

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

DATE: 19 November 2018

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 2017/18 on the Council's Sport and Recreation Service.
- 1.2 To receive a presentation from the Sport and Recreation 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 encouraging and supporting residents to be Active; and**
- 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 direct resources on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual are greatest. 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:

- 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 and Bowling 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 now highly 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. 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.

Having facilities in the right places makes taking part in sport and physical activity a realistic option for many more people and leads to a better experience for those who are already engaged. Halton is fortunate to have a wide range of facilities, such as, Tennis Centre, athletics track, ice rink, climbing wall and boulders. The Council recently undertook a review of the indoor sports facilities in Halton and whilst it recognised the range on offer it also identified the acute challenge in respect of Council owned swimming pools and sports halls which there is a need for significant investment. If we wish to retain and attract customers centres need to 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 2017/18**

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 Fit2Dance. 14 new classes developed and supported by Sport Development. Estimated 75,000+ attendances throughout the year in community classes, with approximately 400 new people joining sessions. 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. Three case studies completed, couch to 5K; tai chi and health walk.

Frank Myler Pavilion and Sports Ground Programme: 34 community bookings of the indoor facilities, 7 MUGA bookings, 4 pitch bookings and Widnes running club continue to use the facilities as a base 3 evening a week.

Walking football at Kingsway Leisure Centre has 46 members, and compete far afield, with participants even taking the message to Australia. A new session was launched on a Monday due to long waiting list for a place on the Thursday session, both session continue to be well attended.

Haltons Walking for Health scheme, coordinate and supporting volunteers to lead 8 health walks every week over 100+ attendees each week. Three of the health walks are in partnership with GP practices.

FA Girls Football Week took place between 6th and 12th November, girl's specific Football session delivered on the 8th in partnership with Widnes FC development girls' team and their coaches. Girls already playing for the team teamed up with their coaches to deliver a session at Kingsway Leisure Centre, 13 girls who had never took part attended. Regular sessions and opportunities to play for the new girls were provided by Widnes FC.

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, 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 inc Womens Centre, MacMillan cancer support. National programmes supported: National fitness day, Older adults day, mental health day, and delivered local Summerfit programme of free taster activities.

- 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 School support SLA** provides a professional coaching service for primary and special schools in Halton. 17 primary schools purchased the SLA in 2017. In addition to school time activity, the project delivered out of school clubs delivering 5,516 contacts; in addition 1,717 young people contacts made in community settings and 7,320 contacts with Adults. 544 adults received additional training knowledge.

Community Sports Coaching - Coaches delivered to 1,495 young people at a number of events during the year, including Children in Need multi-sport sessions; 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, with 8059 contacts. The programme has been growing steadily, with many participants feeding into the Parkrun and Widnes running club. For the last block of couch to 5k social media reached 10,000 people.

The team continued to support the popular local Parkruns and assisted and promoted the launch of a junior parkrun in Widnes. The junior parkrun has seen 625 young people complete the course. Widnes Parkrun at Victoria Park is now well established and 3 years on is averaging a weekly turnout of 193 participants (285 highest attendance with 1236 registered). Runcorn Park run at Phoenix Park had 975 registered and averages 94 per week.

Couch to 2k was designed to bridge the gap for young people and trial at established none sporting organisations. 4 Brownie groups across Halton took part. There was 240 contacts made, with an additional 89 attendances from their parents

- 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:

- 1,627 Swim Academy (club live)
- 3837 School swimming participation, (annual visits)
- 250 School swimming galas participation
- 2,225 fitness memberships (club live)
- 6138 squash (inc squash league)
- 5544 aqua babe visits, working in partnership with sure start
- 1840 Birthday Parties
- 750 (approx.) participants Drowning Prevention Week
- 11810 Indoor and outdoor football visits
- 5701 Swim Club visits
- 89 Runcorn Cycle Club visits

5.1.5 **Halton Leisure Card:** 1,072 Halton Leisure Cards purchased providing residents with discounted rates from a range of leisure providers.

5.1.6 **Leisure Centre Operations:** The main challenge is still recruitment, Swimming Instructors and Leisure Attendants proving most difficult to recruit to. There have been a number of appointments and following a restructure the Fitness Team is now up to full strength. There have also been a number of service delays, across the sites due to sickness and technical issues. Runcorn Swimming Pool encountering the most delays.

5.2 **Theme 2: Club Development**

5.2.1 Widnes Football Forum prepared Development Plan
Assisting England Boxing, with set up of Moorfield Boxing Club in 2018
Refugee Football Project – Sports Development set up Refugee Football Project. 2 Hour sessions at Frank Myler Pavilion – linked with Liverpool FA.

5.2.2 **Sports Resource Centres** - There are 2 accessible to voluntary sports who access 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, 59 attended from 12 voluntary sports clubs. 3 First Aid courses delivered 46 attended from 13 voluntary sports clubs. Equity in your coaching 13 attended (see appendix 1

for club list). Sport England Funding workshops: 17 attendees

Street Games facilitated a boxing activators course at Kingsway Leisure centre, with 20 participants. Attendees included sport development coaches, Kingsway Leisure centre staff, Widnes boxing club and Cheshire police. The workshop aimed to give coaches an insight into running a boxing fitness session within the community

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. £1,510 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 **Pass on your passion** - Nation programme celebrating female coaches and instructors in sport. The Frank Myler Sports Pavilion hosted the baton relay in partnership with Merseyside Sports Partnership on 19th July. Taster sessions of Tai Chi and Zumba were offered to those attending. Miniature Batons were handed out to female instructors/coaches in Halton who had been nominated: these included Zumba Divas, Chris Molynuex, Michelle Simpson and Karen Tonge. The campaign aimed to raise the profile of female coaches and encourage more women into this role. National statistics show that only 30% of coaches are female and only 17% of people gaining coaching qualifications are women each year.

5.4 **Theme 4: Sporting Excellence**

5.4.1 **The Annual Halton Sports Awards** - The evening took place on Friday 10th November at Halton Stadium, with 100 people in attendance; guest speakers were Richie O'Connell and Chris Ord from the Kyujutsu Archery Club.

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 £44,000 was secured from outside bodies for clubs, Kyujutsu Archery, West Bank Bears RL, Widnes Rugby Union RU, Riverside Halton Boxing, Halebank FC.

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), £6,800.00 grants awarded.

5.5.4 **Funding and Information Clinics:** The Sports Development Team offered advice and support to Runcorn Rowing Club, Halton Farnworth Hornets, West Bank Bears, Halton Table Tennis Club, Widnes Tennis Academy, St

Maries U12's, Kyujutsu Archery Club, Runcorn Swimming Club, Widnes Youth & Development FC, Widnes FC, Runcorn Linnets FC, Riverside Boxing Club, Kingsway Boxing Club, Brookvale Utd, Halebank FC, Halton Borough FC, Halton Wolves FC, Parklands FC, Bridgewater, Heath Rangers, Moorfield FC, Runcorn Town FC, Pexhill FC, Farnworth FC, Cronton Villa, Windmill Hill FC, Halton Spartans American Football Club

Successful internal and external sports club funding applications examples below

CLUB	PROJECT	FUNDING	OUTCOME
West Bank Bears RL	Development of junior players and healthy lifestyles project	Awards for All	Successful £9400 received.
Kyujutsu Archery Club	Building Improvements	Community Asset Fund	£15,000 Awarded Conditions to be met re Lease
Halebank FC	Building Work – re damp	Area Forum/FA	£8000 received
Widnes Rugby Union Club	Development within the Club re coaches, volunteers and players. Heritage	Sport England Small Grant	£10,000
Riverside Halton	Development for children and young people.	Comic Relief	£1000

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. Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy has been adopted by the Executive Board. The Strategy provides the evidence base in respect of the Authorities built facilities so that a clear framework exist for the improvement, maintenance and development of existing and new facilities.

5.6.2 Officers support clubs with facility improvement plans:

Halebank FC - Pitch drainage project
 West Bank Bear RL – replace existing mobile club house
 Parklands – pitch Improvements, linked with FA
 St Michaels FC – Changing improvements
 Kyujutsu Archery Club – (Old Woodlands), building infrastructure and outside shooting gallery.
 Runcorn Boxing Club – improvements inside club house

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The intention is to produce an Active Halton strategy linked to outcomes in Sport Englands, Towards an Active Nation Strategy. 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 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. We need to put the customer first, focus on those least active and transform how activity is delivered.

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.

9.2 The Indoor and Built Sport Facilities Strategy has identified the need for additional and new investment in order to ensure the Council's offer remains 'fit for purpose'.

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

WORKSHOP	DATE	NUMBERS
Sport Coach UK Safeguarding Workshop	19 June 2017	16
Equity in Your Coaching	26 June 2017	10
Sport Coach UK Safeguarding Workshop	3 July 2017	13
FA Safeguarding Workshop	31 July 2017	25
FA Emergency Aid Workshops	7 & 9 August	34
Sport England Small Grants/A4A	6 December 2017	19 Clubs represented
First Aid Workshop	24 & 31 January 2018	12
Sport Coach UK Safeguarding Workshop	13 February 2018	18
Mental Health Awareness Course	20 March 2018	13
	TOTAL	160

Sports Coaching Bursaries

Name	Sport	Awarded
Mathew Sayle	Swimming	100.00
Robyn Cosgrove	Table Tennis	95.00
Ryan Lunn	Table Tennis	80.00
Richard Arnold	RL	70.00
Neil Hulme	RL	70.00
Jamie Edge	RL	100.00
Andrew McGuthie	Football	80.00
Amy Redman	Tennis	50.00
Peter Cowan	RL	100.00
Eddie McAdam	RL	100.00
Michael Cordell	Netball	75.00
James Grindley	Table Tennis	95.00
Chris Ord	Archery	150.00
Richie O'Connell	Archery	150.00
Terry Spencer	Boxing	65.00
Tommy O'Connor	Boxing	65.00
Stephen Robertson	Boxing	65.00
	Total	1,510

Sports Development Group Grants and Bursaries 2017/18: Appendix 3

NAME	SPORT	AMOUNT
Erin McIntosh	Gym	150.00
Alex Shaw	Hockey	150.00
Mark Allen	T. Tennis	100.00
Lewis Dodd	RL	100.00
Keenan McDaid	RL	100.00
Harvey McDaid	RL	100.00
Billy Glover	RL	100.00
Scarlett Fletcher	Tramp	150.00
Amy Meadows	Football	150.00
Chantelle Crowl	RL	150.00
Kathryn Schofield	Triathlon	150.00
Ellen Lewtas	Netball	100.00
Sadie Lewtas	Netball	100.00
Grace Richards	Motorcross	150.00
David Parr	WRUFC	150.00
Jack Krouse	WRUFC	150.00
Mathew Jennings	WRUFC	150.00
Maisie Brewer	Equestrian	150.00
Robbie Wright	Golf	100.00
Robert Wright	Golf coaching	50.00
	Total	2,500

CLUB	SPORT	AWARDED FOR	AMOUNT
Avon FC	Football	Equipment	300.00
St Mikes FC	Football	Equipment	300.00
Parklands FC	Football	Equipment	300.00
Widnes Tennis Academy	Tennis	Equipment	300.00
Widnes Football Forum	Football	Widnes Cup	300.00
Moorfield Bowls	Bowls	Equipment	300.00
Widnes Walking Football	Football	Kit	300.00
Runcorn Lin Supp FC	Football	Equipment	300.00
Widnes RUFC	Rugby U	Equipment	300.00
Heath Tennis Club	Tennis	Project	300.00
Halton Hornets RL	Rugby L	Coach Dev	1,000.00
Terry Spencer ABA	Boxing	Equipment	300.00
		Total	4,300