

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills, and
Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 November 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and
Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community and Sport

SUBJECT: Sport and Recreation Team

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with an annual report for the period 2016/17 on the Council's Sport and Recreation Service.
- 1.2 To receive a presentation from the Leisure Centres Manager, Community and Environment.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The report be noted**
- ii) That the board notes the presentation and welcomes the progress being made in Leisure Centres towards encouraging and supporting residents to be Active**
- iii) Members comment on the service delivery**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The report demonstrates a year where the Sport and Recreation Team has worked in partnership with a range of stakeholders and has made considerable progress, impact and achievements across the borough. It is structured to reflect the priorities set out within the Halton Sports Strategy and illustrates how sport has and continues to enrich the lives of people living and working in Halton. Activities are used as an essential component in supporting and developing the infrastructure of the community and to improve the quality of life both physically and mentally.
- 3.2 The service actively works with partner organisations, such as, Halton Sports Partnership, in order to facilitate development through a better understanding of the issues and a sharing of resources to achieve success. Without the contribution from our partners much of the work highlighted within this report would not have been possible.

4.0 **SPORT AND RECREATION TEAM**

4.1 The team has two distinct areas:

- Management of the Councils 3 Leisure Centres. Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool.
- Sports Development Team – development of programmes and activities to support the local sporting infrastructure and encourage residents to start and stay active. Including day to day operations at Frank Myler Pavilion and facilitating Grass Sport hire and Bowling bookings.

The Sports Development Team was restructured, at the start of the year, to contribute towards department saving targets and to take on the day to day management of the Frank Myler Pavilion. The Leisure Centres transferred into the Council on 1 April 2016. 200 staff transferred covering 394 roles, including full time permanent roles and a number of casual roles. During the year a restructure was proposed and following extensive consultation a new structure was proposed for 1 June 2017. Staff have faced many challenges and they should be commended for the tremendous professionalism shown during extremely difficult times.

The 'active halton' brand is now highly visible in the Leisure centre and wider community activities. The active halton website is being well used, it hosts community timetables, opening hours, helpful information, and up to date news. The website and other digital platforms have become increasingly important for communication. Further investment is required to ensure that the service reaches those that would benefit from support to be active. The following is a snap shot of local projects being delivered:

5.0 **SPORTS STRATEGY DELIVERY 2016/17**

5.1 **Theme 1: Increase Participation and Widen Access**

5.1.1 **Get Active Project – overview**

Support provided to **100+ weekly activities on the Get Active Timetables**; keeping timetables up to date on various platforms, liaising with community groups and coaches. Promote classes and disseminate information. Sign-post general enquiries and support individuals so they attend sessions that best meet their needs. Support provided to freelance coaches, community groups and volunteers with good practice and promotional support.

Halton's Get Active Forum promotes physical activity to sedentary adults in poor health. Educating and encouraging community physical activity groups to deliver a quality service and share good practice. The team co-ordinate and deliver the Get Active Forum annual Awards Evening and Celebration Event.

Walking football at Kingsway Leisure Centre has 38 members, and complete far afield, including a trip planned to Benidorm! There is a waiting list as they are full to capacity. Plans to launch a new session at Kingsway.

Halton's Walking for Health scheme, coordinate and supporting volunteers to lead numerous health walks every week. Working in partnership with the National Walking for Health Team on a new GP referral pilot scheme.

Taster exercise/activity sessions are organised to promote the benefit of being active, various taster sessions of New Age Bowls and Kurling delivered in sheltered accommodations and care homes. Sign post to existing activity or support venues set-up their own social sport activities. 50 sets of social sports equipment currently out on long-term loan to 30 groups with over 400 individuals engaged.

Local, regional and national promotions links made with groups to engage people into physical activity, inc Mental Health days, Older Peoples day, National Fitness day etc. Co-ordinate promotions to suit local agenda including Summerfit free taster sessions throughout Summer etc.

Mama fit Halton support provided for the group to access funding to enhance the Halton offer of free exercise and lifestyle sessions for Mums to be and new mums with baby.

16 new Community exercise classes/activity sessions set up 2016-17 from very gentle movement therapy chair based classes through to energising boogie bounce classes.

The Sport England CSAF Project came to an end on 31 March 2017. The final figures being 5869 participants registered and a throughput figure of 150,890. Both have over achieved on their respective targets - 4376 / 63920. A case study on the Halton project has been published by Sport England and can be viewed [here](#).

Working in Partnership with other organisations/ teams/ volunteers to improve physical health is a key outcome for the service. Partners include Halton's Health Improvement Team, CCG, Parkrun, Ramblers, Macmillan, Mind, Merseyside Sport, Halton Open, Cancer Support, Partners in Prevention, Mersey Forest, Physio and other hospital depts. Voluntary community groups and Sports clubs etc.

Sportivate and Satellite sport club – following a lottery funding review funding for the projects came to an end during the year. Growth and sustainability funding for clubs was offered directly to clubs during 2016/17 academic year.

Street Games Door Step Clubs – funding came to an end for clubs at Brookvale Recreation Centre and Upton Community Centre. CLUB1 programme targeting 14-25 years to get involved in individual activity took

place at The Heath Academy linked to promoting This Girl Can campaign with students – girls brought their mum's back to school to take part in yoga, aerobics, rowing and taekwondo taster sessions.

- 5.1.2 **Halton Sports Coach Scheme** delivered over 1000 hours of coaching. Coaches deliver sports to groups with a wide range of ability; in addition they have disability specific experience and awareness and provide a bespoke service to schools. **Sports coaching and support Schools SLA** provides a professional coaching service for primary and special schools in Halton. 23 primary schools purchased the SLA in 2016, generating £10,350 income. 17 packages purchased for 2017. In addition to school time activity, the project delivered after school activity sessions for teachers.

Community Sports Coaching - Coaches delivered activity at a number of events during the year, including Children in Need multi-sport sessions; Jog/walk club with specific coaching available; Bootcamp; Health & Wellbeing fun days at various community venues; Delivered coaching workshop sessions ie Football, Rugby, Cricket, Netball, Basketball and multi skills sessions.

Couch to 5k This year 3 blocks of the 10 week programme ran from the Track at Wade Deacon High school on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Block one ran from the 6th June to 10th August with 819 contacts. The second block ran 12th September to 16th November with 1,115 contacts. The programme has been growing steadily, the final block 9th January to 15th March had 1,831 contacts, an amazing turnout with many participants feeding into the Parkrun and Widnes running club. For the last block of couch to 5k social media reached 8,379 people.

The team continued to support the popular local Parkruns and assisted and promoted the launch of Runcorn Parkrun at Phoenix Park. In addition a junior parkrun launch for Widnes in the Spring. Widnes Parkrun at Victoria Park is now well established and 2 years on is averaging a weekly turnout of 185 participants (316 highest attendance with 3,563 individuals completing the course).

- 5.1.3 **Leisure Centre Activity:** Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool on behalf of the Council.

The Council's leisure centres provide access to affordable leisure activities which support the health and wellbeing agenda across the borough. People who are physically active reduce their risk of developing major chronic diseases, such as, coronary heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes by up to 50% and the risk of premature death by about 20 - 30%. Inactive people spend 38% more days in hospital.

'Active Halton' brand was launched in all leisure centres and all sites had their fitness gyms refurbished. Number of visits across the 3 sites 493,264.

Activity examples:

- 1752 Swim Academy (club live)
- 55,466 School swimming participation, (annual visits)
- 223 School swimming galas participation
- 972 School games e.g. athletics - participation
- 2,395 fitness memberships (club live)
- 128 teen membership (11-15 year olds)
- 5,858 squash (inc squash league)
- 5,705 aqua babe visits, working in partnership with sure start
- Club1 programme (14-25 year old females, KLC) 10 participants, participating weekly in activities
- 8,742 Birthday Parties
- 1,917 participants Drowning Prevention Week
- 33,771 Indoor and outdoor football visits
- 851 Back2Netball and Walking Netball visits
- 12,119 Swim Club visits
- 333 Runcorn Cycle Club visits

5.1.5 **Halton Leisure Card:** 1,009 Halton Leisure Cards purchased providing residents with discounted rates from a range of leisure providers.

5.1.6 **Leisure Centre Operations:** Day to day operations are now fully integrated back into corporate systems and processes. Through the staffing restructure all staff terms and conditions have been harmonised.

5.2 **Theme 2: Club Development**

5.2.1 75 clubs are affiliated to the Halton Sports Partnership; they receive regular information and support.

5.2.2 **Sports Resource Centres** - There are 2 accessible to voluntary sports 18 clubs have accessed the resources to assist and support running their club, including photocopying, meeting rooms, internet access, loan of sport specific and generic books, journals and equipment.

5.3 **Theme 3: Coach Education and Volunteering**

5.3.1 A coach education programme was coordinated by officers to support high quality delivery in Halton. Consultation on programme content took place with the Halton Sports Partnership. Courses were well attended, with Halton residents receiving a generous subsidy.

4 Safeguarding & Protecting Children courses delivered, 61 attended from 12 voluntary sports clubs. 3 First Aid courses delivered 37 attended from 13 voluntary sports clubs (see appendix 1 for club list).

5.3.2 **Sports Coaching bursaries** - Aimed at people, who wish to become a new coach, gain a new qualification or develop onto another level of coaching. Specifically for anyone who is affiliated to a sports club in Halton. £2,487.00

distributed to clubs to assist members gaining National Governing Body of Sport qualification. Each coach prepares an action plan and identifies a mentor to support their development (see appendix 2).

5.3.3 **Halton Sports Volunteer Scheme** - The scheme aims to recruit, reward, recognise and support volunteers aged 9+ and mentors, who are dedicating their time voluntary to the sporting sector of Halton. 16 volunteers have been supported through the scheme in the last 12 months.

5.4 **Theme 4: Sporting Excellence**

5.4.1 **The Annual Halton Sports Awards** - The evening took place on Thursday 22 September at Select Security Stadium Halton, with 100 people in attendance; guest speaker was England International and Liverpool Ladies Goalkeeper, Siobhan Chamberlain. 9 category winners, of which 6 went forward to the Merseyside Sports Dinner. All winners were put forward to the Wire FM and Your Champions awards.

5.5 **Theme 5: Finance and Funding for Sport**

5.5.1 Officers work with other Council teams and the voluntary sector to secure investment from a range of funding bodies to support both the development of facilities and the delivery of sports programmes. The accessibility of grant funding has not been immune from the recent economic downturn and the level of funding secured has dropped, however, a number of sports club applications were supported, resulting in facility improvements at Widnes RUFC.

5.5.2 **Sports Development Grant Scheme:** Primary purpose is to assist local clubs and organisations who, through their activities, provide sports development benefit to the Borough. It also provides bursaries for talented individuals, club coaches and elite athletes and coaches who reside in Halton (see appendix 3), £8,550.00 grants awarded.

5.5.4 **Funding and Information Clinics:** The Sports Development Team offer advice and support to all those seeking to access funding to improve sport and physical activity facilities and programmes within Halton. Advice ranged from how to set up a sports club bank account and constitution to preparing and submitting revenue and grant applications.

Successful internal and external sports club funding applications examples below

Club	Project	Secured
Widnes RUFC	Grounds/Tractor £19,458	£10,000 Sport Eng Small Grants, £5000 RFU & £4,458 Club Match.

St Michaels FC	Access Hard Standing Changing Rooms. £6,296.00	Secured Area Forum for £6,296.00
Halebank FC	Changing Rooms Insulation and Building Drainage. £8,500.00	Secured £6,000 match funding from Area Forum.

5.6 Theme 6: Sports Facilities

5.6.1 Indoor Needs Assessment

Knight Kavanagh Page (KKP) consultancy was appointed to complete an indoor facilities needs assessment across Halton. They have commenced survey work of the local indoor facilities and are consulting with local sports clubs who use indoor sports facilities.

5.6.2 Officers supported a number of clubs with facility improvement plans:

Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC

On-going support to them whilst taking on a lease at Wilmere Lane. Support for 12 months and assist with pitch allocation and funding bids going forward.

West Banks Bears ARLFC

Assist with Community Funding. Protecting Playing Fields and WREN application on-going.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The sports strategy needs to be reviewed; the intention is to produce an Active Halton strategy. The benefit gained from being Active or involved in sport contributes towards achieving wider council priorities. The Sport and Recreation services and the voluntary sector sporting community make a significant contribution to the Public Health agenda.

7.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The service needs to constantly identify areas to reduce expenditure and generate income opportunities to support the sustainability of the service.

7.2 The activities undertaken have been done within existing business provision.

7.3 The Leisure Centres require specialist staff to open the buildings to the public, specifically the swimming pool. The service has experienced service delays, due to vacant posts and sickness.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The service engages with thousands of young people through a variety of coached activities, learn to swim programme, signposting to community sports clubs and showcasing activity to support and increase participation.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Sports Development provides volunteer opportunities and skill development in coaching, administration, fundraising and access to resources for those learning new skills. Support adult and lifelong learning, through fitness referral programmes.

8.3 A Healthy Halton

Sport and Physical Activity links directly with priorities in Halton's Health and Wellbeing strategy, prevention being the key. Physical activity links with prevention of certain cancers, mental health problems and falls. Staff are dementia friendly trained and continue to increase their knowledge in other areas to deliver on projects, such as, smoking cessation, Fit4Life.

8.4 A Safer Halton

The connection between sport and reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime is supported by key research. Sports activities and competitions, sports volunteering, sports leadership, sports training help develop individuals and communities, encourage healthier and more productive lifestyles and create inclusive communities and neighbourhoods that provide a shared identity and sense of place.

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The service supports groups looking to improve the areas they are in.

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 The service has performance management processes in place.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 The Sport and Recreation service is open and accessible. The service supports groups and individuals to meet the needs of present and potential participants.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

11.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Coach Education and Volunteering

Club Supported	Number at workshops / awards	Club Supported	Number at workshops / awards
Widnes Rugby Union Club	3 Workshops	Halton Netball Club	1 Workshops
Runcorn Rowing Club	3 Coach Bursary	Runcorn Cycling Club	1 Coach Bursary
Halton Swimming Club	2 Coach Bursary	Widnes Development FC	5 Coach Bursary
West Bank Bears ARLFC	13 Workshops 7 Coach Bursary	Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC	31 Workshops 2 Coach Bursary
Widnes Wild Ladies	1 Coach Bursary	Moorfield ARLFC	2 Workshops
Halton Borough FC	9 Workshops	Widnes Running Club	1 Coach Bursary
Pexhill FC	11 Workshops	Cronton Villa FC	2 Workshops
Halton Table Tennis	2 Workshops	Kyujutsu Archery Club	4 Coach Bursary
		Disability Sport	
Widnes Cricket Club	1 Workshops	Widnes Tennis Academy	4 Workshops
Birchfield Cricket Club	1 Workshops	Simms Cross RL	1 Workshops
Sports Dev/DC	8 Workshops	Volunteer Initiative Scheme	1 Workshops
Avon Athletic FC	2 Workshops	St Michaels FC	6 Workshops

Sports Coaching bursaries

Coach Name	Support towards	Award
Sean Colquit	RL	£70.00
Shaun Blythin	RL	£70.00
Chris Ord	Archery	£100.00
Claire Wheelhouse	Gym	£150.00
John Taylor	Cycling	£100.00
Bethany Reid	Swimming	£100.00
Eleanor Donald	Swimming	£100.00
Leen De Deeker	Ice Hockey	£62.50
Sam Walker	RL	£100.00
Chris Mullarkey	RL	£100.00
Jo Jones	Athletics	£100.00
Jack Kinsela	RL	£70.00
Robert Middlehurst	RL	£70.00
Stephen Bray	RL	£70.00
Anthony Maher	RL	£70.00
Marcus Evans	RL Coaching	£100.00
Paul Anderson	Archery	£100.00
Colin Millington	Football	£147.50
Kyd Joe Kirby	Football	£100.00
Sam Mottram	Football	£72.50
Jack Washington	Football	£72.50
Sarah O'Connell	Archery	£100.00
Chris Blackett	Football	£147.50
Sarah Furlong	Rowing	£105.00
Nigel Hayes	Rowing	£105.00
Maxwell Leisor-Ford	Rowing	£105.00
Paul Anderson	Archery	£100.00
	Total	£2,487.00

Sports Development Group Grants and Bursaries 2016/17:

Appendix 3

CLUB	Support towards	Award
Pexhill Fc	Equipment	£300.00
Runcorn Linnets FC U7	Equipment	£300.00
St Mikes FC	Equipment	£300.00
Runcorn Linnets Sup FC	Equipment	£200.00
Widnes Tigers RL	Equipment	£250.00
Weston Point FC	Equipment	£250.00
Widnes Running Club	Set up Junior Park Run	£3000.00
Runcorn Hockey Club	Equipment/Safety Masks	£300.00
Simms Cross RL	Equipment	£300.00
	Total	£5200.00
Name	Sport	Award
Robyn Cosgrove	Table Tennis	£150.00
Alex Shaw	Hockey	£150.00
Callum Topping	RL	£150.00
Dominic Droogan	RL	£150.00
Craig Noon	Boxing	£150.00
Erin McIntosh	Gym	£150.00
Ellie McKenna	Gym	£150.00
Leevi Gumbs	Swimming	£150.00
Mark Allen	Table Tennis	£150.00
Scarlett Fletcher	Trampoline	£150.00
Holly Hayes	Netball	£150.00
Luke Riley	Boxing	£150.00
Richard Lewis	Special Olympics	£150.00
William Avon	Football	£150.00
Stephanie Gott	Special Olympics	£150.00
Kitty Thornton	Netball	£100.00
Ellen Lewtus	Netball	£100.00
Leah Challoner	County Netball Kit	£100.00
Thomas Wright	Widnes RU Tour	£100.00
Jack Conlon	Widnes RU Tour	£100.00
David Parr	Widnes RU Tour	£100.00
Richie O'Connell	Invictus Selection Training	£300.00
Robbie Wright	Special Olympics Player	£150.00
Robert Wright	Special Olympics Coach	£50.00
	Total	£3,350.00