

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

**DATE:** 26 September 2016

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and  
Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Community and Sport

**SUBJECT:** Sport and Recreation Team Annual Report

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an annual report and receive a presentation from the Council Sport and Recreation Manager for the period 2015/16 on the Council Sport and Recreation Service.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) The report and presentation be noted**
- ii) 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 local issues and a sharing of resources. Without the contribution from our partners much of the work highlighted within this report would not have been possible.

3.3 It is anticipated that the presentation will cover several areas of interest and provide members with an update on the Active Halton brand.

#### 4.0 **SPORT AND RECREATION TEAM**

4.1 The team has two distinct areas:

- Management of the Councils Leisure Centres. Places for People Leisure were responsible for the day to day operations of the Council 3 Leisure Centres until 31 March 2016.

In September 2015, the Council's Executive Board decided to resume management of the leisure centres, with specialist support. After considering a review of management options it was decided that this move could achieve significant efficiency savings while maintaining a good quality service. A cross departmental Leisure Projects Steering group was set up, to facilitate the transition.

- Sports Development Team – development of programmes and activities to support the local sporting infrastructure.

The Sports Development Team has recently been restructured to reduce costs and take on the day to day management of the Frank Myler Sports Pavilion.

The service produces a quarterly report. The following is a snap shot of local projects being delivered against the Sports Strategy key themes.

#### 5.0 **SPORTS STRATEGY DELIVERY 2015/16**

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

5.1.1 **Sportivate** is a national funding programme from Sport England; it is aimed at increasing regular participation in sport amongst 11 to 25 year olds. Halton secured £12,180 for its delivery plan and over achieved its targets with 189 attendees; 1512 throughput and a number attaining coaching qualifications to help with sustaining activities. Haltons year 6 plan has been approved with £7,796 this will assist the Sports Development Team to provide a varied programme of activities including Couch to 5km, Netball, Gymnastics and Ladies Fitness.

**Satellite clubs** – is a national funding programme from Sport England; it runs in the academic year, aimed at 11 – 25 years. Clubs include a wheelchair handball club at St Chads, gymnastic club at The Heath and a disability multi-sport club at Frank Myler Pavilion. Funding of £15,000 secured, with sessions looking to become self-sustainable thereafter.

**Street Games Door Step Clubs** – is a national funding programme. Clubs at Brookvale Recreation Centre, and Upton Community Centre, new CLUB1 sessions targeting 14-25 years to get involved in individual activity at Kingsway Leisure Centre. Funding of £9,000 received for delivery.

5.1.2 **Halton Sports Coach Scheme** delivered over 1000 hours of coaching from grass roots to excellence at schools, special schools, clubs, charities & organisations. 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. 26 primary schools purchased the SLA in 2015, generating £15,340 income. 25 packages purchased for 2016. In addition to school time activity, the project delivered Healthy and Active Clubs for pupils and their parents, designed to be educational and fun; creating physically active children and adults.

**Community Sports Coaching** - Coaches delivered activity at a number of events during the year, including Children in Need multi sports club, Jog/walk club with specific coaching available; Bootcamp; Fire service Phoenix Challenge; Health & Wellbeing fun days at various community venues; Children's transition sports sessions in partnership with Sts Peter & Paul; Delivered coaching workshop sessions ie Football, Rugby, Cricket, Netball, Basketball and Tennis followed by multi skills sessions; 34 sessions delivered in the school summer holidays at 8 venues throughout Halton, including Halton play leaders courses.

5.1.3 **Get Active Project** – A national Lottery funded project £141,973 investment to support Halton residents aged 25 – 55 become active, 1168 participants registered on community classes with a further 900 on Parkrun. Project selected to be a national case study for the Community Sport Activation Fund grant by CFE Research. 2015 sessions included a number of new classes at the Frank Myler Pavilion.

New community classes: Metafit, Movement Therapy, Gentle exercise and Tai Chi at Frank Myler Pavilion, Stay Fit – Fresh Start follow-on at Upton CC, Learn to skate age 50+ at Silver Blades and Sit n Get fit at Woodend Court. Free family karate session, chair based exercise tasters and carers meeting delivered to Memory Services groups. Talks also delivered to Widnes WI and Murdishaw pain management group; also work ongoing with Health Improvement Team to establish exit activities for Fresh Start programme and support for Mental Health week 2016 activities.

**Halton Sports Fair** - showcase sports and physical activities, which are taking place locally, throughout voluntary sports clubs, and venues in Halton. A variety of sports and physical activities sessions open to young people and adults. 63 Free Activities and Swim for £1.00

- 11 clubs / organisations delivered the sessions, including, come and try it taster sessions, demonstrations, or competitions. T
- 6 free junior swimming sessions
- 20 x swim for £1.00 adult swims

5.1.4 **Leisure Centre Activity:** Places for People Leisure operated 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.

Nationally the company received a number of accolades including: Leisure Centre Operator of the Year 2015, for the third year running

During the contract the public's use of the buildings grew by over 30%, however, in the last 2 years we have seen a decline in users mainly due to low cost gyms opening up less than 2 miles away from the Council facilities. In addition the buildings are ageing and less attractive to customers and mixed school groups. In order to make an impact to the customers, the Council will launch a new brand 'Active Halton' and all centres will have their fitness gyms refurbished. Number of visits across the 3 sites 592,374.

Other activity examples:

- Children in care free swim project – 270 cards issued
- Swim Academy club live 2,200
- School swimming participation, annual visits 43,123
- School swimming galas participation, annual visits 600
- School games – athletics - participation, annual visits 800
- 2,300 fitness memberships (club live)
- 177 teen membership (11-15 year olds)
- 1,181 personal training sessions - annual
- 6,981 squash (inc squash league) annual visits
- Trampolining - 64 Club Live (3,456 visits annual)
- Gymnastics - 219 Club Live (11,826 visits annual)
- 3,600 aqua babe visits, working in partnership with sure start
- 313 GP Referral sessions (BRC and KLC)
- Club1 programme (14-25 year old females, KLC)10 participants, participating weekly in activities
- Street games (BRC) 22 participants (1,144 annual visits)
- 300 Birthday Parties
- Canoe club 300 visits (annual)
- Drowning prevention week - 2,305 participants
- 44 participants attended and passed a NPLifeguardQ course
- Indoor and outdoor football sessions - 47,627 visits
- 5,200 visits bowls
- Back2Netball 1,560 visits
- Walking Football for over 50s

5.1.5 **Halton Leisure Card:** 1215 Halton Leisure Cards purchased providing residents with discounted rates from a range of leisure providers. Leisure card holders made 12,640 visits to the Councils 3 Leisure facilities.

5.1.6 **Leisure Centre Transfer back to the Council:** A vast amount of work has been undertaken by colleagues across the Council to assist with the transition of Leisure Centre back to Council operation. There is a great deal of work still to be completed to understand day to day operations and fully integrate the provision back into corporate systems and processes.

## 5.2 **Theme 2: Club Development**

5.2.1 **Club Halton** is a scheme that accredits quality sports clubs in Halton, who meet a set of agreed criteria. Officers provide on-going support for 44 sports with Club Halton and those working towards accreditation including; Matt Fiddes Martial Arts, Widnes Rugby Union Club, Runcorn Cricket Club, Halton Farnworth Hornets, Runcorn Hockey Club, Runcorn Reps ASC and Halton Gymnastics Club. Club Halton ended 31 March 2016, all clubs now have access to an online portal Club matters and are being encouraged to use the National Clubmark scheme.

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 20 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.

5.2.3 Widnes Tennis Academy delivered Free Tennis Sessions in Victoria Park. Halton Tennis Leagues are planned in the Parks, starting in May 2016 – part of a National Initiative. Floodlights are now available on the outside courts at Widnes Tennis Academy thanks to a grant from Inspired Facilities Fund.

Get Halton cycling project was a partnership between British cycling, HBC Transport, Health Improvement Team and Sports Development Team, it was supported by Runcorn Cycling Club.

- 210 attended Social Rides
- 16 Ride Leaders Qualified
- 3 Training Instructors
- 7 Trained in Skill to Commute
- 32 Beginners supported

Widnes Social Cyclists now have 60 members. Runcorn Cycling Club have 220 members and cover juniors Breeze Ladies Only Rides, advanced and family beginner rides. Disability Cycling developed at Phoenix Park supported by Gareth Burke. New business has developed from the project.

## 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.

2 Safeguarding & Protecting Children courses delivered, 29 attended from 9 voluntary sports clubs. 2 First Aid courses delivered 39 attended from 12 voluntary sports clubs (see appendix 1 for club list). 2 Halton Play Leaders courses delivered (age 8-14), a total of 25 attended.

CRMZ introduction to sports leadership completed for participants with SEN/disabilities to work in their own environment (12 participants).

5.3.2 **Sports Coaching bursaries** - Aimed at those 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. £2,583 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** received over 40 nominations. The evening took place on Thursday 24 September at Select Security Stadium Halton, with 100 people in attendance; guest speaker was former football premier league referee Chris Foy. 7 category winners, of which 6 went forward to the Merseyside Sports Dinner, 2 out of the 6 main Merseyside awards went to Halton entries. All winners were put forward to the Wire FM and Your Champions awards.

#### 5.4.2 **RLF 120 year celebrations**

**Founders Walk:** The Rugby League (RL) Cares Founders' Walk passed through Widnes and Runcorn on Friday, July 24.

**Wembley:** The Mayor and Consort Cllr Ellen Cargill and Dave Cargill led a parade round the Wembley pitch at the Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 29 August. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor represented Widnes and Runcorn two of the original 22 founder rugby league clubs.

**Blue Plaque:** A blue plaque was unveiled at St Edwards Primary School in Runcorn to celebrate the first Rugby League game in Runcorn when on 7 September 1895 Runcorn played its first home game under the rules of Rugby League (then known as the Northern Union). Runcorn beat Widnes 15-4. A blue plaque was unveiled on Sunday 20 September at the Select Security Stadium, to mark the 120th anniversary of Widnes's first ever home Rugby League game on September 14, 1895, when the home side played Leeds.

## 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 Tennis Academy and 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 inhabitants of the Borough. It also provides bursaries for talented individuals, club coaches and elite athletes and coaches who reside in Halton (see appendix 3), £17,080 grants awarded.
- 5.5.3 **Merseyside Sporting Bursaries** - Each year the Halton Sports Partnership receives a percentage of the proceeds from the Merseyside Sports Awards. The sports development team administer this grant fund on their behalf. It is open to residents under the age of 25. 1 bursary 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 capital grant applications.

Successful internal and external sports club funding applications examples below

- Runcorn Boxing Club Satellite Club launched in Castlefields Community Centre – 10 New Ladies in the session and on-going.
- Grow the Game – £2,000 programme for Runcorn Primary Schools, Feb Half Term session at KLC and August Futsal at Frank Myler Pavilion. 500 contacts.
- Mamafit funded by Kingsway Together £1,880
- Rugby Mini's – £1,270.00 secured from Kingsway Together – Family Rugby Fitness at Frank Myler Pavilion
- Widnes Boxing Club - £1,067.98 from Kingsway Together for Ladies Boxercise at Frank Myler Pavilion – 20 new ladies & on-going.
- Get Active forum secured £300 from Liverpool Housing Trust for awards evening.

## 5.6 **Theme 6: Sports Facilities**

- 5.6.1 **Frank Myler Pavilion** development completed. Improvement to playing fields has commenced. The new changing rooms and sports facilities support activities on the playing pitches and a new sport and physical activity programme has over 20 community classes in operation.

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

- St Michaels Football Club: Project to the Football Foundation requesting £10,000 – Grantshot has been started.
- West Bank Bears RL: 2 year Project Plan being prepared for submission to Protecting Playing Pitches
- Runcorn Rowing Club: Preparing Wren application to be submitted for £50,000, 12 month project. Submitted Sport England Small Grant – Successful £10,000
- Halebank FC: Project, requesting Football Foundation grant of £10,000 Ground and fencing improvements. Grantshot has been started.
- Halton Borough FC: New shower and works, Warrington League support.
- Hale FC: Football Foundation Bid, Step 7 Facility.
- Widnes Golf Club: Project for Storage and Changing room refurbishment, 2/3 year project up to £120,000, possible WREN, Inspired & Sport England Small Grant. WREN workshop planned for 19th April 2016
- Runcorn Linnetts JFC: fencing scheme at Halton Sports. New club house proposed as part of Halton Sport site developments.

## 6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Council adopted a Sports Strategy 2012 -2015 this is currently under review. The DCMS published Sporting Future: A new strategy for an Active Nation. Sport England has recently launched Towards an Active Nation. The strategy being prepared for Halton will consider the aims and outcomes of both these strategies to ensure we are best placed to attract resources that will benefit Halton residents. The delivery of the strategy will be subject to resources. Sport is cross cutting and the benefits gained from participation and involvement 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 Regular monitoring of the strategy also lies with the Halton Sports Partnership Executive Committee, which comprises of key stakeholders from the voluntary sport sector.

## 8.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 8.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The service engages with thousands of young people, signposting to



community sports clubs and showcasing activity to increase participation. The School Games Officer and Disability Sport Officer post compliment the service delivery.

## 8.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Volunteer opportunities and skill development in coaching, administration, fundraising access to resources for those learning new skills. Support adult and lifelong learning.

## 8.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Sport and Physical Activity links directly with three of the five 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 are increasing 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 numerous 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**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Sports Strategy 2012 – 2015	Select Security Stadium	Sue Lowrie Sport & Recreation Manager

## Coach Education and Volunteering

<b>Club Supported</b>	<b>Number at workshops</b>	<b>Club Supported</b>	<b>Number at workshops</b>
Widnes Rugby Union Club	<b>1</b>	Halton Netball Club	<b>5</b>
Runcorn Rowing Club	<b>3</b>	Runcorn Cycling Club	<b>4</b>
Halton Swimming Club	<b>15</b>	Halton Table Tennis Club	<b>3</b>
West Bank Bears ARLFC	<b>8</b>	Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC	<b>1</b>
Walking Football	<b>3</b>	Matt Fiddes Martial Arts Club	<b>1</b>
Walk Leaders	<b>3</b>	Moorfield ARLFC	<b>1</b>
Halton Borough FC	<b>1</b>	Beechwood Netball Club	<b>5</b>
Halebank FC	<b>2</b>	Halton Baseball Club	<b>1</b>
Pexhill FC	<b>1</b>	Cronton Villa FC	<b>1</b>
Widnes Vikings	<b>1</b>	Runcorn Cricket Club	<b>1</b>
Wildcat Ice Hockey	<b>1</b>	Disability Sport	<b>1</b>
Sports Dev/DC	<b>3</b>	Volunteer Initiative Scheme	<b>16</b>

## Sports Coaching Bursary

Club Name	Support towards	Award
Runcorn Reps ASC	3 x Level 1 swimming 1 x Level 2 swimming	£600
Mersey Storm Wheelchair RL	1 x Level 2 Rugby League	£60
West Bank Bears ARLFC	3 x Level 2 Rugby League 1 x Level 1 Rugby League	£398
Runcorn Cycle Club	1 x Level 2 Road / Time Trial	£65
Finesse Gymnastics Club	3 x Level 1 Rhythmic Gym	£360
Halton Baseball Club	5 x Level 1	£300
Halton Netball Club	1 x Level 2	£150
Beechwood Netball Club	1 x Level 2	£150
Widnes Cricket Club	4 x Level 2	£500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,583</b>

## Sports Development Group Grants 2015/16:

Appendix 3

<b>Name</b>	<b>Support towards</b>	<b>Award</b>
Halton Lion FC	Training Equipment	£300.00
Halton Spartans	Kit for new comers to try sport	£600.00
BPR Leiria FC	Training Equipment	£300.00
Widnes Football Forum	Support for running Cup Comp	£1000.00
Runcorn Hockey Club	Second Team Support for Ladies	£500.00
Simms Cross RL	Help for equipment	£600.00
West Bank Bears RL	Support for new under 7's Team	£500.00
Moorfield RL	Support for under 12's Team	£800.00
Widnes Rugby Union	Junior section Equip / Workshops	£700
Runcorn RL	Training Equipment	£500.00
Brookvale FC	Pitch markers & Barriers	£500.00
Halton Borough FC	Training Equipment	£400.00
Avon FC	Training Equipment	£400.00
Widnes Tennis Academy	Support for Talent Programme	£800.00
Halton Cricket Forum	Junior school to club links	£800.00
Halton JNR League	Training Equipment & Goals	£800.00
	<b>TOTAL CLUBS</b>	<b>£9,500.00</b>
Alex Shaw	GB Hockey	£200.00
Sammi Simpson	England RL	£100.00
William Avon	Blackpool FC Academy	£200.00
Leevi Gumbs	Swimming	£300.00
George Walker	BMX Track	£100.00
Salesi Tuiono	GB Touch RL	£150.00
Reece William Airey	Wrexham FC Academy	£100.00
Taylor Goodhall	Taekwondo	£400.00
Adam Prendagast	England RL	£100.00
Amy Leia Bignall	Cheshire Netball Kit/Travel	£200.00
Eden Gumbs	Travel/Kit for Tranmere Rovers	£200.00
Mark Allen	Towards transplant games	£100.00
Ellen Lewtus	Cheshire Netball Kit/Travel	£200.00
Emma Louise Ledward	Cheshire Netball Kit/Travel	£200.00
Leah Challoner	Cheshire Netball Kit/Travel	£200.00
Jenny Illidge	GB Canoeing support to compete	£500.00
Robert Wright	Special Olympic Coach	£200.00
Robbie Wright	Special Olympic Golf	£300.00
Scarlett Fletcher	Trampolining	£200.00
Jack Hunter-Spivey	Olympic Table Tennis	£3000.00
Declan McNulty	Under Water Hockey	£300.00
Amy Redman	National Tennis	£330.00
	<b>TOTAL Bursaries</b>	<b>£7580.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£17,080.00</b>