

Gloucestershire Disability Sport Newsletter

Introduction

In this issue:

- Gloucestershire Activity Inclusion Network (GAIN)
- Playground to Podium
- Inclusive Clubs
- Coaches and Volunteers Make the Difference
- Breaking Down Barriers to Access Sport and Physical Activity
- Inclusion Community Sports Coach
- Children in Need Dance in Education and Outreach Programme

In recent years Gloucestershire has created a strong reputation for developing sport and physical activity opportunities for the local community. In January 2007 Active Gloucestershire, in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, further expanded its commitment to the community by creating the role of Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer for Disabled People. This role is responsible for developing, co-ordinating and promoting a programme of high quality sport and physical activity opportunities for disabled people across Gloucestershire.

Through support from the Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer for Disabled People existing projects and clubs such as those run by the Gloucestershire Football Association (GFA), Gloucestershire Dance, Activity Club for Everyone (ACE) and the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) have been brought together, along with other new and existing clubs and projects, to create a fully structured and co-ordinated development programme. This includes the Special Educational Needs Physical Education Forum (SEN PE Forum) and the recently launched Gloucestershire Activity Inclusion Network (GAIN).

This programme has had a very successful beginning thanks to the cooperation and enthusiasm of many partners including Gloucestershire County Council, District Councils, School Sport Partnerships (SSPs), schools, community groups and local clubs. With this early success and with many exciting opportunities ahead, including those brought about by the upcoming London 2012 Paralympic Games, the future looks exciting.

To ensure all partners are kept up to date with future developments several information mechanisms are in place for easy access. Through Active Gloucestershire's website and monthly newsletter, local forums and networks and the NEW Gloucestershire Disability Sport Newsletter we will be able to communicate important news, events and developments from the disability sport and physical activity programme.

If you would like to contribute to an article for future editions of the Disability Sport Newsletter, please contact Anne Andersen, Active Gloucestershire, Tel: 01242 715201 or e-mail aandersen@glos.ac.uk.



Some photos from the Paralympic Handover Tennis Event at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre on Wednesday 17th September.

Gloucestershire Activity Inclusion Network (GAIN)

GAIN is a newly established network which aims to provide a strong voice to promote sport and physical activity opportunities for disabled people in Gloucestershire. GAIN includes representatives from clubs, voluntary organisations, local authorities, parents, athletes, schools, further education, the University of Gloucestershire and National Governing Bodies (NGBs). All have a common and keen interest in the development of disability sport and physical activity in the County.

It is imperative that disabled people can choose from and have access to a variety of sporting and physical activity opportunities. These could include attending a local leisure centre based activity class or joining a team at a local sports club. Local and accessible opportunity should be a reality no matter where people live in the county. Although ambitious, GAIN believes that this goal can be achieved as long as partners are committed to work towards it. By providing a countywide network GAIN will ensure that all key partners have a say in the direction of such developments.

To ensure that an effective and sustainable network is established a target has been set to recruit a management committee and produce a long-term development plan agreed by all partners within the next six months. GAIN will meet three to four times a year and welcomes new partners who feel they can help to achieve its aim.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Anne Andersen, Active Gloucestershire, Tel: 01242 715201 or e-mail aandersen@glos.ac.uk.

Playground to Podium

We have very exciting times ahead of us with the next Paralympic Games taking place in London in 2012. We now have a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a positive impact on disability sport and physical activity.

Sport England, the Youth Sports Trust and UK Sport have launched a three year programme to increase the number of disabled children and adults taking part in competitive sport. The national programme will start in September 2008 and we are pleased to announce that all five Gloucestershire SSPs have been selected to be part of the programme.

The programme aims to increase opportunities for disabled children (8-16 years) with a physical, sensory or severe learning disability to access multi-skills and multi-sports after-school clubs. For 12 to 16 year olds there is an additional aim to increase access to multi-sports and / or aquatic talent identification opportunities across the county (please see the calendar of events for dates). This will allow talented children to be identified systematically and then supported to further develop and, ultimately, pursue their talent through the elite Paralympic sport system perhaps even becoming performers in 2012 or 2016. In order to successfully implement this programme appropriate training opportunities will be provided for school staff and volunteers and these will enable them to organise and run multi-skill inclusion clubs and to identify talent effectively in young disabled people.

During spring 2008 Active Gloucestershire and the SSPs teamed up to run some pilot talent identification days. These were very successful. 120 children attended with 40 being selected to continue onto the first countywide programme. Their first experience was the Paralympic Handover Event held at Leisure @ Cheltenham on the 17th September when they were given the opportunity to try out Paralympic sports and to meet and talk with former Paralympians. The event was enjoyed by all and plans to extend the programme to involve adults are under active consideration.

Inclusive Clubs

Recently more mainstream sports clubs have started to include disabled members with great success and we hope to see even more clubs open their doors in the future. In support of this the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) has developed an inclusion checklist which can assist clubs aiming to be more inclusive. This information is available on www.efds.net.

One of GAIN's aims is to be able to help these clubs by sharing experience, ideas and good practice and Active Gloucestershire has developed a questionnaire to support clubs who have disabled members. 40 clubs have completed this already and it has enabled Active Gloucestershire to provide the appropriate support required. The questionnaire can be found at www.activegloucestershire.org/disability_sport.

Coaches and Volunteers Make the Difference

Without dedicated coaches and volunteers we would not be able to provide high quality sport and physical activity opportunities. A large number of coaches and volunteers are already making a difference but we still need to encourage more coaches and volunteers to get involved.

To support this goal a more comprehensive coach education programme will be rolled out across the county during 2008 / 2009. Both sports specific and disability awareness courses will be accessible and Active Gloucestershire has received funding which can help to meet up to 66% of the cost of specific coaching courses. Though crucial this funding is limited. However, if we can generate a wide interest and significant take up from Gloucestershire organisations we can make a strong case for further funding in the future. For further information contact **Anne Andersen 01242 715201**

During last year several students from FE colleges and the University of Gloucestershire volunteered at the many sports events for disabled children across the county. Without this support we could simply not provide these opportunities and we look forward to welcoming even more students interested in supporting this year's programme.

It is also important to encourage disabled people to get involved in volunteering and coaching and we are delighted with the progress of a joint programme established last year between Active Gloucestershire and the National Star College. Several students have helped out at events; some have been in work experience within disability sport and some have taken up committee and coaching roles within local clubs. We hope this is just the start and that students from the Star College and other educational institutions star will volunteer at future events and / or develop an interest in coaching or officiating.

Breaking Down Barriers to Access Sport and Physical Activity

This new programme aims to overcome some of the barriers that disabled children face when wishing to take part in sport and physical activity. With support from Gloucestershire County Council's Pathfinder Team and funding from Sport England's Extended Activity (Sport Unlimited) initiative we are now able to run a project where children can access support for transport, care, equipment or specialist coaches in order to take part in a 10 week programme.

The programme started in September initially in the Forest Of Dean and Cheltenham. Participants can choose which sports they want to take part in during the 10 weeks and could follow the same activity for ten weeks or experience 10 different activities during the period and initially we aim to support 25 children and young people during the first year.

Children who would like to be part of the programme should contact Anne Andersen on 01242 715201. If the initial project is successful then we hope extend to be able to extend it to the other districts of the county.

Inclusion Community Sports Coach

Martin Lees joined Active Gloucestershire in January 2008 as the first Inclusion Community Sports Coach - a post that is jointly funded by Active Gloucestershire and the University of Gloucestershire. Martin has had great success with coaching sessions within special and mainstream schools as well as youth centre's and holiday play schemes and has also supported mainstream schools to establish lunchtime clubs for disabled pupils by training 6th form students, Teaching Assistant's and dinner lady's. He can also provide sessions in schools to assist with inclusive PE and identifying talented young people.

During the last six months he worked with SSP's to develop multi-sports talent identification days and established the first County Disability Athletics Competition. For the next six months he will be concentrating on helping to establish inclusive multi-sports clubs for children and adults in Gloucester and Cheltenham and will be working with day-centre's and adult social clubs to run taster sessions whilst still continuing to support schools. Any organisation can book Martin to support their work by contacting Anne Andersen on 01242 715201.

Children in Need Dance in Education and Outreach Programme

Gloucestershire Dance have announced their Autumn Programme. From September to December the Children In Need team will be working alongside **The Milestone Special School** to deliver a continual programme of activity to KS2 and KS4 students. This is being supported through the Gloucester School Sports Partnership. Alongside this the After School Dance Club will continue to run at **Alderman Knight School** and, as we grow further, we will have a dance and disability facilitator delivering on behalf of Children In Need at **The Heart of the Forest Community Special School** at after school dance sessions on Wednesdays.



During our first year we had a fantastic total of **1254** attendances from children and young people with disabilities at our sessions and we would like to do even better this year. We still have some availability to run sessions in your school and will be running some activities during October Half Term so if you wish to be put on our mailing list then please get in touch.

If you are interested in any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact Louise Portlock on 01452 550 431 or email louise@gloucestershiredance.org.uk

Sport and Physical Activity Opportunities for Disabled People in Gloucestershire

There are already many sport and physical activity opportunities for Disabled People in Gloucestershire. The following listing provides key contacts for some of these clubs and organisations. For clubs to be included on this list in the future please contact the aandersen@glos.ac.uk with appropriate details. This club list will also be carried on the Active Gloucestershire website. www.activegloucestershire.org

CLUB / ORGAISATION	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT NUMBER
Cotswold District	Scott Bury, Youth Sports Development Officer	01285 623447
Cheltenham Borough Council	Chris Peach, Sport Development Officer	01242 264324
Sport and physical activity for disabled people is one of the main focus areas within the Cheltenham Community Sport and Physical Activity Networks project. A comprehensive disability sports programme is developing across Cheltenham with current efforts concentrating on establishing a multi-sports club and swimming and football opportunities.		
Gloucester City District	Jon Edmunds, Sports Development Officer	01452 396 659
Several sport and physical activity opportunities are already established in Gloucester such as Trampolining, Wheelchair Basketball and Tennis. Future developments will focus on establishing Multi-sports clubs for juniors and adults and on Swimming.		
Stroud District	Hannah Drew, Community Disability Development Officer	01453 754508
Sport and physical activity for disabled people is one of the main focus areas within Stroud District. Several opportunities are established already including the Activity Club for Everyone (ACE) which offers a broad list of opportunities for children and adults. Future development will focus on establishing more Aquatic and Trampolining opportunities.		
Forest of Dean	Tess Tremlett, Physical Activity Coordinator	01684 272 092
Sport and physical activity for disabled people is a focus within the Forest of Dean Community Sport and Physical Activity Network project. A comprehensive disability sports programme is developing across the Forest with current efforts concentrating on establishing a junior Multi-sports club, Inclusive fitness opportunities and Football opportunities		
Tewkesbury	Neil Meynell, Sports Development Officer	01684 272 092
Developing a plan of inclusive sports and physical activity opportunities with the aim of enhancing the range and quality of future opportunities is the main focus at the moment. If you wish to contribute please get in touch with Neil Meynell		

CLUB / ORGANISATION	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT NUMBER
Athletics		
Gloucester Athletics Club	Bob Purcell	01452 417990
Gloucester Athletics club offers inclusive Athletics sessions and currently has several members with visual impairment.		
Basketball		
Blazers Basketball Club	Geoff Steer	01452 533 820
The club run a weekly wheelchair basketball session suitable for wheelchair users and people with an ambulant physical impairment. The club is based at Gloucestershire College.		
Boccia		
Cotswold Crusaders	Anne Andersen	01242 715201
Venue: National Star College Day: Thursday Time: 7- 8.30pm The club meets every fortnight. Boccia is a Paralympic sport and is similar to indoor bowls. Players try to get their boccia balls closer to the jack ball than the other player or team. Players can roll, throw, or kick the ball. Assistive devices such as ramps and head attachments can also be used if players are unable to propel the ball sufficiently without them.		
Dance		
Gloucestershire Dance	Louise Portlock	01452 550 431
A variety of dance classes, clubs, training and professional development for disabled children young people and adults in Gloucestershire.		
Football		
Gloucestershire Football Association	Paul Arnold	01242 715192
Paul Arnold is the Disability Football Development Officer for GFA. A comprehensive football programme (including schools, colleges and community programmes) is available within Gloucestershire.		
Chariots Wheelchair Football Club	Chris Counsell	07747 014910
Chariots wheelchair football is a new club and runs a weekly session every Saturday from 11-12 in Leisure@ Cheltenham. The club caters for wheelchair users aged 6 – 16.		
Mitcheldean Junior Football Club	Rob Coopey	01594 544890
This is a mainstream club that have recently set up football weekly session for disabled children.		
Cheltenham Town	Mike Cook	01242 518630
Cheltenham Town have established a very successful football team for young people and adults aged 16+ and a team takes part in the ability counts league. The clubs now intends to develop a junior football team.		
Hockey		
TACT Hip Hockey	Sophie Whittaker and Fiona Maffey	07921 745077
Tact Hip Hockey is a well established programme in Gloucestershire providing Zone -hockey sessions for adults with a learning disability. They currently provide sessions in Gloucester, Forest Of Dean and Stroud. They also provide sessions within special schools and will be part of the junior and senior multi-sports clubs within the county.		
Rugby		
Gloucester Rugby Club	Gary Little and Carol Reynolds	01452 872277
Gloucester Rugby club have teamed up with Tact UK Ltd to establish Tag rugby sessions for junior and adults with a learning disability.		

CLUB / ORGANISATION	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT NUMBER																		
Trampolining																				
Oxstalls Springers Trampolining Club	Marie Baker	07929 172855																		
Oxstalls Springers is a mainstream club that provides inclusive and specialised sessions for disabled children. They run 2 weekly sessions for disabled children in GL1, Gloucester. During the day they also provide sessions for schools, care homes and daycentres as well as one to one sessions.																				
Multi-Sport Clubs																				
Cheltenham Inclusive Junior Multi - sports club	Chris Peach	01242 264324																		
Venue: Leisure@Cheltenham Day: Saturday 10am – 11am A club for disabled children and their siblings and friends age 6 – 16. The participants can try out several sports such as athletics, games, cricket, hockey, basketball and boccia.																				
Cheltenham Adult Multi-Sports Club	Chris Peach	01242 246324																		
A club will start shortly on Saturdays, please contact us to book a space																				
Gloucester Junior Multi-Sports Club	Jon Edmunds	01452 396659																		
Venue: GL1 Day: Tuesday Time: 5.30 – 6.30pm A club for disabled children and their siblings and friends age 6 – 16. The participants can try out several sports such as athletics, games, cricket, hockey, basketball and boccia.																				
Gloucester Adult Multi-Sports Club	Jon Edmunds	01452 396659																		
A multi-sports club will start shortly in GL1 Gloucester for more info																				
Forest Pulse	Pam Jones	01594 826357																		
Forest Pulse run a weekly multi-sport session at Five Acres Leisure Centre. The participants can try out several sports such as athletics, games, cricket, hockey, basketball and boccia.																				
ACE	Hannah Drew	01453 754508																		
<p>ACE is aimed at and delivered for the benefit of children, young people and adults with physical, sensory and learning disabilities and their families in the Stroud District. ACE offers sessions which cater for all impairment groups and promotes inclusion for all in a variety of sport, physical activity, dance and play opportunities. All activities are delivered by fully trained staff and volunteers who provide a fully inclusive environment for children, young people and adults to participate in. ACE activities include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi Sport Sessions • Sensory Movement • Wheelchair Football • Junior Football • Adult Football • Creative Dance • X-Biking • Shokk Wave Gym • Inclusive Fitness Initiative Gym • Circuits • Aerobics • Swimming • Sports Ability Festival 																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Sessions run on the following days:-</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>10.30 -11.30</td> <td>Sensory Movement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>4.30 - 5.30</td> <td>ACE multi sport</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>4.30 - 5.30</td> <td>ACE mutli sport</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>1.30 - 3.00</td> <td>IFI gym buddy session</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>5.15 - 6.15</td> <td>Shokk Wave Gym</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Sessions run on the following days:-			Monday	10.30 -11.30	Sensory Movement	Tuesday	4.30 - 5.30	ACE multi sport	Wednesday	4.30 - 5.30	ACE mutli sport	Thursday	1.30 - 3.00	IFI gym buddy session	Thursday	5.15 - 6.15	Shokk Wave Gym
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Sporting Minds	Liz Sim	01242 236393																		
Sporting minds is a multi-skills clubs for children with specific learning difficulty, dyspraxia and moderate learning difficulty. The club focuses on team games, fun physio exercises and movement ABC's.																				

CLUB / ORGAINISATION	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT NUMBER
Outdoor opportunities		
South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre	Simon Hollaway	01285 860388
The centre offers sessions in canoeing and kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, snorkelling, teambuilding and orienteering for all.		
Swimming		
SPLASH	Julie Shepherd	01452 396666
GL1 offers 1 to 1 sessions and an inclusive and disability specific learn to swim programme for disabled children. After school sessions for disabled children who can swim 25m have just been established.		
Leisure @ Cheltenham	Anne Andersen	01242 715201
Leisure @ Cheltenham runs a session for disabled people on Saturdays from 11-12. Carer/parents get free entry. If demand is there the centre hopes to set up a monthly session for disabled young children interested in competitive swimming.		
Tennis		
Oxstalls Tennis Centre Ability / Wheelchair Coaching	Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre	01452 396969
These sessions are designed for any wheelchair user to play tennis. The sessions cater for any player from the total beginner to more advanced participants and welcome both children and adults. All equipment is provided including sports wheelchairs. (6 sports wheelchairs available at the centre). Email: Tennis@gloucester.gov.uk Website: www.gloucester.gov.uk/tennis		

New Disability Sport Home Page

A new home page has been set up on the Active Gloucestershire website for information on inclusion in clubs and schools, events, and ways of getting into disability sport.

The development of sport and physical activity for disabled people is an inclusive part of Active Gloucestershire. We are working in partnership with schools, voluntary organisations, districts etc to develop opportunities for disabled people to start, stay and succeed in sport. Whether you are looking to try a new sport or to take part in competitions for fun or achievement, Active Gloucestershire should be able to find a sport and physical activity for you.

Creating any new opportunities would not be possible without volunteers and coaches. Through Active Gloucestershire you can access awareness courses/ coach education and many other volunteer opportunities.

For further information please contact:



Anne-Dorte Andersen, Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer for Disabled People
Tel: 01242 715201
Mobile: 07944 777892
Email: aandersen@glos.ac.uk



Martin Lees, Inclusion Community Sports Coach
Tel: 01242 715370
Mobile: 07818 076421
Email: mlees@glos.ac.uk

Visit the new Disability Sport website at www.activegloucestershire.org

Gloucestershire Schools Disability Sports Events 2008/2009

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
October	24th October	Schools Boccia Tournament. At Stratford Park Leisure Centre	Anne Andersen 01242 715201
November			
December			
January 09	16th January	Multi Sports Talent Identification Day. Gloucester and Forest of Dean	Anne Andersen 01242 715201
	21st January	Multi Sports Talent Identification Day. Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and North Cotswold	Anne Andersen 01242 715201
February	4th February	Multi Sports Talent Identification Day.	Anne Andersen 01242 715201
March	9th or 16th March	GFA Football Tournament for Special Schools	Paul Arnold 01242 715192
	18th March	Gloucester SSP Swimming Gala.	Gloucester SSP 01452 384399
	30th March	Competitive Swimming Gala	Anne Andersen 01242 715201
April			
May	7th May	Athletics Event. Cheltenham	Will Parker 07969 172202
		GFA Football Finals	Paul Arnold 01242 715192
		Stroud Sports Ability Festival	Hannah Drew 01453 754508
June	9th June	Tennis Festivals for Specials	Helen Stevens 01452 396969
	16th June	Tennis Festival for SEN in Mainstream	Helen Stevens 01452 396969
July		Sports Ability Festival for Special Schools	Hannah Wilson 01452 384399

More events will be added to this calendar throughout the year and will be updated regularly on the Disability Sport Channel of the Active Gloucestershire website.

Visit www.activegloucestershire.org/disabilitysport/ to find out more.