Physical activity strategies ‘not robust’

Strategies developed by the UK government to increase physical activity are far from robust, according to a new report, which found that less than 20 per cent of young English people do the required level of physical activity per day.

This is despite the government publishing the wide-in-scope Sporting Future sport strategy last December – the first piece of sports policy in over a decade.

The 2016 Active Healthy Kids Report Card suggested that while there are “several strategies in place” there is still a “lack of independent and robust evaluation” examining their success in terms of increasing children’s physical activity levels.

Sporting Future set out five outcomes of physical activity that it would measure – including mental health, physical health, social inclusion, economic benefit and self-efficacy – and was backed up by Sport England’s Towards an Active Nation blueprint.

In the new study, England received a D-grade for overall physical activity levels of children aged 15 and under, with 78 per cent of boys and 85 per cent of girls classed as inactive for failing to do at least 60 minutes of moderate activity per day. This is worse than the figure recorded by the same study two years ago, when England received a C/D grade with around 40 per cent of children physically active.

The picture was even worse in Scotland which received an F grade for physical activity, meaning that very few children participate in any kind of physical activity. However, both nations fare well in terms of their built environments for fostering physical activity, receiving B grades respectively.

The study also highlighted the fact that there was a “lack of representative data” for children’s physical activity rates. Sport England has the Active People Survey – soon to become Active Lives – although both only record the activity of those over 14.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=u7t9M_O

Blackhawk buys Spafinder Wellness

Spafinder Wellness has announced it has been acquired by Blackhawk Network, the global gift card distributor.

The two companies traded together before the buyout, with Blackhawk being one of Spafinder’s distribution partners.

John Bevan, who had been COO of Spafinder Wellness, will lead the Spafinder business for Blackhawk. Pete and Susie Ellis have both bowed out of the business to concentrate on other ventures.

Blackhawk declined to disclose the value of the acquisition, but David Tate, senior vice president of Blackhawk’s US retail business, said price was not the primary reason for the deal.

He said the motivation was “the terrific opportunity to partner with a large network where we can drive impact and value.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=p5E2W_O
**SPORT**

Simplified tax for grassroots

National governing bodies (NGBs) will be able to donate directly to grassroots sport schemes without paying corporation tax following an intervention by the Treasury.

Previously, NGBs had to set up a charity to donate money to grassroots sport without paying tax, but they will now be able to contribute without the need for creating an alternative body.

The government is also trying to encourage private sector companies to contribute to initiatives of this type by cutting corporation tax on donations up to £2,500. If they wish to donate more tax free they will have to do so through the appropriate NGB.

Changes to corporation tax deductions will come into effect from April 2017.

A Treasury spokesperson told Leisure Opportunities that the government wanted to simplify the process and cut the bureaucracy to help cultivate the grassroots sport landscape, particularly in light of the Sporting Future strategy that was published last year.

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Hammond unveiled the change as part of his first Autumn Statement

Leicester City Football Club’s remarkable English Premier League (EPL) title win has resulted in stellar growth for the local economy, with £140m added to the coffers over the course of the 2015-16 season.

According to a study by Ernst & Young (EY), 120,000 visitors were attracted to the East Midlands city and surroundings to watch Leicester City home matches.

Visiting fans contributed more than £6.5m to the local travel networks, accommodation, retail and food and drink, while the 2,500 jobs supported by the influx helped generate £7.8m in tax revenues.

The growth is set to continue as a consequence of the club’s solid first showing in the UEFA Champions League.

Leicester City qualified for the second round of the tournament on 23 November. EY estimated that 10,000 additional international visitors are coming to the area to watch European matches, contributing an additional £4m in stadium revenue and £8.4m to the region. The added revenue for the football club has filtered down into the local community, with the Leicester City Football in the Community Trust spending £580,000 on projects benefitting 6,600 people.

Around £2m was also donated to the Leicester Hospital Charity. Details: http://lei.srta=f6f6U_O

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**£140m for Leicester from EPL win**

Leicester City unexpectedly won the Premier League title in May 2016 to watch European matches, contributing an additional £4m in stadium revenue and £8.4m to the region. The added revenue for the football club has filtered down into the local community, with the Leicester City Football in the Community Trust spending £580,000 on projects benefitting 6,600 people.

Around £2m was also donated to the Leicester Hospital Charity.
Diversity ‘missing’ from boards

Sport England has earmarked a "six-figure investment" fund to address the shocking dearth of ethnic minority board members and executives in the sports industry.

The grassroots sports quango has partnered with equality body Sporting Equals to launch the LeaderBoard programme, which will provide training, mentoring and coaching opportunities for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) candidates.

During an event in London in which the initiative was unveiled, former BBC journalist and Sport England executive Mihir Warty revealed shocking statistics about the current state of the industry.

His presentation showed that of the 68 national governing bodies (NGBs) that provided data for the LeaderBoard study, 61 had no BAME senior leaders (90 per cent).

Of the 601 board positions, only 26 were from a BAME background, with only one chief executive and one chair from an ethnic origin.

Sport England director of sport Phil Smith told an audience – which included shadow sports minister Dr Rosena Allin-Khan, current and former BAME athletes and several NGB representatives – that the "status quo was simply not good enough".

As well as talking through the initiative, Smith gave a snapshot of the UK Sports Governance Code which, was published by Sport England and UK Sport last month. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7pzc_O

Guilford Spectrum to be replaced

An £80m sports and entertainment complex could be built in Guildford to replace the current leisure facility because of its roofing problems, which have existed since it first opened more than 20 years ago.

Guildford Borough Council plans to launch a feasibility study into replacing the Guildford Spectrum, which opened in 1993 at a cost of £28m.

Guildford Spectrum is a 26-acre site that includes an international standard ice rink, four swimming pools, a dive pool, a 10 badminton court sports hall, an exercise studio, a 72-station health and fitness suite, a 400m athletics stadium with floodlit football pitch, squash courts and a ten-pin bowling centre, among other facilities.

A nine-page discussion paper highlights that the venue has staged a number of sporting events, including the World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, World Cup Trampolining, as well as international basketball and netball fixtures. It was also used as training camps for countries before the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

The operation of Guildford Spectrum was outsourced in 2011 to GLL and Freedom Leisure. The latter, a charitable trust, operates the venue on a day-to-day basis and pays the council just under £1m each year.

However, the borough council is responsible for structural repairs and roof replacement. The council's lead councillor for countryside, parks and leisure, Richard Billington said: "We are looking into the possibility of replacing Guildford Spectrum. A refurbishment of the existing facility does not represent the best value for taxpayers' money."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F3V4b_O

Ireland officially lodges bid for Rugby World Cup 2023

Representatives for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have come together to officially submit the nation’s bid for the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Governments of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are backing the bid “through the provision of financial, infrastructural and services support”.

The Gaelic Athletic Association is also on board and has “placed its grounds at the disposal of the tournament”.

The organisation owns a number of venues – such as Croke Park, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Pearse Stadium, Casement Park, Fitzgerald Stadium, MacHale Park, Nowlan Park and Celtic Park – which are likely to be found on Ireland’s long list of 12 potential stadiums.

This will be whittled down to eight-10 venues closer to the tournament. Details: http://lei.sr?a=I4g5X_O

Clubs encouraged to bid for £7.5m community fund

Community groups or public bodies who want to transform underused sports centres or fields can apply for a slice of Sport England’s £7.5m facilities fund.

The grassroots sports quango will release details about the Community Asset Fund application programme in January, and will make a range of awards from £5,000 up to £150,000. Money will go towards creating facilities and spaces that can be used to get people more active. As well as empty or underused facilities, Sport England is keen to invest in repairs, expansions or improvements in community sports facilities.

The idea, according to the organisations, is to “help local clubs and groups to create high-quality, welcoming and financially sustainable facilities”.

Those being encouraged to apply are clubs and community organisations that: own or lease and existing facility; are looking into the possibility of replacing the current state of the industry.

The idea, according to the organisations, is to “help local clubs and groups to create high-quality, welcoming and financially sustainable facilities”.

Those being encouraged to apply are clubs and community organisations that: own or lease and existing facility; are considering taking over an existing facility; want to create spaces for people to be active.
Hundreds of visitors experienced the latest in gym equipment innovation, industry insight and unforgettable entertainment at the annual Matrix International Show in October.

Offering something completely different, the show, held at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry, delivered a diverse display of product demonstrations and training, topical seminar discussions, industry networking and more.

Supported by EuropeActive, ukactive, EREPS and CIMSPA, and joined by a host of third party suppliers, it was the first time that Matrix had organised its own dedicated show. The event ran across two days and included a show-stopping performance headlined by famed Britain’s Got Talent dance crew, Flawless.

Organising the event was director of strategic marketing EMEA and UK for Matrix, Gemma Bonnett.

She said: “We organised this event to provide existing and potential customers with a full show experience. It’s not just about selling gym equipment, visitors want more from an event.

“By delivering a jam-packed speaker schedule we’ve provided education, qualified trainers have given live demos of the equipment and of course, our show-stopping entertainment proved that fitness is worthy of being a breath-taking performance.

“Not only that, but we were able to host the InstructAbility Pull-Up Challenge with Paralympic triathlete and Matrix Ambassador, Joe Townsend.

“Les Mills also delivered a full programme of classes and our other event partners were able to host presentations throughout the show.

“We’re delighted that so many people attended and enjoyed the experience. Because that’s what Matrix is really about – providing a full fitness solution that connects with the user and what they experience when they exercise.”

As well as Les Mills, Matrix was supported by Speedflex, Hatton Boxing, High Octane Ride, Immersion Virtual Reality, MyZone, D2F, Ziva and FitPro. LFX business network also hosted their Midlands meeting at the show.

The speaker line-up included Herman Rutgers of EuropeActive who spoke about ‘The Current State of the International Fitness Market; Key Challenges and Opportunities’. Steve Barrett delivered a presentation on ‘The Personality of Fitness’, while Bevis Moynan spoke on ‘How to be an Inspiring and Engaging Leader’.

Tara Dillan and Julian Berriman joined forces to answer the question, ‘What’s the Point; CIMSPA & EREPS?’ Dr Steven Mann spoke about ‘Making Data Work for the Physical Activity Sector’ and Dr Marc Jones completed the line-up with a presentation entitled ‘The Winning Mindset of Business & Sport’.

Dates for the Matrix International Show 2017 will be available soon. In the meantime, please visit www.matrixfitness.co.uk for news and updates.
Thank-you for being among the hundreds of people that joined us at the Matrix International Show.

An unforgettable experience, we hope you will join us next year.

Visit Facebook and Twitter for the latest news and updates from Matrix Fitness UK.
**HEALTH & FITNESS**

**GLL secures 25-year deal for Cornwall centres**

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) will run leisure centres and other sports facilities, currently owned and maintained by Cornwall Council, from April 2017.

Cornwall’s network of 15 leisure centres and sports facilities will be renamed under the Better brand after a successful tender bid by GLL. Tempus Leisure has been managing leisure services on behalf of the authority.

The 25-year deal with GLL will generate more than £10m annually once developments have been completed, according to the charitable social enterprise. Details: http://lei.sr?a=M7H3w_O

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**Promising Practice 2 aims to identify programmes that demonstrate good practice**

**ukactive research to shine light on inactivity crisis**

Organisations, groups and individuals who contribute to increasing the levels of physical activity across the UK are being urged to take part in a ukactive survey to find out ‘what works’ in getting people more active.

The ukactive Research Institute is working with the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM) and Public Health England (PHE) to launch Promising Practice 2, which aims to identify physical activity programmes that demonstrate good and promising practice in communities.

By highlighting effective physical activity initiatives that – if scaled up – could contribute to shifting the population towards making ‘everybody active, every day’, researchers hope to uncover exercise solutions that deliver health, economic and social improvements for communities.

To take part, entrants need to submit details of a physical activity programme that their organisation is running through an online questionnaire. The survey should take approximately 30 minutes and will close at 5pm on Monday 2 January 2017 Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z3b8b_O

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**Vast Glasgow Club gym launched**

Glasgow Club at Kelvin Hall – one of Scotland’s biggest health and fitness facilities – has opened its doors to customers.

The facility has an eight-court multi-purpose sports hall, a four-court gymnasium, three dedicated group fitness studios and one of the largest gyms in Scotland at over 1,000sq m (10,700 sq ft). There are more than 50 cardiovascular, strength conditioning and fixed resistance stations, including ‘Unity’ screens that supports virtual training and allows users to surf the web. The site includes the largest functional training space in the city and offers more than 100 weekly fitness classes.

G-Cycle enthusiasts can experience the first ever Glasgow Club studio with a video screen wall, which will be available during indoor cycling classes.

The venue also has a Skillmill, the latest Technogym equipment, which can be used for training power, speed, stamina and agility.

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**DLL fined £350,000 for near-drowning**

David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has been ordered to pay £350,000 after pleading guilty to an incident where a five-year-old boy almost drowned at one of its centres.

DLL alerted Hounslow Council’s health and safety officers of the incident at its Heston branch, Southall, in February 2013, after Blakeney Dear was found ‘bobbing’ up and down in the pool at a ‘kids holiday active’ session. Blakeney, a non-swimmer, was allowed to take part in the half-term activity without armbands, which went against the club’s rules for non-swimmers or ‘poor’ swimmers.

It is estimated that Blakeney was underwater for approximately five minutes before being pulled out and given CPR by the club’s lifeguard. He was also given CPR by paramedics when they arrived at the scene.

Blakeney was kept under observation in hospital for two nights but sustained no lasting injuries.

At Isleworth Crown Court the company was fined £350,000, ordered to pay £22,131.75 in court costs and a victim surcharge of £120.

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**Glasgow City Council leader Frank McAveety and Glasgow Club’s Yvonne Greenlees.**

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=W7y6N_O

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y4v8h_O

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=W7y6N_O

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=M7H3w_O
Health & Fitness

WeTRAIN starts £600k campaign

Fitness company WeTRAIN is looking to raise £600,000 through a crowdfunding campaign, as it plans to expand its business by launching a new service called WeEXPERIENCE.

The new concept will look to bring socialising and exercising together, and cater for what it calls “the brunching generation”.

Users will be able to book a range of experiences, such as being trained by athletes and experts before joining them for drinks or a meal. Taster sessions running in November include a kickboxing masterclass with Ruqsana Begum followed by a superfood breakfast hosted by the world champion kickboxer.

The company, which is raising the cash through equity crowdfunding platform Seedrs, launched its WeTRAIN fitness app in July in a bid to revolutionise the way Londoners socialise through a new type of ‘social-exercise’.

Local ‘hosts’, including personal trainers, yoga instructors and professional athletes, can list their classes on the WeTRAIN app. The app allows users to take part in small group exercise sessions, with no subscription fees or contracts.

Adrian Mooney, WeTRAIN’s CEO and co-founder, said: “Our mission is to help people ‘exercise their social life’ and change the way people workout. WeTRAIN has huge potential and, by creating a credible alternative to other social activities, we also tap into the leisure market.

“We want to replicate our launch success in other parts of London and continue to challenge the status quo with WeEXPERIENCE.

“We aim to free more Londoners from out-dated, restrictive membership models and help increase fitness professionals’ earnings by maximising their spare capacity.”

The crowdfunding campaign has already passed the £350,000 mark. Details: http://leis.rta=F2U5A_O

Xercise4Less opens Leeds gym

Xercise4Less has opened a 40,000sq ft (3,716sq m) gym in Leeds - one the biggest in West Yorkshire.

The £1.2m gym boasts more than 400 pieces of fitness kit, extensive free weights and dedicated resistance training zones.

The gym also has a combat zone with mixed martial arts cage, boxing ring and punch bags, as well as a 100m sprint track and dedicated high intensity interval training circuit, a self-contained ladies-only gym and studios. There is also a dedicated personal training zone with fitness equipment.

Local boxer and Rio Olympian, Qais Ashfaq, was joined by Bob Bowman, Leeds Rhinos Foundation operations director, and mascot Ronnie the Rhino, to officially open the site. Nadia Harding from the Movember Foundation was also in attendance, as Xercise4Less is partnering with the charity in November to raise awareness of men’s health.

Matthew Williamson, Xercise4Less Leeds North general manager, said: “We’re incredibly excited to finally open our doors to the public, and what better way to do so than to have Rio Olympian Qais Ashfaq cut the ribbon. It is incredibly exciting for us, and we hope to continue to expand the opportunities we provide for people to lead active lifestyles.”

Xercise4Less now boasts 44 clubs across the UK with 300,000 members, and is set to launch more clubs by the end of the year. For a limited time, the new gym will offer memberships at £2.49 for the first month. Details: http://leis.rta=m2j3b_O
Embracing Technology and Tradition

The University of Edinburgh

Continuing its commitment to stay at the forefront of the fitness industry, the University of Edinburgh maintains its 11 year partnership with Precor and upgrades to P82 consoles.

The University of Edinburgh’s Pleasance Sports Complex & Gym started life in the 18th Century as a brewery and has transitioned since the 1950s into a modern, dynamic 6,000 sq m sports environment. The six-level building features lots of small rooms and sub-terrain arched vaults that were used as air raid shelters during World War II. In 2010 it underwent a major extension to create dedicated free weights, cardio and sport specific areas providing customers with an unparalleled choice in workout space. This year it celebrates 150 years of sport with a record-breaking 18,000 membership, split roughly 80% students to 20% non-students.

Innovation

The facility provided the first low cost gym in town, pursuing an investment policy around quality, offering state-of-the-art equipment to students, staff and the community, whilst maintaining affordability. In 2015 a world-class 102-station CV gym was created, featuring the top-of-the-line Precor 880 range treadmills, bikes, elliptical crosstrainers and award-winning Adaptive Motion Trainers.

The University recently upgraded again with the roll-out of Precor’s P82 consoles, a new generation of technology designed to give gym users an easy-to-use touch screen experience - further testament to the facility’s determination to stay at the forefront of the fitness industry.

As well as having an Android operating system, each P82 console includes automatic free, seamless software updates when networked, extra fast processing speeds, embedded WiFi, Bluetooth and NFC technology, and is designed to enable exercisers to keep their head, neck and shoulders in an upright, natural position.

Leading fitness equipment supplier and manufacturer Precor has worked closely with the site for over eleven years. Jim Aitken, the University’s Director of Sport and Exercise, explains: “Precor is more than just a supplier – they’ve been our key fitness partner since 2005 and central to the ambitious development plans. The Precor range has given our users an integrated workout experience throughout the venue. Our membership base has grown by over 7,000 (40%) since then, a clear indication of the project’s success.”

Making a positive impact on health and well-being

The University also features a Support for Physical Activity (SPA) programme to encourage inactive staff and students to sit less and move more, making physical...
activity accessible to those who do less than 150 minutes a week.

While not necessarily gym-focused, the SPA Programme, alongside the self-help guides on the Precor machines, and complimentary ‘How to Gym’ workshops, help people new to exercise or the gym environment. This is reaping great results and boosting the University’s ambition to be one of the most physically active institutions in the UK.

**Elite sport**
The University’s culture encourages physical activity at all levels, right up to those with aspirations to succeed on the world stage. At the forefront of performance sport, elements such as specialist coaching, mentoring and sports medicine intertwine with high quality gym spaces and a range of equipment dedicated to help the athletes be their best, such as Precor treadmills for endurance athletes or AMT’s to help recovery if they are injured.

**Play. Train. Perform.**
Overall, the ingredients of its success in both attracting students and establishing a presence in the community are based on a series of surprising combinations; technology and tradition, the Precor range finds its home in an 18th Century building; health and performance, as the delicate balance between encouraging active lifestyles and elite-level sport is successfully managed. The University of Edinburgh Sport and Exercise strapline of ‘Play. Train. Perform.’ is embodied throughout its day-to-day activities, ethos and standards.

“Precor is more than just a supplier – they’ve been our key fitness partner since 2005 and central to the ambitious development plans..."
Wellbeing experts panel launched

UK-based Skincare brand Aromatherapy Associates has launched a panel of six Wellbeing Experts, each of whom specialises in enhancing and nurturing life balance, supporting self-belief, and encouraging healthy living.

The six Experts specialise in psychotherapy, somatics, exercise, communication, nutrition, yoga and laughter, and each Expert represents an Aromatherapy Associates collection aligned to their individual beliefs and specialities.

Tracey Woodward, CEO of Aromatherapy Associates, said that consumers are looking for products that nurture, improve and provide added benefits, rather than just beauty.

"Beauty products now don't only encompass how you look, but embrace how you feel physically and mentally," she explained.

The Wellbeing Experts are designed to help create that added benefit, and will coach through social media, offering 'top tips' on 21st century living as well as practical tools on how to de-stress, find inner strength, relax and revive – linking them each back to a specific Aromatherapy Associates product range.

The Experts include somatic coach Jonathan Ward and human potential specialist Karuna, who represent the Inner Strength line; personal trainer Nicola Addison, who represents the De Stress range; communication strategist Janet Taras, who represents the Support collection; health nutritionist and wellbeing expert Yvonne Wake and laughter yoga specialist Julie Whitehead.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=h7U3Q_O

Good Spa Guide names best UK spas

The UK’s Best Spas were announced earlier this month at a gala dinner held during SpaLife UK, an annual industry event held at the Telford International Centre.

The awards included eight national and eight regional awards, highlighting the best of spa in the UK. Regional awards included more than 50,000 public votes, while the national awards were decided upon by specially appointed Good Spa Spies, who review more than 100 spas each year and complete a detailed audit.

The Bulgari Spa was voted the Best Spa in London, while The Spa at Gleneagles by ESPA took home the Best Spa in Scotland. The St Brides Spa Hotel was named best spa in Wales, and the Galgorm Resort and Spa was named best spa in Northern Ireland.

Other regional winners include Sequoia Spa at The Grove, Hertfordshire (Best spa in the East), Serenity Spa at Seaham Hall, County Durham (Northeast), The Woodland Spa, Lancashire (Northwest) and Lucknam Park Hotel and Spa, Wiltshire (South West).

Other honours included Best spa for families (L’Horizon Beach Hotel and Spa, Jersey, Channel Islands), Best spa for groups (The Day Spa at Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire) and Best spa for value (The Spa Hotel at Ribby Hall Village, Lancashire).

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x2R7p_O
Tourism

Golf to boost Scottish tourism

Scotland is looking to use its global reputation as “the home of golf” in its efforts to increase inbound visitor numbers.

National tourism agency VisitScotland led a trade mission to the Spanish island of Mallorca earlier this month, where 15 Scottish golf businesses attended the prestigious International Golf Travel Market (IGTM). The delegates – representing a wide range of golf tourism businesses – included The Gleneagles Hotel, host venue of 2014’s Ryder Cup and Carnoustie Country, host venue of The Open Championship in 2018.


Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland CEO said: “We used the event as an opportunity to drive the message to buyers around the world that Scotland truly is the Home of Golf and the world’s best golf tourism destination. “We have much to look forward to on the Scottish golfing calendar with The Open returning to Carnoustie in 2018 and The Solheim Cup at Gleneagles in 2019 among a number of world-class golf events taking place in the next few years.

“It is also the Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology in 2017, which lends itself perfectly to promoting golf in Scotland, the historic home of the game.”

As well as the two championship courses, the 15 Scottish delegates included The British Golf Museum and Fife Golf Partnership.

North Wales among ‘world’s top 10’

Travel guide Lonely Planet has revealed its Best in Travel 2017 locations – with North Wales named as one of the Top 10 regions for the year.

It is the only place in the UK included in the Best in Travel 2017, and – according to Lonely Planet – earned its place as a must-see destination thanks to the region “reinventing itself”.

Recent additions to North Wales tourism include Surf Snowdonia – created in an old aluminium works in Dolgarrog – and Zip World Velocity, the world’s fastest zip line which is housed in the former Penrhyn Quarry.

Elsewhere, a former Victorian slate mine in Blaenau Ffestiniog has been transformed into a physical activity attraction called Bounce Below, featuring giant trampolines strung inside the caverns.

Snowdonia National Park – Wales’ largest – has also been designated a ‘dark-sky reserve’ thanks to its lack of light pollution.

A spokesperson for Visit Wales said: “It’s a great accolade to be part of Lonely Planet’s annual selection. Being chosen puts you proudly on the map as one of the world’s must-visit treasures, something that any country would be proud of.”

The Best in Travel 2017 lists Canada as the best country to visit, followed by Colombia.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=TyXyF_0
US embassy to become luxury hotel

The historic US embassy in London’s Grosvenor Square will be opened to the public as part of a £6bn hotel and retail development – with Westminster City Council granting planning permission for the David Chipperfield-designed project.

Developers Qatari Diar will now transform the site, which has been home to US ambassadors to the UK since 1960, into a 137 bedroom hotel, spa and ball room for 900 guests.

An operator for the site has yet to be announced. The building was originally designed by Finnish American architect Eero Saarinen and has become a landmark, gaining grade II listed status.

Permission for the proposal has been granted subject to the building retaining its most iconic elements, including the large gilded aluminium eagle on the roof.

Approval is also dependent on the developers funding the removal of existing security fences, huts and bollards and the reopening the surrounding roads as soon as possible. Access to the areas has been restricted in recent years as part of heightened security measures. In addition, Qatari Diar have pledged to create an open, expansive green space for residents and the public.

“Today marks the start of a new era in Grosvenor Square’s rich history,” said Cllr Robert Davis, Westminster City Council deputy leader. “Everyone recognises the embassy building and this will be an iconic hotel.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Ty78p_O

Corinthia invests in ‘brain power’

Corinthia Hotel London and ESPA Life at Corinthia have teamed up with neuroscientist Dr Tara Swart to host a year-long ‘Neuroscientist in Residence’ programme.

A leadership coach and senior lecturer at MIT, Swart has worked with the hotel and flagship spa to create ‘Brain Power Packages’ that focus on neuro-nutrition, restorative sleep, hydration, mindfulness and exercise.

The packages will include mindful massage and yoga nidra treatments at the spa, as well as a ‘Brain Power Menu’ at the restaurant, where Swart has created a menu based around neuro-nutrition – incorporating food and drink that will boost the health and performance of the brain, such as fat-rich avocado, salmon, olives and full-fat milk and butter; protein-rich eggs; magnesium-rich nuts and seeds; hydrating melon and lettuce; and cognition-boosting coconut oil and dark leafy greens.

Swart worked with spa manager Laura Vallati to develop treatments specifically designed to encourage mindfulness, reduce stress, enhance focus and promote mind balance and positivity.

Swart will also advise staff at the hotel, as well as regular guests, including high-profile business leaders and VIPs, analysing how each group copes with stress.

The resulting data will generate a Brain Power Study at the end of Swart’s residency.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=g8k3N_O

How to solve the skills crisis

The UK hospitality industry is facing a dangerous threat to its success - a chronic failure to get enough young people to become the managers and leaders we need.

Post-Brexit, we are likely to face an even greater challenge. As hospitality is the fourth largest employer in the country and contributes 9 per cent of annual GDP, it is vitally important for our future prosperity and economic growth that we address this problem as soon as possible.

So what can we do to plug the skills gap, which exists across the board - from spa therapists to chefs?

One of the biggest barriers to the uptake of hospitality as a career is how it is perceived. The stigma of long hours and low pay persists and too many parents, careers advisors and teachers overlook the reality - that hospitality is a vibrant and hugely varied sector that offers rewarding career paths. It is vital, therefore, that our industry is properly represented within careers education, guidance and transition to work in every school.

There are particular factors in play at the moment that should encourage young people to consider vocational roles and hospitality. Firstly, the thought of a graduate debt of £40,000 is putting some young people off taking the university route. Secondly, the impending Apprentice Levy is exercising the thoughts and training strategies of many businesses and the rationale behind apprentice programmes is now more compelling.

Now is the time to shout out about the opportunities and attractions of a career in hospitality. It is perfect for learn-while-you-earn schemes, providing an internationally-recognised qualification without racking up debt. With or without qualifications, you can enter and rise to achieve your full potential and take on responsibility early.

We are a hotbed of innovation and entrepreneurialism. Working in our sector has equipped countless entrepreneurs and self-employed consultants with the skills they needed to start their own businesses.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=9kzN_O

Corinthia has equipped countless entrepreneurs and self-employed consultants with the skills they needed to start their own businesses.
Simworx unveils flying theatre with Mondial

UK-based attractions supplier Simworx has unveiled its latest media-based, dynamic simulation attraction, developed in partnership with Mondial.

The 360° Flying Theatre, a full turnkey solution, is a 60-seat ride where guests experience a realistic sense of flying as they are immersed in a movie shown on a huge domed screen.

Terry Monkton, Simworx CEO, said: "It's novel because we've got a unique way of doing the loading where people don't know what's going to happen until they're picked up and sweep into the screen – and the pricing point is very competitive."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x2C5d_O

Study shows benefit of education at museums

A new report has suggested that children gain confidence and enhanced social skills when schooled in their local museum, with teachers, museums and parents also benefitting. The report, by King's College London, is the result of a four-month study that saw two primary schools and a nursery in the UK moving regular classes to local museums for up to an entire term.

Starting in February and concluding in June, through the school term, various classes had their day-to-day programme of lessons using the museum's facilities with teachers, museums and parents also working closely with all those affected in order to support them through the consultation process and any subsequent requirement for alternative employment and job search activities.

"This was an incredibly difficult proposal to make and it has not been taken lightly. However, we are committed to the long term development of the museum and believe that this action now, together with a continuous programme of investment, will ensure its future growth, which is so vital to the local economy."

In September this year, the company was fined £5m for breaching health and safety regulations in relation to the Smiler crash of 2015, which injured five visitors.

Merlin, which operates Alton Towers, said in a financial statement in September that trading over the 2016 summer at the resort had started to recover but "absolute visitor volumes still remain some way below the 2014 level".

Details: http://lei.sr?a=d3g4h_O

Alton Towers axes up to 70 jobs

Alton Towers has announced that between 60 and 70 jobs are to go as the theme park continues to suffer from the fallout of the Smiler crash.

The resort said it is looking to make "efficiencies" and that after a "detailed review of operations" it expects to make the redundancies ahead of the 2017 season. The theme park said the cuts will be made at all levels of permanent salaried employees.

The latest round of redundancies comes after Alton Towers cut 98 jobs earlier this year. The resort employs almost 800 permanent staff and an additional 1,500 seasonal workers between March and November.

A spokesperson said: "Alton Towers will work closely with all those affected in order to support them through the consultation process and any subsequent requirement for alternative employment and job search activities.

"This was an incredibly difficult proposal to make and it has not been taken lightly. However, we are committed to the long term development of the resort and believe that this action now, together with a continuous programme of investment, will ensure its future growth, which is so vital to the local economy."

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=d3g4h_O

Bowie exhibition smashes records

David Bowie Is – the touring exhibition that took on a new meaning after the death of the music icon – has become the most visited show in the V&A’s history, with more than 1.5 million people flocking to see the blockbuster show across its eight venues so far.

According to V&A, around 312,000 people visited the exhibition during its initial London run in 2013. It then travelled to a number of countries including Canada, Brazil, the US, France and what was originally the final stop for the tour, Groningen in the Netherlands.

Following the singer’s death in January 2016, the Groniger Museum reported a jump in sales of 30,000 tickets to the retrospective in a week, having sold 50,000 tickets total since its debut a month earlier. Groniger was originally intended to be the final stop for the exhibition, but that was extended with renewed interest following Bowie’s death.

The show will complete its 10-stop tour next year, with the show entering its final weeks at the Museum of Modern Art in Bologne, before heading to Tokyo in January 2017 and completing its tour in Barcelona in May.

The show has significantly passes the V&A’s most successful touring exhibitions, with the closest being Art Deco, which received 1.17 million visitors, and Vivienne Westwood, which welcomed 844,000 people.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=45g5g_O
BRINGING THE INDUSTRY TOGETHER IN TWO GREAT SHOWS

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Etihad Stadium expansion wins 2016 Structural prize

Manchester City’s Etihad Stadium expansion was among the projects recognised at The Structural Awards 2016. Imagined by Populous and BuroHappold, the scheme won the award for Sport or Leisure Structures.

The project involves the creation of a new South Stand, which will bring the stadium’s capacity up to 61,000 – making it the second-largest in the UK.

Engineers were required to modify an existing cable-net roof with complex geometry and load-paths while providing continued rain protection to fans. As many as 85 per cent of materials used for the expansion were locally procured.

The judges said: “A most impressive response to tricky engineering challenges that resulted in a stadium expansion with minimal spectator disruption and a complementary architectural form. A clever and seamless intervention in a geometrically complex cable net structure.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=D9e6V_O

Holocaust memorial shortlist picked

Almost 100 entries from 26 countries vying to design London’s new National Memorial to the Holocaust have been whittled down to a final ten.

The shortlisted design teams include some of the most internationally renowned architects and artists, including Turner Prize winner Sir Anish Kapoor who is working with Zaha Hadid Architects. The teams are now invited to submit designs for the memorial, which is planned to be built next to Parliament, in Victoria Tower Gardens.

The international design competition, announced by Prime Minister Theresa May in September, will create a new national landmark, demonstrating a commitment to honouring the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, providing a place for quiet reflection as well as a focal point for national commemorations.

The memorial could also include a learning centre depending on technical, financial, planning and other constraints.

The proposed learning centre will contain recordings of testimony from British Holocaust survivors and camp liberators, as part of the government’s initiative to ensure survivors have the opportunity to record their memories.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t6m3q_O

‘Stackable pitches’ for London

Amanda Levete’s architecture studio AL_A have created a concept to bring stackable football pitches to derelict sites in London.

The project, called Pitch/Pitch, is designed to bring communities together through sporting activity.

Each three-storey carbon fibre structure is conceived as a temporary installation that is fast and easy to erect, meaning the pitches could be built to coincide with major football tournaments or to quickly bring life back to fading communities.

Developed in collaboration with Arup, each system is modular – with the levels linked by two staircases – and can be stored in shipping containers to be transported to another venue once it has been dismantled.

Platforms for spectators are incorporated into the design, and extra facilities such as changing rooms can be prefabricated and delivered to a site on demand.

AL_A director Maximiliano Arrocet told Leisure Opportunities: “This project has been completely driven by us, so we didn’t have a brief. As an office we enjoy sport, and we’ve always viewed it as a way of creating social cohesion. We used to play football together, but we haven’t been able to book a pitch for a long time because of demand for spaces. The cost of pitches is rising too.

Each pitch is standard size for 5-a-side, but Arrocet said the facilities are also designed to host activities such as dance classes and yoga, and could feasibly adapted for other sports.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t6m3q_O

Consultation for £40m Meadowbank project

Residents of Scottish capital city Edinburgh are being asked to have their say on an ambitious rebuild of the existing Meadowbank Stadium and Sport Centre.

The City of Edinburgh Council will submit a planning application early next year for the redevelopment, which is expected to cost in the region of £40m and is being designed by Glasgow-based architects Holmes Miller.

Among the proposals for the complex are: an outdoor athletics track with 500 seat stand; two multi-sport games halls; three fitness studios; a gym; a gymnastics hall; two squash courts; a combat studio for martial arts; a boxing gym with ring; a 60m six-lane indoor athletics track; an outdoor throwing area; two 3G football pitches.

The first multi-sport games hall will be the size of an eight-court badminton hall with permanent seating for 420.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=W9a6G_O
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CONTACT: 01983 527727
Nick Callaghan, Lisa Mercer or Janet Morter

www.hose-rhodes-dickson.co.uk
### CIMSPA to offer student help

The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) is partnering UK higher and further education institutions to help increase student employability within the sector.

The tie-up aims to provide students affiliate status and a pathway into membership to the sport and physical activity sector’s only chartered professional body upon graduation.

The alliance also offers public acknowledgement of their links with the professional body as well as input into – and influence on – the development of learning programmes that are focused on employability within the sector.

Robert Cook, Virgin Active’s UK managing director, said: “The results of our programme show what is possible when teachers are given the tools to facilitate new ways of teaching PE.

“Harnessing the imagination of kids and getting them moving is something we do in our clubs every day.

“By applying this in the school environment and transforming PE lessons into fun and entertaining games, we can ensure future generations love being active and help turn the tide against rising levels of obesity.”

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=E6f9Q_O](http://lei.sr?a=E6f9Q_O)

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### ‘New way to teach PE’ created

A new approach to physical education (PE), based on physical literacy and “fun fitness”, could transform school sport and help children embrace physical activity – according to its creators.

Developed jointly by health club operator Virgin Active and the University of Bedfordshire, the Playmakers programme is the result of a one-year pilot initiative involving 30 primary schools and 7,500 pupils across the UK. Rather than focusing on traditional aspects of PE – which emphasise winning, losing and sporting prowess – the Playmakers pilot used teaching methods which encouraged pupils to “harness their imagination” and focused on teaching children fundamental movement skills.

The Playmakers sessions included getting children to design their own activities, such as dances based on animal movements and adventure circuits where they tackle obstacles while in character.

The results showed that the Playmakers approach was more effective in getting children active than traditional PE.

Robert Cook, Virgin Active’s UK managing director, said: “The results of our programme show what is possible when teachers are given the tools to facilitate new ways of teaching PE.

“Harnessing the imagination of kids and getting them moving is something we do in our clubs every day.

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Katie Smith, Visitor Services Manager, Heritage Services, the Roman Baths

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It goes without saying that you’ll be bright, motivated and committed. The hard work pays off as many of our previous Trainee Managers now hold senior positions within the company. Rest assured, you’ll be supported and mentored throughout - and by the end of it, you’ll have all the skills, knowledge and qualifications to start your leisure career with GLL.

If you have what it takes to be part of our 2017 intake, then find out more and apply now at www.glljobs.org and search for Trainee Manager Scheme.

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<th>Company/Location</th>
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<td>Marketing &amp; Accounts Executive</td>
<td>Wexer, London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales Associate (Retail)</td>
<td>Equinox, London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bodyweight Strength Training</td>
<td>GLL, London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anatomy CE Course</td>
<td>The Gym Group, London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Executive - UK</td>
<td>eGym, London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Recreation Assistant</td>
<td>The Gym Group, Dartford, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Recreation Assistant</td>
<td>GLL, London, W54 6DB, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Sales Manager</td>
<td>Everyone Active, Scarborough, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Trainer</td>
<td>Everyone Active, Harrow, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team leaders</td>
<td>Everyone Active, Cheltenham, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Motivator</td>
<td>Everyone Active, Harrow, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Assistant</td>
<td>GLL, London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Assistant Apprentice</td>
<td>Everyone Active, Fareham, UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details on the following jobs, visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385
Recreation Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Hampshire, UK

Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southampton, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: éGym
Location: Beltham Green, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: éGym
Location: Forest Hill, UK

General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Birmingham North East, UK

Area Sales Manager
Company: eGym
Location: Nationwide (UK travel), UK

General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Birmingham South West, UK

Apprenticeships Available
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Sales Executive
Company: eGym
Location: London, UK

Recreation Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: éGym
Location: Various locations, UK

Swim Instructor
Company: éGym
Location: Leighton Buzzard, UK

Manager / Team Leader
Company: 360 Play
Location: Redditch, UK

Netball Dev Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: South East Region, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bourton-on-the-Water, UK

Recreation Assistant
Company: GLL
Location: Oxfordshire, UK

Personal trainers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Essex, UK

Maintenance Associate
Company: Equinox
Location: London, UK

Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nuneaton, UK

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie Group
Location: Fullham, London, UK

General Manager
Company: Abbeycroft Leisure
Location: Suffolk, UK

Head of Leisure
Company: Lichfield District Council
Location: Lichfield, Staffordshire, UK

Operations Manager
Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Sports Coach/Party Host
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Loughton, UK

Sports Receptionist
Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: Ipsos, UK

Senior Operations Assistant
Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Sales manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, UK

Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fleet, UK

Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sunbury-on-Thames, UK

General Manager
Company: Boostcamp Pilates
Location: London, UK

Sales manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, UK

Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Staines-upon-Thames, UK

Aqua Aerobics Instructor
Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, UK

Group Exercise Instructors
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Elephant & Castle, UK

Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, UK

Night Shift Worker
Company: énergie group
Location: Cheadle Huile, UK

General Managers
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Impact Sales Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: National role, UK

Personal Trainers Needed
Company: Rush Fitness
Location: Various locations, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various

Personal Trainer
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Spa Receptionist
Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Senior Spa Therapist
Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Director
Company: Champneys Health Spa
Location: Various, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Auchanrannie Hotel & Spa
Location: Isle of Arran, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Longleat Forest, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Woburn Forest, UK

Beauty Therapist
Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: London, UK

ITEC/NVQ L3-Qualified
Head Spa Trainer
Company: Myoka Spas
Location: Malta, Malta

Spa Therapist
Company: Thyme Hotel
Location: Gloucestershire, UK

Regional Spa Director
Company: Myoka Spas
Location: United Arab Emirates

Beauty Therapists
Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

Duty Manager - Events
Company: Sea Life
Location: Orlando, United States

Marketing Manager
Company: Sea Life
Location: Orlando, United States

General Manager
Company: The Eye Brand
Location: Orlando, United States

Head - Commercial Operations
Company: London Borough of Waltham Forest
Location: Walthamstow, London, UK

Product Manager - Waves
Company: Whittewater West
Location: Richmond, BC, Canada

Master Model Builder
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Westchester NY, US

Chief Engineer
Company: Dreamland Margate
Location: Margate, UK

Events Manager
Company: Warwick Castle
Location: Warwick, UK

Senior Brand Manager
Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

Operations Manager
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: Hollywood, United States

Insight Manager
Company: The Eye Brand
Location: London, UK

Technical/Facilities Manager
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Boston, UK

Media Relations & Social Media Representative
Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

GO TO WWW.LEISUREOPPORTUNITIES.CO.UK AND CLICK ON THE LINK TO SEE THE LATEST JOBS FROM...
Joshua behind boutique boxing gym

London's first boutique, boxing-themed gym is set to open in January 2017 - with backing from Anthony Joshua MBE, the IBF heavyweight world champion. BXR will be a members-only fitness facility, offering the highest level of professional boxing training.

The Marylebone site has a 6-metre-high triple glass frontage and spans 12,000 sq ft (1,140 sq m) across ground and lower ground floors.

The gym will have a full-size Ringcraft boxing ring and the operation will be kitted out with Keiser, Technogym, Wattbike, Hammer Strength and Eleiko equipment.

A limited number of invitation-only lifetime memberships will be available and memberships will start at £1,500 per annum.

Joining Joshua on the BXR founding committee are DJ Mark Ronson, English boxing promoter Eddie Hearn, businessman Andre Balazs and Victoria Secret models Sara Sampaio and Maryna Linchuk.

Joshua, who is an investing partner in the business, has helped establish a team of elite trainers, including boxing coaches, ex-champion boxers, mixed martial arts fighters and top sports therapists and osteopaths.

The line-up includes Jamie Reynolds - Joshua’s head strength and conditioning coach - and Dr Mike Loosemore of the Centre for Human and Health Performance. BXR will be offering members the same level of advice and consultation that a professional athlete receives.

Members will be able to measure and track their progress using a smartphone app, camera feeds and other analytic tools powered by RNF Digital. The gym will also boast an in-house clinic, consisting of three treatment rooms.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q2p5n_O

Sport and technology hub to launch

Continued from front cover

The hub – providing support to start-up organisations designing apps and products with the purpose of promoting sport and physical activity – will be located within London Sport’s House of Sport, which will also open in early-2017.

Organisations within the sport sector are being invited to occupy the House of Sport on Dover Street in central London to facilitate collaboration and efficiencies.

Peter Fitzboydon, chief executive of London Sport, said: “Building effective partnerships in technology is the biggest opportunity we have for getting more people active in the foreseeable future.

The organisation’s chief commercial officer, Scott Thompson added: “London is a leading global centre for sport and physical activity and is open to innovation and technology from all over the world.

Peter Fitzboydon said using tech provided the ‘biggest opportunity’ for getting more people active.

“This is the essence of the sports tech lab which will be London’s first dedicated sport and health tech lab to bring together some of the country’s biggest sport bodies and London’s best sports tech start-ups under the same roof in one location.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=7y8W2_O