

Resources questionnaire for Configurational
Comparative Analysis: Information and
guidance

September 2025



Contents

Introduction: Changes to the process..... 2

What are we evaluating? 2

Purpose of the survey 2

Responding to the survey 2

What happens to our data? 3

Appendix 1: Resources survey questions 4

Introduction: Changes to the process

This year we have separated the System Maturity survey (see separate [guidance note](#)) **from the Resources Survey** (Part One questions in last year's survey). NELP will use responses to both of these surveys, together with other data collected, for Configurational Comparative Analysis (CCA). To be included in the CCA evaluation, Places must respond to **both** of these surveys.

Please note that responses to the Resources survey will be shared with Sport England (SE), but the SMM survey responses will not be shared with SE, without permission of the appropriate Place partnership representative. Please refer to the Resources survey Participant Information documents for more information on this.

What are we evaluating?

NELP is using CCA as part of its evaluation of Sport England's programme of Place-based systemic approaches to physical activity. For more information on this work please visit our website - <https://evaluatingcomplexity.org/>.

CCA is a method of systematically comparing multiple cases, or 'Places' to identify patterns of conditions that predict positive outcomes. A '**Place**', for the purposes of this evaluation, is defined as an individual **local authority area** in which a Place-based systemic approach to physical activity is being implemented. While specific areas may be targeted within a borough or city, we are looking at the system conditions across the local authority area as a whole.

A key purpose of the CCA surveys is to help to develop our understandings of:

- the contexts in which Place-based systemic approaches are operating, including the resources available and how they are used (Resources survey)
- how the work undertaken as part of the approach influences and changes those contexts (System Maturity survey)

These will be used alongside relevant published data, such as demographics, deprivation levels etc. to create a unique profile of conditions in each Place. By taking part in the CCA work, you enable us to identify patterns, or configurations, which lead to more effective Place-based working and ultimately to longer-term outcomes (see [CCA explainer](#)).

Purpose of the survey

The purpose of the Resources survey for NELP is to help to develop our understandings of what resources are available within a Place and how they are used. This includes not only financial resources but also the people, their knowledge and skills, policy and organisational contexts.

Responding to the survey

We ask for a nominated lead (such as programme manager) in each Place (defined as a local authority area) to submit a single response to the Resources survey. They may need to draw on colleagues to provide specific information, and where the response requires a more subjective assessment this should represent the views of a range of people engaged with as part of the process, as far as possible. In some cases, a final judgement call may be required where there are differing opinions. The survey questions are attached at appendix 1 for reference.

Note: This survey is about the resources available and utilised to implement a PBSA to Physical Activity inequalities. This includes financial contributions as well as in-kind contributions, such as people's time and expertise, and access to spaces or equipment. We are looking for your best estimates of the level of funding and other resources, not precise budget figures or staff hours.

How to complete the survey

NELP will provide a unique link, which will be sent to the lead contact for each Place, enabling them to complete the online survey on behalf of the partnership. Responses are recorded as you progress through the survey, so if you are not completing it in one session, you can use the original unique survey link provided to return to the partially completed survey, from any machine. The Place lead may choose to share the link to enable others to contribute to completion, but it is **important to note** that **anyone with the link will be able to see and edit all responses**. Links must not be forwarded to other place partnerships. Once a response has been submitted to the final question, further changes will not be possible using the original link. The NELP team can provide a new link to enable changes if needed, up until the deadline. If you have any problems or questions, please contact the team by email: NELP@shu.ac.uk. **The deadline for submitting your responses is 15th October 2025.**

What happens to our data?

In submitting the survey response, you will be asked to confirm your consent for this data to be shared with the organisations which comprise the NELP for its evaluation purposes and with Sport England for management information and development of learning support. Places are free to share the information submitted as they see appropriate, in keeping with requirements for data protection and confidentiality.

The NELP team may contact you if we need to clarify any of your responses, and following this, the data will be used in our CCA process in a binary form. This will be used along with your System Maturity survey and published data on contextual indicators, in our configurational comparative analysis. See the [Evaluating Complexity website](#), for more information.

Some of the patterns identified will be shared with Place and SE representatives in Sense-making workshops early in 2026, when we will explore how these relate to local experiences of place-based systemic working and why we might be finding such patterns. The findings of the analysis, including the sense-making workshops, will be made publicly available in learning seminars, summary report form and in academic research papers.

Please contact NELP@shu.ac.uk if you have any questions, problems or concerns.

Appendix 1: Resources survey questions

Introduction and consent statement

Thank you for participating in the NELP CCA evaluation work. This Resources survey is one of two surveys to be completed by Place Partnerships which wish to be included in the 2025 CCA dataset, the other one being the System maturity Matrix survey. This survey administered by Sheffield Hallam University on behalf of the Sport England National Evaluation and Learning Partnership. Please read and refer to the CCA Survey Guidance before completing this survey. The **responses submitted in this survey will be shared with Sport England** in accordance with our data sharing agreement, and may be used for in their own analysis and information management systems.

Data protection and confidentiality

GDPR - Sheffield Hallam University is administering the survey and has implemented a number of measures to comply with GDPR. To access a copy of the Privacy Notice for research participants please [click here](#). Please see the Participant Information document for explanation of the limits of confidentiality in this study and how we will use your data. If you have any questions regarding the survey or GDPR please contact the team at NELP@shu.ac.uk.

Completing the survey

For the purposes of this survey, 'Place' is used to refer to the whole of a local authority area, in which a Place-based systemic approach to physical activity is being implemented.

Your responses are recorded as you progress through the survey, and if you are not completing it in one session, please use the original unique survey link provided to you to return to the partially completed survey. You may if you choose, share the link to enable others to contribute to completion, but note that anyone with the link will be able to see and edit all responses. Once you have submitted a response to the final question, you will not be able to make further changes, but if you contact us, we can provide a new link to enable changes, until the deadline. The deadline for submitting your responses is 15th October 2025.

Please check the boxes below to confirm your consent to take part in the survey then press the arrow on the bottom right of the screen to continue.

1. Contact details (Person responsible and accountable for submitted responses, including securing and confirming consent to share the information provided with the NELP team)

- Name
- Organisation
- Role
- Place partnership
- Email address
- Contact phone number

Alternative contact (if primary contact is unavailable):

- Name
- Organisation
- Role
- Email address
- Contact phone number

- 1) For how long has a place-based systemic approach (PBSA) been adopted to address physical activity in your Local Authority area? Please indicate the year in which such an approach was first adopted. [drop-down box]
- 2) Local government reorganisation
 - a) Is the Place currently (or within in the previous financial year) involved in local government reorganisation processes? (e.g. new combined or unitary authority) [tick box] Yes/no/ not sure (please explain) [text box]
- 3) How widely are Place-based systemic approaches being adopted in policies and practice within the Place, beyond the Physical Activity (PA) field?
 - a) Solely in relation to physical activity inequalities
 - b) Some adoption of PBSA in particular fields/work areas
 - c) Widespread adoption of PBSA to address complex issues within the Place (e.g. inequalities, poverty, population health & wellbeing, climate change etc.)
- 4) Please tell us about all substantial funding streams available to the partnership that are dedicated to your whole system, place-based systems work to address physical activity/inactivity, including estimated value of in-kind support. **Please do not include** ongoing revenue costs for traditional PA delivery, such as leisure centre provision, or commissioned evaluation costs.
 - a) In current year 2025-26
 - b) Average over the five years to March 2025.

Options for each sub-question: £0-99k; £100-199k; £200-299k; £300-399k; £400-499k; £500-599k; £600-699k; £700-799k; £800-899k; £900-999k; £1.00M-1.49M; £1.50M -1.99M; £2M+

If you are able to provide a more precise figure, please enter it here [box]

- from Sport England (including active partnership or other regional support)
 - from 'internal' partnership agencies within the local authority boundary - e.g. Local Authority, leisure trust, local hospital trust, CCG
 - From other funders, e.g., charities, research councils, government departments or external agencies
- c) Please indicate how much, if any, of the additional funding over the last five years (figures you provided above) was conditional or dependent on the availability of the SE funding, for example where there are matched-funding requirements (i.e. the other funding would not have been available if SE funding was not committed to the same initiative). Please provide an approximate figure
- Internal funding sources (partner organisations within LA area)
 - External funding sources (regional/national organisations/programmes)
- 5) **Funding decision-making processes:**
 - i. How are funding decisions made within the Place Partnership? [tick one box]
 - One or more accountable organisation(s) making decisions on how the funding they control is used (possibly consulting others to inform such decisions)
 - Delegated or collaborative processes, in which decision-making is shared with other organisations (see definitions below)

Note:

- (1) Consultation may include where organisations may advise, e.g. in assessing funding bids, but the final decision remains with the budget holder(s)
- (2) Delegated decision make would be where some of the budget available is delegated by the accountable organisation(s) to one or more other organisation(s) to distribute.
- (3) Collaborative decision making means overall control of the budget is decided by a consensus or majority, including pooled budgets.)

b) **VCFSE role in funding decisions:** Are any VCFSE organisations (**not** including commissioned service providers, and your Active Partnership) and/or people with lived experience involved in decision-making? Please indicate below which best describes their role(s): [tick one box]:

- (1) Shared role - collaborative or delegated decision maker
- (2) Consulted in decision making
- (3) No involvement in decision-making

6) Please provide an estimate in % terms, of how the Sport England and any additional funding (referenced earlier) for PBSW, has been invested, since the beginning of the place-based systems work, **not including evaluation costs**.

- i. Projects delivering activities in the local area (including staff costs dedicated to these projects)
- ii. Capacity (This means strategic investment, which could include policy, strategy and practice development, communications, overall programme management, staff time dedicated to building relationships and connecting partners)
- iii. Capital: LA or partner agency owned/controlled facilities and infrastructure to enable PA (e.g. leisure facilities, walking and cycling infrastructure)
- iv. Capital: Community owned/controlled facilities or resources
- v. Other/unsure how to classify (please specify) [box]

7) How many full-time equivalent roles (employees or volunteers) are currently working specifically on **place based systemic approaches to tackle physical activity inequalities** and in which organisations are they based? This relates to the investment described in q2 b and may include existing staff allocated to the PBSA. Please provide an estimate if precise time contributions are not readily available.

Organisation	Number of fte
Local Authority	
University/Research Centre	
Active Partnership	
Community Leisure Trust, or equivalent	
VCFSE organisations	
NHS	
Other (please specify) [text box]	
Total	[autosum]

8) Spatial level of the place-based approach to physical activity.

a) At what spatial level is the place-based approach focused within your authority/borough/city?
[tick one box]

- i. Across the whole 'place' (LA area)
- ii. Whole place (LA area) with a focus on priority areas.
- ii. Focused on priority areas only

9) Local capacity and capability for implementing a place-based systemic approach

a) To what extent do you feel that do you have sufficient capacity (people and time) within the Place dedicated to delivery of a PBSA to PA inequalities? Not at all/limited/sufficient [tick box]

b) To what extent do you feel the people who are involved in this work have the understanding, motivation and values needed to work in a Place-based systemic way?

- i) Not at all
- ii) In very limited numbers
- iii) Emerging or growing understanding and buy-in
- iv) Majority of people are onboard
- v) Very widely or completely

10) Any further information or comments

Please provide comments, or link to any further information and evidence in this section.

OPEN TEXT BOX