

LOCALLY LED APPROACH

2018 EVALUATION REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



THE LOCALLY LED APPROACH

The Locally Led Approach is a way of working with communities by seeking to understand and acknowledge the strengths of a community, working together with local people to co-create solutions and integrating learning as an important part of the process.

This evaluation summary highlights the value of the Locally Led Approach for Sport NZ, Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) and communities with low participation in play, active recreation and sport after the first year of this initiative.



HIGHLIGHTS

Overall, the evaluation report found that good progress has been made in understanding and implementing the Locally Led Approach.

The evaluation found that RSTs...

- Value the Locally Led Approach and acknowledge that it's "a game changer"
- Are changing how they work with communities and their community partners
- Are shifting from being directive to a role of facilitating, connecting and enabling communities
- Have trialled the Locally Led Approach to deepen their understanding
- Have embedded the Locally Led Approach at varying levels within their organisations

Additionally, the evaluation report found that...

- The Locally Led Approach, used with the Insights and Physical Literacy Approaches, has the potential to change the community sport and recreation system
- Locally Led initiatives have the potential to increase physical activity and may have wider socio-economic benefits
- The Approach and its principles are transferable across communities, and recreation partners within Aotearoa.



This [Locally Led Approach] is quite different. In the past, we were quite directive, i.e., what's the problem? We were telling people what to do and going and fixing things. The Locally Led Approach is the opposite; we are asking: what's good in the community? What does the community want? Rather than us dictating. For both me and my staff, we have found it refreshing"

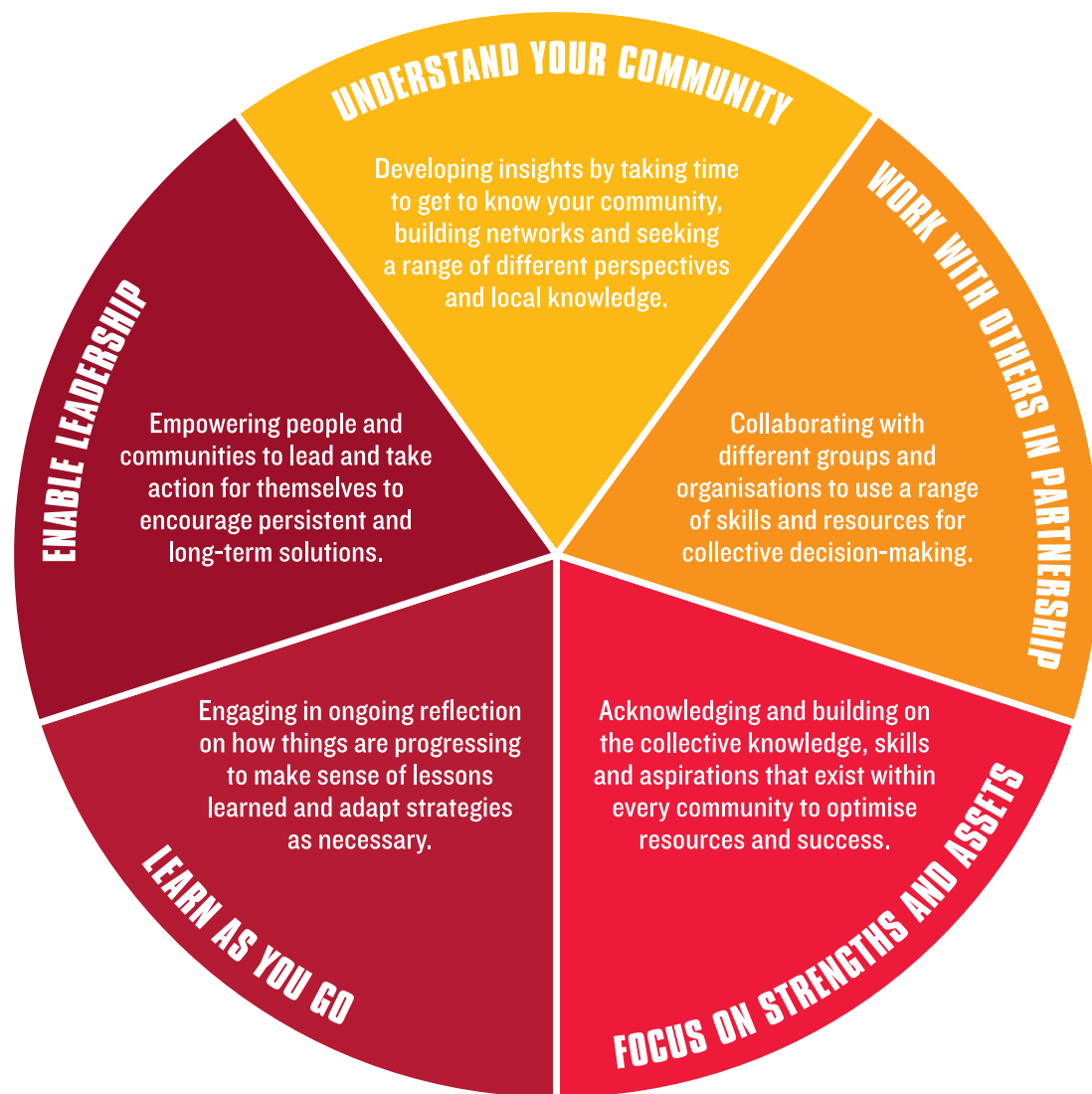
- RST



LOCALLY LED PRINCIPLES

Locally Led principles aim to provide a framework for working well with communities, to help them deliver quality sport and active recreation experiences.

The following page summarises how RSTs are using the five Locally Led Approach principles. The stage of implementation of each of the principles was self-reported by the RSTs.



Evaluation Scale:

EMERGING

DEVELOPING

CONSOLIDATING

HIGHLY DEVELOPED

RSTs INVEST TIME TO UNDERSTAND COMMUNITIES



- RSTs are working with new organisations to understand communities and identify initiatives
- More guidance may be required to support communities to identify their aspirations
- Communities have varying expectations around the level of engagement required



We learned there's a whole different sector of the community that we hadn't engaged with, and with Locally Led, we are engaging with them"

- RST

RSTs ARE BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



- Many RSTs have invested considerable time creating diverse new community networks
- Connections with whānau, hapū, and iwi are less well developed
- Clear and frequent communication is needed to maintain community trust.



The key thing is the relationships and conversations. We must be present in the communities... doing this for about 9 to 12 months to identify projects."

- RST

RSTs ARE STRENGTHS-BASED IN THEIR APPROACH



- RSTs acknowledge the importance of identifying and building on community strengths
- RSTs are leveraging resources of various community partners to best support initiatives
- A few RSTs are exploring ways to share resources with their partners.



It's the people that are the strength... its helping people understand what they have to offer and giving them the opportunity to offer it"

- RST

RSTs HAVE A STRONG LEARN-AS-YOU-GO CULTURE



- Many RSTs are adapting use of the Approach based on lessons learnt
- RSTs would like support sharing knowledge across their RSTs, partners and communities
- The Locally Led Leads community of practice, workshops and tools were identified as key enablers



We saw that some things weren't working well and adapted them as the program unfolded. Sometimes this was obvious, other times we had to look hard to find how we could improve."

- RST

RSTs ARE HAVING CHALLENGES ENABLING LEADERSHIP



- Collective community-based decision making needs strengthening
- Many communities face barriers to participation in decision making
- RSTs need more support in how to build community leadership capability and capacity



That's the one thing we are struggling with. The consultation, feedback, have all been great, but we haven't had the community step up and say yes we'll lead it. We are racking our brains, asking why haven't some people stepped up?"

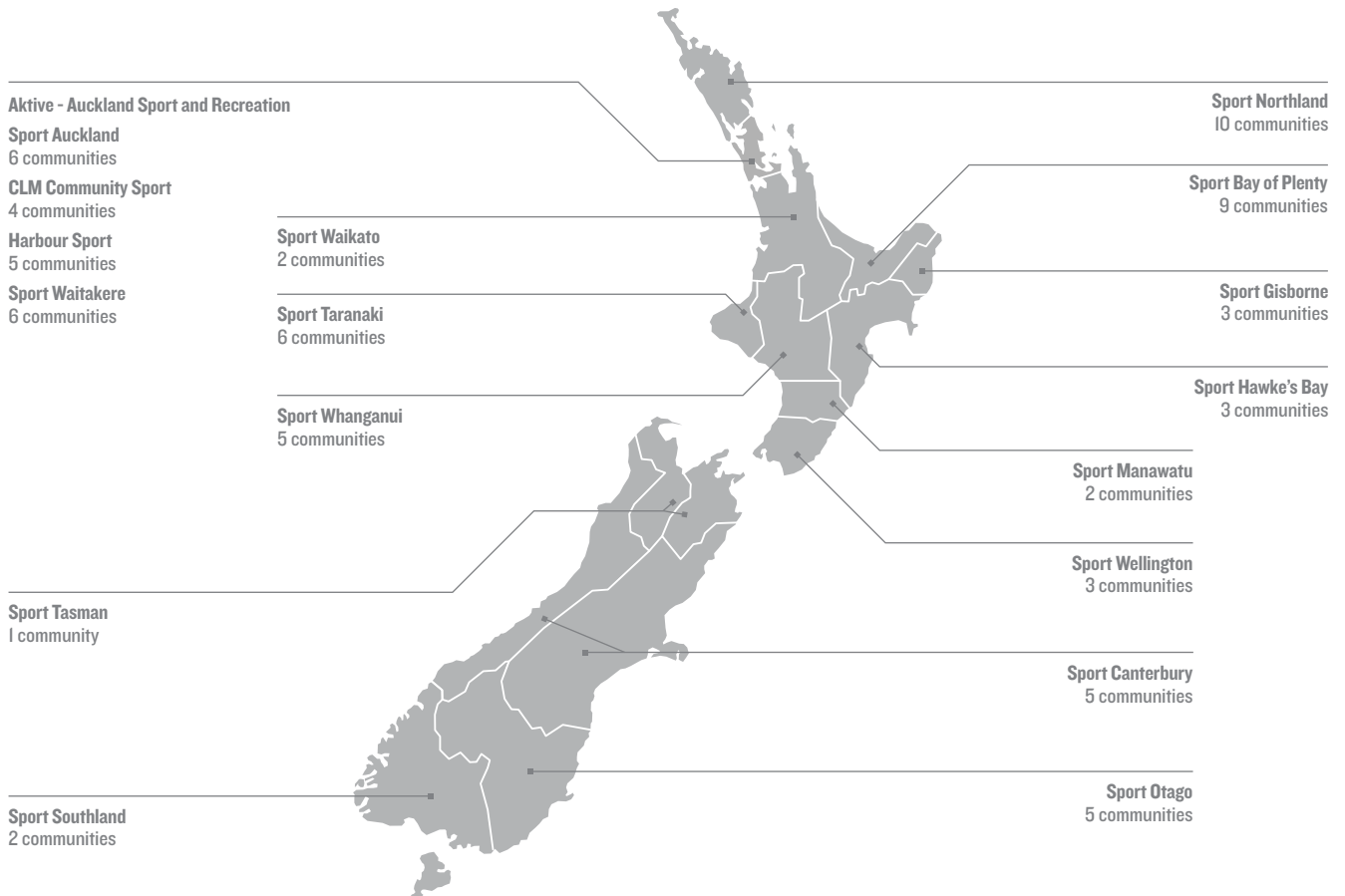
- RST



THE REACH

RSTs are predominantly using the Locally Led Approach to work with low participation communities and targeted participant groups (primarily in place based communities) throughout New Zealand.

The map below shows the reach of Locally Led initiatives as at April 2018.



LOOKING FORWARD

The lessons learnt can be used to strengthen the Locally Led Approach in subsequent years. Suggested actions include:

- Continue to strengthen the understanding and application of all Locally Led principles by RSTs and Sport NZ staff and consider further support to a wider range of partners
- More clearly articulate how the Locally Led Approach is linked to the Insights and Physical Literacy Approaches
- Further training and mentoring on how to embed the Locally Led Approach within RSTs and deepen understanding of shifting decision making to communities
- Further support for RSTs on how to strengthen community capability to determine their aspirations, contribute to decision making and to lead
- Developing organisational strategies to increase cultural capability and strengthen relationships with whānau, hapū, and iwi in order to engage appropriately and connect genuinely with Māori