

Sports Equality and Diversity

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The past 12 months SASSOT has witnessed significant developments in the area of sports equality, in particular disability sport. SASSOT has continued to identify the importance of increasing opportunities for under-represented groups. This has been underpinned by the development of a two year 'Equality and Diversity Action Plan'.

The national equity organisations, Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, Sporting Equals and the English Federation of Disability Sport have grown in capacity and have identified the importance in providing guidance to CSPs. SASSOT will endeavour to develop closer working relationships with these organisations during 2010-11.

Highlights

- ▶ Through the national programme 'Aiming High For Disabled Children' SASSOT has appointed a full-time 'Disability Sport & Physical Activity Officer', Mark Fosbrook
- ▶ SASSOT Equality & Diversity Group has awarded small grants to 10 projects across the county that address inequalities in sport. A total of £5,000 has been awarded to provide new activities, up-skill coaches and improve the awareness of opportunities to local communities
- ▶ SASSOT rolled out the national programme 'Playground To Podium' by delivering a County Athlete Assessment Day. Over 40 children with disabilities took part in talent identification assessments with a number of children being placed on NGB performance pathways
- ▶ SASSOT has been successful in securing £20,000 funding through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. These funds will be used to deliver bespoke disability training and family disability sport fun days
- ▶ A comprehensive 'Disability Sport' section is live on the SASSOT website providing information on disability classifications, training opportunities, news and events

Looking ahead to 2010-11

- ▶ Engage with national equity partners and integrate initiatives where appropriate
- ▶ Delivery of two County Athlete Assessments Days as part of the Playground To Podium programme
- ▶ Review the impact of 'ACCESS Across Staffordshire' grants and potentially release another round of funding
- ▶ Develop a county 'Disability Sport and Physical Activity' strategy
- ▶ Develop three new district 'Disability Sport Forums'
- ▶ Produce a 'Disability Sport / Activity Directory'

"Aiming High has helped to strengthen SASSOT's commitment to generate increased sporting opportunities for young disabled children. The next 12 months is set to be an exciting time of development through the work of the new Disability Sport Officer and so watch this space.

Naomi Bird, Knowledge, Communications and Equalities Manager.

Aiming High

