



SUMMER PROGRAMME REPORT
Summer 2022



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GLL Belfast Summer Scheme

Background

GLL in Belfast 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 nine 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 Scheme model and the remaining three delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel, gymnastics at Belvoir Activity Centre and tennis was delivered at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex.

The traditional Summer Schemes offered arts and crafts, football, dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, board games, bouncy castles and swimming for those centres with pools. In addition cooking was offered at Andersonstown Leisure Centre and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and new products such as Air Venture, Aqua Splash, Surf Belfast and Waterslides were offered at these specific centres.



Image 1: Participants of Andersonstown and Whiterock Summer Schemes enjoying the activities

A variety of sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have supported GLL Summer Schemes in our centres that delivered a non sports specific offering.

Ulster Boxing delivered sessions for all children that attended our Summer Schemes across Belfast centres that had a traditional summer scheme. They delivered 50 sessions and attended centres from all corners of the city. Patrick Gallagher (Commonwealth Gold medallist) and Brendan Irvine (Olympian and European Silver medallist) delivered the sessions tailoring their coaching to suit the age and ability of the children.



Image 2: Patrick Gallagher puts some young boxers through their paces at Olympia Leisure Centre

Table Tennis Ulster delivered 15 sessions for children aged 7-14 in Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and Grove Wellbeing Centre across the 5 weeks of their summer schemes. Sessions were taken by Jing Yi Gao (former Table Tennis Olympian) with the focus to get more kids involved in the sport and teach them the basic rules of the game.

Annadale Hockey Club delivered multiple sessions in Olympia Leisure Centre through their coach Philip Wilson. The sessions were delivered once a week to all summer scheme participants with the main focus being on having fun whilst learning basic hockey skills.

Statistics

The programme offered an early drop off option at four of the centres. Interestingly this year the uptake was only 31.9% which was lower than in previous years with only 102 slots being booked. In total the GLL Summer Scheme catered for 1,454 children which was 77.7% utilization of the spaces offered.

With the early drop off included 1,556 children were involved in GLL programmes this summer, representing 71% utilisation of the 2,192 spaces offered. 48.8% of the spaces take were from males and the remaining 50.1% from females and 1.1% for those that did not specific a gender. Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 278 which represented 99.3% utilization, followed closely behind by Grove Wellbeing Centre with 205 (85.4%) and Olympia Leisure Centre 188 (94.0%). These figures do not include early drop off.

Further information can be found in figure 1 and 2 below.

Figure1: GLL Summer Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

CENTRE	5-7 years	8-10 years	11-14 years	Male	Female	Total
Andersonstown Leisure Centre	89	82	37	117	89	209
Ballysillan Leisure Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brook Leisure Centre	49	42	18	64	44	109
Falls Leisure Centre	31	27	9	71	43	93
Grove Wellbeing Centre	86	95	44	83	144	228
Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre	97	111	83	98	173	302
Olympia Leisure Centre and Spa	71	94	43	113	92	213
Shankill Leisure Centre	63	44	38	87	59	141
Whiterock Leisure Centre	57	32	13	33	70	92
Belvoir Activity Centre	5	5	2	2	9	11
Avoniel	0	15	16	25	6	48
Indoor Tennis and Ozone	12	58	38	67	51	110
Total	555	600	339	760	780	1,556

Note that Ballysillan Leisure Centre did offer a Summer Scheme but due to limited numbers this did not take place at the centre. The Community Sport team redeployed staff members to Shankill Leisure Centre and encouraged children to transfer their reservation to this centre. This ensured that the numbers at Shankill were boosted and that all recruited staff were provided with an opportunity to work on the scheme this summer.

Figure2: GLL Summer Scheme Statistics – Capacity and Utilisation

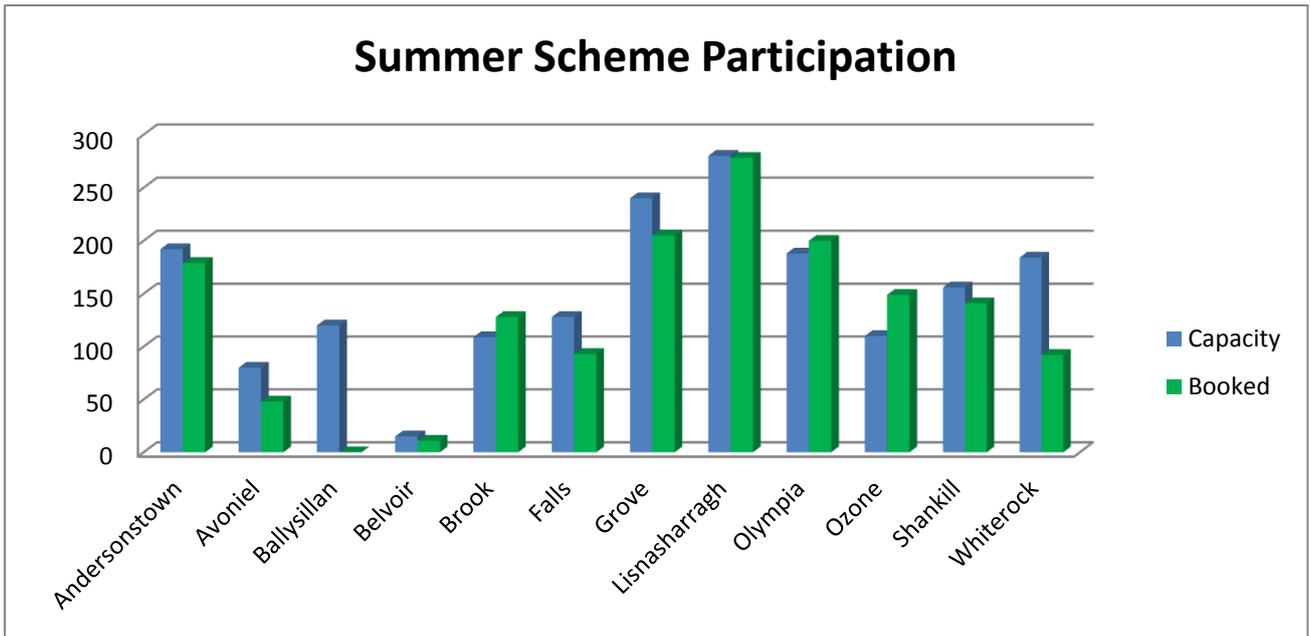


Image 3: Children learning to surf at Andersonstown Leisure Centre and playing table football at Shankill Leisure Centre



Image 4: Examples of art in Shankill Leisure Centre, boxing at Brook Leisure Centre and working in the community garden at Whiterock Leisure Centre

Sports Specific Summer Schemes

Belvoir Gymnastics Summer Scheme

The Belvoir Activity Centre Summer Scheme was delivered between 1st and 5th August. The week involved 5 x 2 hour sessions delivered by two current GLL Level 1 gymnastics coaches and supervised by a Group Activity Instructor. The children had a range of ability so the sessions were structured in such a way that participants could be introduced to new skills, play fun games and develop core skills through instruction and play.

Eleven participants attended the scheme which represented 74% utilisation. 82% of the participants were female and 18% male. The age range of participants was from 5 to 12 years of age.

The scheme was designed to provide a sports specific option for those either current enrolled on GLL gymnastics programmes or who would be keen to enroll in September. The gymnastics programme in Belvoir Activity Centre took a break over the summer period and will resume on Monday 12th September.

Avoniel Football Summer Scheme

Avoniel delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 18th July to 19th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 48 children attended the scheme which represented 60% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 8 to 10 and 11 to 14 age groups. Interestingly there were no participants aged between 5 to 7. 85% of these participants were male and 15% female.



Image 5: Bouncy Goalkeeper session @ Avoniel

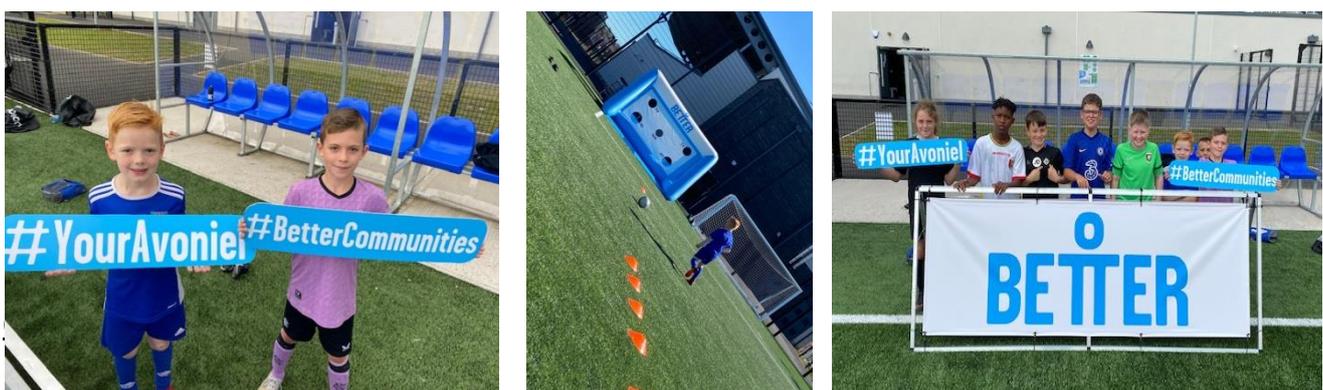


Image 6: Collection of young footballers at the Avoniel Football Summer Scheme

Ozone Tennis Summer Scheme

The Ozone Tennis Scheme was delivered for six weeks from 4th July to 19th August. 108 children participated in scheme representing 72% utilisation. 53% of participants were male and 47% female. The scheme was open to children aged between 5 and 14. 11% of participants were aged 5 to 7, 54% aged 8 to 10 and 35% aged 11 to 14.

GLL tennis coaches delivered the full programme which focused mostly on age specific tennis drills and fun games. The coaches also utilised the other facilities that Ozone had to offer such as Laser Quest and outdoor pitches.



Image 7: Participants from the Ozone Summer Scheme participation in laser quest and dodgeball in their break time between tennis coaching

Summer Scheme Celebration Event

On Thursday 11th August Olympia Leisure Centre was host to a Summer Scheme Celebration Event to mark the end of a successful summer programme. The day was supported by local social enterprise firm Loaf who provided catering for all children and coaches. The day welcomed 180 children from across six centres that were split into groups depending on age. The day began with the full group participating in a warm up lead by Olympia Leisure Centre Fitness Manager Ashleigh Baxter.



Image 8: Children participate in warm up session and showcase the sports on offer at the celebration event

After this the groups were sent to sports activity stations across the centre's sports hall, 3G pitch and studio. GLL enlisted the support of a number of sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to deliver coaching sessions throughout the day. The participants rotated stations every 20 minutes so they could get a taste of all the sports on offer.

The NGBs included the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, Netball NI, Ulster Badminton, NI Fencing, Antrim GAA and Athletics NI. Football sessions were also provided by local club Knockbreda and hockey session from Annadale Hockey Club.



Image 9: Children participate in athletics and Gaelic games sessions at Summer Scheme celebration event

GSF Athlete and British Para Olympic Athlete Eva Walsh Dann was present to support the children and provide her expertise coaching the athletics sessions. The event also welcomed the new Lord Mayor of Belfast, Christina Black. Speaking about the event she said, "It's absolutely fantastic to see so many of our young people enjoying so many different sporting activities at today's Better sports day, with some of our national sporting partners. Taking part in sport is not only a great way of fulfilling an active and healthy lifestyle, it's also a brilliant way for young people to come together and meet new people and build friendships. I'm delighted to see the next generation using these facilities operated by our partner GLL who continue to deliver first class leisure provision for everyone across the city."



Image 10: GSF Athlete Eve Walsh Dann with smiling Summer Scheme athlete and Belfast Lord Mayor Christina Black sparring with a young boxer

The celebration event was a wonderful way to bring the summer of activity to a close and showcase the good work that had been delivered across the city in July and August. The Community Sports team in Belfast will review all aspects of delivery and consider feedback from participants, staff and partners as they formulate their summer plans for 2023.

The remainder of this report will highlight some of the other projects that were delivered across Belfast during June, July and August that formed part of our wider community engagement this summer.

Aquatics Short Courses

During the months of July and August a selection of Swimming Short Courses were delivered in Belfast. Shankill Leisure Centre delivered the first programme on the week commencing 4th July. Occupancy was 34 and 33 children attended through the week. This represented 85% utilisation of the 40 spaces available.

The next course was delivered in Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre on the week commencing 1st August. Occupancy was 96 and 73 children attended through the week. This represented 76% utilisation of the 96 spaces available. The second of Lisnasharragh’s course was delivered the following week. Occupancy was 68 and 61 children attended through the week. This represented 64% utilisation of the 96 spaces available.

The final courses were delivered the week commencing 15th August at both Lisnasharragh and Shankill Leisure Centres. Lisnasharragh recorded an occupancy was 81 and 63 children attended through the week. This represented 66% utilisation of the 96 spaces available. Shankill recorded occupancy of 14 and 14 children attended through the week. This represented 58% utilisation of the 24 spaces available.

In total 293 spaces were booked on short swimming courses this summer and 244 children attended. The data can be viewed in figures 3 and 4 below.

Figure 3: Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre Short Course Data

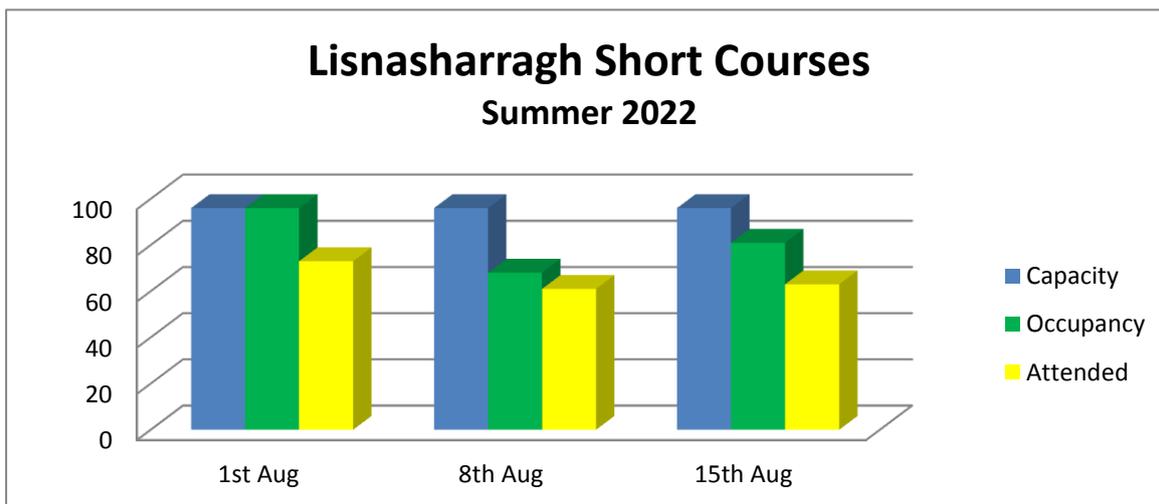
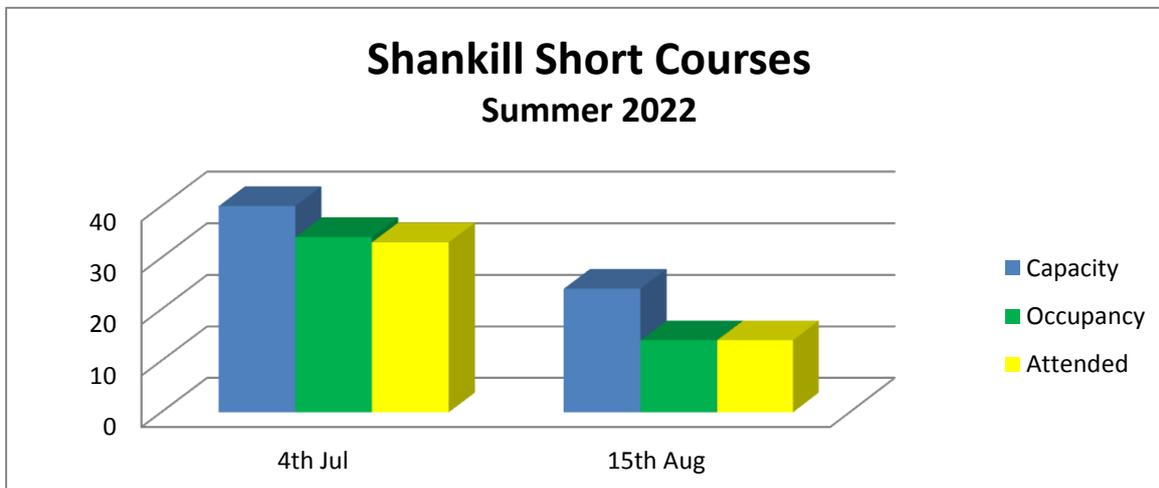


Figure 4: Shankill Leisure Centre Short Course Data



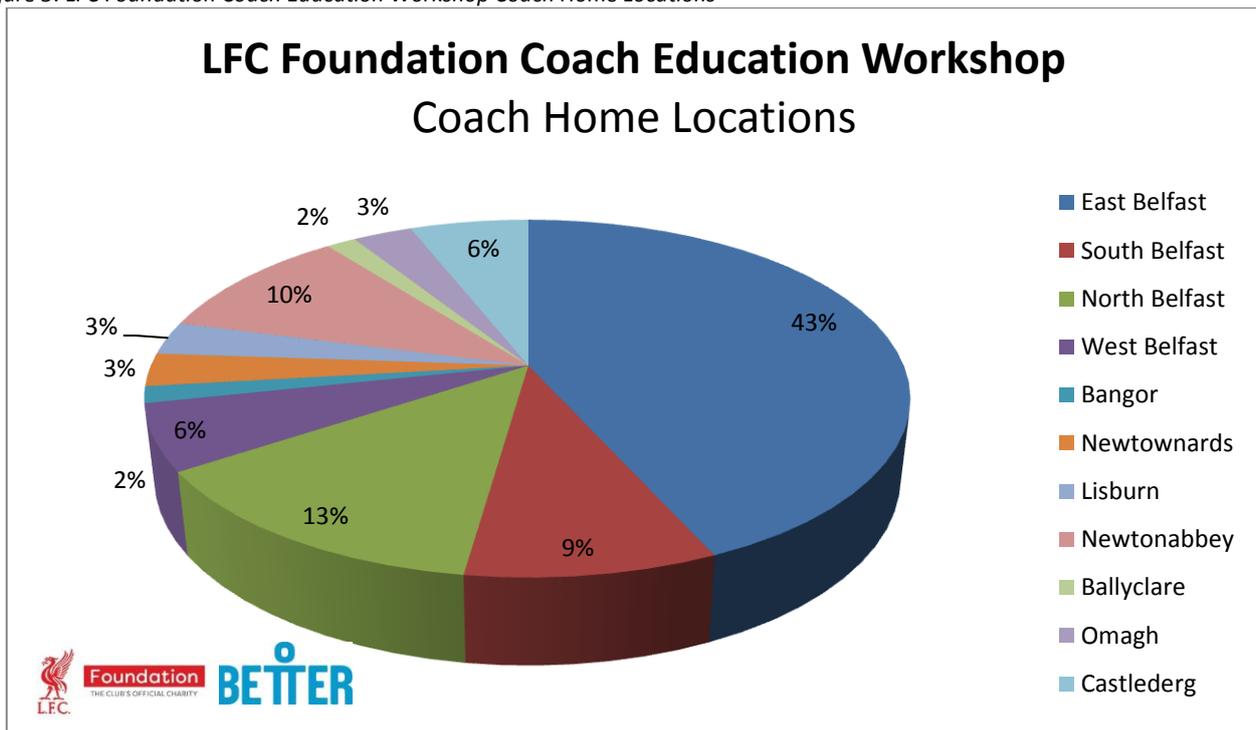
Liverpool FC Foundation Partnership Programme

This summer GLL in Belfast worked in partnership with Liverpool Football Club Foundation to deliver a number of initiatives between the 9th and 11th 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 and Girdwood Community Hub.

A coach education CPD workshop was first delivered with GLL staff which covered theory elements of the ‘Liverpool Way’ with included presentations and group tasks which highlighted best practice in delivering mainstream, disability and inclusion coaching and explored other topics such as citizenship, wellbeing and mental health. Practical delivery was also provided which showcased drills and small sided games that would be delivered in a variety of Liverpool FC Foundation sessions across schools and community projects. This workshop was then delivered in the evening to local community coaches. Avoniel hosted both events which catered for over 50 coaches.

The coach education workshops were well supported from a cross section of the city as well as other parts of Northern Ireland. Over 71% of attendees were from Belfast, over 19% from surrounding council areas and the remaining 9% from further distances. The home locations of the coaches in attendance are outlined in figure 3 below.

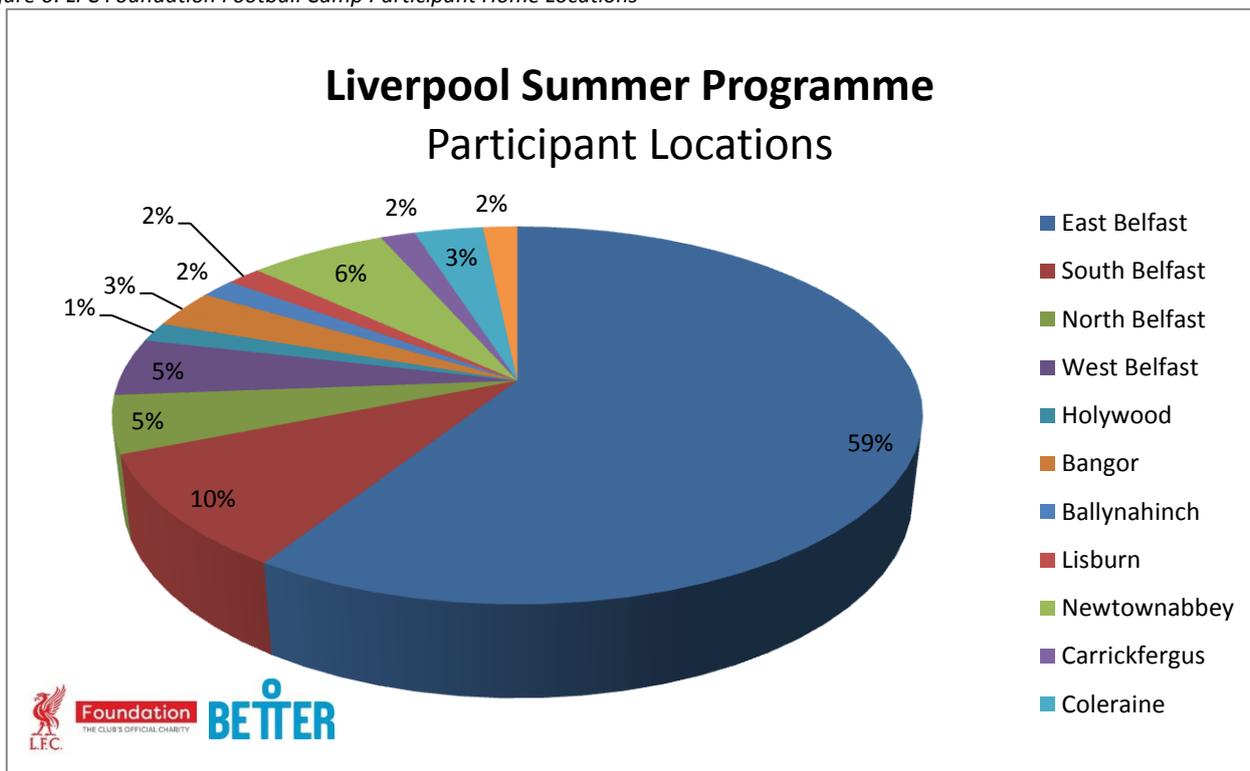
Figure 5: LFC Foundation Coach Education Workshop Coach Home Locations



On Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th August the Foundation staff shifted their attention to delivering a children’s football camp at Girdwood Community Hub. 114 children participated in the project over the two days which included a mixture of skills stations, small sided games activities, matches and health and wellbeing workshops.

Almost 79% of participants were from Belfast with 59% of that coming from East Belfast. Similarly to the coach education workshops, the football camp did attract participants from outside the greater Belfast area with over 8% traveling beyond local neighbouring councils to attend the programme. The home locations of the children in attendance are outlined in figure 4.

Figure 6: LFC Foundation Football Camp Participant Home Locations



The success of both of these programmes highlighted the ‘power of the badge’ and how this partnership has the potential to reach far beyond GLL’s current presence in Belfast. GLL were able to partner with industry experts to deliver engaging and challenging content which arguably would not have been as well supported if just advertised as a GLL/Better programme.



Image 11: LFC Workshop delivery at Girdwood and GLL Belfast Community Sport meeting LFC Foundation Department heads at Olympia to plan the next steps of the partnership

The Belfast partnership has used this pilot experience to commence discussions about a more long term arrangement with the LFC Foundation which would result in project teams visiting Belfast regularly to deliver a variety of sport and diversionary programmes during the holiday periods of Easter, Summer and Halloween. In addition the partnership will provide regular coach education CPD opportunities in which GLL Belfast staff will be upskilled to improved football delivery for after schools projects across the city.

Finally the project will expand to train up staff to deliver a broad range of programmes which will include health and wellbeing, education and life skills, employment and training, youth interventions and community engagement.

Local Community Group Summer Programmes

GLL have supported numerous organisations and community groups throughout the summer in all of our centres to deliver community events and sports programmes. Below are just some of the most significant events that took place in some of our centres.

Andersontown Leisure Centre

On 28th July YMCA Childcare visited from Derry/Londonderry to attend a waterslides session as part of their programme. This included 32 children aged between 4 and 9.



Image12: Derry/Londonderry YMCA Childcare visit Andersontown Leisure Centre to participate in waterslides session

Avoniel

In June, Avoniel hosted Elmgrove Primary School's end of year Sports Day. Over 350 people were in attendance, including children and parents.

A Men's' Health Fair took place on 17th June coordinated by the Community Sports Network. The event included a Danderball tournament for senior men along with a health fair delivered in the centre studio space for participants to gain more details from eight health related organisations including our own healthwise team.

On the weekends of 11th and 18th June, Clonduff Football Club hosted a series of four youth football tournaments. This included over 60 teams throughout the four days, with teams coming from across the city and further afield to attend. Clonduff FC also delivered a Family Fun Day on Monday 27th June in the outdoor caged pitches.

Sports Changes Life delivered a Good Relations Programme with six schools in a programme that lasted numerous weeks. As a celebration on the final week of the programme they hosted a sports day for all six schools at Avoniel on Friday 24th June. This included playing football, dodgeball and also an African Drums class. Over 200 children were in attendance and they were treated to a special visit from footballer players from Glentoran Football Club.

Avoniel hosted multiple football camps during the summer including the Irish Football Association, Playing for the Future, Clonduff FC and TW Sports Group.



Image 13: African drum session delivered at Avoniel as part of the Sports Changes Life Good Relations Programme

On 9th July, Avoniel attended the Eastside Partnership Family Fun Day at C.S. Lewis Square to help with the running of the event, promote Better and engage more with the local community.

The Digital Arts Academy ran a Minecraft Programme for three weeks over the summer period. 25th to 28th July, 1st to 4th August and 8th to 11th August. 50 children engaged in the programme aged between 6 and 11. The programme gives children the opportunity to look at famous landmarks that exist in Belfast. They then create their own versions of the H and W cranes, Salmon of Knowledge and much more in their own bespoke Minecraft worlds. Across the weeks they also explored a range of subjects including music production, graphic design, photography, VR and Digital comic making. They also looked at music genres from different cultures and created unique stop motion and time lapse animations around their own identities.

Disability Sport NI ran a coach education workshop on 26th August which involved educating coaches on how to manage and coach children with autism while also raising awareness of autism. Over 15 adults were in attendance.

Ballysillan Leisure Centre

The 3G pitch at Ballysillan hosted two Irish Football Association football camps over the weeks commencing 18th July and 8th August. Over 50 children were in attendance at each camp.



Image 14: Young footballers enjoying the Irish FA Holiday Camps at Ballysillan

Brook Leisure Centre

Brook Leisure Centre hosted the Irish Football Association's Shooting Stars Festival on 10th June. All children from the girls only project across Belfast came together to celebrate at the end of the programme.

The Irish Football Association also delivered their School Girls tournament at Brook Leisure Centre on the two 3G pitches on Monday 13th June in partnership with Electric Ireland. This included 20 teams from across Northern Ireland with an age range from 12-16 years old.

Brook Leisure Centre hosted multiple sports days for schools throughout June which included Holy Evangelists Primary and Scoil na Fuisseige.

During the months of July and August, Brook Leisure Centre hosted several youth summer schemes in their Air Venture indoor inflatable. This included Lagmore Youth Project and Tullymore Youth Empowerment Project who both utilised the facility to celebrate the conclusion of their own summer schemes. In total several hundred participants from local youth summer schemes accessed the facility.

Westside Netball held their three day Netball camp from the 11th to 13th July at Brook Leisure Centre. This camp catered for young females in the local area and the club used this opportunity to recruit new players for the coming season.

Brook Leisure Centre organised a female only 7-a-side football tournament on Monday 18th July. This included ten teams from across Belfast. The centre worked in partnership with local restaurant Pizza Guyz who provided food for all participants involved.

Kelly's Roller Skating held their roller disco at Brook Leisure Centre on Thursday 4th August in which GLL members could book into and pay an additional fee. A range of ages took to roller skates in the centre sports halls as it was converted into a disco with accompanying lights and music. Over 115 people were in attendance.

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and Feile an Phobail worked together to deliver a Diversionary Day at Brook Leisure Centre. The NI Fire Service was in attendance and an old school sports day was facilitated for all participants to join in. Over 70 people were in attendance.



Image 15: Female Football Competition and Diversionary Day activities at Brook Leisure Centre

Lisburn Rangers Ladies delivered their summer football camp at Brook Leisure from 8th to 12th August. This included 50 girls playing football throughout the week.

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As part of their partnership with Better in Belfast the Belfast Giants Ice Hockey squad took part in a hurling session delivered by Ulster GAA.

A group of 15 children from a local GAA club were on hand to support the Giants as they learned about the sport and challenged themselves to see if their hand eye coordination skills could cross between sports. The event took place on Wednesday 24th August to announce continued partnership between Belfast Giants and GLL.

<https://www.belfastgiants.com/news/better-are-back>



Image 16: Belfast Giants sample hurling at Brook Leisure Centre

Belvoir Activity Centre

Belvoir Activity Centre hosted an activity session in partnership with Squiggles & Giggles on the 2nd and 9th August. This included children aged between 2-5 years old and their parents. The programme is about having fun based around Music & Movement for toddlers. The aim is to provide an outlet to explore movement whilst developing social skills in a fun, relaxed and inclusive environment.

Falls Leisure Centre

Falls Leisure Centre hosted a Pickleball taster session on Thursday 21st July for 25 young children. This event offered the children involved the opportunity to try a new sport and the interest generated from the day has led to this activity being added to the centre programme for September.

Girdwood Community Hub

Our Club, Our Community in partnership with TAMHI held their summer camps at Girdwood Community Hub from 4th to 15th July and 1st to 12th August, 10am – 1pm each day. They also delivered a programme called Girdwood 4 All summer intervention which ran in June to July every evening except Sunday from 6pm to 10pm.

Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues hosted a football tournament as part of the Newlodge festival on 7th August.

St Malachys Old Boys ran their summer camp at Girdwood Community Hub from 4th to 6th July and 17th to 19th July.

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum in partnership with Personal Youth Development Programme had their summer scheme in Girdwood's shared space from 18th July to 14th August.

Lower Old Park Community Association utilised the Girdwood Community Hub to host Aunt Sandra's chocolate factory as part of their summer scheme.

Belfast Trust had their summer scheme at Girdwood from 4th to 8th July as they delivered a multi sports programme as part of the scheme.

Newlodge Arts hosted a summer drama scheme at Girdwood. A children's programme was delivered from 18th to 22nd July and an adult scheme was facilitated from 25th July to 2nd August.

As part of the Newlodge Festival they used Girdwood Community for a Movie Day on Saturday 6th August. Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues hosted a wellbeing day and Colour Run alongside on North Belfast Harriers on Sunday 7th August. There was also a junior boxing showcase by Ashton Centre and a Family Fun day in partnership with Newlodge Arts on Monday 8th August.

Belfast City of Sanctuary hosted an exhibition centre on Saturday 4th June which had 210 people in attendance.

The Red Cross delivered a Refugee Week Integration Journey Event at Girdwood Community Hub on Thursday 9th June which was aimed at how to support refugees integrating into Northern Ireland. The event had over 150 people in attendance.

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre hosted an Aqua Splash session every Thursday during the school summer holidays. Several hundred children and adults attended the wet inflatable sessions.

Local social enterprise Orchardvale catered for a number of events at Lisnasharragh, partnering up with the centre to help deliver the Commonwealth Games Day and the Lifeguard Top Team competition.

Olympia Leisure Centre

Olympia Leisure Centre hosted an Irish Football Association Autism Awareness camp from 16th to 18th August which included 24 children from the local area.

Whiterock Leisure Centre

Whiterock Leisure Centre assisted with a community fun day for the Whiterock community as part of the Féile on Monday 8th August.

Whiterock Leisure Centre also hosted a sponsored female only Aqua Aerobics programme during the summer in partnership with Upper Springfield Development and Women in Sport and Physical Activity.

Celebration of Sport Event

On Saturday 13th August Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre hosted a celebration of sport event to highlight the success of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and encourage local participants to try a number of new sports. The event catered for over 840 children and adults and all activities were provided free of charge.

Swim for All sessions were provided on the Saturday and Sunday with 723 people availing of free pool time on a weekend that was particularly hot. Drop in sessions were provided for racquet sports and 80 people participated in a mixture of badminton, pickleball and table tennis. These sessions were supported by local clubs and players to provide their expertise and explain the laws of the game.

Bookable sessions for diving and gymnastics were also provided which showcased new youth products that will be available in the centre from October onwards. 14 children participated in the diving session provided by Ulster Diving coach Alan Cogan and GLL qualified diving coach Dempsey Brown. 27 children took part in the gymnastics sessions delivered by GLL gymnastics coaches Daniel Leeb and Daniel Black.



Image 17: Gymnastics tumbling sessions delivered as part of the Belfast Celebration of Sport event



Image 18: First time divers being coached by Alan Cogan (Ulster Diving) and Dempsey Brown (GLL)