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THOUSANDS MORE CHILDREN TO GET ACTIVE THROUGH LONDON MARATHON FOUNDATION'S £1.3 MILLION FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

- **London Marathon Foundation awards £1.37 million to Access Sport towards inclusive basketball and cycling activities**
- **More than 8,000 children and young people in marginalised communities will be supported to take part in activities across the UK**
- **Announcement comes during National School Sports Week 2023, aiming to increase children's physical activity levels**

The London Marathon Foundation has today (22 June) announced a £1.37 million funding partnership with Access Sport, to support thousands of disadvantaged children and young people to participate in inclusive basketball and cycling activities in London and across the UK.

This news comes during National School Sports Week 2023, a campaign run by Youth Sport Trust, encouraging children and young people to be active for the Chief Medical Officers' recommended 60 minutes or more every day, both at and outside of school.

Last year, Sport England's Active Lives Children and Young People Survey (published December 2022) found 30% of children and young people do less than an average of 30 minutes activity a day. This makes the partnership between the Foundation and Access Sport all the more vital, with the £1.37 million funding expected to support more than 8,000 disadvantaged children and young people to participate in activities by 2025.

This builds on a previous partnership between the Foundation and Access Sport, which saw more than £900,000 invested between 2018 and 2022 to create more inclusive cycling opportunities for children and young people from marginalised communities across the UK. This funding:

- Supported more than 6,000 children and young people to feel healthier and happier by taking part in cycling activities.
- Built three new pump tracks in Manchester, Sheffield and Bristol, which are each used for cycling, BMX and skating activities on average 7,000 times per month.
- Created a national network of more than 70 inclusive cycling hubs aimed at whole communities (not just existing cyclists).

The latest funding of £1.37 million will enable Access Sport to continue delivering inclusive cycling activities for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, as well as develop an exciting new basketball programme in London. There are plans for 12 new or enhanced community cycling and basketball facilities in deprived areas – with a focus on London, whilst also building on the partnership’s previous work in other UK cities. There is also a commitment to grow Access Sport’s national network of community cycling and basketball clubs, and to upskill coaches, volunteers and young people to lead inclusive activities for their community.

Catherine Anderson, London Marathon Foundation's Executive Director, said: "Creating safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces for children and young people to be active outside of school is paramount for their physical and mental wellbeing, and is part of our ambitious vision of Inspiring Activity for all regardless of age, ability or background.

"By evolving our partnership with Access Sport, we'll be able to support thousands more children and young people to increase their activity levels through basketball and cycling, especially those who need more help to be active. Together, we'll continue delivering our shared objectives in a truly inclusive way, and enable more children and young people to experience the transformational benefits that being active can bring to their lives."

Helen Rowbotham, Access Sport CEO, said: "On behalf of the children and young people we support, we would like to say a huge thank you to the London Marathon Foundation. Over the next three years, we will scale up our inclusion activity across cycling and basketball using our partnership to positively impact over 8,000 young people from underserved communities by 2025. This will unlock key benefits for these young people including physical and mental health and wellbeing, personal development including life skills and prospects, sense of belonging, and community engagement. This is a game changing partnership for our beneficiaries."

Including this latest funding announcement, this year, the Foundation has awarded more than £4.5 million to 89 projects and surpassed a monumental funding milestone, with more than £100 million awarded to inspire activity since 1981 (announced in April 2023).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the London Marathon Foundation

- London Marathon Foundation's mission is to fund initiatives that inspire, encourage and champion participation and diversity in sports and physical activity.
- London Marathon Foundation is the parent charity of London Marathon Events (LME), organisers of world-class mass participation sporting events, including the TCS London Marathon and Ford RideLondon. Every year, after costs, the surplus generated by LME is passed as corporate Gift Aid to the London Marathon Foundation.
- Since its founding in 1981, the London Marathon Foundation has awarded more than £100 million to more than 1,600 projects in London and across the UK, that help more people to lead active and healthy lives.

About Access Sport

- Access Sport is a national charity with a vision that no one should be excluded from the transformational benefits of community sport. It aims to make inclusion the norm by tackling the access barriers faced by disadvantaged and disabled children and young people, focussing on the causes of exclusion not just the symptoms.

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