

## **Disabled Children: Physical Education**

### **Presentation to Disabled People's Diversity Forum June 2008**

#### **Briefing Notes**

Physical education (PE) is the planned programme of activities that takes place in school lessons. However in this paper I make reference to other activities that are related to PE and that children can access through school. In particular out of school hours learning or extra curricular activities.

The National Curriculum states that schools have a statutory duty:

‘Schools have a responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils’ DfEE & QCA 1999

The National Curriculum sets out three principles that are essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum:

1. Setting suitable Learning Challenges
2. Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
3. Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils

The local authority and key partners help schools to meet this duty by providing the following:

#### **Support for teachers/school staff working with children**

- Continuing Professional Development, CPD, opportunities provided e.g Sportsability Oct 06
- Support available through Advanced Skills Teachers and Teaching and learning Coaches
- School Sport Partnerships, SSPs, provide time so that school staff can meet to discuss, plan and review provision for disabled children
- Strong working relationship with Royal School for the Deaf. RSfD staff lead on much of disability sports development across City
- Special Schools PE and Sport Forum meet termly. Receive annual budget from Derby City Schools' Sports Association to run specialist events
- Every Special school has access to a School Sport Co-ordinator who is an experienced Special Educational Needs, SEN, teacher
- Disabled children in mainstream schools always invited to any Disability sport & physical activity events
- Derby County Football in the Community and Derbyshire County Cricket Club provide some high quality curriculum support for special schools
- Providing resources and training so that talented disabled athletes can be identified in school activities. On the whole most PE teachers would not be able to recognise this sort of talent. We are working with SSPs to address these issues through the CPD and other school support that

we provide. New resources are being made available nationally that we can use.

### **Sporting events & after school activities**

- Weekly after school sportsability club held at Shaftesbury Sports Centre each Thursday. Run by SSPs and the LA which provides links to a range of sports clubs and provides for talented children with SEN
- Termly Sports Festival for disabled children: Multi-Sports/Swimming Gala/Athletics
- Linking with the County Special Schools Forum to provide County wide events. E.g. Sportsability Festival held at Moorways in early 2008 where disabled children were able to try new sports and meet community clubs that welcome disabled sports people
- Termly inter school competitions for disabled children e.g. Table football, Seated Volleyball and New Age Kurling
- Links with mainstream schools. E.g. this year RSfD and Murray Park entered the Kielder Challenge together
- 46 primary/special schools have committed to increasing daily physical activity. These include St Martin's, RSfD, Ivy House and St Andrew's

### **Improved School and Community PE & Sports Facilities**

- Huge investment over past 5 years e.g. Darley Barn and the refurbishment of Southgate Youth Centre. Also 7 secondary schools and 9 primary schools have had new accessible sports facilities
- Future investment through Building Schools for the Future which includes rebuilding Ivy House, St Martins and St Clare's as well as refurbishing many other PE/Community sports facilities
- Two of the new build special schools will be co-located with secondary schools. Already planning for close working relationship in PE and sport at both sites
- We now have a specialist Facility Advice and Support Team (FAST) that can help schools consider a wide range of issues on aspects such as access, inclusion and marketing their facilities to community groups. Please see the following website for information, including facility locations, virtual tours, booking information etc

[www.derby.gov.uk/LeisureCulture/Sports/SportsFacilities](http://www.derby.gov.uk/LeisureCulture/Sports/SportsFacilities)

### **Support to Develop Young Disabled Leaders**

- Trained special school pupils help at Sportsability Club and festivals
- Links with Derby College. Disabled Young Leaders from the College help at festivals and comps
- Step into sport Festival - RSfD students have taken part and gained Leadership awards in a range of sports e.g Young Netball Organiser Award

- More young disabled students access Top Link festivals where they organise and manage sports event for primary aged children
- Some special schools have set up young leaders courses in school e.g. Derby mini leaders and Junior Sports Leaders Award

### **Key issues for discussion**

- Lack of Teaching Assistants supporting disabled pupils in lessons as PE not deemed 'important'. Yet for many teachers and pupils this is where the challenges may be greatest.
- Disabled children being taken out of PE in mainstream schools to go to physio etc
- Need to change attitudes/culture/practice of teachers and parents that care for or work with disabled children. We are starting to do this but much more needs to be done. E.g. make transport times more flexible so children can access after school clubs, sports events, also getting parents to allow children to try new and challenging activities, and be prepared to work with the schools to make this happen.
- New Schools and facilities: Are access issues prioritised? Building Schools for the Future Project Board – what is the representation re access issues? Will all new/refurbished sports halls have hearing loops fitted for example?

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