ACTION ONE

Engaging the right people

Make sure the right people with the time, knowledge, expertise, qualifications and experience (including welfare) are involved in the process. Include those that have the ability/standing to influence the wider club or educational programme.

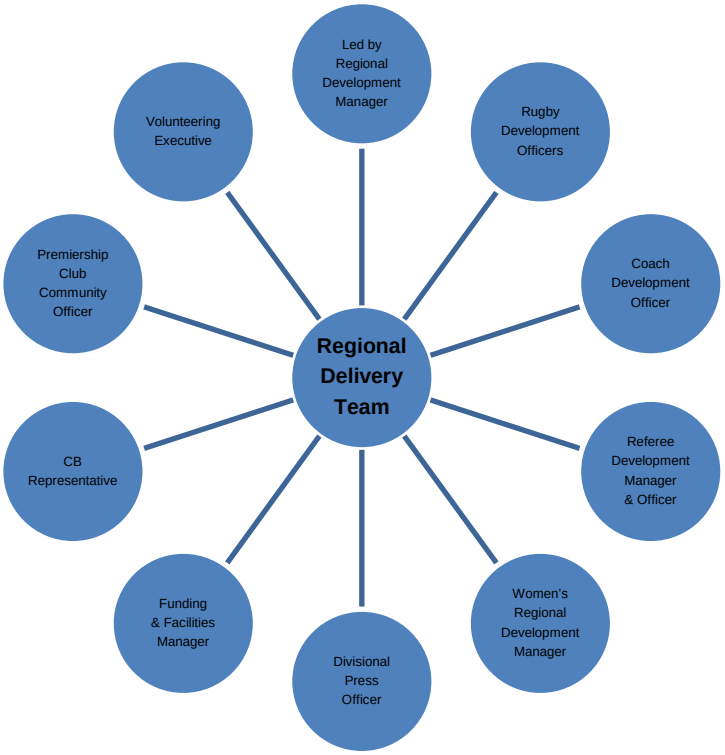
Involve your local RFU Rugby Development Officer / Community Rugby Coach and School Sports Partnership Officers / HE/FE Sports Officers /Partnership Development Managers / Competition Managers to name just a few – they are all here to help (see full list below).

It is essential to have experienced teachers, coaches, assistants and volunteers who are qualified to work with young people and are keen to improve their expertise. People involved in club links need to be committed, enthusiastic and act as positive role models. They should nurture young people's determination and desire to achieve by showing confidence in their ability to make progress. They should value young people by listening to their views and celebrating their successes. Everyone involved in working with young people as part of a club link should be CRB checked.

All of the following can play a vital role in helping to set up and maintain effective club links.

The RFU

The RFU provides support for the development and growth of the Community game through 8 Regional Delivery Teams (RDT). The RDT works to deliver to apply the national strategic framework to the needs of the game locally.



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The RDT contains:
Regional Rugby Development Manager (RRDM) who leads strategic, joined-up delivery of the Team across the Region.

Rugby Development Officers (RDO) - they are the first point of contact to support rugby development and your club link focusing centrally on Club Development and managing the Community Rugby Coaches (CRC).

Rugby Union Student Liaison Officer (RUSLO) - The field based team for the student game are the RUSLO's who work in conjunction with the RDOs. In HE and FE the RUSLO's aim to support and develop the universities and colleges through planning, competitions, coaching, refereeing, administration and leadership.

Community Rugby Coaches (CRC) coach in Schools, Colleges & Universities & Clubs to sustain & grow the game of Rugby Union. For the CRC team in your area please contact your local RDO.

They are joined by Specialist Staff that work across the region to support specific projects and work areas

- Coach Development Officer (CDO)
- Referee Development Manager & Officer (RefDM & RefDO)
- Volunteering Executive (VE)
- Funding & Facilities Manager (FFM)
- RFUW Development Manager (WRDM)

All these Officers work with a range of key partners such as: Constituent Bodies, Premier Rugby Community Departments, Regional Academies, Sport England Officers, County Sports Partnerships, School Sports Partnerships & Local Authorities - in order to support the Clubs & educational establishments in their area.

Clubs
All clubs should have a representative who works with either their school sport partnership, or school to make club links. If clubs contact schools directly, they should let their sports partnership or RFU - through the RDO/RUSLO network - know what they are doing.

School Sport Partnerships
School Sport Partnerships are families of schools that received additional funding from the Government to come together to enhance sports opportunities for all.
School sport partnerships should keep in touch with their local clubs to explore opportunities to work together. Partnership development managers (PDMs) work with school sport coordinators (SSCos) and primary link teachers (PLTs) to set up links. They may invite clubs to contribute to school sport sessions or to Step into Sport leadership work.

County Sports Partnerships (CSP's)
Each CSP is a partnership of different agencies committed to providing a high quality single system to help people to access and benefit from sport.

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The county sports partnership is involved in club development, is in contact with PDMs and also works with sport specific development groups. As a result, it can play a pivotal role in putting clubs in touch with PDMs and facilitating links through Step into Sport and other club development.

Local Authority sport development units help to establish links by putting PDMs in touch with clubs and through the local sport specific development group.

Further Education Sports Co-ordinator (FESCo)
This post focuses on developing sporting provision and opportunities for 16-19 year olds. The role is to enhance and develop activities related to participation in sport working closely with the network of School Sport Partnerships (SSPs).
There is specific responsibility for establishing effective links with schools, sports clubs and other local providers to increase participation in competition, leadership, volunteering and recreational sport and physical activity.

Competition Managers (CM's)
The Competition Manager infrastructure is currently being implemented, by January 2009 every county area will have a team of Competition Managers in place. Competition Managers are an integral part of the network in raising the quality and quantity of competitive opportunities for all young people in line with the RFU Competition Framework. Increasing the number of young people involved in competitive sport is a key element of the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People. CM's strive to deliver this through annual targets for growth in participation in competition which will offer all 5-16 year olds five hours of sport per week, and three hours for 16-19 year olds.