



Subject:	GLL community engagement and underrepresented target groups update
Date:	4 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide members with the annual update for 2022 on community engagement and underrepresented group focused promotional activity.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider and record receipt of the information provided below and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. City & Neighbourhood officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual report on community engagement initiatives for the preceding year. This report

has previously been presented through Active Belfast Limited. As the contract is now under direct Council control, this and future annual service reports will be presented through the People and Communities committee.

3.2 GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of GLL's core priorities is to ensure full access for all members of the community and to encourage more people to be more active, more often. CNS works closely with GLL to encourage community outreach and regular participation amongst traditionally underrepresented target groups.

3.3 GLL employ a Regional Business Manager (RBM), whose key focus is to drive participation and usage, ensuring more people from every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged and taking part in sport and physical activity.

3.4 In support of this the RBM manages a team of three Community Sport Officers, a team of nine Healthwise Officers and one Group Exercise coordinator. All members of the team have work programmes designed to deliver on strategic objectives with the ultimate aim to increase participation in both the mainstream and underrepresented groups.

3.5 GLL is committed to support community access offering varied opportunities delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable, and non-inhibiting.

3.6 GLL re-invests through the GLL Foundations (Sport and Communities) that provide and sustain support for community cohesion and talented individuals.

3.7 53% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.

Outcomes and proposals

Sport National Governing Body (NGB) and club programmes

3.8 GLL continue to support a number of Sport NGBs in the delivery of their holiday programmes, grassroots events and performance programmes. Holiday camps were delivered by the Irish FA, Ulster Badminton and NI Netball. All Ireland water polo league events are hosted regularly at Lisnasharragh LC and the venue has also hosted a number of Ulster Swimming Galas. Ulster Boxing competitions are regularly welcomed to centres including Girdwood CH, Ballysillan LC, Brook LC and Whiterock LC. Shankill LC hosts the Northern Ireland

	<p>Futsal Federation league for both males and females. NGBs regularly deliver coach education courses at BCC leisure centres, most commonly the Irish FA and Swim Ulster.</p>
3.9	<p>BCC leisure centres, programmed by GLL, host over 200 local sports clubs and performance squads. Leisure centres in Belfast are utilised for club and performance training and service a variety of local and regional competitions. Gaelic games, boxing, football, futsal, rugby, tennis, table tennis, cricket, baseball, softball, dodgeball, swimming, water polo and martial arts are amongst the sports allocated essential training facilities for programme delivery and 'room to grow'.</p>
3.10	<p>GLL supports the delivery of Jog Belfast at Girdwood CH. The 10 week programme supports 25 attendees with the aim of participants completing a 5km run at the end of the programme.</p>
	<p>School & Youth programmes</p>
3.11	<p>GLL works with local Primary and Post Primary schools to provide facilities to support physical education delivery. Over 70 schools accessed school swimming lessons accounting for an allocation of over 4,000 programmed pool lane hours.</p>
3.12	<p>Centres facilitated a number of primary and secondary school end of term celebrations in June. Schools were able to access a variety of junior products and swimming pools across the city to celebrate the conclusion of what had been a challenging year for many in education.</p>
3.13	<p>GLL were delighted to see the return of the Summer Scheme programme after a break of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Recruitment commenced in April and 9 Activity Supervisors and 36 Activity Instructors were selected to support the programme during July and August. Eleven centres in total delivered the programme with eight centres delivering a traditional summer activity scheme model and the remaining three delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel LC, gymnastics at Belvoir AC and tennis was delivered at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex. In total the GLL Summer Scheme catered for 1,454 children which represented 78% of the spaces offered. Additional detail is provided in Appendix 1.</p>
3.14	<p>GLL worked in partnership with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association and Table Tennis Ulster to deliver weekly sessions during the Summer Schemes. Boxing was delivered across 9 centres, 6 hours in each and Table Tennis delivered in 2 centres, 10 hours in each.</p>

3.15	Girdwood CH worked in partnership with 'TAMHI' and 'Our Club, Our Community' to support a summer intervention programme which was funded by Belfast City Council. Approximately 240 junior players took part in 9-a-side small-sided games on Monday to Friday evenings throughout May to August. Football clubs from across Northern Ireland participated in the programme.
3.16	In the summer GLL worked in partnership with the 'Liverpool Football Club Foundation' to deliver a number of initiatives between the 9 th and 11 th August. Eight members of the Foundation's health, sport and football, inclusion and skills team worked alongside GLL Community Sport staff to deliver a programme for local coaches and children. The programmes were delivered at Avoniel LC and Girdwood CH. Over 50 coaches attended the coach education CPD workshops and 114 children participated in the two day football camp. Additional information is provided in Appendix 1.
3.17	GLL delivers a lessons and courses programme currently focused on swimming, gymnastics, tennis and climbing. Throughout 2022 over 5,000 children have been enrolled on swimming lessons, 150 in tennis lessons, 100 in gymnastics sessions and 40 in climbing lessons. In the coming year GLL plan to expand the swimming programme to cater for 6,000 children weekly, over 200 in tennis, over 300 in gymnastics and 75 in climbing.
3.18	Brook LC has engaged with a number of Special Needs schools to offer the Air Venture product to support with Physical Education delivery. This combined with the sensory pool has resulted in 30% of all Brook Leisure Centre programming being an inclusive offering.
Community outreach	
3.19	In 2022 GLL established community engagement leads in each centre to drive local engagement projects but also support citywide initiatives. In December twelve centres supported the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas. 487 gifts were donated with an estimated value of £7,500.
3.10	GLL continue to partner with 'Menshed' by offering space at Girdwood CH, Brook LC and Whiterock LC where the focus is on improving mental health for men.
3.11	GLL have supported a number of mental health charities and initiatives in the form of awareness and fund raising.

3.12	The Colin Autism Support Group uses Brook LC for parents of children with autism and other learning disabilities.
3.13	Andersonstown and Brook LCs hosted open days for over twenty community organisations to promote their work to customers within the centres.
3.14	The Belfast Community Sport team delivered an outreach event to Ulster University Sports Studies students in October at Girdwood CH. This event saw over 60 students participate in a variety of sports and activities. GLL also presented employment opportunities within Belfast highlighting student placement opportunities and their trainee manager scheme.
3.15	Lisnasharragh and Brook LCs delivered Community Fun Days over the Christmas period and had over 600 people in attendance.
Older Participant Programmes	
3.16	At the end of 2022 17.8% of all Belfast members were aged 60+. Council continues to provide free of charge access for over 60's before 11.00am Monday to Friday.
3.17	GLL delivers a daily programme of activities targeted at and suitable for older people. The programme expanded month on month throughout 2022. Belfast benefits from a citywide pool programme that ensures there is always Swim for Fitness (lane swimming) and Swim for All (family casual swim) options available every day across the city. GLL continue to deliver an introductory physical activity programme suitable for members looking for a lower intensity/low impact workout. Walking groups have also become part of the mainstream group exercise offering so that they can be accessed by the wider membership and not just those on Physical Activity Referrals (PARS).
3.18	GLL deliver a number of active aging mornings across the city which include activities such as Danderball, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Boccia and Water Polo. These are being delivered at Avoniel LC, Falls LC, Girdwood CH, Lisnasharragh LC, Olympia LC and Shankill LC. GLL have plans in place to expand the programme in 2023.
3.19	The Winter Wellness Scheme has been delivered in Girdwood CH and Brook LC, with over 40 different people attending. Winter Wellness one day pop up events have also been delivered in Olympia LC, Avoniel LC, Girdwood CH, Falls LC and Andersontown LC with over 40 people accessing the programme of sporting and social activities.

3.20	<p>On Friday 30th September Girdwood CH hosted the Better Club Games. After two years of cancellations, due to Covid-19 restrictions, six centres were represented. A total of 62 participants took part in seven sports/activities throughout the day which included Pickleball, Table Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boccia and a selection of physical challenges. In addition to GLL staff there was also support from Northern Ireland Athletics, Northern Ireland Bowls and Ulster Badminton. Additional information is provided in Appendix 2.</p>
3.21	<p>GLL deliver chronic conditions (Cancer & Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes. Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.</p>
3.22	<p>Strategic partnerships and working groups (attended by CNS and GLL) are well established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and charitable partners.</p>
3.23	<p>Girdwood CH partners with Chest, Heart and Stroke Association in offering weekly low intensity exercise along with arts and crafts.</p>
<p>People with disabilities</p>	
3.24	<p>GLL support the social enterprise NOW group in the delivery of a 'Lets Get Fit Now' programme which takes place in Falls LC. This programme offers participants with a learning disability the opportunity to participate in tailored fitness classes and gym inductions.</p>
3.25	<p>In 2022 the NOW group contributed to the work in Olympia LC by running the café provision under their 'Loaf' brand.</p>
3.26	<p>Orchardville, who support people with a learning disability or autism to live, learn and work, operated the café spaces at Andersonstown LC, Lisnasharragh LC and Grove LC.</p>
3.27	<p>Girdwood CH in partnership with Disability Sport NI provides a dedicated disability sports hub catering for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Powerchair Football, Boccia and New Age Curling.</p>
3.28	<p>Whiterock LC supports disability groups in Upper Springfield by offering sports and fun fitness sessions twice per week.</p>

3.29	Ballysillan LC and Girdwood CH support the Northern Ireland Powerchair Squad in their preparation for participation in the 2023 World Cup in Australia. In January 2022, Ballysillan LC hosted the Irish FA Powerchair football All Ireland Championships with over 200 participants in attendance.
3.30	The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports 3 disabled and Paralympic athletes. Athletes benefit from financial awards of up to £1,250 which will contribute to their individual coaching, travel, competition, and equipment costs.
3.31	Brook LC has a swimming pool specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. The centre runs six weekly 'quiet swims' currently attracting approximately 20 to 30 participants in each session. GLL engage with Swimming Buddies, an organisation that specialises in Autism friendly swimming lessons. Currently sessions are being offered throughout the week and the organisation is looking to expand into other areas of the city. Brook LC also supports the delivery of Air Venture inclusive sessions which are designed to meet the sensory requirements of participants.
Women & girls	
3.32	45.5% of all current Belfast members are female (15,879).
3.33	In partnership with Irish FA, GLL provide female only football sessions at four centres across the city through the IFA Shooting Stars Programme.
3.34	GLL have supported Netball NI in the delivery of their social netball programme and are also in discussion about the potential for Lisnasharragh LC to become a regular training base for the senior international squad. GLL hope to deliver introduction to netball programmes in partnership with Netball NI in 2023.
3.35	GLL supports 69 female athletes through the GSF programme (55.2%) to enable them to compete at national and international level in their respective sports.
3.36	GLL works in partnership with WISPA in the delivery of female only classes at Andersonstown LC, Avoniel LC, Girdwood CH and Olympia LC.
3.37	Brook LC delivers an after schools multisport and fitness programme for girls and also works in partnership with local GAA clubs to deliver a 'Gaelic for mothers' programme.

Family programming

3.38 GLL have created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate. GLL have created a basic group exercise offering which permits junior members to exercise with older family members.

3.39 Junior group exercise classes have been introduced into the group exercise timetable and GLL plan to expand this programme in 2023 subject to the availability of qualified staff. Adult and Child gym sessions have been added across the city which permits children as young as 9 to attend the gym as long as they are accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian.

3.40 Junior and family products such as water slides, Surf Belfast and the Aqua Play at Andersonstown LC, Air Venture at Brook LC and Aqua Splash at Lisnasharragh LC are all meeting the demands of families, particularly over the weekend and holiday periods.

3.41 Birthday parties are offered at all centres and represent good value for money. Provision includes bouncy castles, climbing wall, sports (indoor and outdoor) along with the new products mentioned above.

3.42 Wet centres provide family fun pool sessions, with floats and inflatables, as part of their weekly programme.

3.43 Brook LC offers weekly pool parties and family aqua aerobics sessions.

3.44 GLL continue to provide a citywide family membership which was first launched in August 2021. At the end of December 2022 there was 180 family memberships across Belfast which equates to 736 members.

Summary

3.45 To consider and record receipt of the information provide above and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.

Communications & Public Relations

3.46 None

Financial & Resource Implications

3.47	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.48	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached (below)
	Appendix 1 - GLL Summer programme report 2022 Appendix 2 – Better Club Games Report 2022