

Opening School Facilities

Phase 2 Overview



Sandwell

ABC Approach

As part of the £10.1m national investment by Sport England and the Department for Education (DfE) into the Opening School Facilities agenda, Active Black Country were successful in securing investment for Phase 2 for the region.

Investment was to be utilised to facilitate activity or overcome barriers to the provision of out of school hours pupil focussed or community focussed physical activity opportunities taking place at school sites.

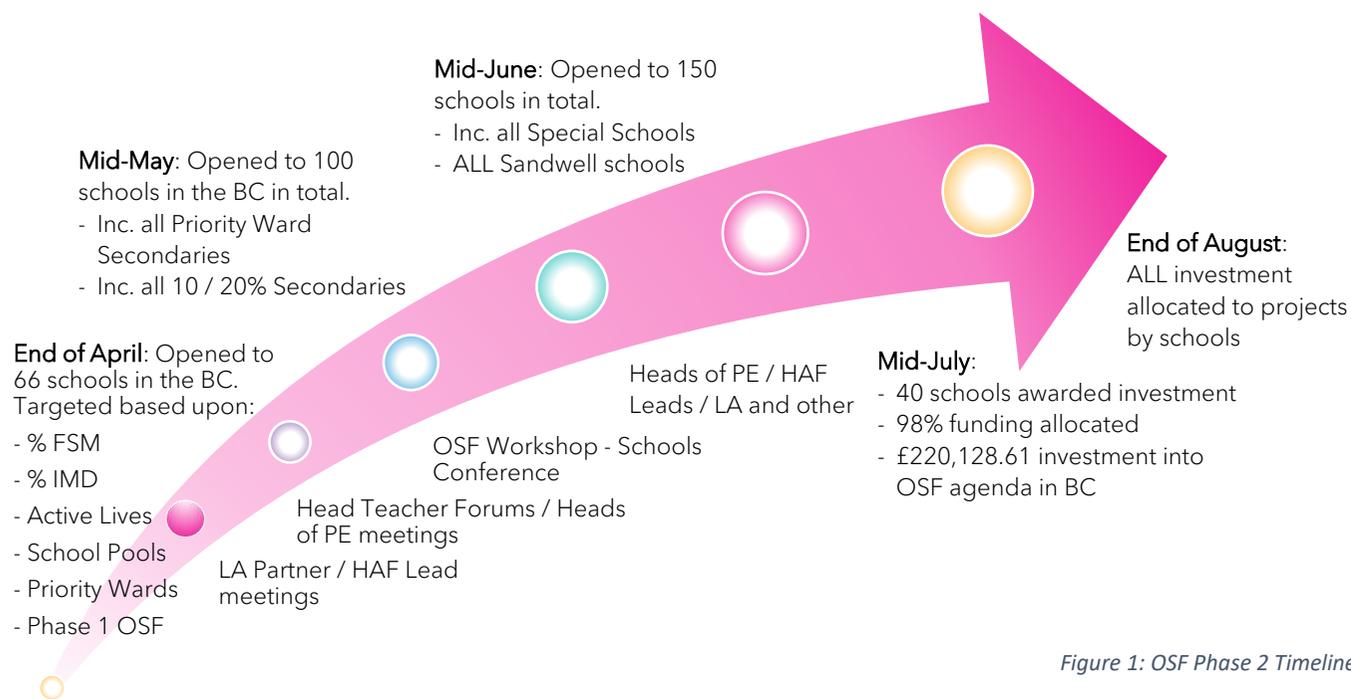


Figure 1: OSF Phase 2 Timeline

The priorities set by DfE and Sport England targeted schools with high percentage of pupils claiming free school meals, schools in areas of deprivation, inactive communities, to support holiday activity and food (HAF) projects, SEN pupil focussed projects and schools with swimming pools. ABC also targeted schools within identified key priority wards. Any investment awarded has been complimented by the offer of 1-2-1 support from the Active Black Country team.

Schools were offered the opportunity to apply for investment using a targeted and phased approach to ensure investment distribution to the areas of most need.

Timescales set by the DfE the required all funding to be distributed and spent by schools by the end of August 2021. Final approval in from Sport England came in June 2021.

Active Black Country implemented a tiered approach to investment distribution based upon the circumstances of schools against the funding parameters set out, as follows:

Figure 2: Phase 2 Investment Tiers



Schools were able to apply for awards from £2,000 up to £7,500 for revenue-based pupil or community focussed projects that encompassed the priorities set out.

Projects largely focussed on the need for additional sporting equipment to offer covid safe activity, storage solutions for this equipment, facility operational measures and in some cases activity delivery costs. The scope across of projects across the board were influenced by the timescales and capacity of schools to deliver.

The schools awarded Opening School Facilities Phase 2 investment were as follows:

School	Phase	Ward	Level £1-4	Project Outline
George Salter Academy	Secondary	Greets Green and Lyng	4	Sports equipment and health and safety equipment for community course
Oldbury Academy	Secondary	Bristnall	4	Sports equipment: Weightlifting equipment for ladies focussed community club
Ormiston Forge Academy	Secondary	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	4	Sports equipment: Community focussed projects
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	Secondary	Oldbury	3	Sports equipment and lighting (portable): To expand after-school and evening provision for students
Perryfields Primary School	Primary	Old Warley	3	Sports equipment and storage: To support extra-curricular and community provision.
The Phoenix Collegiate	Secondary	Hateley Heath	3	Sports equipment: To support family focussed sessions
Wood Green Academy	Secondary	Wednesbury North	4	Sports equipment and storage: Out of hours and community use.

The map below highlights the location of these schools against the areas ranked in the top 10% and 20% most deprived from the indices of multiple deprivation (2019):

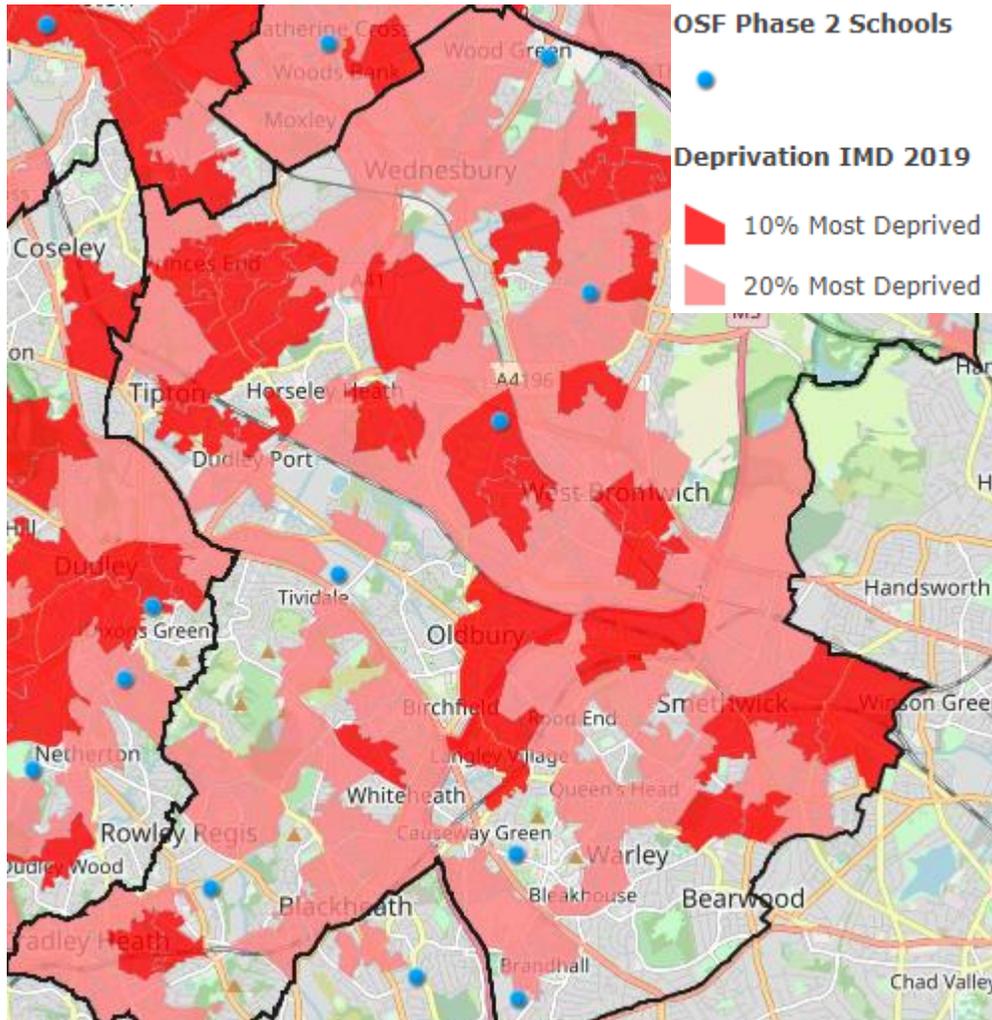


Figure 3: OSF Phase 2 Schools against IMD 2019

Next Steps

Active Black Country, as part of the Opening School Facilities Programme is working with schools identified so far to collate a bank of case studies from the Phase 2 investment, and to advance bespoke Community Development Plans to structure conversations and work through objectives set in relation to community use ambitions. The OSF agenda remains a high priority of the DfE, and as such we are hopeful of further investment in this area, which we are working with Sport England to shape.

Further information

For any further information on the Active Black Country Opening School Facilities Programme, please contact:

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