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# State of Dorset Leisure and Culture



Participation in arts and culture makes communities feel safer and stronger, adds to health and wellbeing and reduces social isolation<sup>1</sup>, but funding cuts are a significant threat to culture and leisure activities, particularly in the third sector.

Cultural and recreational activities can help people access the natural environment through healthy lifestyles. Sport is evidenced to result in significant savings to health costs and yet there are concerns that many of Dorset's young people are physically inactive.

Big Numbers Box

**£394m**

Value of creative industries to the Dorset LEP area

The value of sports to health every year in Dorset

**£148m**

**77%**

**65%** People aged 14+ who do not regularly participate in

People who agree that culture makes Dorset a better place to live

**£8.4m**

The cost of physical inactivity in Dorset

**£118m**

The value of sport to Dorset

## Box 1: Health and well-being value

- Arts and cultural intervention can have a positive impact on specific health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's and depression<sup>1</sup>.
- Levels of wellbeing are generally reported to be higher amongst those with higher arts and culture engagement<sup>1</sup>.
- Students who study art subjects are more employable and more likely to stay in employment than graduates from other disciplines<sup>1</sup> and children from low income families who take part in arts at school are three times more likely to get a degree<sup>1</sup>.
- Overall 77% of people surveyed agree that access to cultural activities helps to make Dorset a better place to live and that engagement in cultural activities contributes to an improved quality of life<sup>2</sup>.

% people who feel that access to cultural activities leads to a better quality of life



### Sources

1 Create, Arts Council England, December 2015

2 Citizens Panel April 2009 Survey, Dorset County Council

## Box 2: Economic Value

- 65% of Dorset's 14yrs+ population does not regularly participate in sport. The **cost of physical inactivity** is over £8.4 million and rising in Dorset<sup>3</sup>.
- The total **direct economic value of sport** to Dorset is £118.1 million per annum<sup>3</sup>.
- The value of **sport volunteering** is £55.5 million per annum in Dorset<sup>3</sup>.
- The value of **sport for savings to health** is £147.8 million per annum in Dorset<sup>3</sup>.
- The value of **Creative Industries** is about £394.3 million per annum in the Dorset LEP area. GVA of the Creative Industries increased by 8.9 per cent between 2013 and 2014 in the UK<sup>4</sup>.
- The **Creative Economy** has grown by a quarter since 2011, at a rate faster than the whole of the UK economy, which grew 12.1 per cent<sup>5</sup>.



## Why does it matter:

Culture and leisure make a positive contribution to the Dorset economy, but probably have an even more significant effect on the health and wellbeing of residents - and this has the potential to add further value to the economy by increasing productivity.

Culture and leisure are particularly significant in Dorset for the way they provide a range of ways to access and enjoy the natural environment - with personal wellbeing further enhanced through access to green space. Culture and leisure are also top areas of activity for the third sector in Dorset.



## Sources

3 Sport England Local Sport Profile, 2015/16

4 aGVA dataset from Annual Business Survey 2012, ONS with FTE estimates by Dorset County Council

5 Creative Industries Economic Estimates, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2015