

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

DATE: 10 February 2020

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 2018/19 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 note the presentation and welcomes the progress being made in 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. Resources are being directed on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual are greatest. Activities are an essential component in supporting and developing the infrastructure of the community, 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:

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

The Sports Development Team are responsible for generating interest and increasing participation in activities through effective promotion and marketing campaigns. They have a keen interest in sport and physical activity and strong leadership and organisational skills. Successful sports development depends largely on effective partnership and networking with a wide range of community groups, service providers, facility operators, National Governing bodies and voluntary groups.

The teams day to day duties include:

- finding and training staff, coaches and volunteers for projects
- promoting and running projects and activities
- monitoring and evaluating projects
- finding funding, managing resources and budgets
- putting local and national policies into practice
- attending meetings, seminars and conferences
- coaching or supervising sport

The 'active halton' brand is visible in the Leisure centre and wider community activities. The active halton website is well used, it hosts community timetables, opening hours, helpful information, and up to date news (including unexpected closures of facilities). 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. Research shows that focusing resources on tackling inactivity is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.

We reported last year on the review of the indoor sports facilities in Halton and the production on an Indoor Sports Facility Strategy and action plan for Halton. This identified the need for significant investment in Council facilities. Whilst the adoption of the strategy and action plan falls outside the timeframe of the report, the Council has committed to significant investment, with which to retain and attract customers. The new centres should be designed to welcome and offer a great experience, in this area we can and must do more.

The following is a snap shot of local projects being delivered:

5.0 **SPORTS STRATEGY DELIVERY 2018/19**

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

5.1.1 **Active Halton 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, from very gentle movement classes; Stretch and Tone, Mature Movers, Evergreen chair exercise, Yoga and Meditation, Movement Therapy through to energising Zumba. 9 new classes developed and supported by Sport Development, including a free term time adult's session. Estimated 75,000+ attendances throughout the year in community classes, with approximately 500 new people joining sessions. Signpost 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. A case study produced with a freelance coach to show the positive impact Sport Development has when supporting a new coach or session. 3 case studies carried out to show positive impact of volunteering at Parkun and completing Couch to 5k has on individuals.

Frank Myler Pavilion and Sports Ground Programme

34 community bookings for indoor facility use and 5 bookings for the MUGA, 10 football teams on site using 10 pitches and Widnes Running club continue to use the Pavilion as a base 3 evenings a week.

Walking football

The success at Kingsway Leisure centre is continuing to grow with another session on a Wednesday being added, making it 3 sessions a week. Support given to a new Walking Football programme at the Heath Business and Technical Park, in Runcorn and another in Sandymoor, Runcorn.

Haltons Walking for Health Programme

Coordinate and supporting volunteers to deliver 9 health walks in the borough each week, with 100+ people attending weekly. A new weekly walk was set up out St Pauls Health Centre, Runcorn, along with promotion material given to local GP practises to put on their display boards. Links with GP practices is growing stronger.

Rock Steady Boxing

Is a targeted development session for people with Parkinson's disease, to help improve an individual's movement and balance. Sports Development has supported the session to become a fully constituted community group. The group was also supported in their initial 6-week pilot programme. The session has 14 paying members and is continuing to grow in strength.

Satellite Clubs

Sport England Satellite Clubs grants awarded to two local sports club in Halton after applying through Merseyside Sport. West Bank Bears and

Halton Spartans awarded grants to help get more 14 – 19 year olds into sport through a 12-week programme. West Bank Bears saw 68 contacts during the programme with the young people then going on to join the Rugby club. Halton Spartans (American Football) had 35 contacts and 8 new players join their youth team.

Working in Partnership with other organisations/teams/volunteers to improve physical health is a key outcome for the service. Partners include Haltons Health Improvement Team, CCG, Parkrun, Ramblers, Mind, Merseyside Sport, Street Games, Halton Open, Cancer Support, Partners in Prevention, Mersey Forest, Physio and other hospital depts. Voluntary community groups and Sports clubs etc. Partnership work with targeted groups including Women's Centre and Pulmonary Rehab. National programmes supported - National Fitness Day, Older Adults Day, Mental Health Day and FA SSE Wildcats programme (football sessions for girls aged 5 – 11 years).

5.1.2 **Halton Sports Coach Scheme**

Sports coaching and School support SLA.

In 2018, 20 primary and special schools signed up for the SLA programme that provides a high quality professional service during curriculum and extra curriculum time. Teachers are also encouraged to take part to enable further development of the children once the programme has finished. The programme reached 6,614 children contacts and 468 annual teacher observations and training.

Community Sports Coaching

Coaches delivered sports activities to 1,378 children and young people throughout the borough. Sessions included Friday Night Football, Futsal sessions (Children in Need), Fun days and a Young Sports Leaders course. These sessions held at various settings including parks, community centres and leisure centres. Specialist sport equipment given to various community groups and school competitions, which reached over 1,500 children, equipment included Boccia, Speed Bounce and New Age Kurls. Over 3,000 college students had access to Sport Development's Archery equipment, as part of a wellbeing programme.

Couch to 5k.

This year 4 blocks of the 10-week programme ran, which saw over 6,000 contacts throughout the year. All 4 blocks ran from the Track at Wade Deacon High school on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The two summer blocks also took place at Phoenix Park, Runcorn, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The programme has been growing steadily, with many participants feeding into the local Parkrun's and Widnes running club.

The team continued to support the popular local Parkrun and assisting in launching a new Junior Parkrun in Runcorn. Over 200 local residents are taking part weekly in the adult Parkrun's on a Saturday morning.

Couch to 2k.

Designed to bridge the gap for young people and adults who felt 5k was too big of a step. This programme piloted in Halton parks during the summer holidays.

5.1.3 **Leisure Centre Activity:** Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool.

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.

Number of visits across the 3 sites 446,000, free spectator admits 83,000 (e.g. parent attending with child on swimming lesson)

Health & Fitness Membership – 2,600 Live Memberships
Fitness visits (Gym & Class Users) – 85,000

Learn to Swim Program – 1,250 Live Memberships
Swimmers – 185,000 participants

- Aqua-Babes - 5,000
- Swim Clubs – 7,000
- Swim Clubs – 6,502

Dry Side Activities – 176,000

Activity examples:

- Football - 25,000 visits
- Squash - 7,000 participants
- Runcorn Cycle Club –350 participants
- Walking football – 3,000 participants
- Party participants – 7,000
- Children in care – 15 Funded Memberships
- Walking Netball – 400 participants
- Widnes Schools Athletics event. 400 participants

5.1.5 **Halton Leisure Card:** 909 Halton Leisure Cards purchased providing residents with discounted rates from a range of leisure providers.

5.2 **Theme 2: Club Development**

5.2.1 Local clubs offered help and support from promotional materials/social media posts to financial help (grant applications and guidance). Refugee Football project at Frank Myler Pavilion is now a registered FA Just Play Site allowing free weekly Football sessions for all of the local community.

Consultation regarding Haltons Local Football Plan - a 10-year plan along with FA Protecting Playing fields consultation with 2 local clubs.

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

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

Courses included FA First Aid and Safeguarding along with 2 generic First Aid and Safeguarding courses, over 90 local residents attended these courses.

Young Sports Leader course was ran in February half term for 16 young people in local clubs, aimed to provide a taste of what sport coaching is. The young people who attended have remained active in local clubs. Some also signed up to be a part of Halton Youth Sport Partnership. The Youth Sport Partnership is in its infancy, the aim is to help gain an understanding and perspective of a young person's involvement in sport in Halton.

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 affiliated to a sports club in Halton. £1,440 distributed to clubs to help educate 17 new coaches in an NGB coaching qualification.

5.3.3 **Volunteer Incentive Scheme**

Aimed at young volunteers in local clubs to give them an incentive to continue to coach and develop. The scheme aims to take on 10 young people and provide the club with financial help to get them onto coaching qualifications.

5.4 **Theme 4: Sporting Excellence**

5.4.1 **The Annual Halton Sports Awards**

The evening took place on Friday 16th November at Halton Stadium, with 100 people in attendance, guest speaker was Paralympian Jack Hunter-Spivey and the Mayor of Halton opened the award ceremony. There were 8 category winners, no link to Merseyside dinner as not available.

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. Over £18,000 secured for Halton Spartans American Football and Title Shot ABA.

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), £6,550.00 grants awarded.

5.5.4 **Funding and Information Clinics:**

The Sports Development Team offered advice and support to:

Kyujutsu Archery Club, BPR Leiria FC, Halebank FC, Runcorn RL, Halton Borough FC, Moorfield FC, Parklands Club, Brookvale Utd, Finesse Gymnastics, Runcorn Boxing Club, St Michaels FC, Moorfield RL, Halton Swimming Club, Halton Table Tennis club, Pex Hill FC, Halton & District Junior League, Widnes Football Forum, Halton Cricket Forum and Hough Green Pensioners Group.

Successful internal and external sports club funding applications examples below

CLUB	PROJECT	FUNDING	OUTCOME
Halton Spartans American Football	Development of Youth Section	Sport England Small Grant	Awarded £9997
Title Shot ABA	Support to Area Forum for new Boxing Ring	HBC Area Forum	Awarded £1580

5.6 **Theme 6: Sports Facilities**

5.6.1 **Indoor Needs Assessment**

5.6.2 Officers support clubs with facility improvement plans:

Halebank FC - Pitch drainage project

Kyujutsu Archery Club – (Old Woodlands), building infrastructure and outside shooting gallery.

Title Shot ABC – development of new boxing ring.

6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The intention was to produce an Active Halton strategy linked to outcomes in Sport Englands, Towards an Active Nation Strategy, due to resources it has not been possible to produce. However, an Active Halton operations group has been formed and they have drafted a development action plan. Sport England are currently in conversation with partners regarding how their new strategy could be presented. The benefit gained from being Active or involved in sport contributes towards achieving wider council priorities. Benefits that sport can bring to people and to society: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. The Sport and Recreation service 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 identify areas to reduce expenditure and generate income opportunities to support the sustainability of the service.

7.2 The activities undertaken 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 highlighting 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. We need to put the customer first, focus on those least active and transform how activity is provided.

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 live/work in.

9.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 The service has performance management processes in place.

9.2 Some Council Leisure Centre stock is old and of poor quality.

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

Appendix 1

Coach Education and Volunteering

WORKSHOP	DATE	NUMBERS
FA Emergency Aid Workshops	1 st July 2018	16
FA Safeguarding Workshop	10 th July 2018	15
First Aid Workshop	18 th October 2018	10
Sport Coach UK Safeguarding Workshop	29 th October 2018	20
Sport Coach UK Safeguarding Workshop	5 th February 2019	20
Young Sports Leaders course	11 th February 2019	16
First Aid Workshop	26 th February 2019	13
	TOTAL	110

Appendix 2

Sports Coaching Bursaries

Name	Sport	Awarded
Neil Shaw	FA Level 1 Coaching Award	£80.00
David Buckley	FA Level 1 Coaching Award	£80.00
Andy Knight	FA Level 1 Coaching Award	£80.00
Jon Hetherington	England Rugby Coaching Awards – Level 2	£62.50
Neil Street	England Rugby Coaching Awards – Level 2	£62.50
Peter Hulme	England Rugby Coaching Awards – Level 2	£62.50
Daniel Newall	England Rugby Coaching Awards – Level 2	£62.50
Brian Doyle	FA Level 1 Coaching Award	£80.00
Ryan Lunn	Table Tennis Level 2	£135.00
Alexandra Hurst	Athletics Level 2	£135.00
Richard Barraclough	Rugby Union Level 1	£75.00
Simon Alderson	Rugby Union Level 1	£75.00
Matthew Walker	Rugby Union Level 1	£75.00
John Brett	Rugby Union Level 1	£75.00
Paul Clayton	Swim Level 1	£100.00
Christian McInerney	Rugby League L2	£100.00
Sue Howard	Swim Level 1	£100.00
	Total	£1440

Sports Development Group Grants and Bursaries 2018/19:

Appendix 3

CLUB	SPORT	AWARDED FOR	AMOUNT
BPR Leiria FC	Football	Equipment	£300
Halebank FC	Football	Ground Inspection – FA	£150
Runcorn ARLFC	Rugby L	Equipment	£300
Halton Borough FC	Football	Equipment	£300
Moorfield FC	Football	Equipment	£300
Widnes Football Forum	Football	Support for Widnes Cup	£300
St Michaels FC	Football	Equipment	£300
Widnes Walking Football Club	Football	Equipment	£300
Widnes Cricket Club	Cricket	Equipment	£300
Title Shot Boxing Club	Boxing	Equipment	£300
Widnes Tigers RL	Rugby L	Equipment	£300
Pexhill FC	Rugby	Equipment	£300
Widnes Running Club	Running	Equipment	£300
		Total	£3750

NAME	SPORT	AMOUNT
Alex Shaw	GB Hockey	£150
Erin McIntosh	GB Gymnastics	£150
Coady Goodhall	European Taekwondo	£150
Kathryn Schofield	European Triathlon	£150
Mark Allen	Table Tennis Competitions	£150
Jack Burke	RL Lion Heats Tour to Serbia	£150
Meg Corker	Athletic Equipment	£150
Alex Whitley	Boxing	£150
Declan McNulty	Octopush	£150
Leah Challoner	Netball	£150
Sadie Lewtas	Netball	£150
Robbie Wright	Golf Special Olympics	£150
Robert Wright	Golf Coach Special Olympics	£100
Richie O'Connell	Invictus Games	£150
Jessica Morris	Table Tennis	£150
Scarlett Fletcher	Trampoline	£150
Amy Meadows	Football	£150
Jade Carr	Table Tennis	£150
Leon Willings	Boxing	£150
	Total	£2800