

Sport and Recreation Service

The Sport and Recreation service covers a wide range of important priority work areas that contribute towards delivering the Council adopted Sports Strategy 2012 to 2015.

The service has two distinct areas:

- Management of the Leisure Management Contract, DC Leisure are responsible for the day to day operations of the Council 3 Leisure Centres.

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

The majority of the service is non-statutory, however, it does include elements of a statutory nature, including, provision of school swimming lessons and providing services to support residents achieve good Health and wellbeing.

Leisure Centres:

Kingsway Leisure Centre; Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool are Council owned Leisure Centres. They provide a range of affordable activities that contribute to resident achieving a healthy lifestyle. In addition the facilities provide the main water space and training to support people, specifically young people, to be safe and confident in water.

The service is already contracted out to DC Leisure, this has provided on-going savings to the Council since 2003. The current contract is due to expire January 2016, additional savings have been achieved over the last 5 years, with minor service specification changes and above inflation charges. There is little scope to make further savings with the current provider under the existing contract. The facilities are old and further capital investment will be required.

The 3 centres have a combined annual visitor figure of circa. 680,000. (812,000 including spectators - the majority of these being swimming lesson parents). They provide a varied programme of activities. The facilities offer an affordable option for many residents, assisting residents to keep active. Withdrawing the total service could have a detrimental effect on the Health of people in Halton. Less young people learning to swim and water confidence is reduced.

Swimming pool expenditure is high due to the age and condition of the current facilities. A new build could be operated on a cost neutral basis, however, there are many variables that would need to be considered.

Sports development areas of work include:

- Sports Development Grant Scheme
- Coach, Club and Volunteer Development
- Club Accreditation
- Community sports coaching in schools, clubs and community settings

- Support and guidance to individuals, clubs and teams
- Funding Clinics
- Holiday activity sessions
- Assisting non sporting organisations to deliver sport and physical activity opportunities to its members
- Facility development
- Special events, eg, 2013 Rugby World Cup, 2012 Torch Relay etc

The sport and recreation team have identified areas to increase income in order to support delivery.

On a positive note the council will continue to support local voluntary sector sports clubs and residents for the next 12months, through schemes such as;

- 50% subsidy for competitive junior matches
- Sports development grant scheme
- Subsidy on workshop and coaching courses
- Halton Leisure Card
- Free access to Park activities which include use of Tennis, Basketball Courts; Skate parks, ramps and climbing boulder; bowling greens and bowls hire
- Rate relief

More detailed project information to outline where service delivery would be affected by a reduction in budget

The Sport and recreation team supports and develops the voluntary sporting sector through projects highlighted below. It works with the Halton Sports Partnership Executive Committee to design services that improve and support the development of voluntary sporting individuals, clubs and organisations over a long term. Programmes include:

Coach Development

Funding opportunity for both new and existing coaches to access coach education courses. Level 1 NGB courses. Courses range in price from £40 to £200 added to this can be considerable transport and course costs, which prohibits some from taking the first step. The project works with clubs and individuals to produce personal action plans. **(number of bursaries available reduced)**

Halton Volunteer Programme – a programme to support volunteers and mentors in a club or community setting. This is linked into the Coach Development programme.

Leadership Development – providing education and knowledge opportunities for ages 9 yrs + to gain a national qualification with a long term aim of employment.

Halton Sports Awards – linked to ongoing volunteers, coaches, officials, and participants recognition scheme. **(format has been changed to reduce costs)**

Club Development – coach education programme for coaches and volunteers to improve their knowledge and skills

Club Halton Accreditation Scheme – raising the standards of voluntary sports clubs to ensure they are safe, effective, and child friendly environments. Clubs look at participation rates of their wider membership I.e. parents, volunteers.

Sports Resource Centres/equipment – a facility to assist with the running of voluntary sports clubs, organisations or forums. (Service changes due to reduction in Library hours)

Sports Fair Week – a week of Free or subsidised activity from clubs and organisations affiliated to Halton Sports Partnership for all people of Halton to access.

Funding & Information Clinics – provides the opportunity for sports clubs to access funding and information opportunities, advice and to share good practice.

Halton Sports Partnership website – a communication process accessible by the whole voluntary sporting community of Halton.

Community Sports Coach Scheme

Hands on coaching delivery to Young People in school, club and community settings

Inspired programmes – linking to a special sporting event

Can include whole school assembly, **Disability Awareness** to enhance the awareness of disability sports and adaptations to ensure we provide full inclusion for all participants. **Exit Routes** The children are encouraged to be physically active and are provided with information of exit route in to sports clubs. Other outcomes - most schools do after school clubs, and cross curricular activities.

Sports Leadership Awards

Halton are reaching out to a wide audience and delivery of sports leadership awards such as open community groups, Cub, Scout and Brownie groups and sports clubs

Club Link example

Halton CSC delivered a multi skills programme for the West Bank Bears rugby club. Outcome a complete under 7s team was created along with coaches first aid person and team manager

Community example

Request made to the CSC for attendance at Community fun days, sports tasters and club links promoted

Participant Numbers Jan 2013 – Dec 2013

Contacts 8,200

Teachers 595

AOTTS 1890

Health & Physical Activity Development Officer

Delivers an action plan that contributes towards a healthier living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being and help prevent illness and life threatening disease through increased levels of sport and physical activity and increased awareness of benefits of sport and physical activity. Key actions are: Consulting with members of the local community and health professionals, sign-posting to appropriate services and developing community based sport and physical activities and opportunities in Halton. Linking into National Campaigns i.e. Change for Life.

Community activity provision – i.e. exit routes to specialist weight management and mens health prog; Hard to reach/ socially isolated groups.

Existing Community Classes - support, resources and promotion.

Day services in the community support with sports equipment and taster activity.

Family activity in following consultation and feedback, offering families who face numerous barriers the opportunity to take part in healthy activity.

“Get Active Forum”. Consisting of leaders of community physical activity groups.

The group meet to enhance and support Halton’s resident’s awareness re the benefits of physical activity and to sustain and expand existing community sessions.

Sports Club promotion and commissioning of voluntary sports clubs to deliver additional community activity to increase 16 + participation. (Cricket, Athletics, Football, Table Tennis)