

# A FIVE MINUTE GUIDE TO COMMUNITY GAMES

## What are Community Games all about?

Inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Community Games is creating a legacy from these great events in the heart of communities up and down the country. Community Games gives you the chance to bring your community together to take part in sports and arts activities, and have fun.

Originally Legacy Trust UK's idea, which was then funded by the Government's Social Action Fund for two years, the vision for Community Games is:

"A Community Games in every community, every year."

And with more than 3,500 communities staging a local event since January 2012, many people are helping to achieve that vision.

The County Sports Partnership Network (CSPN) and YMCA are working together to help communities stage their own event - and so far more than 2,500,000 people have enjoyed a Community Games!

## Are we a 'community'?

A community could be your street, estate, village, your colleagues at work, a 'friends of' group from your local park, your faith group, your children's school... the list goes on. A community is simply a group of people that come together at some point to share and do things.

## Why should I get involved?

Community Games gives you the opportunity to get your community together and celebrate what makes your community special. Perhaps you would like everyone in your street to get to know each other better, or fundraise for your children's school. You could organise a Games to celebrate the Football World Cup or Commonwealth Games this summer.

## Why do people organise a Community Games?

Our research shows that most people decide to organise a Community Games because they want to do something positive for their community. Although some are persuaded to do so by family or friends, the vast majority report afterwards that they really enjoyed the day and felt that the positive impact on their community - for example creating a sense of belonging - made it really worthwhile.

*"This year was even better...it did bring the community together... yes, we saw new faces ... it was a fun day for kids and adults, fun and relaxed, they enjoyed the games... it was cheap and affordable. We wanted it to be a fun day and we achieved it. I feel very proud."*

Community Games Organiser, 2013

The Organisers do find people who are willing to help so they don't have to do everything. Since January 2012, more than 80,000 volunteers have helped to make their Community Games a success and 95% of them said they felt proud to have done something for their community.

And lastly, most people that organised a Community Games in 2013 are planning another one this year - you could join them.





### What do the Community Games look like?

A Community Games includes both sporting and cultural activities, and some sort of opening and/or closing ceremony that brings everyone together. The rest is up to you.

So each event looks a bit different – some happen on one day at one venue, others over a week at lots of different venues. Some involve competition; others focus simply on getting people participating in sports and arts activities they might never have tried before.

The important thing is that each event is shaped by those involved and is about what that community wants to do. So it's a pretty blank canvas.

### What do participants think about Community Games?

Our research shows that 96% of people that attended a Community Games in 2013 enjoyed it, and here are just a couple of the comments we received from participants:

*"Some people don't want to leave the estate or to spend money, and so don't do things. People need to come together. This is a happy and joyful day"*

*"My daughter tried a wheelchair hand bike, which she has always wanted to do, and she found out that she can do this each month. She's going to have a go at kayaking next!"*

### We already have a similar event... can it be a Community Games?

Yes if it includes both sporting and cultural events, and some sort of ceremony. If it doesn't perhaps you could add to it as you plan your event for this year.

### If I decide to organise a Community Games will I get any help?

The short answer is 'yes, of course'. Here's a few more details of the support available:

1. Our website [www.communitygames.org.uk](http://www.communitygames.org.uk) with lots of resources, as well as great ideas based on what other people are doing as part of their Games.
2. The **Community Games toolkit** with loads of useful information and tips.
3. The local members of the **Community Games Team** to advise and help you.
4. A **free e-learning** workshop that takes you through the main tasks involved in organising a Community Games.
5. **Publicity materials** to help promote your Games, and **banners, bunting and give aways** to give your Games the professional touch.
6. A promotional **event page** on the Community Games website.
7. An **e-newsletter** every month or so with news from across the country.

### Is there any money for our Games?

The programme itself is providing all the free support listed above, which is worth at least £300, and many people have shown that Community Games can be organised for very little cost. In some areas of the country there are small local funds available and details of these can be found on the website or from your local County Sports Partnership or YMCA.

### I'm interested - what do I do next?

Go to [www.communitygames.org.uk](http://www.communitygames.org.uk) where you can find out more and then 'Express your Interest'. Once you have submitted the straightforward enquiry form, your local County Sports Partnership Lead Officer will contact you and help you get started.

Good luck from all of us in the Community Games Team!

