



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Partnership Development Officer
Date:	13 June 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Cormac McCann, Leisure Development Manager

1 Relevant Background Information

From 1999 Council led Sport Belfast as the partnership delivery vehicle for Sports Development. For a number of years the Department financially supported the employment of Sport Belfast's Project Development Officer to the amount of £15,000.

Over the last number of years the Belfast Strategic Partnership has become the primary vehicle for partnership working to improve health and wellbeing, reducing health inequalities. The framework for action supports the underlying theme of Active Belfast and an action plan is evolving to include Active Living, Active Leisure and Sport.

2 Key Issues

At its meeting in May, Committee requested an update on the Partnership Development officer's programme of work. An extensive work programme has been in operation over the last four years to include work which supports Corporate and Departmental plans. This includes:

1. Establishment and support to Belfast Sports Forum with over 80 clubs engaged, sharing best practice knowledge, training as well as providing feedback to Council on sports provision and participation in the city
2. The Annual Sports Conference growing to over 200 delegates regularly attending from over 70 clubs each year

3. Coach Education Programme providing sports coach training courses allowing for up-skilling/ best practice opportunities for coaches. Over 845 coaches have participated on this training, strengthening the sports club infrastructure in the city.
4. 39 clubs have achieved accreditation under the Clubmark scheme which quality assures local teams and sports clubs for coaching, child protection, management, equality and safety standards, accredited to gold, silver and bronze level.
5. Try It Programme is a schools engagement programme via events in Leisure Centres / parks. Partnership with Clubmark clubs and utilising Active Communities coaches. As part of the Olympic Legacy programme, over 700 school children have enjoyed quality sporting experiences.
6. Regional Development Squads. Partnering sports governing bodies to provide quality teenage sports opportunities for Belfast's most talented young athletes. Last year alone, 648 talented young people attended 169 coaching sessions.
7. Seniors Activity Events. As part of the Active Belfast Partnership, the Active Ageing group was supported to provide physical activity orientated events for over 200 seniors.
8. At the 4 Senior Games events, an additional 175 seniors took part in sporting activities linked to local clubs, in order to sustain participation at a local neighbourhood level, and benefitted from health checks.
9. Redgrave Rowing Programme is a water sports-focussed programme supported by £100,000 from the Steve Redgrave Trust. Last year, 4 schools and 4 community organisations participated in the programme with over 2,000 young people benefitting from quality coaching delivered by clubs and community-based facilitators who have been developed through the programme. These locally based sports coaches are an important legacy, as well as over £20,000 equipment in neighbourhood facilities for the programme.
10. A range of physical Activity / Sport events with partners across the city including the establishment of a Girls Sports Forum, in order to increase participation in this under-represented group.

Planning is underway to deliver a series of events including the cricket-themed India Day, as well as community events linked to the World Police and Fire Games. Important future work, in the context of local area planning, will include development of community physical activity and sports hubs.

Extending partnership working is a core principle of the emerging Leisure Transformation Programme. It is clear to date that this type of work has had a range of benefits for the Council including health outcomes, community development and employability.

In order that the current momentum is maintained and the delivery of the work plans developed through the existing Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy action plans has been assured through the continued appointment of the Partnership Development Officer to the end of November 2013.

	<p>Going forward, appropriate internal structures for delivery of the Belfast Strategic Partnership action plans will be determined through the review of the Department's development function.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>An amount of £18,000 has been identified to support this post from June 2013 to the end of November 2013.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>The Partnership Development Officer position will remain in the Parks and Leisure Department until end of November 2013.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no assets directly connected to the projects delivered through this proposal.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	<p>There are no equality and good relations implications from this proposal.</p>

5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to note the report.</p>

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Leisure Development Manager will ensure delivery of the programmes of work as per the Leisure Development Unit Business Plan.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>None.</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>