the SSRP new strategic plan with the Local Sports Plan to be initiated by Sligo County Council in 2024 and in this context the SSRP Board approved the extension of the current SSRP Strategic Plan for one year on the advice of Sport Ireland with a view to aligning the organisational strategy development with that of the Local Sports Plan. In addition, a number of strategic conversations around organisational structure took place in 2023 with a key outcome being the decision to appoint a Programme Manager. Also, significant strategic decisions were taken with regard to the pursuit of new opportunities for officer positions in the areas of outdoor recreation and social innovation in sport.

Board Monitoring Impact: Ongoing monitoring of progress towards achievement of the SSRP goals is undertaken by the Board through CEO reports provided at each Board meeting in 2023 detailing progress linked to objectives and key performance indicators. Board members have the opportunity to seek clarity and further discuss various aspects of the reports. The Board commitment to evaluation was evident with the approval at Board level for an external evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub to be undertaken.

Board Effectiveness Review: An internal Board Effectiveness Review Questionnaire was conducted online and arising from this the Chairperson facilitated an in-depth Board discussion at the September 2022 Board meeting regarding the report compiled from the survey findings.

In 2023 the yearly Board review was an agenda item at the November meeting and key areas for discussion included Board renewal, succession planning and the need to consider a skills audit as part of the process. The topic of gender balance on the Board was also discussed and correspondence from Sport Ireland regarding the requirement to have 40% female representation at Board level was noted. SSRP currently has 47% female participation at Board level.

Board Governance: Governance is guided by the SSRP Constitution and Board Handbook with due consideration also given to the Sport Ireland Sports Governance Code.

The Board reviewed committee roles and in doing so identified the need to establish a Safeguarding Committee in addition to the existing Strategy Committee and Audit & Risk Committee. Terms of reference were agreed for the new Safeguarding Committee and three Board members were appointed to the committee. Committee reports is an agenda item for each Board meeting and all three committees provide a report following meetings.

The SSRP Board conducted an in-depth review of the organisational Risk Register in 2023 and arising from this 7 key categories of risk were agreed. The top 5 risks identified for the company in 2023 were:

- Over reliance on Dormant Accounts Funding
- Reduction in programme funding
- Loss of experienced staff
- Office accommodation
- Breaches in Data Protection.

The Board receives regular reports on the status of the Risk Register.

A review of the SSRP Constitution was initiated in 2023 with a view to having it completed in 2024.

Board Training: The Organisational Development and Change Unit within Sport Ireland is primarily focused on providing support to the sports organisations which receive funding from Sport Ireland including Local Sports Partnerships. Board members were made aware of training opportunities via email alerts, with a number of members availing of this training.

Human Resources: In 2022, Voltedge Management Limited consultants were retained to provide ongoing support on all aspects of HR within each of the limited company LSP's as a shared service. The main focus of priority and support in 2023 was in relation to job descriptions and contracts of employment for the new position of Programme Manager and a vacant Community Sports Development Officer position.

Section 3 - Goal 4

Effective Staff: Ensuring effective staff operations is a priority for SSRP. Central to this is effective planning with all staff actively involved in the development of the annual operation plan and each officer having individual work plans with actions and KPIs outlined. Reflection and review of programmes is an important element of the work processes for each officer. In addition, opportunities for continuous professional development for staff were facilitated in 2023.

Objective 4.2: Maintain and support an appropriate SSRP staff structure.

Staff Structure: SSRP employed eight staff in 2023, similar to 2022, including a CEO, Senior Administrator, 3 Senior CSDOs, an Administrator and 2 CSDOs. A vacant CSDO position was filled with Eimear Mc Hugh taking up the position.

Significant time was devoted to addressing the flat organisational structure in SSRP and arising from this a Board decision was taken to appoint a Programme Manager with the recruitment undertaken in December 2023 for role commencement in 2024.

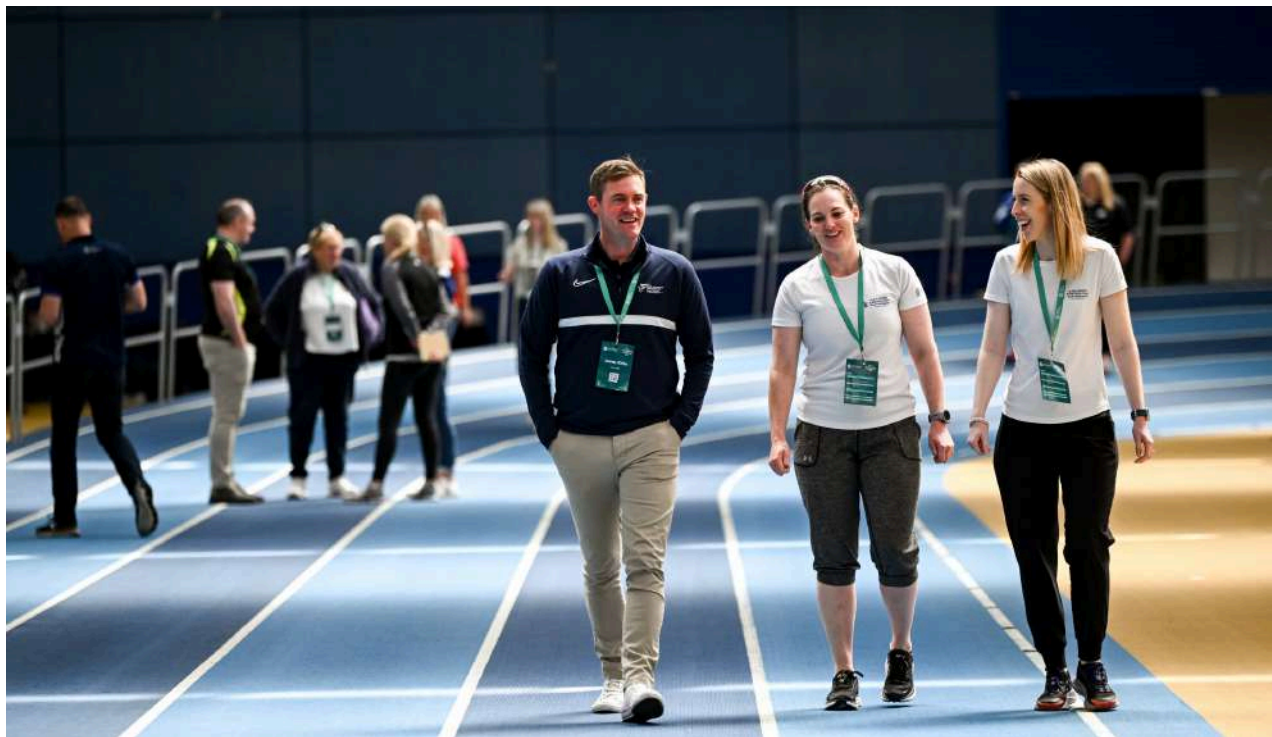
Staff Support: The Board has ensured that formal arrangements are in place for the ongoing supervision and development of staff and the CEO which includes a yearly formal appraisal process. Each employee received frequent and specific feedback on their progress and recognition of their performance in working independently and as part of a team.

Staff Training: A strong focus on staff training and development was prioritised in 2023 which included various staff participating in the following opportunities:

- SharePoint Training
- Sport Ireland SIGMA training
- HSE Cyber Security Training
- Numerous online SI and NGB Sport Webinars
- Social Media/ Communications Training
- Canva Training
- Safeguarding Training
- First Aid Training
- Manual Handling Training
- Sport Ireland Graphic Design Training
- Carmichael Build Future Skills Programme
- Ongoing PTT/ P2P Payment System Training

Shared Learning: In addition to training SSRP staff engaged in various networking and events linked to education. Key areas in which SSRP staff engaged included:

- Women in the Middle
- SIDO National Network
- Sport Ireland Communications Network
- National Sports Leadership Group
- Sport Ireland Evaluation Committee
- ATU Sligo Sports & Business students presentation on disability sport
- Sport Ireland SDO Conference
- Sport Ireland Communications Conference
- Federation of Irish Sport Awards Ceremony
- Sport Ireland Her Moves Network
- Youth Strength and Conditioning Seminar



Section 3 - Goal 4

Objective 4.3: Implement effective governance, procedures and policies for the SSRP organisation.

Governance Code for Sport: Implementing effective governance, procedures and policies for the SSRP organisation was prioritised in 2023. The organisation achieved full compliance with the Governance Code for Sport in September 2021.

In addition, the organisation undertook a Sport Ireland Assurance Audit conducted by the SSRP Company Auditors in September 2022 the outcome of which was the confirmation by the Auditor to Sport Ireland of compliance for 2021 based on the records provided.

Throughout 2023 the Board monitored ongoing compliance with the Code with a review of policies and procedures undertaken where necessary. At the year end a Compliance Record Form was finalised by the CEO for the period January to December 2023 with a view to circulation to Board members in early 2024 for approval.

Board Reports: The Board invited and reviewed regular reports on governance matters throughout 2023 including:

- Report on legal and regulatory compliance
- Reports on safeguarding issues
- Reports on financial matters
- Updates on health and safety matters
- Updates on SSRP insurance
- Yearly report on complaints received



SSRP Policies: The following are the main documents and policies approved by the Board during 2023 following their review, update or development:

Cookie Policy	Financial Control Policy	Credit Card Policy
Safeguarding Risk Assessment	Safeguarding Statement	Safeguarding Policy
Safeguarding Committee Terms of Reference	Anti-Racism Code of Practice	Data Protection Policy
Customer Care Charter	Data Subject Rights Policy	Garda Vetting Policy
Gender Equality Policy	Hybrid Working Policy	

Risk Management: Following advice from the Audit & Risk Committee in 2022 it was agreed that a more effective approach should be put in place for the Risk Register with a key element being the exercise of attributing monetary values to the various risks. This feedback was adopted in 2023 with a new Risk Register being devised. The new format of the Risk Register groups risks into seven categories:

- Operational Risk
- Operational Risk 2 (Redundancy and Wind Up)
- Conduct Risk
- Environmental Risk
- Governance Risk
- Financial Risk
- Strategic and Business Model Risk

The Risk Register values are derived from the amount in total funding reserves that the organisation holds. €300,000 has been set aside for Operational Risk 2 (Redundancy and Wind Up) and this money can not be used. Each risk category is then apportioned an amount to reflect the impact/ likelihood of the risk and the control measures that are in place. This document is fluid, ensuring it is flexible in practical use to have the ability to reflect changes in the environment and to recognise and prepare for upstream events. It is reviewed 3 times a year by the Audit and Risk Committee, who present it to the Board.

Section 3 - Goal 4

Objective 4.4: Maintain and support an appropriate SSRP financial resource base for the SSRP organisation and its programmes.

SSRP Funding Sources 2023:

In 2023, SSRP secured a total of €953,640 to enhance participation in sport and physical activity. This funding was sourced from multiple channels, including Sport Ireland Core, Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts, Sligo County Council, the Health Service Executive, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), and locally generated programme fee income. Table 8 below provides a detailed breakdown of the income secured, along with a comparison to the figures from 2022.

Table 8 - Income Source	Amount 2023	Amount 2022
Sport Ireland Core & Women in Sport	€416,948	€404,227
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts	€173,380	€44,111
Sport Ireland	€76,808	€110,937
Health Service Executive	€115,264	€103,798
Local Authority Grants (Including Cranmore Regeneration)	€88,429	€84,571
County Sligo Childcare Committee	€6,138	€7,944
Swim Ireland	€0	€1,120
Age & Opportunity	€1,600	€2,000
Mountaineering Ireland	€0	€1,500
Youth Sport Programme Fees	€22,078	€8,985
SIDO Programme Fees	€18,761	€17,383
Course Fees Project Income	€22,253	€19,616
Sponsorship	€3,000	€3,000
Amortisation of Government Grants	€8,981	€20,576
Total	€953,640	€829,768



Section 3 - Goal 4

Sport Ireland Core Investment

Sport Ireland supports the 29 Local Sports Partnerships to co-ordinate and promote the development of sport at local level and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity. This core investment supports the key work of the LSP network; including the delivery of national programmes, education and training initiatives, strategic development, Community Sports Development Officers (CSDO), the Sports Inclusion Disability programme, HR additional supports, Women in Sport programmes and general participation programmes. In 2023, SSRP was allocated €415,648 (2022 €390,958) through Sport Ireland core funding which constitutes approximately 61% staff salaries, 16% non-staff administration and 23% for programmes, club development and training and education.

Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Investment

Under the Dormant Accounts scheme, Sport Ireland implements a variety of sport and physical activity programmes for Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) and National Governing Bodies (NGBs). These initiatives align with both the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP). Projects funded through this scheme by Sport Ireland focus on:

- The personal and social development of individuals who are economically or socially disadvantaged.
- The educational development of individuals who face educational disadvantages.
- Individuals with disabilities, as defined by the Equal Status Act 2000.

Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding Measure 2023: (Deferred for 2024 Implementation)

2022 Community Sports Hub Phase 2 - Outdoors	€51,500
2020 Community Sports Hub Phase 4 - Enniscrone	€20,000
Sports Inclusion Disability Projects	€40,000
Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiatives	€55,000
Volunteer Supports	€15,000
Her Moves	€15,500

Sport Ireland Sports Energy Support Scheme Investment

In 2023, SSRP was allocated funding to administer a support scheme for community owned sports facilities to assist with increased energy costs. €11,612 was allocated to 7 facilities: Ballymote Community Parks Sports (€1,160), The Avalon Centre (€1,172), Oxfield Community Sport Centre (€1,799), Geevagh Community Resource Ltd (€2,307), Gurteen Recreation Centre (750), St Mary's/ Curry Community Centre (€1,092), Coolaney Community Park and Centre (€3,332).

Local Financial Investment

Successful funding applications for targeted projects were also secured from Sligo County Council and the Health Service Executive (HSE), our primary local funding partners.

Sligo County Council provided a core grant of €23,000, with additional funding for specific initiatives: €33,600 for the East City Regeneration Project, €24,372 for Bike Week, and €5,893 for the Healthy Ireland initiative.

The HSE contributed €49,520 for Health and Wellbeing initiatives and €49,000 in support of Sport and Inclusion projects.

Benefit in Kind Investment

SSRP continues to receive significant and invaluable in-kind support from many stakeholders. Notably, Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB has been a key supporter since SSRP's inception, providing office accommodation for all staff, ICT support, payroll services, and other essential administrative assistance. Sligo County Council also offers ongoing support in various areas, including Community Development, Parks Development, and the East City Regeneration project.

Beyond the substantial financial and practical benefits these contributions bring, the relationships and mutual understanding developed between SSRP and these organisations over the years are equally important. We also recognise and appreciate the time and commitment invested by our Board and Committee members, their organisations, National Governing Bodies of Sport, sports club partners, school and community partners, and all other stakeholders.

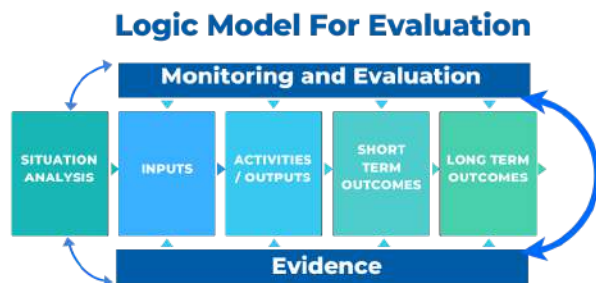
Section 3 - Goal 4

Objective 4.5: Develop appropriate evaluation systems to determine and illustrate the impact of SSRP's processes and programmes.

A focus on developing appropriate evaluation systems to determine and illustrate the impact of SSRP's processes and programmes was undertaken in 2023 which continued to enhance insight amongst SSRP staff and partners regarding the programme elements which have most impact.

Operational Plan

The annual operational plan is used as a guide for planning, evaluating and reporting of all LSP actions and activities against key performance indicators for the year. Detail inputted at the plan development stage and later captured at the reporting stage includes target number of programmes/ courses/ events, target number of participants, gender, age, ability, socio economic status and ethnicity.



SSRP uses the Logic Model tool for the design of new projects, which is a graphic illustration of the relationship between a programme resources, activities, and its intended effects. Logic Models clearly and concisely show how interventions affect behaviour and achieve a goal. The Logic Model was used in 2023 for the design of various new projects including Woodlands for Health and Stronger for Longer.

M1 Single Item Measure

At project level, SSRP has adopted the Sport Ireland Single Item Measure (M1) to assess the impact of its work. The M1 is an internationally validated self-report measure that tracks an individual's participation in sport and physical activity at the start of a programme, at the end, and three months later. Sport Ireland continues to support Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of Sport in collecting impact evaluation data for their participation programmes using M1. This approach aims to build a substantial national data sample size to interpret trends and impacts. Locally, the data is invaluable for understanding what makes a physical activity initiative successful, informing efforts to meet National Sports Policy targets and Strategic Plan objectives.

In 2023, SSRP's M1 data demonstrated that LSP initiatives are effectively targeting inactive individuals, with key data collected from programmes including Activator Poles, Stronger for Longer, East City programmes, Bike for Life, Open Water Swimming, Men's/ Women's Try a Tri, Outdoor Gym and Women's Surfing. A key finding across all data is that many participants did not meet the National Physical Activity Guidelines at registration, indicating SSRP's success in reaching inactive people. Additionally, the data shows that LSP initiatives are successful in sustainably moving a significant percentage of participants from inactivity to activity by the end of these programmes.

Independent Evaluation

In 2023 SSRP was successful in an application to Sport Ireland for an evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub and arising from this an independent consultancy company S3 Solutions was engaged to conduct the evaluation. The purpose of this evaluation was to determine the nature of the approach taken by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership in the management and delivery of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub and the extent to which this has led to the development of sustainable activities, pathways, relationships, and the sustainability of the Hub itself, since its establishment.

The objectives of the evaluation report were to:

- Determine possible changes to participation rates in the Hub area.
- Assess the effectiveness of Hub delivery, evaluating performance in the context of wider policy objectives and funding criteria and identifying key enablers and inhibitors to success.
- Examine the adequacy of Hub implementation/ administration structures and systems.
- Gather evidence of the impact of the project on participants.
- To produce evidence-based recommendations for improvement in service efficiency and effectiveness.

Section 3 - Goal 4

The evaluation findings reported that a total of 3,739 participants engaged in sport and physical activity programmes across 229 programmes with a further 155 participants involved in 21 training and capacity building programmes. The report conclusion stated *“The Enniscrone Community Sports Hub offers a clear link between the issues it sought to address, the programming and activities it delivered, and the outcomes it intended to achieve. The Hub has achieved significant success at the mid-point of delivery.”*

Full report available at link to website:

<https://www.sligosportandrecreation.ie/enniscrone-community-sports-hub-evaluation-2/>



Objective 4.6: Continue to enhance insight amongst SSRP staff and partners regarding the programme elements which have most impact.

Reflecting upon successes, challenges and learnings:

- SSRP recognises the importance of evidence-based impact data for key projects and in this context the independent evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub provided valuable insights into success factors while also highlighting key learnings for consideration.
- The importance of developing and maintaining positive relationships with statutory agencies and stakeholders is paramount. This was evident in the approach adopted by SSRP with key stakeholders (Sligo County Council, Sligo Leader Partnership Company, Coillte and Fáilte Ireland) in making a successful application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for an Outdoor Recreation Officer.
- The value of investing time to get the most appropriate model of delivery in place before commencement of a project can be key to the project success. This was clearly demonstrated in the innovative trail running project where all the key stakeholders worked in collaboration including Irish Mountain Running Association, Coillte, local volunteers and SSRP.
- The importance of needs analysis by SSRP with target groups is central for effective engagement. This was evident from the consultation with women through a survey prior to the trail running series with key learnings emerging with regard to appropriate time scheduling for events and the need to focus on promoting the event as non competitive and recreational.
- SSRP recognises the ongoing need to invest in the recruitment and development of coaches. SSRP coaches are the key facilitators for helping to ensure the delivery of quality experiences for all target groups participating in SSRP sport and physical activity programmes and hence the need for SSRP to ensure the continuous professional development of coaches.
- SSRP has identified the need for education and training for staff and coaches in the area of appropriate terminology, procedures and policies in order to engage positively and in a meaningful way with groups with different needs, for example the LGBTQIA+ community.
- SSRP is aware that levels of sports volunteers remains low particularly since the pandemic. SSRP will need to look at connecting and recruiting volunteers to support the many events, initiatives and programmes offered.

Section 3 - Goal 4

- Given the under representation by women in sports leadership roles SSRP understands the ongoing need to continue to invest in building the capacity of women in leadership roles while also recognising the need for ongoing support networks.
- SSRP is cognisant that Sligo's population is ageing and physical activity can positively influence the health of older adults. The broad range of physical activity opportunities offered by SSRP for older people will continue to assist in improving physical, mental and social health for older adults. SSRP will consider the determinants of physical activity for this age group (participation levels, health risks and benefits, meeting recommended physical activity levels/ guidelines, social networks, mental health and wellbeing, quality of life) to help guide future activities and sporting opportunities offered.
- SSRP is aware of the wider health and well being benefits from being physically active for all target groups and consideration in the future to examine the social return on investment in key SSRP initiatives may be considered.

These insights will assist in more informed and refined future development and delivery of SSRP programmes and initiatives.





4

Reflection & Future Plans

Section 4: Reflection & Future Plans

Reflection on 2023

The SSRP Strategic Plan 'Building a Culture of Sport and Physical Activity in Sligo 2018 - 2023' provides direction and focus for SSRP.

Reflection on the priorities set for 2023 can be summarised as follows:

2023 Priority

Outcome

Goal 1: Increase Participation

Focus on low participation groups



Achieved: In 2023 participation rates increased to 24,115 compared to 21,380 in 2022.

Promoting physical activity in the outdoors



Achieved: This priority was achieved and surpassed in many instances through the facilitation of key initiatives including the Rural Outdoor Community Sports Hub, Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative, HER Outdoors Week, Bike Week and Open Water Swimming.

Encouraging older adults and people with a disability to be active



Achieved: The return to sport of older adults post pandemic was noticeable in 2023 and a key programme that enabled this was the Stronger for Longer programme which was facilitated across the County. Also, initiatives for people with a disability were facilitated while issues around access to facilities were also addressed.

National Database of Facilities:



In Progress: The National Database of Facilities was officially launched by Sport Ireland in 2023 and SSRP is supporting the Local Authority in collating the data for County Sligo.

Goal 2: Build Capacity

Review of Safeguarding policies and procedures



Achieved: SSRP undertook a full review of SSRP policies including SSRP Safeguarding Policy, SSRP Safeguarding Risk Assessment, SSRP Safeguarding Statement and SSRP Garda Vetting Policy, all of which were formally approved at Board level.

An effective SSRP community coaches/ instructor's database maintained



Achieved: SSRP invested significant time in the ongoing management of the database with a focus on ensuring that all coaches and instructors have up to date Garda Vetting and Safeguarding training.

Building the capacity of women in sports leadership



Achieved: A Women in Leadership course was facilitated in 2023 involving 16 women from various sports clubs/ organisations undertaking a 6-week personal development course with a view to building capacity in order to take up leadership roles in their clubs.

Strengthening relationships with National Governing Bodies of Sport



Achieved: SSRP collaborated with many NGBs to deliver shared participation goals including the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, Tennis Ireland, Swim Ireland and Basketball Ireland.

Goal 3: Enhance Communication

Communications Strategy



In Progress: Many items from the second year of the SSRP Communication plan 2022 to 2024 have been implemented including the re-imagining of the SSRP Newsletter. Further work will continue in 2024 into the development of e-mail databases.

Achieving the Active Disability Ireland Xcessible Bronze Award:



In Progress: While much progress has been made at programme delivery level towards achieving the award there is outstanding work to be undertaken regarding the collation of information required in order to make an application for consideration by Active Disability Ireland.

Data Protection



In Progress: SSRP has undertaken considerable work in the area of Data Protection through a gap analysis exercise which has resulted in 43 actions being completed from the review report and a further 14 to be addressed.



Section 4: Reflection & Future Plans

Goal 4: Strengthen the Organisation



Collaboration and funding opportunities



Achieved: SSRP collaborated on a number of new funding opportunities including the Healthy Ireland fund linked to Sligo County Council and the Outdoor Recreation Officer fund linked to the Department of Rural and Community Development while also exploring opportunities for a cross border Walking for All project with Outscape Northern Ireland, Sport Ireland and LSPs in border counties.

Ongoing compliance with the Sports Governance Code



Achieved: At the year-end a Compliance Record Form was completed by the CEO and presented at draft stage to the Board for consideration and approval.

Staff Resourcing



Achieved: SSRP successfully pursued a number of funding opportunities with the objective of increasing the number of staff. SSRP received approval for funding for the three additional officers in 2023 with the appointments to be made in 2024, a Programme Manager, Outdoor Recreation Officer and Social Innovation in Sport Officer.

Strategic alignments with Local Sport Plans



In Progress: SSRP Chairperson and CEO met with the Director of Participation in Sport Ireland regarding the LSP role in developing Local Sports Plans while the item was discussed at a number of Board meetings throughout the year.

Strengthening strategic relationships at a County level



Achieved: This was successfully achieved with our key partners including Sligo County Council, MSL ETB, HSE, SLPC and ATU Sligo which has resulted in the delivery of numerous collaborative projects.



Section 4: Reflection & Future Plans

The key areas of focus for 2023 under each of the strategic plan goals are outlined as follows:

Goal 1: Increase Participation

Sport for Seniors

SSRP will continue to respond to the gradual return to sport by older adults post pandemic with a key focus being the expansion of the roll out of the Stronger for Longer programme across the County.

Commitment to Physical Activity in the Outdoors

SSRP will continue to focus on a commitment to promoting opportunities for participation in physical activity in the outdoors. In 2024 a key focus will include the progression of the Outdoor Recreation Officer project including the appointment of an Outdoor Recreation Officer, contributing to the formation of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee, establishment of a Stakeholder Forum and development of a County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Engaging New Communities and Minority Groups in Sport and Physical Activity

Following a successful application to Sport Ireland SSRP aims to appoint a Social Innovation in Sport Officer with the objective of engaging low participation groups including new communities and minority groups in sport and physical activity.

Embedding Inclusion in Sports Clubs

The SSRP Sports Inclusion Disability Officer will work with clubs across a variety of sports including GAA, soccer and cycling to promote inclusion for people with a disability.

Goal 2: Build Capacity

Volunteers and Coaches

SSRP will monitor the management of the SSRP coaches database with regard to Garda Vetting, Safeguarding and qualifications. In addition, training and education opportunities will be facilitated for volunteers and coaches across various sport and physical activity areas.

Women in Leadership

SSRP will continue to build the capacity of women in sports leadership through the facilitation of a training course focused on personal development and leadership skills. An additional focus in 2024 will involve the establishment of a Women in Leadership Network.

Collaborating with NGB's

SSRP will continue to build relationships with NGB partners with a view to delivering

participation opportunities with priorities involving the sports of table tennis, boxing and swimming.

Supporting Sports Clubs and Community Organisations:

Sports clubs and community organisations are key partners for SSRP in the ongoing facilitation of opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity and in supporting our partners, we will continue to build positive relationships, facilitate training opportunities and provide funding support for priority projects.

Goal 3: Enhance Communications

Communications Strategy

The SSRP Communications Strategy was developed in 2022, with 2023 being its second year of implementation. A more strategic approach has been achieved by scheduling content ahead of time on the various social media platforms. This has streamlined the communications approach, ensured that the organisations message is not diluted and encouraged greater reach and activity with our audience. For 2024 a key priority is to establish e-mail databases to enhance and target communications to those participants who have opted to receive notifications on events and/ or the SSRP newsletter.

Promoting the work of SSRP

SSRP will continue to promote the work of the organisation with a particular focus on communicating information on evidence-based project results with a focus in 2024 being the evaluation of the Enniscrone Community Sports Hub.

Achieving the Active Disability Ireland Xcessible Bronze Award

SSRP will focus on achieving the Active Disability Ireland Xcessible Bronze Award in 2024, a programme which aims to empower and support LSPs and other organisations to provide positive and meaningful participation opportunities for people with a disability.

Board Governance

SSRP Plans to undertake a review of the organisations Constitution in 2024.

Section 4: Reflection & Future Plans

Goal 4: Strengthen the Organisation

Board Renewal

SSRP will undertake Board Renewal in 2024 over a phased basis commencing with a process of seeking statutory and public representative nominations followed in the latter half of the year by community representation. At the outset a Board Skills Audit will be undertaken.

Organisational Structure

SSRP will continue to focus, monitor and embed the planned new organisational structure and linked positions including Programme Manager and various new Development Officer positions.

Strategic Planning

In 2023 SSRP extended the duration of the current organisational strategy until the end of 2024 on the recommendation of Sport Ireland. This decision was agreed at Board level on the basis that delaying the new strategy development to coincide with the Local Authority new Local Sports Plan development was appropriate. Hence the development of SSRP's new strategy and collaboration on the Local Authority Local Sport Plan will be a priority for 2024. In addition, SSRP will work in partnership with key stakeholders on the development of a new County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Sports Governance Code

SSRP will continue to monitor compliance with the Sports Governance Code and in doing so ensure relevant policies are reviewed and new policies developed as required.



A woman wearing a blue zip-up hoodie, dark leggings, and a grey and red bicycle helmet is the central figure. She is holding a green paddle in her raised right hand and a red paddle in her left hand. In the background, several children wearing helmets are riding bicycles on a paved path. The scene is outdoors with green foliage and a clear blue sky.

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Financial Analysis

Section 5: Financial Analysis

Financial analysis for year ended 31st December 2023: Income Received and Expenditure for 2023

The financial outcome for 2023 is set out in the independent Auditors Financial Statements. Our accounts are compliant with SORP.

Key comments on the 2023 Financial Statements:

- Income in 2023 increased from €829,768 to €953,640 and this increase largely reflects Dormant Accounts funding and some increase in Core Sport Ireland funding and project income generated.
- Non-state income and sponsorship totalled approximately 7% of SSRP's overall revenue in 2023.
- Total expenditure in 2023 was €962,492 compared to €846,070 in 2022, a 13.7% increase. The increase in expenditure largely reflects increased salary costs (€52,561), increased programme expenditure (€72,797), particularly on Dormant Accounts projects, Youth Sport West, and Senior's sport due to additional activity and additional running costs.
- Staff costs amounted to €470,505 which was a 12.5% increase on 2022 and represents 49% of total expenditure in 2023. Increase in salaries in 2023 of €52,561 (comprising Salaries, PRSI and Pension contributions) from 2022 can be accounted for due to two public sector pay increases for all staff during the year, SDO going from 11 month's salary to full year, Administration Officer going from being employed for 9 months in 2022 to 12 months in 2023, annual pay scale increments in 2023, savings from parental leave in 2022 which did not apply in 2023 and two month's salary savings in 2022 due to officer leaving in October of that year.
- Operational costs (staff and non-staff) amounted to €547,867 and represented 57% of total expenditure.
- Programme costs were €414,625 which was a 21.3% increase on programme costs on 2022 and represented 43% of total expenditure. The increased spend in programme costs can be attributed in a large way to Dormant Accounts projects which had a combined spend of €118,508 in 2023 compared to €52,101 in 2022 and this increased spend is due to two new projects coming on stream in the areas of Urban Outdoor and Her Moves, additional Dormant Accounts capital spend and general programme activity following the pandemic.

Funders and income sources

In 2023, SSRP received funding from a number of sources, including government grants, non-state generated income and sponsorship. The Board of Directors is cognisant of the fact that 93% of SSRP's funding comes from government agencies and the need to maintain oversight over the ongoing sustainability of these sources while also looking for opportunities to access other funding streams when the opportunities arise. SSRP's main funders are Sport Ireland, HSE, and Sligo County Council. As a result, SSRP will proactively engage with partner agencies in 2024 and in line with the development of a new strategic plan, will continue to seek their ongoing funding commitment to the organisation.

Reserves Policy and Risk Register

In 2023 the Board invested significant time in reviewing the SSRP policy and procedures in relation to funding reserves. Extensive work was undertaken into examining the SSRP reserves. The aim is to have an organisational risk reserve in place to build organisational resilience to enable SSRP to respond effectively to risks which may emerge. The Risk Register is a document that outlines the risks the organisation may face in a 12-month period and the review of the register in 2023 placed a financial value to each of those risks. This document is fluid and was reviewed on a quarterly basis to adapt to changes or challenges the organisation faced in 2023. At the year-end 2023 the monetary values assigned to various risks were: €300,000 for Redundancy/ Wind-up of the company, €74,000 for Operational Risk, €5,500 for Conduct Risk, €33,500 for Environmental Risk, €30,000 for Governance Risk, €219,500 for Financial Risk and €7,000 for Strategic & Business Model Risk.

The top 5 risks at the year-end 2023 can be summarised:

- Over reliance on Dormant Accounts funding from Sport Ireland.
- Challenges in filling open/ senior positions.
- Office accommodation.
- Reduction in programme funding.
- Breaches in data protection/ risk of cyber security breaches.

Section 5: Financial Analysis

Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement

The purpose of the SSRP Risk Management Policy is to provide a framework for management to identify, assess and rate risks, and to develop strategies to deal with risks to provide reasonable assurance that SSRP's strategic objectives will be achieved in accordance with the organisation's risk appetite.

As part of this overall Risk Management Policy, it is expected that SSRP has a Risk Appetite Statement in place. To pursue and deliver our strategic outcomes and objectives requires reasoned and reasonable risk taking and in late 2022 the organisational risk appetite statement was reviewed, updated and approved at Board level.

Going Concern

The organisation has Reserves/ Members Funds of €825,562 at the 31 December 2023. Additional grants have been identified and applications made. The Board is in a position to manage the activities of the organisation such that existing funds available, together with committed funding, will be sufficient to meet the organisation's obligations and to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of the financial statements.

On that basis, the Board does not consider that material uncertainty exists in relation to SSRP as a going concern and have deemed it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result in the organisation being unable to continue as a going concern.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end 2023 and the Board does not envisage any substantial changes to the nature of the business.

Accounting Records

The measures taken by the Board to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 regarding adequate accounting records include the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise, and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records are maintained at Porter & Company, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors, Millennium House, Stephen Street, Sligo.





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Financial Statements

Section 6: Financial Statements

Company Number: 360763

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

PORTER AND CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
MILLENNIUM HOUSE
STEPHEN STREET
SLIGO

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

Emer Concannon
Jack Lynch
Maire McCallion
Joseph McDonagh
Kathleen Kane
Marie Casserly
Michael Carty
Gino O'Boyle
Gerald O'Connor
Tina Beirne
Tommy Cradock
Geraldine Delorey
Rose McGowan (Resigned 16 February 2024)
John Feerick
Ross Lappin
Liz Martin
Donal Gilroy (Resigned 21 February 2024)

Company Secretary

Jack Lynch

Company Number

360763

Registered Office and Business Address

Quay Street
Sligo

Auditors

Porter and Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Millennium House
Stephen Street
Sligo

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Stephen Street
Sligo

Solicitors

Carter Anhold & Co
1 Wine Street
Sligo

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Principal Activity and Review of the Business

The principal activity of the company is to increase public participation in sport and physical activity in the Sligo area, and the distribution of funds to enable such participation and development.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

There has been no significant change in these activities during the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Financial Results

The deficit for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(8,852) (2022 - €16,302)).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €1,174,782 (2022 - €1,147,778) and liabilities of €349,220 (2022 - €313,364). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(8,852).

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Emer Concannon
Jack Lynch
Maire McCallion
Joseph McDonagh
Kathleen Kane
Marie Casserly
Michael Carty
Gino O'Boyle
Gerald O'Connor
Tina Beirne
Tommy Cradock
Geraldine Delorey
Rose McGowan (Resigned 16 February 2024)
John Feerick
Ross Lappin
Liz Martin
Donal Gilroy (Resigned 21 February 2024)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Jack Lynch.

The directors of Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee are on the board of directors in a voluntary capacity and do not received remuneration or any other benefits from the company.

In accordance with the Constitution, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Future Developments

The company plans to continue its present activities and current trading levels. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business.

Post Statement of Financial Position Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Auditors

The auditors, Porter and Co, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately competent accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Quay Street, Sligo.

Signed on behalf of the board


Emer Concannon
Director


Jack Lynch
Director

12 June 2024

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard, issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board


Emer Concannon
Director


Jack Lynch
Director

12 June 2024

Section 6: Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Equity and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, applying Section 1A of that Standard.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Section 6: Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 66, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.

Section 6: Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

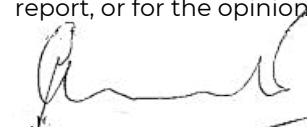
TO THE MEMBERS OF SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Thomas A. Porter
for and on behalf of
PORTER AND CO

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Millennium House
Stephen Street
Sligo

12 June 2024

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Income		953,640	829,768
Expenditure		<u>(962,492)</u>	<u>(846,070)</u>
Deficit for the financial year		<u>(8,852)</u>	<u>(16,302)</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u><u>(8,852)</u></u>	<u><u>(16,302)</u></u>

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023	2022
		€	€
Non-Current Assets	Notes		
Property, plant and equipment	7	<u>49,017</u>	<u>57,787</u>
Current Assets			
Receivables	8	189,978	230,051
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>935,787</u>	<u>859,940</u>
		<u>1,125,765</u>	<u>1,089,991</u>
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(344,925)</u>	<u>(303,492)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>780,840</u>	<u>786,499</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		829,857	844,286
amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(4,295)	(9,872)
Net Assets		<u><u>825,562</u></u>	<u><u>834,414</u></u>
Reserves	14		
Capital reserves and funds		669,500	668,529
Retained surplus		<u>156,062</u>	<u>165,885</u>
Members' Funds		<u><u>825,562</u></u>	<u><u>834,414</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the board on 12 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Emer Concannon
Director


Jack Lynch
Director

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Retained surplus €	Special reserve €	Total €
At 1 January 2022	<u>182,187</u>	<u>668,529</u>	<u>850,716</u>
Deficit for the financial year	<u>(16,302)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,302)</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>165,885</u>	<u>668,529</u>	<u>834,414</u>
Deficit for the financial year	<u>(8,852)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,852)</u>
Other movements in Members' Funds	<u>(971)</u>	<u>971</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u><u>156,062</u></u>	<u><u>669,500</u></u>	<u><u>825,562</u></u>

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated and registered in the Republic of Ireland. The registered number of the company is 360763. The registered office of the company is Quay Street, Sligo which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A (Small Entities) and the Companies Act 2014.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014 and Section 1A of FRS 102.

Income

Income represents the total value of income recognised during the financial period including amortisation of capital grants.

Government grants and grants from non-state bodies are recognised in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants. Income from other sources is recognised when the company becomes entitled to it, which is usually in the financial period in which the income is received.

Property, plant and equipment and depreciation

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of property, plant and equipment, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Plant and machinery	- 15% Straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 15-20% Straight line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

continued

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Employee benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The assets of this scheme are also held separately from those of the company, being invested with pension fund managers.

Taxation

The company is registered as a sporting body (no. 891) with the Revenue Commissioners and is exempt from corporation tax on income under Section 235 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

Government grants

Capital grants received and receivable are treated as deferred income and amortised to the Income Statement annually over the useful economic life of the asset to which it relates. Revenue grants are credited to the Income Statement when received.

Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the Statement of Financial Position date. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the Income Statement.

Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. Annual contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to the Income Statement in the period to which they relate.

3. DEPARTURE FROM COMPANIES ACT 2014 PRESENTATION

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

4. OPERATING DEFICIT

	2023	2022
	€	€
Operating deficit is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	19,972	31,665
Amortisation of Government grants	(8,981)	(20,576)
	<u>10,991</u>	<u>11,089</u>

5. EMPLOYEES

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Project Staff	5	5
Administration (core staff)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

continued

6. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	Number of Employees	Employer Pension Contribution	
Salary Band			
€70,000 - €79,000	<u>1</u>		<u>€7,508</u>
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	€	€	€
Cost	3,134	204,266	207,400
At 1 January 2023	-	11,202	11,202
Additions	<u>(3,134)</u>	<u>(17,461)</u>	<u>(20,595)</u>
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>198,007</u>	<u>198,007</u>
At 31 December 2023			
Depreciation	3,134	146,479	149,613
At 1 January 2023	-	19,972	19,972
Charge for the financial year	<u>(3,134)</u>	<u>(17,461)</u>	<u>(20,595)</u>
On disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>148,990</u>	<u>148,990</u>
At 31 December 2023			
Carrying amount	-	49,017	49,017
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>57,787</u>	<u>57,787</u>
At 31 December 2022		2023	2022
		€	€
8. RECEIVABLES			
Prepayments		13,113	96,167
Funds held by MSL ETB		<u>176,865</u>	<u>133,884</u>
		<u>189,978</u>	<u>230,051</u>
9. PAYABLES		2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year		€	€
Accruals		<u>20,364</u>	25,138
Deferred Income		<u>324,561</u>	<u>278,354</u>
		<u>344,925</u>	<u>303,492</u>

Deferred income includes capital grants which are due to be amortised in 2024 of €7,442 (2022: €8,515). The balance of €317,119 (2022: €269,839) is grants from state bodies and other organisations that were not yet spent as at 31 December 2023.

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

continued

10. PAYABLES	2023	2022
Amounts falling due after more than one year	€	€
Government grants	<u>4,295</u>	<u>9,872</u>

11. PENSION COSTS - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

Pension costs represent the company's contribution to a defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of the employees and amounted to €34,814 (2022 - €27,525).

12.State Funding

Agency	HSE
Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	Health Promotion & Improvement
Purpose of the Grant	Joint Programming Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€50,003
Expenditure	€50,003
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€1,250 deferred (2022 €Nil)
Received in the financial year	€51,253
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	HSE
Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	Learning, Autism, Physical, Sensory, Older People, Mental Health & Learning Disabilities
Purpose of Grant	Programming for people with disabilities
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€44,390
Expenditure	€44,390
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€6,700 due (2022: €Nil)
Received in the financial year	€37,690
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	Sport Ireland
Government Department	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Grant Programme	Core
Purpose of the Grant	Sport Development & Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€394,248
Expenditure	€394,248
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€49,050 deferred (2022: €3,400 / €Nil due (2022: €91,167)
Received in the financial year	€531,065
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	Sport Ireland
Government Department	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Grant Programme	Dormant Accounts
Purpose of the Grant	Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12-18 months
Recognised as income in period	€173,380
Expenditure	€174,402 (€1,022 capital expenditure)
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€216,625 deferred (2022: €181,571) / €6,000 due (2022: €Nil)
Received in the financial year	€203,456
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

<p>Agency Government Department</p> <p>Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant Term Recognised as income in period Expenditure Fund deferred or due at financial year end Received in the financial year Type of grant Restriction of use</p>	<p>Sport Ireland Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Women in Sport Delivery of women in sport programming 12 months €22,700 €22,700 €Nil deferred (2022: €500) / €Nil due (2022: €5,000) €27,200 Revenue grant Restricted funding</p>
<p>Agency Government Department</p> <p>Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant Term Recognised as income in period Fund deferred or due at financial year end Received in the financial year Type of grant Restriction of use</p>	<p>Sport Ireland Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media</p> <p>Dormant Accounts SIDO Capital Targeted Programme Delivery 60 months €6,959 amortisation €7,709 deferred (2022: €13,646 deferred) €1,022 Capital grant Restricted funding</p>
<p>Agency Government Department</p> <p>Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant Term Recognised as income in period Expenditure Fund deferred or due at financial year end Received in the financial year Type of grant Restriction of use</p>	<p>Sligo County Council Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Bike Week 2023 Bike Week 2022 12 months €24,372 €24,372 €Nil €24,372 Revenue grant Restricted funding</p>
<p>Agency Government Department</p> <p>Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant Term Recognised as income in period Expenditure Fund deferred or due at financial year end Received in the financial year Type of grant Restriction of use</p>	<p>Sligo County Council Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Project Funding Targeted Programme Delivery 12 months €23,000 €23,000 €6,375 deferred (2022: €6,375) €23,000 Revenue grant Restricted funding</p>
<p>Agency Government Department</p> <p>Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant Term Recognised as income in period Expenditure Fund deferred or due at financial year end Received in the financial year Type of grant Restriction of use</p>	<p>Sligo County Council Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Cranmore Regeneration Cranmore Regeneration Programme Delivery 12 months €33,600 €33,600 €Nil €33,600 Revenue grant Restricted funding</p>

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Agency Government Department	Sport Ireland Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant	Healthy Ireland/ Keep Well Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€6,130
Expenditure	€6,130
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€Nil deferred (2022: €5,380)
Received in the financial year	€750
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency Government Department	Sport Ireland Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant	Sports Energy Support Scheme To support National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and their affiliated Clubs with the rising energy costs associated with the provision of sport
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€10,440
Expenditure	€10,440
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€29,560 deferred (2022: €Nil)
Received in the financial year	€40,000
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency Government Department	HSE Department of Health
Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant	Falls Management Exercise (FaME) Programme Programming for older persons
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€3,521
Expenditure	€3,521
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€1,884 deferred (2022: €Nil)
Received in the financial year	€5,405
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency Government Department	Sligo County Council Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant	Healthy Ireland Community Grant Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€6,307
Expenditure	€6,307
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€413 due (2022 €Nil)
Received in the financial year	€5,894
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency Government Department	Sligo County Council Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Grant Programme Purpose of the Grant	Resilience Fund Purchase of capital equipment
Term	60 months
Recognised as income in period	€1,000 amortisation
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€2,000 deferred €2022: €3,000)
Received in the financial year	€Nil
Type of grant	Capital grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Agency	Sport Ireland
Government Department	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Grant Programme	Covid-19 grants
Purpose of the Grant	Specific funding associated with the Covid-19 pandemic
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€58,581
Expenditure	€58,581
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€12,375 deferred (2022: €70,956)
Received in the financial year	€Nil
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	Sligo County Council
Government Department	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Grant Programme	Play Day 2023
Purpose of the Grant	Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€1,150
Expenditure	€1,150
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€Nil
Received in the financial year	€1,150
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	Sport Ireland
Government Department	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Grant Programme	Grassroots Restart Fund Programmes
Purpose of the Grant	Programmes targeting grassroots sport and unrepresented communities
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€1,657
Expenditure	€1,657
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€Nil deferred (2022: €1,657)
Received in the financial year	€Nil
Type of grant	Revenue Grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	HSE
Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	National Lottery Grant Scheme
Purpose of the Grant	Targeted programme delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€2,000
Expenditure	€2,000
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€Nil
Received in the financial year	€2,000
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	HSE
Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	Mental Health Services
Purpose of the Grant	Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in period	€5,175
Expenditure	€5,175
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€Nil
Received in the financial year	€5,175
Type of grant	Revenue grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Agency	HSE
Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	Older Persons Services
Purpose of the Grant	Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in the period	€5,175
Expenditure	€5,175
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€ Nil
Received in the financial year	€5,175
Type of grant	Revenue Grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding
Agency	HSE
Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	Physical & Sensory Disability Services
Purpose of the Grant	Targeted Programme Delivery
Term	12 months
Recognised as income in the period	€5,000
Expenditure	€5,000
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€Nil
Received in the financial year	€5,000
Type of grant	Revenue Grant
Restriction of use	Restricted funding

Section 6: Financial Statements

SLIGO SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

continued

13. STATUS

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 1.

14. RESERVES

Special Reserve

The reserves relates to a contingency amount of €300,000 (2022: €200,000) which has been set aside to provide for costs in the event of the company being wound up and a reserve for other contingencies of €369,500 (2022: €468,529).

15. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no material capital commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2023.

16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee has received capital and revenue grants from government agencies. These may be repayable in certain circumstances.

17. EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

18. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 12 June 2024.



Appendices

Appendices

Appendix 1: Board Meeting Attendance 2023

Organisation	Name	15th Feb	19th Apr	AGM & Meeting 14th Jun	27th Sept	22nd Nov
Sligo County Council Official	Ms Emer Concannon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sligo County Council Public Rep.	ClIr Marie Casserly	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB	Mr Jack Lynch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sligo County Council Official	Mr Michael Carty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Health Service Executive	Ms Liz Martin	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Sligo Leader Partnership Co. Ltd	Mr John Feerick	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Atlantic Technological University	Mr Ross Lappin	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Sligo County Council Public Rep.	ClIr Dónal Gilroy	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Sligo County Council Public Rep.	ClIr Gino O'Boyle	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Sports Club/ Organisation	Ms Kathleen Kane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sports Club/ Organisation	Ms Máire McCallion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Sports Club/ Organisation	Mr Tommy Cradock	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sports Club/ Organisation	Mr Gerald O'Connor	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Sports Club/ Organisation	Ms Tina Beirne	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Sligo Community Forum/ PPN	Mr Joe McDonagh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Active Age	Ms Geraldine Delorey	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Disability	Ms Rose McGowan	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗

Appendix 2: Strategy Committee Meetings 2023

Name	3rd Feb	5th Apr	1st June	18th Sept	14th Nov
Mr Michael Carty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Jack Lynch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Emer Concannon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Lynda McGuinness	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓

Appendix 3: Audit and Risk Committee Meetings 2023

Name	31st Jan	31st May	8th Nov
Mr Gerald O'Connor	✓	✓	✓
Ms Kathleen Kane	✓	✓	✓
Mr Joe McDonagh	✓	✓	✓
Ms Orla Lee	✓	✓	✓

Appendix 4: Safeguarding Committee Meetings 2023

Name	9th Mar	24th Apr	6th Sept
Ms Geraldine Delorey	✓	✓	✓
Mr Jack Lynch	✓	✓	✓
Ms Emer Concannon	✓	✓	✓

Key:

- In attendance ✓
- Not in attendance ✗

Appendices

Appendix 5: Abbreviations

ADI	Active Disability Ireland
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
ATU	Atlantic Technological University
COVID-19	Coronavirus is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus
CSDO	Community Sport Development Officer
CSH	Community Sports Hub
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
ESF	European Social Fund
FAI	Football Association of Ireland
FaME	Fitness and Mobility Exercise
FRC	Family Resource Centre
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
HR	Human Resources
HSE	Health Service Executive
IABA	Irish Athletic Boxing Association
IPA	Institute of Public Administration
I PARC	Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LSP	Local Sports Partnership
MSL ETB	Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board
NGB	National Governing Body
NPAP	National Physical Activity Plan
ORO	Outdoor Recreation Officer
PTT	MSL ETB coaches/ tutors payment system
P2P	MSL ETB creditors payment system
SI	Sport Ireland
SIDO	Sports Inclusion Development Officer
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
SSRP	Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership
TBESS	Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme
YSW	Youth Sport West





— SLIGO SPORT & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

— SPORT IRELAND —

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SPORT IRELAND
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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim
Education and Training Board



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh



**SLIGO LEADER
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