A Year of Progress, Impact and Achievements

2007-2008

MERSEYSIDE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Working to improve the quali people within Merseyside th physical activity

Welcome to Merseyside Sports Partnership's second Annual Report 2007 – 2008.

Last year we established clear priorities for the Merseyside Sports Partnership Board and for the core team led by our Director, Jean Stephens.

These priorities include improving access for people in Merseyside to more quality sports clubs and quality coaching, especially through the sports volunteers of Merseyside and the Coaching Agency.

We will do this through promoting and supporting strong sports partnership working across Merseyside and investing in clubs, coaches and volunteers. It is our hope to create a one million pound investment fund over the next four years to help clubs, coaches and volunteers; £700,000 of this investment is already in place.

These priorities will, I believe, be very much in tune with the new Strategy for Sport currently being developed by Sport England. Sport England's aim is to establish a world leading 'Community Sports System' in England and sports partnerships like ours will be integral to this aim.

Merseyside Sports Partnership has significant strengths in the Board and in the core team, which position us as one of the leaders in England as we look forward to 2012. These strengths include a passion for sport, whether in schools, clubs, council sports centres and playing fields or in the Colleges and Universities of Merseyside. This passion is enhanced by the strong spirit of co-operation and common purpose which bind us together.

ty of life for the rough sport and

The fruits of this spirit of common purpose are borne out by the case studies featured in this report: I encourage you to read them and if you can bring to light your own examples, please let us know.

This report can only scratch the surface of sport in Merseyside and the growing number of quality sports initiatives being pursued across our regions.

Finally, I would like to thank all Board members and Partners who have volunteered their time so enthusiastically over the last year; and our high performing core team, led by the indefatigable Jean Stephens.

John Bell

Chair of Merseyside Sports Partnership Board

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Board Members

JOHN BELL
Chair of Merseyside Sports Partnership Board
Representing North West Sports Board

PAT SHENTON
Director of Quality and Strategic Development Advisor of Higher & Further Education Institutes and Vice Chair of MSP Board

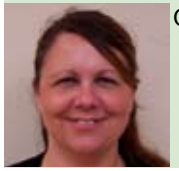
SARAH PICKFORD
North West Regional Equity Officer (Women and Girls Sport & Physical Activity) Representing Equity Alliance Partners

GERRY KINSELLA
Chief Executive Greenbank Project Advisor of Social Enterprises

COLIN LEWIS
Police Inspector Representing Merseyside Police

Dr. DYMPNA EDWARDS
Deputy Director of Public Health Representing Merseyside Primary Care Trusts

DAN KEEFE
Partnership Development Manager for Pensby SSP Representing 15 School Sports Partnerships



SALLY YEOMAN
Chief Executive Officer St Helens CVS Representing the Voluntary and Community Sector in Merseyside

CHRIS BRIGGS
Interim Assistant Executive Director, Culture, Media and Sport Representing Host Authority for MSP Core Team

JOHN GIBSON
North West Area Squash Manager Representing National Governing Bodies of Sport

NEIL EDWARDS
Voluntary Sector Representative Representing Merseyside Sports Councils

STEPHEN TIFFANY
School Improvement Officer for PE and PHSE Advisor of Local Education Authorities

SUE SMITH
Sporting Ambassador Representing Merseyside Sporting Talent

HOWARD COCKROFT
Operational Director, Culture and Leisure Services, Halton BC Representing Mersyside Cultural Forum Chief Leisure Officer

ANDREW FRITH
Economic Development Manager Representing Learning and Skills Council Greater Merseyside

GRAHAM BAYLISS
Director Leisure Services Sefton MBC Representing Merseyside Cultural

PAULINE MANNING
Sports Development Officer Representing Merseyside Sports Councils

Core Team

JEAN STEPHENS
Director

KERRY STEWART
Development Manager
Business and Performance

STEVE SULLIVAN
Senior Development Officer
Events

ANDREW WILEMAN
Development Manager
Workforce

COLETTE SHARKEY
Business Support Officer
Finance and Information

NATALIE WOODFORD
Development Manager
Sport

EILEEN FLETCHER
Business Support Officer
HR and Clerical

JULIE LEASOR
Development Manager
Community

TERI WAINWRIGHT
Business Support Officer

KATIE CROZIER
Senior Development Officer
Marketing and Research

Measuring Success

Theme	Key Headline Information
Developing Sports Coaches	● Total of 41 Community Sports Coaches employed within Merseyside to-date ● 23 partners involved with a total of £1,614,000 invested into 3 Phases over 4 years ● Full time equivalent equates to 28 coaches ● 22,317 coaching hours delivered in 2007-2008 ● 19,776 new coaching hours delivered in 2007-2008 ● 169,289 young people who have received quality coaching ● 73,180 young people who are female, who have received quality coaching ● 8,871 young people who are disabled, who have received quality coaching ● 7,824 young people who are from ethnic minorities, who have received quality coaching ● 114,825 young people who live in a priority area, who have received quality coaching
Developing Sports Volunteers	● 111 new volunteers registered within the 2007-2008 Sports Volunteers North West Contract ● 13, 691 volunteer hours worked, which equates to 1,825 full days and £62,979 in monetary value (based upon minimum wage) ● 90 training qualifications gained ● 39 volunteers are female ● 17 volunteers are disabled ● 1 volunteer from an ethnic background ● 74 volunteers live within a priority area ● 8 placements are linked to a National Governing Body ● 16 partners actively involved in the programme
Developing Sports Clubs	● 193 accredited clubs within Merseyside ● 240 clubs working towards accreditation ● 6 Local Authority Sports Development Unit Accreditation Schemes, endorsed by DCMS ● 28 National Governing Body Accredited Club Schemes ● 1 Merseyside Generic Clubmark Licence has been achieved

Developing Sporting Talent	● 63 young disabled people spotted for Gifted and Talented Programme ● 10 Merseyside Juniors competed in the DSE National Boccia Championships as part of the North West Team ● Peter Millar (Special Olympic Tennis Player) achieved the Young Sports Person of the Year at the Future Sporting Champions Dinner 2007 ● 2 players participated in trials for England ● 16 talented students part of Liverpool John Moores University Scholarship programme ● 31 talented students part of Liverpool University Scholarship programme ● 46 Merseyside Sports Partnership bursary awards, administered by Merseyside Sports Council, have been awarded to support talented athletes to the value of £2,903 in 2007-2008
Developing Education, Training, Leadership and Empowerment Opportunities	● 246 young people aged 14-19 years attended the 5th annual Community Volunteering and Leadership Conference (Step into Sport) in February 2008, in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University mentoring programme of 12 students ● 111 coaches attended 6 disability training courses - Football, Boccia, Multi-skills, Rebound Therapy ● Local Authority training courses within Knowsley, Wirral and St Helens were held in a Boccia Leaders Course with a total of 51 candidates and 17 candidates attended a New Age Curling Course ● 4 workshops conducted to 81 partnership members in relation to Market Segmentation, 5 Hour Offer, Building Schools for the Future, CRB Portability, 26 meetings attended and influenced across the partnership by Core Team Members
Developing Major Events	● 60,000 young people participating in all year round training and tournaments leading to Merseyside Youth Games ● 1,048 young people attended the Merseyside Youth Games: Primary event (Secondary Event was cancelled due to poor weather conditions) ● 483 young people attended the Merseyside Youth Games: Community Event ● Total of 539 MYG participants were female (51.4%) ● Total of 509 MYG participants were male (48.6%) ● 32 MYG participants were disabled (3%) ● 53 MYG participants were from an ethnic background (5%) ● 656 participants lived within a priority area (62.6%)
Developing School Sport	● 86.6% of young people receive 2 hours of high quality PE (PSA 1 - Merseyside average) against a National figure of 86% ● 35.6% of young people participated within Inter-school competitions (Merseyside average) against a National figure of 35% ● 35.5% of schools have forged links with community clubs (Merseyside average) against a National figure of 29% ● 17% of young people participated within the Leadership and Volunteering programme (Merseyside average) against a National figure of 12% ● 448 schools achieved Activemark accreditation

Raising Profile (Marketing Communications and Research)

- £82,352 worth of publicity achieved (based on a cash value if advertising space had been purchased)
- 359,572 page views to www.merseysidesport.com
- 145,875 sessions on website, an increase of 37% on previous year of 92,123
- 416 is the average number of website sessions per day
- 3.01 minutes is the average length of each website session
- 17 press releases produced and distributed to media
- 101 news items, 78 events, 84 jobs, 181 courses and workshops as transient uploads on website
- 205 sports clubs, 26 funding and sponsorship opportunities, 22 case studies, 49 guidance documents and 836 contacts as permanent uploads on website
- 8,000 disability directories produced and distributed to key stakeholders within the partnership worth £6,139
- 3,500 Merseyside Youth Games Programmes produced and distributed for the event. Worth £5,390
- 2,000 Merseyside Community Youth Games Programmes produced for the event. Worth £1,889
- 500 Merseyside Future Sporting Champions Dinner Programmes produced and distributed worth £1,179
- 1,000 Events Calendars produced and distributed worth £1,350
- Total cost (in value) of all publications is £15,947 (based upon actual print costs to the publisher, artwork and design which is currently obtained for free due to advertising revenue generated by our publisher)
- 4 electronic newsletters produced and distributed to key networks and partners within the Merseyside Sports Partnership
- 5 research studies on behalf of Merseyside Sports Partnership

Developing Sponsorship and Investment Opportunities

- £57,500 total investment which contributed to Merseyside Youth Games, Community Youth Games, Future Sporting Champions Dinner, Disability Coach Education, Disability Events Calendar
- £22,500 investment of Sportsmatch applications supported and endorsed by Merseyside Sports Partnership Board
- £453,725 investment supported and endorsed by Merseyside Sports Partnership Board

Developing Standards

- Submitted Preliminary Level Equality Foundation Standard
- Successfully achieved W3C Quality Assurance and W3C CSS Standard for www.merseysidesport.com
- Achieved Intermediate level of the National Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children

Developing Delivery System for Community Sport

- 6 well established Sport and Physical Activity Alliances
- 18 projects submitted to Sport England for Community Investment Funding: - 3 within Halton, 3 within Knowsley, 5 within Wirral, 2 within Sefton, 2 within Liverpool, 3 within St Helens
- £1.7million of Community Investment funding has been broken down into the following areas: Club and Volunteer Development £720,588; Participation for over 16 years £858,694; Participation for under 16 years £70,500; Pathways £91,132

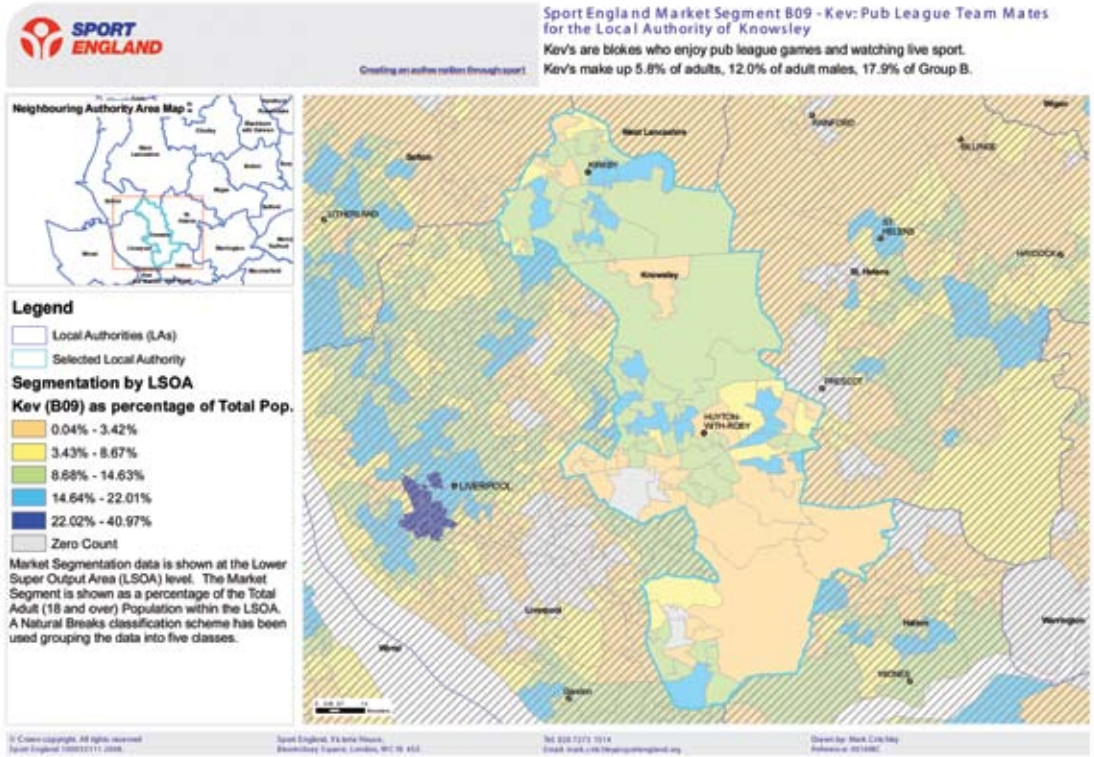
Market Segmentation in Mersyside

Sport England has developed 'nineteen sporting segments' to help organisations to understand the nation's attitudes and motivations – why they play sport and why they don't. The segments provide the knowledge to influence people to take part and this work is part of a national drive to get two million people doing more sport by 2012. Knowsley was one of the local authorities involved in a pilot to investigate the potential usage of Market Segmentation data.

Knowsley Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA), through consultation, established that women and girls, over 45's and children and young people in areas of deprivation were their highest priorities. The Market Segmentation data further identified which of these targets had the largest groups in Knowsley out of the possible 19 - Kevin and Paula.

The characteristics of Kevin and Paula were assessed, leading to the introduction of new sessions at appropriate venues (nearest to their homes). The 'Back To' project also utilised this data as evidence of need, assisting with funding generation and commitment to the project. Partnership working has shown that Market Segmentation data could be used to inform facilities about their target groups, launch new projects and assist with new capital builds to best meet the needs of the local community.

For further information relating to Market Segmentation, please visit:
www.sportengland.org/se_market_segmentation.htm
or contact the MSP Core Team 0151 231 5239.



Photographs courtesy of Rampworx

Rampworx Volunteers

According to Sport England there are more volunteers in sport than any other sector in the UK*. This illustrates just how important volunteers are to the infrastructure of organisations like Rampworx, Europe's largest indoor skate park.

Rampworx has 20 members of staff, 11 are volunteers and they fulfill a variety of roles and positions. These roles include sports coaching, assisting with events and event planning, administration, ramp building, web design, marketing and the young persons steering group.

With a structured programme in place, Rampworx volunteers receive a comprehensive induction and are offered a range of development opportunities; including access to the free and discounted courses offered by organisations such as Sefton Community and Voluntary Service (CVS). These wide ranging courses include First Aid, project management, funding for projects and child protection training.

"Rampworx has allowed me to develop relevant and important skills in web design and business which is related to the field of work that I am studying for and wish to move into." Matt aged 20

"Being a coach at Rampworx has given me a great deal of satisfaction and confidence. I've worked with loads of different people from all backgrounds and I love to help people improve – it's a great buzz!" Jenna aged 19

**www.sportengland.org (2008)*

Young Volunteers Prove Invaluable to Oxton Hockey Club

Oxton Hockey Club, like most clubs, is unable to staff sessions entirely with senior coaches, so the use of young volunteers evolved. The volunteers regularly work with 8-13 age group; with 60 in this group and 3 fully qualified coaches the use of assistants has greatly improved the perfomer/coach ratio.

Young volunteers at the club aged 16+ are registered with Merseyside Sports Partnership on the Young Volunteers in Sport programme (supported by Sports Volunteering North West). On this programme they receive funding for the England Hockey Leadership course and work towards achieving Level 1 Coaching and Umpiring.

The volunteers benefit from their involvement at the club tremendously. They gain confidence in communication and organisation, both highly transferable skills and achieve qualifications in coaching. Richard James, Junior Co-ordinator at the club commented: "Our very first Young Volunteer is now 22, coaching an U17 Boys' County Squad and is a mentor for two of our latest Young Volunteers who are both Level 1 Umpire and Coach qualified and are using those skills at County and Regional events at just 16 and 18 years of age."

Workforce Merseyside

Jubilant Janet Joins Coaching North West

Janet Wardaugh ran her own Dance School, but was looking to improve her skills and introduce dance to more participants across Liverpool. She attended a screening interview with Coaching North West where she agreed to take on further training and placements including breakfast clubs, schools activities and holiday clubs.

Janet Wardaugh, Dance Teacher & Level 4 Cheer Leading Coach: “As a result of joining Coaching NW I have been given the opportunity of placement coaching across the city, the placements help to teach children the importance of exercise. Personally I have been able to continue my own professional development by attending courses I would not have known about had it not been for Coaching NW. This has enabled me to improve my own skills, which in turn has been a great benefit to the people I now coach and employers.”

Janet plans to improve her skills and increase her coaching hours in a self employed capacity with the support of Coaching North West. Janet has also recently accepted a position with Liverpool Dance School.

Recognising the Value of Volunteering

To recognise the ‘value of volunteering,’ we calculated the contributions of volunteers at a community Rugby League club. Halton Farnworth Hornets was chosen, an outstanding Clubmark club from Widnes, and the National Governing Body worked with the club committee to construct a complete profile of all the volunteers’ work at the club.

Based on expected hours, by 72 volunteers with specific roles and responsibilities at the club, the total monetary value of volunteers at this club for the 2008/2009 season is £400,425. It was not possible to accurately calculate the value of the additional untitled volunteers who give extra support on match days and on an as and when basis so this figure should be even higher.

Chris Thair, North West Regional Development Manager, Rugby Football League: “Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC is recognised as being one of the standout Clubmark clubs for the sport of rugby league. Volunteers are integral to the sport and we are fortunate enough to have so many fine, dedicated, passionate and truly giving people involved.”

development within

Photograph courtesy of Halton Farnworth Hornets

1st Multisports Club to Achieve Clubmark in All Sports

The Northern Club in Sefton, established in 1859, has now become the first multisports club to achieve Clubmark in all four sporting activities, Squash, Cricket, Hockey & Bowls.

In 2006 there were approximately 850 members. Following local and national media exposure of the awards and achievements, together with various club initiatives, that figure has risen to approximately 1040.

All four Clubmark achievements were concluded between 2006 and 2007 but between 2007 and 2008 the Governments Community Club Development Programme recognised the achievements and progress made by the Northern through the individual sections and by their collective progress. It has identified the club as a role model club and centre of excellence. As such, The Northern Club have been used as an example of good practice on their promotional DVD.

All this media and development exposure has raised the profile of the club in the local community. This has assisted with the growth of the membership and created a firm foundation for the future of the club.

Sefton Sports Council made a special award to The Northern Club at their Annual Sports Awards 2007 for outstanding service and achievement in sport in the community.

Merseyside Sports Bursary Supports Athlete Development

David Fumpson joined the Y Squash Club in St Helens in 2005 and as a result of hard work, the support of his coach, John Newton, and his family, David's career has really taken off.

He became the under 13 and under 15 Merseyside County Champion and then trained with the North West area academy, representing the region in the National Championships. In 2007 he accepted an invitation to join the under 13's at the National Stadium and by April 2008 had risen to be ranked number 6 in the UK and number 33 in the under 15's (at just 13 years old).

As a young performer, David was able to apply for funding from the Merseyside Sports Bursary to assist with his development. According to his Mum, Kim Fumpson, funding was a big help: "David is competing regularly in tournaments across the UK and Europe. The grant we received from the Bursary has really helped in contributing towards travel and accommodation costs, which has enabled David to train and compete at the highest level."

Overseen by the Merseyside Sports Council, whose volunteer members review all requests for support and awarding of grants, the Merseyside Sports Bursary is open to young people (to 25 years old). Grants from the Bursary can contribute to the costs of kit, equipment, travel, competition or accessing specialist coaching.

Sports development within

Adopt a Club

Merseyside Sports Partnership and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) have developed 'Adopt a Club' to provide high quality support to clubs and work experience to students.

Students, selected from the PE Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) degree, gain first hand experience of working in the community which will enhance their academic studies. The programme aims to:

- Increase the number of clubs achieving a quality standard
- Increase the number of school to club links
- Support communication between the club and its community
- Increase resources into the club
- Increase the capacity of coaches, volunteers and officials
- Increase membership of the club
- Promote good practice to become common practice

Merseyside

"I feel the scheme has helped me develop leadership and management skills in a realistic work based setting. I am encouraged and enthused by the work experience gained through the scheme and feel that this is an additional support to achieving LJMU graduate skills and qualified teacher status."
Keeley Johnson (student – LJMU 3rd QTS)

"The Adopt a Club project provided a valuable link to add impetus and resources to help clubs and National Governing Bodies achieving their objectives, in addition to providing students with an insight into sports, clubs and processes."
John Ashcroft England Badminton

Celebrating Success in Disability Sport

Peter Millar has an exceptional talent in Tennis, from representing his club Wallasey Manor, to competing on the International stage for Great Britain. He is ranked as the number one British Tennis player overcoming the challenge of having a learning disability. With over 12 years playing sport, at just 15 years of age, Peter represented Team Great Britain at the Special Olympics World Games in China in October 2007.

Earlier in the year Peter won Gold at the National Tennis Championships in Nottingham in 2007, prior to him going to Shanghai where he won the Individual Gold and the Doubles event Gold. The Chairman of Cheshire County LTA awarded Peter with his Cheshire Tennis Colours in 2007.

Peter was voted Wirral Young Sports Person of the Year, then went on to win the Merseyside Sports Partnership Young Sports Person of the Year Award in 2007. He was nominated for the North West Sports Personality of the Year.

Since then Peter has attended and passed the Tennis Leaders Award, which enables him to assist any licensed coach in a session for either special needs or able-bodied alike. Peter aims to be selected by the International Federation for Sport for people with an intellectual disability to represent Great Britain in an international tournament in Poland during July 2008.

Photograph courtesy of Special Olympics Great Britain

Community development

Liverpool Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) Appoint Club Development Officer

Through a thorough consultation process, one of the barriers identified within the SPAA delivery plan was the lack of capacity within the voluntary sector. Barriers identified were lack of volunteers, coaches and leaders, club accreditation schemes and the lack of affordable training opportunities.

As a result of the investment attracted by the Liverpool SPAA a Club Development Officer, Martin Jones, has now been appointed. Martin had been employed by the Rugby Football Union for the past ten years.

In order to increase participation across the City the voluntary sector need support to build the capacity within clubs and community settings. Martin's role includes increasing the capacity and participation in the voluntary and community sector by offering training programmes and support to clubs achieving Clubmark. Martin will be arranging a number of workshops for the clubs in Liverpool, which will address the areas of support they require.

In the short time Martin has been in post, the number of accredited clubs has risen from the base line of 11 to 22. The projected target set for Liverpool to achieve Club Accreditation by 2012 is 123.

Transforming Troubled Teenagers

Positive Futures in Wirral aims to engage with young people (aged 14-19) who have either offended, or are at risk of offending, by offering sport and leisure activities in communities where anti-social behaviour is a problem. Wirral Positive Futures is a project based and managed within Wirral Sports Development Unit.

By working in partnership with a number of agencies, Positive Futures has contributed to a significant reduction in the number of reported cases of anti-social behaviour in Wirral of 15% over the last 2 years.

Colin Hunt works for Positive Futures in Wirral: "These young people are at a crossroads in their life, and I am just helping them to choose the right path. Often they have risk taking behaviour, have offended or are at risk of offending. By doing something they enjoy, young people can be re-engaged into society. My work uses sport as a focus for their energy and it demonstrates an alternative lifestyle with new direction and opportunities."

Julie Leasor, Community Manager at Merseyside Sports Partnership added: "This project demonstrates how sport and physical activity can help to reach young people who are socially excluded. Sport is a great method of engaging with communities and this project shows that by working in partnership we can improve the quality of life for the people of Merseyside."

within Merseyside

Midnight 5 a-side Leagues

St Helens Sports Development, in partnership with the Coalfield Regeneration 'North West Game On' initiative, has developed 5 a-side football leagues to increase participation of 13-19 year olds in the borough.

Five leagues are running with an average of 80 participants each week at each site. Leagues are run with paid referees and volunteers at each session in the evenings, a flashpoint for anti-social behaviour. Four of the leagues are inclusive to males and females (the majority of participants are male) one is all female.

Midnight 5 a-side Leagues aim to:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Introduce young people to the values of teamwork and fair play in a competitive environment
- Assist in recruiting a team for the Merseyside Community Games

Mark Jennings – St Helens Sports Development Team added: "We are looking to increase the number of females taking part in the leagues and looking to bring other agencies in to work in partnership, and part fund, the leagues to ensure sustainability in the future".

The leagues have already had an impact since their introduction in January 2008, reducing anti-social behaviour in the areas where the leagues take place, and at the times they currently run. Figures are expected to be announced soon.

Get Off The Bench

Glen Swift attended the very first rugby league 'Get Off The Bench' course in May 2006. At the time Glen had just dropped out of college.

As part of a Next Steps session with Connexions he discussed taking on a voluntary coaching role and he joined Saints on their 'E2e Peak Performance' programme to develop his skills in coaching, personal development and youth work.

Glen has come a long way in the last 2 years since becoming a volunteer. His typical week now covers rugby and sports coaching 3 days a week and 2 days studying for his Level 3 Youth Work qualification and Level 2 Rugby League Coaching Award.

He also supports a 'MATCH (Men and Their Children)' project and school sports partnership boys project. Glen is a real example of how volunteering can change your life and make a real difference at grassroots in the community.

On the 25th May 2008 Glen begins a full time post as a Saints Community Coach and it all started by volunteering with Merseyside Sports Partnership. Gordon Pennington, Foundation Manager for Saints Rugby League Football Club commented: "Volunteering has allowed Glen to recognise and develop his coaching skills. Through this experience, and with the training he was able to take part in, he is a professional coach we are proud to have as part of the team."

Young People Progress through The Games

Knowsley young people were given the opportunity to take part in structured sports sessions, from which they formed their own team and competed at Merseyside Community Games and the Street Games.

Having taken part in these regular sports sessions, 12 young people have joined a local football club and 6 others have signed up with Knowsley Sports Development as volunteers. Some of these volunteers will be helping out at the Merseyside Community Games in 2008 working with the young people as mentors.

These opportunities have allowed young people to make more productive use of their leisure time, sample team sport and feel part of a team.

Volunteer to Professional Coach

Stephen Lloyd started volunteering at Greenbank Sports Academy in 2002. Having assisted at Holiday Camps he worked towards his first qualification in 2003 – Wheelchair Basketball Level 1. Stephen then went on to achieve Higher Level Sports Leader Award.

As a registered disabled person Stephen's access to training courses was subsidised. He went on to achieve a Boccia Referees course and Disability Swimming Level 1, fully utilising his coaching skills as a volunteer.

Having demonstrated obvious talent and dedication to coaching, Stephen successfully gained employment at Princes Primary School and continues to volunteer in his spare time: "Without this first step as a volunteer I would not have been aware of my own potential as a coach. I am grateful to Merseyside Sports Partnership and Greenbank Sports Academy for the opportunities provided."

Merseyside Youth Games Provides Opportunities for Halton

Merseyside Youth Games, designed in partnership with local schools and sports clubs, promotes opportunities for young people to take part in a year round development programme.

This provides competitive sporting opportunities for over 1500 young people in Halton to:

- Take part in a quality coaching programme in their chosen sport
- Form new friendships and have fun
- Improve skill levels and be part of a team
- Represent Halton at the Merseyside Youth Games

Merseyside Youth Games is a catalyst to developing and delivering a variety of competitive sporting opportunities for primary schools in Halton. Local primary competitions are a major part of the Halton School Sports Partnership Annual Competition Calendar structure.

Events acros

Partnerships have also been made with local development forums, clubs, Young Sports Leaders and the School Sports Co-ordinator programme to deliver and develop competitions.

Sefton Benefits from Merseyside Community Games

Sefton Leisure Services found the Community Games was very beneficial to its young people last year, with a number of teams, clubs and individuals taking up new sports and young people from different social backgrounds and areas forming teams to represent Sefton.

- 28 young people joined clubs or have attended club training nights for Football
- 18 young people joined Sefton's Football Academy
- 16 girls now attend Sefton Targeted Football
- 26 young people joined Positive Futures climbing clubs after attending taster sessions at the Games

Sefton held a number of competitions, which were used to select the individuals and teams who represented Sefton at last year's Community Games. A number of those young people have gone on to take part in further programmes run by Leisure Services.

s Merseyside

Clubs have also benefited from the community programmes and have reported young people who attended the Games have gone on to attend club nights and sign up as members.

Sefton are looking forward to putting forward a bigger representation this year and this effort will be strengthened by the development of Sefton's sports specific programmes and newly appointed Development Officers and Managers.

Disability Events Programme

Merseyside Sports Partnership disability events programme has provided some very tangible benefits to schools across the county. Ken Andrews, School Sports Co-ordinator at Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College in St Helens commented: "I believe that the sporting events and festivals, organised by Merseyside Sports Partnership, support and enhance the programme of sporting opportunities that are promoted within St. Helens. The events provide a structure for coaching in schools and a focus for sport in the curriculum." Ken Andrews further commented: "Young people from both special and mainstream schools within St. Helens have been given the opportunities to compete in high quality events. This, in a number of cases, has resulted in good links being forged with specific sports clubs and opportunities have been provided for the young athletes to compete and perform at the highest level."

15 athletes have joined the Gifted and Talented Programme, 10 of these were selected to represent the North West in the National Athletics Championships.

Merseyside Community Games Impact on Badminton

Since its inception in 2006 the Merseyside Community Games has had a dramatic impact on Badminton as Jean Dean, Secretary of the Liverpool & District Badminton League, remarked: "Organising the Badminton Competition at the Games was very rewarding. On realising that this sport was part of the youth centres programme and that there are adults encouraging juniors to participate, the Games has indicated to me that there was a need for Badminton Junior Clubs to be established in the city. Recently I have set up two juniors clubs in North Liverpool - Anfield Sport and Community Centre and Everton Park Sports Centre. It is hoped, with sufficient funding, that more Badminton England qualified coaches will emerge and further clubs in South Liverpool can be launched to help with the interested potential badminton club members generated by the Community Games."

Sponsors

Capita Business Services
Liverpool Culture Company
Nomura Assest Management UK Limited
Greater Connexions Merseyside
Merseytravel
Sonex Publishing Limited
Brodie Publishing Limited
Willow Catering
Community Foundation Merseyside
Sportsmatch
Coaching North West
Glendale Managed Services
Volunteering North West

The principle activity of the Merseyside Sports Partnership Core Support Team has continued to be that of strategic coordination, performance measurement and marketing of sport and physical activity.

Through its Strategic Board, it has continued to deliver through its partners, the outcomes for the year 2007-2008 within budget.

Merseyside Sports Partnership Board and its Core Support Team are committed to investing in a wide range of projects for the benefit of 2008-2009 in line with its strategic priorities – Strategy 2006-2010

Merseyside Sports Partnership: Core Support Team is employed by Liverpool City Council (LCC), Sport and Recreation, within Culture, Media and Sport portfolio on behalf of the Partnership and is required to comply with LCC HR and Financial processes and procedures as per Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation. The Core Support Team is located in the premises of Liverpool John Moores University, I M Marsh Campus as per lease agreement.

The Merseyside Sports Partnership Board is currently a voluntary body, which operates under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation.

Governance and Accounts

Summary Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2008

Funding	**Income**
Sport England	£ 377,254
Local Authorities	£ 62,000
Operational Income	£ 237,761
Re-profiled funding from 2006/07	£ 387,823
Total	**£1,064,837**
Expenditure	
Employees	£ 417,306
Supplies	£ 53,150
Services	£ 535,614
Total	**£1,014,600**
Income over Expenditure	**-£ 50,238 ***

** All monies re-profiled into new financial year 2008-2009 as committed expenditure associated with outstanding contractual commitments including community sports coaching programme*

Reserves

On-going reserves stand at £173,826

Priorities for 2008-2009

- To continue to develop and sustain a skilled workforce of coaches, volunteers and students across Merseyside
- To continue to improve the number and quality of voluntary sports clubs (and multi sports clubs) offered to young people across Merseyside
- To continue to improve the quality of the links between schools and clubs across Merseyside
- To continually work towards reducing bureaucracy for coaches and volunteers - CRB portability acceptance across Merseyside
- Maximise the benefits and opportunities of the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics - support to talented individuals, coaches and volunteers
- Raise the profile of sports participation by sharing great practices to become common practices through an inclusive structure across Merseyside
- Maximise on usage and promotion of research data on behalf of the Partnership to inform decision making at policy level

For further information contact

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