

Everton in the Community

Impact report disability 2017

In 2017 the disability project staff delivered several equality and diversity initiatives to engage with over 2500 disabled people by providing various sports and social interaction opportunities.

One of our targets was to provide opportunities for disabled females, by bringing together partners Hope University, special schools.

EITC and the youth service we have developed a female disability football team that trains every week and plays competitive games matches, during the year we regularly engaged with 102 disabled females.

Sport England have highlighted that disabled children do not have the same sports opportunities as their non-disabled peers, so in the special schools we have provided multisport and physical activity opportunities for disabled children across Merseyside engaging with 158 disabled children.

We have also engaged with mainstream schools to deliver Paralympic awareness sessions to 627 school children which included Paralympic sports blind football, sitting volleyball and boccia.

EITC staff have also linked in with schools and the youth service to deliver sports sessions after school in community settings we have engaged with 104 disabled children.

Through the Active Me project we have delivered multi-sport and social interaction opportunities for disabled adults across Merseyside mainly from the day care services engaging 125 disabled adults.

We have a number of disability teams that represent the club these are on a pan disability or an impairment specific basis, so we have a deaf team, a down syndrome team and a amputee football team.

The disability teams train every week and play in local, regional and national competitions, in 2017 three of the Everton amputee players represented England in the European football Championship in Turkey getting to the final and playing in front of over 40,000 fans.

We have over 100 disabled players that represent the club and we have given regular competitive football opportunities for 296 disabled people.

At Alder Hey hospital we deliver fun activity workshops to sick and disabled children every day Monday to Friday to ease the pain of hospital life we have engaged with 1026 children.

Part of our project is to empower disabled people into everyday mainstream society we support this by providing work placement, volunteer and employment opportunities 20 disabled people have taken up these opportunities.

The main funding for the project is via the Premier League (£100,00 per year) and BBC Children in Need (£32,000 per year).

In September one of the Everton disability teams were invited Special Olympics South Korea to travel to South Korea to raise awareness of disabled people and disability sport, the teams played a friendly match at the Incheon premier league ground after a premier league game and also were guests at the British Embassy.

In November disability manager Steve Johnson travelled to Uganda to develop football opportunities for disabled people this was in partnership with a Danish disability sports organisation, Steve delivered a number of disability coaching workshops for the coaches from each of the regions.

Case Study 1: Hugh Evans

Hugh joined our project over 3 years ago, he has autism and has learning disabilities he attends at Special school in Ormskirk and this is where we first engaged with Hugh through our school's project.

He then progressed through our U13 pan disability team to the U16 pan disability team, where he participated in weekly training sessions and played for Everton in local and regional competitions.

In 2016 Hugh participated in a football camp in Basel Switzerland where he captained the team and lead them to a narrow loss in the final to an older Bayern Leverkusen team, in that season Hugh was also named Players player of the year at the annual Everton disability Player of the Year awards.

During this season Hugh has signed up to the volunteer project and is also undertaking his FA level 1 Coaching award.

Hugh has progressed as a footballer and as a person he has gained a lot more confidence and regularly speaks to the cameras in interviews about how Everton have changed his life improved his self-confidence and self-esteem and he is a good role model for other participants to follow.

Neil is Hugh's father and said: EITC have given my son Hugh several opportunities to participate in a variety of football activities which normally he wouldn't have had the opportunity to do so, as a result of this, his footballing ability has improved significantly, his social skills have been enhanced and his self-esteem has grown immensely.

He is extremely proud to represent Everton disabled team and taken the role with great responsibility and pride of being the captain of EITCU16 pan disability team

Both myself and Hugh are extremely grateful and immensely thankful for the opportunities that Hugh has had from his involvement within Everton in the Community, what he has achieved to date with Everton we are extremely proud and look forward to many more memorable moments.

Hugh Said: Everton in the Community have helped me improve my skills over the past few years, they have also helped me improve my social skills and football ability.

I feel confident to join in sessions they give me loads of opportunities such as being able to take my FA level 1 course qualification, I can't thank Everton enough.

Case Study 2: Oliver Booth

Oliver first came to our junior pan disability football after schools club when he was 7 years old, because of his complex disabilities he was a challenge for the coaches, he has autism, learning disabilities showed behavioural challenges and his concentration was also limited.

When he came to the session he didn't was to participate in the training but would play in the game, whenever anyone tackled him he would kick them and go into a rage and meltdown, when he was challenged by the coaches he would often kick and punch the coaches and would run out of the sports facility, when he was fighting with his team mates other parents wanted him excluded from the session, this happened in most of the weekly sessions

We explained to the parents that we did not want to exclude anyone and we had to come up with a strategy were we could integrate Olivier into the session, what we did was put a coach one to one with Olivier who would work with him individually and then for small periods of time we would integrate Olivier into the training session.

Whenever he showed challenging behaviour we would give him a time out and sit him down and try to talk to him about his behaviour at the start he didn't want to listen, but gradually when he got to know the coaches more he would at times modify his behaviour.

Over the years he has gradually been integrated into the session more and more and this season he won the managers player of the year for his improvement in his playing abilities in competition but also his improvement in his behaviour.

He still shows challenging behaviour at times but he has made huge strides from when he first started when we thought we may have to exclude him, through the coaches, team mates and parents intervention he has turned out to be a valued member of the team.

Ollie Mum Angie said "I can not believe the positive change in Ollie since he has joined Everton's disability project" the coaches deserve a lot of credit for the way they have worked with Ollie to overcome his challenging behaviour, Ollie didn't have many friends but this wonderful project has given him important social interaction opportunities and he has made some new friends

Case study 3 Max Newman

Everton in the community delivered a Paralympic awareness session at Churchtown primary school in Southport where they delivered sessions on blind football, boccia and sitting volleyball, the pupils at the school were predominantly non-disabled children.

Max took a fascination to the Everton in the community coaches false leg and wanted to take part in the sitting volleyball session, he took part in the whole session listening to the

coach and previously he had never ever taken part in a PE lesson before. The school teacher Leanne Lucas commented:

Max has severe Autism and finds mainstream school challenging. His parents are currently looking at specialist schools which might be the environment Max is craving.

Every adult who knows and has worked with Max in school was astonished by his response to the disability sports sessions. He was attentive, on task and wanting to learn. Max can find everyday life at a busy primary school quite challenging. Max took to the coaches and especially Steve straight away. He loved blindfolded football and sitting volleyball.

He stayed by Steve's side the whole time, allowed Steve to show him what to do and was fully engaged, the smiles on Max's face are something we will treasure. He looked calm, relaxed and ready to learn. Steve's nature with Max was amazing and Max responded to this so well. This is a moment we will always remember, it brought a tear to my eye.'

The teacher spoke to the parents of Max about the coaching session and they were delighted about his inclusion the parents put a post and picture on face book thanking the coach for the work he had done and if anyone knew the coach, the sister in law of the EITC coach recognised the picture and gave the parents of Max the EITC coaches e-mail address.

Below is the e-mail that they sent to the EITC coach

Hi Steve

I've been passed your email by Janet (Wright) as my wife and I just wanted to thank you for the activities you did at Churchtown Primary this week, particularly with our son, Max.

As you may have been told when you were at the school, Max has ASD and although he has been at Churchtown Primary since nursery, he has often found the day to day side of school hard.

We were absolutely thrilled to find out how he had engaged with you during your session at the school, particularly as he has proven quite disinterested to be involved with PE at the school (probably due to the noise and how busy and unpredictable it can be) and has therefore missed out on many of the activities (Tennis, sports day, swimming) that other students have done.

He does enjoy things such as swimming and having a kick around with me in the garden and can be quite active when he chooses to (he also really enjoyed going to watch a live football match at Southport when we were given free tickets at school, but it's something I wasn't able to develop further because of costs).

Since your session, he has had two of the best and most productive days in school since he started and we honestly believe this is linked to the experience he had with you this week and would like to thank you for the time you spent with him and the encouragement you gave him.

Gareth and Rachel Newman