

FUNDED BY 2026 SUMMER OF SPORT

Over 21,000 children and young people have attended over 700 free and low-cost activities across South Lanarkshire this summer thanks to Summer of Sport.

The initiative, funded by the Scottish Government through sportscotland, has allowed us to bring activities such as football, ice skating, judo, tennis, basketball and multi-sports to communities throughout the local area.

Summer of Sport has also allowed us take on 27 lead sports coaches and 3 casual outdoor instructors, whilst also providing funding to over 30 local clubs involved in taekwondo, rugby, dance, visually impaired bowling and more.



But we're not done yet!

The Summer of Sport programme will continue throughout the year into 2027, and we will be working closely with schools and referral programmes to keep bringing free and low-cost activities to children and young people in South Lanarkshire.

Keep an eye on our Summer of Sport timetable for updates and new information coming soon.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
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Youth, Family and Community Learning Partnership



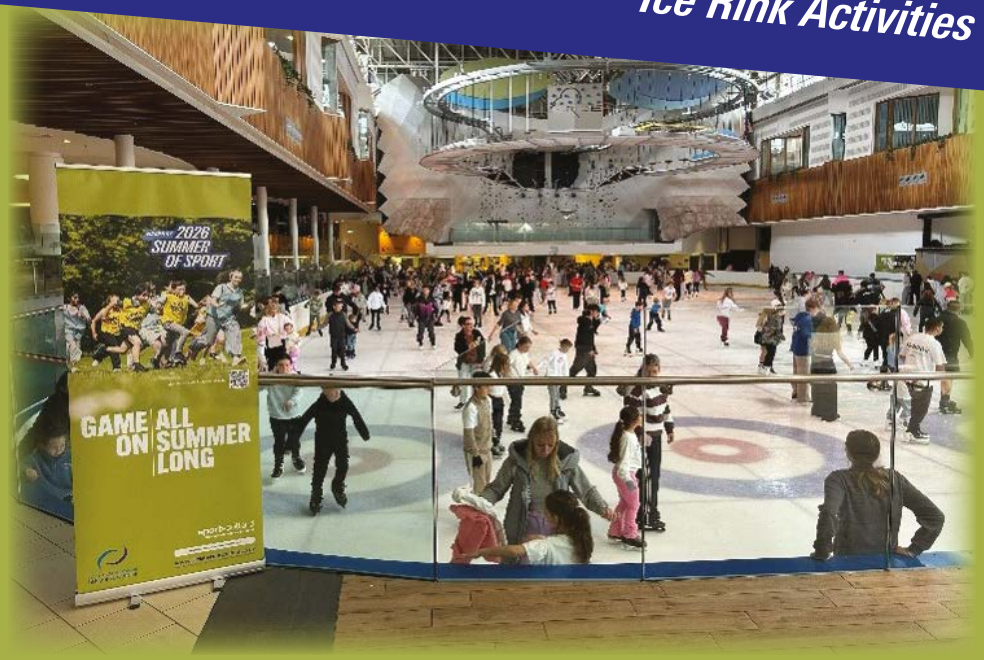
South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture worked in partnership with the Youth, Family and Community Learning Service to deliver a programme of provision to young people across local communities.

Young people had the opportunity to take advantage of a large offering of activities which included paddle boarding, sailing, raft building, water safety, ice-skating, gym sessions and multi-sports.

Outdoor learning and adventure days were also provided to give young people the chance to experience abseiling, kayaking and open water paddle boarding.

These activities offered young people summer activities to build on confidence, resilience and stepping outside their comfort zone while spend time with friends.

Ice Rink Activities



A Summer of Sport programme was developed at East Kilbride Ice Rink, providing free skating sessions every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays.

The sessions provided an opportunity for children and young people aged 3-26 to get active, have fun and try something different.

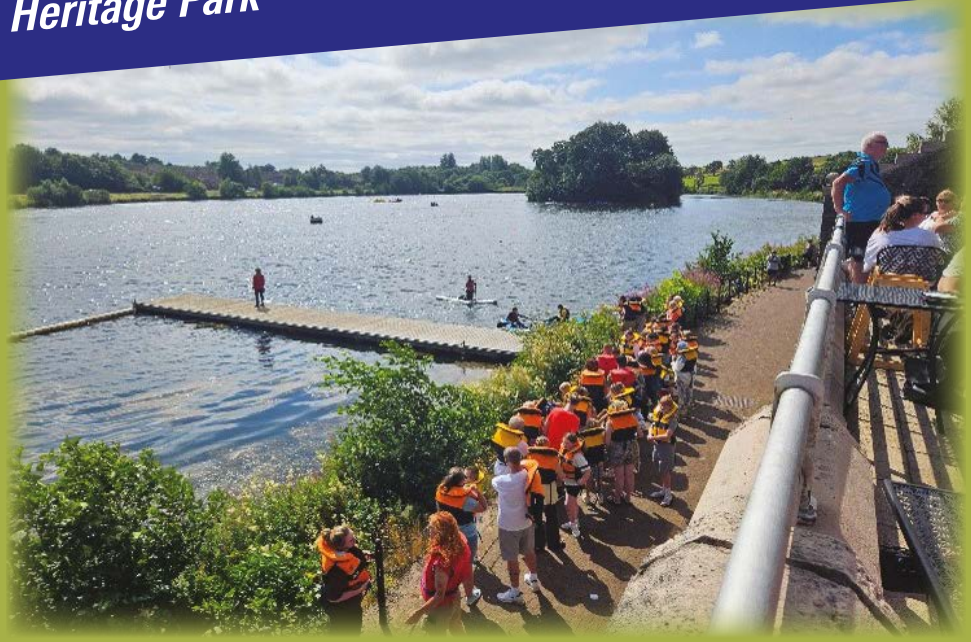
The sessions attracted over 3,000 participants throughout the summer with free skates and equipment included, removing any potential financial barriers and making the activity accessible to all.

A key focus of the programme was inclusion, with sessions welcoming participants of all abilities, including children and young people with additional support needs.

This created a positive environment where everyone could participate at their own level, meet new people, make friends and build confidence.

The programme culminated in a finale event in August, with a special skating disco featuring a DJ, music and lights, providing a memorable celebration of the summer and the young people who took part.

Heritage Park



James Hamilton Heritage Park provided a popular programme throughout the summer, allowing children and young people the chance to take part in weekly water sport sessions.

Sailing, raft building, paddleboarding and pedalo hire were provided free of charge, creating an accessible opportunity for young people and families to try something new in a safe, fun and informal environment.

The activities encouraged people to be active while spending quality time with friends and family, creating positive memories and encouraging greater use of their local surroundings.

The programme demonstrated that physical activity does not have to be centred on traditional sport and created memorable experiences for thousands of young people and families throughout the summer.

Club Grant Scheme



The Summer of Sport Club Grant Scheme provided an important investment in local sports clubs across South Lanarkshire.

During the initial phase throughout the summer, 36 clubs have received funding, with applications continuing to be received as the programme progresses.

A diverse range of sports has been supported, including golf, football, rugby, badminton, shinty and taekwondo, alongside many other activities.

To date, the programme has supported more than 600 sessions and almost 4,000 participants, demonstrating the significant reach and impact that can be achieved by investing directly in local clubs and community organisations.

This has enabled SLLC to support club development, encourage collaboration and promote the sharing of resources, knowledge and expertise.

Clubs have been supported to reach new participants, develop their offer and provide positive experiences that can encourage children and young people to remain active.

Inclusion



A dedicated programme of free inclusion sessions was delivered across local communities to help children and young people who require additional support when participating in sport and physical activity.

Provision was delivered across six locations, covering all four geographical areas of South Lanarkshire, with 30 sessions across a diverse range of activities including athletics, football, ball sports, multi-sports, stay and play and rebound. Over 225 children and young people attended the sessions, helping them be physically active and develop confidence.

By providing accessible and appropriately supported activities, the programme also created valuable opportunities for parents and carers to have some respite, complete essential tasks or simply take time for themselves, knowing their child was safe, supported and enjoying a positive experience.

Family feedback highlighted the wider health and wellbeing impact, with parents describing the sessions as making the school holidays "more manageable", providing much-needed respite and supporting children to feel "happy and regulated."

The programme demonstrated how inclusive physical activity can support not only participation and wellbeing among children and young people, but also contribute to the health, resilience and quality of life of the wider family.

GM/RP (Goalposts/Pop in and play sessions)



A flexible approach was taken to increasing participation, recognising that children and young people engage with physical activity in different ways. Investment was made in accessible community spaces where attendees could be active in a more informal setting, without booking, joining a club or attending structured sessions.

Free weekly 'Pop in and Play' football sessions were delivered at Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds and Eastfield Lifestyles and 'Rock and Run' sessions were available at the John Wright Sports Centre in East Kilbride. Across more than 150 sessions, over 2,500 children and young people took part, providing regular opportunities to enjoy free sport and physical activity within their local communities.

Investment was also made via Active Schools and Community Sport Hub partners, with over 20 community football pitches across South Lanarkshire being identified and improved. The investment meant that pitches were cut and lined, goalposts were painted and new nets installed, helping to reinvigorate spaces and encourage informal activity. The aim was to remove barriers such as cost, booking requirements, structured coaching and travel, making it easier for people to turn up and play. Cards attached to the goalposts provided suggested street football activities and fun games, while also allowing users to provide feedback.

These initiatives and the investment behind them demonstrate how Summer of Sport has created free and accessible opportunities for children, young people and families to be active in ways that suit them.

Community Groups



The Summer of Sport funding allowed for further investment into the Community Sport Hub network. Clubs and local community organisations received funding to respond to local needs and requirements. This included equipment grants and funding to deliver community sessions and events in neighbourhoods such as Hillhouse in Hamilton, and Springhall and Whitlawburn in Cambuslang.

The objective was to remove traditional barriers to participation by bringing opportunities directly into communities, with partners being encouraged to develop their own programmes and events. The funding was not limited to structured sessions, equipment was made available for communities to use informally, allowing children and families to try different activities on their own time.

Certain partners have also developed community lending libraries, creating a longer-term legacy by allowing residents to borrow equipment and remain active beyond the summer programme. The combination of investing in public spaces and community partners allowed for increased participation and brought sport and physical activity into the heart of communities.