

BRIEFING NOTE



MARCH 2026

www.evaluatingcomplexity.org



Photo courtesy of World Obesity Federation



Goal

Sport England's investment aims to increase physical activity, reduce inactivity, narrow inequalities, and improve experiences for children and young people through place-based, systemic approaches.



Approach

Local actors focus on influencing conditions they can control – such as safe spaces, inclusive opportunities, and community leadership – while acknowledging wider national and personal factors.

Short-term changes (for example, stronger partnerships, inclusive governance) create enabling conditions for long-term impact.



Evaluation

Progress is assessed through evidence of plausible contribution rather than direct attribution, using local and national data.

Early signs include improved prioritisation of physical activity, more inclusive decision-making, and investment in enabling environments.