



Annual Report

April 2013 - March 2014

This document is available in alternative formats on request.



Disability Sport NI

Our vision is:

An inclusive society where people with disabilities fully participate in all aspects of life, including sport and physical recreation.

Our mission is:

To ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to live a full, active and healthy lifestyle through sport and physical recreation.

**Get involved.
Take part.**

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Highlights 2013 - 2014

Over 20,500 children and adults from across Northern Ireland got involved and took part in our sports and recreation programmes during 2013 - 2014.

Community Sport

- We improved the health and wellbeing of 14,241 children and adults by facilitating or supporting their participation in sport or physical recreation.

Performance Sport

- We increased the number of focus sports we support from 10 to 12, including Gaelic Games and Rugby Union for the first time, directly benefitting over 800 talented young people and adults with disabilities.
- We appointed Northern Ireland's first ever Wheelchair Basketball Officer and began to improve opportunities in the sport across Northern Ireland.
- We transformed the sport of Boccia developing 6 new regional clubs, an Ulster Squad, Northern Ireland Junior and Senior Competitions and an Ulster League.
- We supported talented athletes with disabilities to compete and excel on the world stage, with one of our athletes, Kelly Gallagher MBE, becoming the first athlete in history from the UK or Ireland to win Gold at the 2014 Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi.

Education, Training and Volunteers

- We trained 904 sports leaders, coaches, leisure services staff, teachers and classroom assistants how to better include children and adults with disabilities in sport.
- We delivered the 5 Star Disability Sport Challenge to 4,500 children.

Sports Facility Access

- We helped 19 sports facilities improve access for people with disabilities.

Policy, Communications, Governance and Income Generation

- We became 1 of only 2 organisations in Northern Ireland to achieve the preliminary level of the UK Equality Standard for Sport.

Board of Directors and Staff 2013 - 2014

Board Members

Directors (Trustees)

Angela Hendra MBE (Chairperson).

Barry Macaulay (Vice Chairperson).

Janet Gray MBE (Honorary President).

Alan Crooks.

Jan Dinsdale MBE.

Jason Kennedy.

June Logan.

Noel Logan.

Michael McAteer.

Ian McAvoy.

Staff Members

Kevin O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer.

Karen Drennan, Finance, Personnel & Governance Manager.

Catherine McDonald, Finance, Personnel & Governance Manager (Maternity Cover 3rd March-31st Oct 2014).

Anita O'Connor, Administrator.

Elaine Reid, Senior Development Officer, Competition & Performance.

Aubrey Bingham, Senior Development Officer, Community Participation.

Claire McVeigh, Senior Development Officer, Access & Training.

Philip Robinson, Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer (Appointed 3rd June 2013).

Odhrán Doherty, Development Officer, Performance (Appointed 21st May 2013).

Lisa McCaffrey, Development Officer, Performance (Appointed 3rd June 2013).

Patricia O'Neill, Education & Training Officer (Appointed 3rd June 2013).

Roisin Henry, Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer, Fermanagh.

Colleen Murray, Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer, Craigavon.

Linsey McKeown, Inclusive Community Coach, Belfast.

David Purdy, Inclusive Community Coach, Belfast.

Amy Scullion, Inclusive Community Coach for Older People with Disabilities.

Chairperson's Message



I am also particularly pleased to note the impressive expansion of our Boccia programme, creating much needed opportunities for people with the highest level of physical impairment, at 6 locations across the country.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Board members, staff and volunteers for their continued commitment and dedication to the work of Disability Sport NI and I look forward to another successful year working with them to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities through sport and physical recreation.

Angela A. Hendra

Angela Hendra MBE
Chairperson

As a former Paralympian and more importantly as someone who has experienced the many benefits of sport and physical recreation first hand, I am delighted to see another year of growth at Disability Sport NI.

In my experience sport and physical recreation can and does transform the lives of disabled people for the better. Sport and physical recreation not only provides opportunities to improve health and fitness but it also has the power to enhance one's overall quality of life by providing fulfilment, enjoyment and the opportunity to socialise and make friends.

In a society where sadly too many disabled people still lead marginalised, isolated and disadvantaged lives, sport and physical recreation can help build confidence and self-esteem and give disabled people the opportunity to play an active role in their local community and greater society.

With these benefits of sport in mind I am pleased to see how much our grassroots community sport programmes have grown this year, improving the health and wellbeing of thousands of children and adults with physical, sensory and learning disabilities across Northern Ireland.

“In my experience sport and physical recreation can and does transform the lives of disabled people for the better. Sport and physical recreation not only provides opportunities to improve health and fitness but it also has the power to enhance one's overall quality of life.”

Chief Executive's Statement



I am delighted to report that this year was Disability Sport NI's most successful year to date with over 20,500 children and adults across Northern Ireland experiencing the health, social and competition benefits of our sports and recreation programmes.

At a community level we experienced the continued growth of our grassroots health and wellbeing focused participation programmes, organised in partnership with selected District Councils across Northern Ireland.

In competitive sport we successfully increased the number of focus sports we work with to 12, including the culturally important sports of Gaelic Games and Rugby Union for the first time. We also saw impressive levels of development and growth in the disability specific sports of Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball.

At a performance level we continued to help talented athletes with disabilities excel on the world stage and were simply thrilled to see Kelly Gallagher MBE and her guide Charlotte Evans MBE become the first athletes in history from the UK or Ireland to win a Gold medal at the Winter Paralympic Games.

But of course despite the success of our programmes, it is sobering to realise that people with disabilities are still only half as likely as everyone else in society to participate in sport and physical recreation.

There is also a real concern that broader financial pressures faced by the Northern Ireland Executive will make it increasingly difficult to secure government funding to maintain and further develop our programmes in the future.

With this in mind Disability Sport NI is doing everything it can to secure increased funding from charitable trusts & foundations, the corporate sector and directly from the public. However we can only continue our work with the support of government bodies and I appeal to Sport Northern Ireland and our other funders to continue to prioritise the needs of disabled people and help us build a society in Northern Ireland where people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to access sport and physical recreation.

Kevin O'Neill
Chief Executive Officer

“This year was Disability Sport NI's most successful year to date with over 20,500 children and adults from across Northern Ireland experiencing the health, social and competition benefits of our sports and recreation programmes.”

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Key Achievements:

- 8 Northern Ireland Community Events involving 992 participants organised.
- Inaugural Northern Ireland Junior Paralympic Fun Day involving 58 children organised.
- Active Communities Programmes and sessions involving 9,030 participants organised as part of the Sport Northern Ireland Active Communities Programme in 4 District Council consortia areas.
- 2,696 children and adults benefitted directly from the Fermanagh Inclusive Leisure Project.
- 1,450 children and adults benefitted directly from the Craigavon Inclusive Leisure Project.

Northern Ireland Community Events Programme

This long standing programme designed to give children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to participate competitively in a range of sports, this year saw 992 participants compete in 8 fun based community events held across Northern Ireland. Details of each event are provided below:

- **New Age Kurling Schools Championships**, 8th November 2013, Antrim Forum Leisure Centre - 112 participants.
- **Northern Ireland Swimming Championships**, 19th October 2013, Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn - 241 competitors.
- **New Age Kurling Senior Championships**, 22nd November 2013, Antrim Forum Leisure Centre - 84 participants.
- **Boccia Schools Championships**, 24th January 2014, Antrim Forum Leisure Centre - 102 participants from 10 Special Schools.

- **Boccia Senior Championships East**, 12th February 2014, Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn Centre - 105 participants.
- **Boccia Senior Championships West**, 21st February 2014, Dungannon Leisure Centre - 48 participants.
- **North West Sports Hall Athletics Championships**, 5th March 2014, Templemore Sports Complex, Derry - 94 participants from 8 schools.
- **Sports Hall Athletics Championships**, 6th March 2014, Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn - 206 participants from 19 schools.

Northern Ireland Junior Paralympic Fun Day

Thanks to funding provided by Ulster Garden Villages, the inaugural Northern Ireland Junior Paralympic Fun Day was successfully held in Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn on Saturday 21st September. The event which was held as part of Lisburn's European City of Sport Programme, was supported by the Northern Ireland Association of Paediatric Chartered Physiotherapists and saw 58 children with disabilities not currently involved in sport try out a range of Paralympic sports for the first time.



Young participants having fun at the Northern Ireland Junior Paralympic Fun Day.

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Active Communities Programme

The Active Communities Programme is a Sport Northern Ireland lottery funded initiative that aims to increase participation in sport and physical recreation. The programme involves the employment of a network of sports coaches throughout Northern Ireland in partnership with District Council consortia.

Following the introduction of the programme three years ago, Disability Sport NI continued to directly deliver or support the delivery of the programme in 4 of Northern Ireland's 11 District Council consortia areas.

In the Belfast area, 3 full time disability coaches were employed directly by Disability Sport NI in partnership with Belfast City Council. The coaches work with a range of organisations such as: day care centres; housing folds; disability groups and schools to deliver a range of activities designed to get participants of all ages from young children through to older people more active and engaged in their community.

Disability Sport NI also supported 3 further disability coaches in the Castlereagh & Lisburn District Council Consortia area, the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council Consortia area, and the Cookstown, Magherafelt & Dungannon District Council Consortia area.



Armchair Aerobics session at Grove Day Centre in Belfast.

Mitchell House School

Mitchell House School is a special school for children with physical disabilities. Most of the students have an associated learning difficulty to some degree. The school caters for children aged 3 to 19 and provides an outreach service to mainstream schools. Disability Sport NI's Inclusive Communities Coaches for the Belfast area work with the school.

"Disability Sport NI is a fantastic resource for our school, the enthusiasm of the staff knows no bounds and we would recommend their service for any organisation working with young people with disabilities."

Laura Matchett, Teacher, Mitchell House School.



Improving Health and Wellbeing

During the year the 6 disability coaches collectively organised activity sessions and programmes involving 9,030 people, 68% of whom were people with disabilities.

Number of participants by area:

Area	Participants
Belfast (3 Coaches)	4,854
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,214
Castlereagh & Lisburn	925
Cookstown, Magherafelt & Dungannon	1,037
Total:	9,030



Comic Relief Be Active Programme

Disability Sport NI successfully secured funding from Comic Relief during the year to run a range of activity programmes during the period January 2014 to September 2015 designed to give people with disabilities the opportunity to get active.

During the January to March 2014 period covered by this report, activities organised included: a walking event at the Island Centre Lisburn for a range of disability groups and adult/day centres in the area; an indoor Athletics event for special schools in Templemore Sports Complex in Derry/Londonderry; a series of Boccia sessions and competitions throughout Northern Ireland and the first of a number of Wheelchair Rugby training sessions to be organised in partnership with the Ulster Barbarians. The funding also enabled Disability Sport NI to purchase specialist Boccia equipment.

A whole series of further activity sessions have also been planned for next year as part of the programme.



Springvale Fold

Springvale Fold is a Fold Housing Association sheltered housing development at Springvale Gardens in North Belfast. Our Inclusive Communities Coach who works specifically with older people and people with disabilities in the Belfast area visits the residents on a weekly basis to help them get active as part of our partnership with Belfast City Council.

“We love to see Disability Sport NI coming in on a Tuesday morning, they are always bright and cheerful and very patient and supportive. I am becoming quite good at Boccia now thanks to them and I know all of the residents who come along to sessions always enjoy themselves.”

Mary, Resident at Springvale Fold.

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Fermanagh Inclusive Leisure Project

The project, a partnership between Disability Sport NI and Fermanagh District Council, is designed to give disabled people the opportunity to lead an active and healthy lifestyle in their local area, with a particular focus on increasing the use of the Inclusive Fitness Suite at the Lakeland Forum Leisure Centre.

The aim of the project is to develop and maintain an inclusive sports and leisure programme which gives people with disabilities in the Fermanagh District Council area an equal opportunity to lead a fit and active lifestyle.

The Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer, Roisin Henry, continued to increase the number of local people to benefit from sport and physical recreation in the area through the project, with 2,696 participants involved in a range of participation initiatives, events, and weekly activity programmes in the area during the year.



Fermanagh District Council

This year's programme of activity sessions included:

- Boccia.
- New Age Kurling.
- Sports Hall Athletics.
- Swimming programmes.
- Tri-Golf.

In addition, the Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer organised a number of tours of the Inclusive Fitness Suite at the ISF (Inclusive Sports Facility) accredited Lakeland Forum Leisure Centre, increasing the number of people with disabilities using the fitness suite from only 6 when the project began 7 years ago to over 220.

This success clearly illustrates that where good quality inclusive sports services are put in place, supported by the local District Council leisure services staff, impressive increases in participation by people with disabilities can be achieved.

The Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer also continued to support the development of a local network of trained sports leaders and coaches with the knowledge and skills required to fully include people with disabilities in sport, a further 4 training & sports leadership courses, involving 65 participants were successfully organised and delivered in the area during the year.

Michelle Cowan

Michelle Cowan lives close to Enniskillen, Co.Fermanagh and is 31 years old. At the age of 15 she became ill with severe Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.) which left her bed-bound for 12 years. Roisin Henry, the Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer for Fermanagh District Council went along to Drumcoo Day Centre where she met Michelle. Michelle took immediately to the sport of Boccia. Michelle now attends the Fermanagh Lakers Club every Monday at the Lakeland Forum.

"I enjoy meeting people, going to Boccia has helped me to gain confidence. I have found a new circle of friends with a variety of disabilities and we all treat each other as mates. I enjoy the company, fun and laughter and feel that I belong to a group and I always look forward to the next Monday."

Michelle Cowan.



Improving Health and Wellbeing

Craigavon Inclusive Leisure Project

Now in its second year of operation, the Craigavon Inclusive Leisure Project, is a partnership between Disability Sport NI and Craigavon Borough Council funded by Sport Northern Ireland.

The project had another very successful year with Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer, Colleen Murray, successfully running a range of sports and physical recreation programmes which have benefitted 1,450 children and adults in the area.

The aims of the project are to:

- Establish a fully inclusive fitness suite at Craigavon Leisure Centre.
- Support the development and long term sustainability of existing sports and leisure programmes for people with disabilities.
- Deliver disability specific training.
- Promote and support the development of inclusive sports clubs.
- Information and advice services.

Colleen worked in partnership with a number of voluntary and statutory organisations in order to develop a comprehensive programme of activities. This has included the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and local schools, sports clubs and youth clubs.

Programmes held at Craigavon Leisure Centre have included:

- Weekly Boccia sessions.
- Weekly New Age Kurling sessions.
- Disability gym programme.
- Schools calendar of events.
- DCD Activ8 Wildcats Multi-Skills Club.
- Monday Club for people with disabilities.
- Craigavon Cyclones Wheelchair Basketball Club.



Young people from the Craigavon area who took part in the DCD Activ8 Wildcats Multi-Skills Club.

Highlights during the year included a very successful project organised in partnership with the Southern Trust, which successfully improved the motor skills and self-esteem of children with Development Coordination Disorder (DCD) or Dyspraxia. Following a successful pilot project last year, this year saw the Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer organise an ongoing fun based multi-skills programme for groups of children in the 7 to 14 age group with Development Coordination Disorder in the area. Below is what some of the parents of those who took part had to say about the programme.

“My son has enjoyed working and playing with same ability children without the peer pressure that exists within some other sports groups where perhaps there is too much pressure for perfection.”

“I’m amazed he can skip. We tried all summer to master it.”

Developing Sporting Talent

Key Achievements:

- Number of focus sports extended from 10 to 12 sports to include Gaelic Games and Rugby Union for the first time.
- Northern Ireland's first ever Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer, appointed and Wheelchair Basketball programme extended and improved.
- Enhanced Boccia programme, with 6 new regional clubs, an Ulster Squad, Northern Ireland Junior and Senior Competitions and an Ulster League established.
- Athlete Investment Programme (AIP) funding managed for 4 talented athletes.
- Mary Peters Trust awards secured for 13 athletes.
- Athlete classification service successfully managed.

Our Focus Sports

In line with Sport Northern Ireland's Disability Mainstreaming Policy, Disability Sport NI continued to work in partnership with selected governing bodies of sport to improve the opportunities available to people with disabilities.

The number of designated focus sports increased from 10 to 12 during the year with the introduction of the sports of Rugby Union and Gaelic Games. The focus sports were selected because they have the greatest potential to provide a full range of participation and competition opportunities for people with disabilities.

The 12 focus sports are:

Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boccia, Cycling, Gaelic Games, Football, Wheelchair Rugby, Table Tennis, Sailing, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball.

The respective Northern Ireland Governing Body for each of the focus sports, is responsible for the development of performance pathways which are inclusive of people with disabilities in their individual sports, with the exception of the disability specific sports of Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball which are the responsibility of Disability Sport NI.

Significant progress continued to be made in each of the focus sports throughout the period, with over 800 talented children and adults with disabilities training and competing in the 12 focus sport programmes.



Young person taking part in Swimming, one of the focus sports currently promoted by Disability Sport NI.

In particular during the year Disability Sport NI staff worked closely with staff from the new focus sports of Gaelic Games and Wheelchair Rugby. A 3 year disability action plan was agreed with Ulster Council of the GAA, a Wheelchair Hurling programme was established in North Belfast and the GAA For All Disability Inclusion Programme updated. A three year disability action plan was also agreed with the Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union and Disability Inclusion Training provided to all Ulster Rugby coaching staff.

Significant progress was also achieved during the year in the two sports which Disability Sport NI has sole responsibility for Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball.

Developing Sporting Talent

Northern Ireland Boccia Programme

Boccia has been a Paralympic sport since 1984 and is specifically designed for athletes with a disability affecting loco-motor function such as Cerebral Palsy. At a recreational level, Boccia is played by people with a range of disabilities in various settings throughout Northern Ireland.

Boccia is played on an area similar to the size of a Badminton court with players aiming to propel a set of coloured balls and position them closer to a white jack ball than those of their opponent, on a similar basis to bowls. When playing Boccia all players compete from a seated position and can throw, roll or kick the balls into the playing area. For players who are unable to throw or kick the ball an assistive device can be used such as a ramp or chute.

2013 – 2014 Northern Ireland Boccia Programme Highlights:

- The organisation of the Northern Ireland Schools Boccia Championships in Antrim in January 2014 and two Regional Senior Boccia Championships in Lisburn and Dungannon in February 2014.

- The development of 6 new regional clubs for people with a physical disability in Belfast, Bangor, Cookstown, Ballygally, Enniskillen and Craigavon, with a further club planned for the Newtownabbey area.
- The establishment of the inaugural Ulster Boccia League, which involved competition by all 6 clubs on a monthly basis between October 2013 and March 2014. The league was won by Craigavon Jacks.
- The establishment of an Ulster Boccia Squad, consisting of 12 of Northern Ireland's most talented players. The squad met on a monthly basis at the Valley Leisure Centre in Newtownabbey. During the year the squad developed close links with the national Governing Bodies for the sport, GB Boccia and Cerebral Palsy Ireland Sport, with key performance staff from both organisations participating in and supporting their training programme.
- 4 Ulster squad members were subsequently selected for the Irish Paralympic Development Squad, and one player was selected to represent the Irish Squad in the Cheshire International Open in May.

William Graham

William Graham from County Fermanagh began life weighing only 1lb 13oz (810 grams) and was three months premature. Within the first few days of his life, his parents found out that he had Cerebral Palsy and that all four of William's limbs would be restricted (Quadriplegic). William is a member of the Lightning Powerchair Football Club and is also a member of the Fermanagh Lakers Boccia Team.

"William has found sport a fantastic way of meeting new people and he has made friends throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom. Sport has given him great opportunities which he in turn has used to inspire other young people. Sport meets his needs and helps him to be sociable and enjoy his life to full."

Joe Graham, William's Father.



Developing Sporting Talent

Northern Ireland Wheelchair Basketball Programme

Wheelchair Basketball has grown worldwide since it was introduced onto the global stage at the Rome 1960 Paralympic Games, and today is practiced in nearly 100 countries.

The objective of the Northern Ireland Wheelchair Basketball Programme is to improve the performance structures in Northern Ireland with the aim on improving the way in which talented players are identified, selected and developed, whilst increasing the number of local players achieving representative honours at an International level.

Disability Sport NI is responsible for the preparation, selection and travel of both the Under 15 and Under 19 regional squads which compete in the British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB) League as well as BWB national youth Paralympic competitions.

2013 - 2014 Northern Ireland Wheelchair Basketball Programme Highlights:

- The appointment of Northern Ireland's first ever Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer, Philip Robinson, thanks to funding from Sport Northern Ireland's Performance Focus Programme.
- Establishment of Northern Ireland squad monthly training programme.
- The participation of Northern Ireland teams in the Sainsbury's UK School Games in Sheffield, the Celtic Cup in Newport, Wales and in the British Wheelchair Basketball National Junior Championships and the GB Junior League.
- The continued development of club programmes in partnership with British Wheelchair Basketball and local Wheelchair Basketball groups in Antrim/Belfast, Enniskillen and Derry/Londonderry.
- The organisation of a Wheelchair Basketball Level One Coaching Award including 19 participants.

James MacSorley

James MacSorley is 19 years old and from Belfast. James has had Spina Bifida from birth.

James has represented the Knights Wheelchair Basketball Team at junior and senior level and NI at U15, U19 and U23 levels. He has also represented GB at U22 and U23 levels.

"Disability Sport NI has been a major driving force in the development of Wheelchair Basketball in Northern Ireland over the years. I personally have developed so much as a direct result of the support and platform they have provided."

James MacSorley.



Developing Sporting Talent

Athlete Funding

As a result of Sport Northern Ireland's Disability Mainstreaming Policy and Disability Sport NI's ongoing work supporting key governing bodies of sport, the majority of talented athletes with disabilities in Northern Ireland currently receive Sport Northern Ireland funding and associated Sports Institute for Northern Ireland support through their respective mainstream Governing Body of Sport. This represents an important improvement in provision for talented disabled athletes. However, during the year the following 4 talented athletes with disabilities continued to be managed and supported by Disability Sport NI:

- **Kelly Gallagher MBE**, Alpine Skiing.
- **Paul McKillop**, Wheelchair Basketball.
- **Matthew Rollston**, Wheelchair Basketball.
- **James MacSorley**, Wheelchair Basketball.

All of the athletes managed by Disability Sport NI performed well during the year, but the most notable performance of course was by Kelly Gallagher MBE, who became the first athlete in history from the UK or Ireland to win a Gold medal at the 2014 Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi.



Kelly Gallagher MBE and Charlotte Evans MBE pictured with their Gold medals at Sochi 2014 © Ryan Walters – Sportsbeat.

Athlete Classification

Disability Sport NI continued to provide a classification service to individual athletes, parents and sports organisations throughout the period.

This included organising the classification of local talented athletes in the sports of Boccia and Swimming and managing the INAS FID Classification system for athletes with learning disabilities. During the period Senior Development Officer, Elaine Reid, continued to represent Disability Sport NI on the Paralympics Ireland Classification Advisory Group.

Mary Peters Trust

The Mary Peters Trust awards scheme for young talented sports people was once again promoted widely to athletes with disabilities during the year with the following 13 talented athletes successfully securing awards:

- **Mark Jones** (CP Football).
- **Donna Cross** (Deaf Football).
- **Barry Campbell** (Deaf Football).
- **Brian Babb** (Deaf Football).
- **Richard Doherty** (Deaf Football).
- **Roy McKee** (Deaf Football).
- **Austin Burns** (Para Equestrian).
- **Namphon Steele** (Para Swimming).
- **Chris Burns** (Para Cycling).
- **Conn Nagel** (Wheelchair Basketball).
- **Niall McVeigh** (Dwarf Badminton) - Leonard Cheshire Award.
- **Dr. Michael McKillop** (CP Athlete) - Outstanding Sports Person Award 2013.
- **Kelly Gallagher MBE** (Blind Skier) - Outstanding Sports Person Award 2013.



Dwarf Badminton player, Niall McVeigh.

Supporting Inclusion

Key Achievements:

- 57 sports training & coach education courses delivered to 904 participants.
- The 5 Star Disability Sport Challenge delivered to 4,500 children.
- New Training & Education Officer appointed.

Training Course Delivery

A core part of Disability Sport NI's work is the development and delivery of a range of training, sports leadership and coach education courses designed to give leisure services staff, coaches and sports leaders the knowledge and skills required to include people with disabilities in sport and physical recreation. A total of 57 courses involving 904 participants were successfully organised and delivered at locations throughout Northern Ireland during the year.

Disability Sport NI has a range of training courses on offer across Northern Ireland. Our courses cover both theory and practice, and aim to promote and ensure inclusivity across all ages and activities.

Of particular note was the delivery of the second year of the Sainsbury's funded Active Kids For All Inclusive PE Training Programme. The project which was launched last year in partnership with Disability Sport Wales, the English Federation of Disability Sport and Scottish Disability Sport, will see 20,000 teachers, trainee teachers and classroom assistants trained across the UK in the build up to the next Paralympic Games in Rio.

A breakdown of the courses delivered during the year is given as follows:

Course	Number of courses delivered	Number of participants
Disability Inclusion Training	11	131
Inclusive Skills	3	38
Inclusive Games	14	294
Sainsbury's Active Kids 4 All Inclusive PE	15	222
Boccia Leaders Award	8	131
BWB Wheelchair Basketball Level 1 Coaching Award	1	17
Bespoke Courses	5	71
Total	57	904

Course evaluations for each course were extremely positive with 100% of participants describing the courses as either excellent or very good.

New Lodge and Duncairn Community Health Partnership

Some of the staff from New Lodge and Duncairn Community Health Partnership took part in Inclusive Games training delivered by Disability Sport NI at the Macrory Hall in Duncairn Gardens.

"Disability Sport NI is a great organisation with an enthusiastic and professional team of staff who are excellent at relating disability games and concerns to everyday life. They highlighted how easy it can be to make adaptations so that a person's disabilities can be handled with ease. The games and activities we took part in were also a great way to raise awareness of different capabilities."

Rachel Compton, Community Health Development Worker, New Lodge and Duncairn Community Health Partnership.



Supporting Inclusion

5 Star Disability Sport Challenge

Disability Sport NI was delighted with the continued success of its London 2012 inspired education project, the Northern Ireland primary school-based 5 Star Disability Sport Challenge during the year.

This initiative has been running since March 2009 to promote and highlight the success of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

An additional 4,500 children in 30 schools and community groups participated in the project, increasing the total number of children to complete the project since it was first launched 5 years ago to an amazing 33,991 children from 231 schools and community organisations.



Children trying out Goalball as part of a 5 Star Disability Sport Challenge session.



Children trying out New Age Kurling as part of a 5 Star Disability Sport Challenge session.

The project involves disabled sports people delivering an awareness raising presentation to pupils in schools, followed by a practical sports session where children are given the opportunity to complete a circuit of 5 fun based challenges, each based on a Paralympic Sport.

The project begins with a 30 minute awareness raising presentation about disability sport and the Olympic and Paralympics Games which is delivered to all pupils Primary 1-7. Former presenters have included four times World Disabled Waterski Champion, Dr. Janet Gray MBE and Dr. Michael McKillop from Belfast who won Gold in the 800m and 1500m in the London Paralympics 2012 along with Disability Sport NI staff.

Following the presentation Primary 5-7 take part in the practical part of the day. Each sports challenge is designed to give children a better understanding of disability sport and the abilities of people with disabilities, and are each in their own way challenging but achievable to ensure that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience.

The project which is funded by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and Sport Northern Ireland was designed to showcase disability sport in the build up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and continues to positively challenge negative attitudes and misconceptions about people with disabilities.



Developing Inclusive Facilities

Key Achievements:

- 19 sports facilities audited and working towards achieving ISF accreditation.
- New Inclusive Stadia Design and Management Guidelines drafted.

Disability Sport NI provides a sports facilities access service concerned with improving the quality of access for people with disabilities to new and existing sports facilities across Northern Ireland.

In broad terms basic physical access to sports facilities in Northern Ireland has improved significantly in recent years as a direct response to the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), including extensions introduced by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006.

However, where improvements have been made they tend to meet the minimum requirements of the DDA and Building Regulations rather than meeting the actual sporting requirements of people with disabilities, particularly in relation to the requirements of team sports, wheelchair sports and access to fitness equipment.

Following the development of the Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Accreditation Scheme, in partnership with Sport Northern Ireland 3 years ago, the scheme continues to grow with 19 sports facilities audited and currently working towards achieving ISF accreditation.

The ISF Scheme was developed to provide District Councils and other community sports facility operators with a mechanism to ensure that they meet the best possible levels of good practice in the design and management of sports facilities, which are inclusive of people with disabilities.



Bangor Aurora Aquatic & Leisure Complex
© www.macspec.co.uk



Fermanagh Lakeland Forum.

Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Projects

Lakeland Forum Leisure Centre in Enniskillen has successfully achieved accreditation with the following 18 facilities signed up for the scheme or working towards accreditation:

- Ballymote Sports Centre, Downpatrick.
- Bangor Aurora Aquatic Complex, Bangor.
- Beragh Red Knights GAC, Omagh.
- Bready Cricket Club, Tyrone.
- Craigavon Leisure Centre, Craigavon.
- RDA Causeway Coast Arena, Coleraine.
- The Vale Centre, Greysteel.
- The Torrent Complex, Donaghmore.
- LORAG, Shaftesbury Community Centre, Belfast.
- Lisburn Racquets Club, Lisburn.
- North West Regional Sports Campus, Derry.
- Glenravel Sports & Community Centre, Antrim Dunville Park, Belfast.
- Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt.
- Omagh Leisure Centre, Omagh.
- SINI, Newtownabbey.
- Tollymore National Outdoor Centre, Newcastle.
- Newry Leisure Centre, Newry.



Developing Inclusive Facilities

Inclusive Stadia Design & Management Guidelines

Building on the success of the Inclusive Sports Facility Scheme, the Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG), which was established last year, continued to work on the development of the *Inclusive Stadia Design and Management Guidelines* throughout the year. The guidelines have been produced to help ensure that designers look beyond the minimum requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and Building Regulations and design stadia that meet the highest standards of emerging best practice in terms of access for people with disabilities.

The draft guidelines were successfully completed by the end of the year and will be published as soon as it is approved by Sport Northern Ireland.

Membership of the ISAG group is made up of representatives of key disability organisations in Northern Ireland:

- Barry Macaulay, Senior Manager, Royal National Institute of Blind People, (Chairperson).
- Kevin O'Neill, CEO, Disability Sport NI.
- Claire McVeigh, Sports Facility Access Officer, Disability Sport NI.
- Aisling Irvine, Access Consultant, All In Access Consultancy.
- Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID).
- Jan Dinsdale MBE, Chairperson, Blind Sports Network NI.
- Orla McCann, Access Manager, Disability Action.
- Andrew Murdock, Policy Manager, Guide Dogs.
- Michael Hilland, IFA Inclusive Supporters Association NI.
- Michael Lorimer, Executive Secretary, Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC).
- Jenny Ruddy, Campaigns Officer, Mencap.

Disability Sport NI would like to acknowledge the important contribution that each individual member of the group made to the development of the stadia guidelines.

Throughout the period the Facility Access Officer continued to provide detailed technical advice and guidance to the design teams at Northern Ireland's three main Football, Gaelic Games and Rugby stadia. The three stadia, Windsor Park, Ravenhill Park and Casement Park, all located in the Belfast area, are being extended and refurbished through the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) funded Regional Stadia Programme.



Barry Macaulay and Claire McVeigh members of the Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group.

Making it Happen

Governance

To ensure that the charity continued to meet optimum levels of good practice in governance, Disability Sport NI reviewed and updated its policy and procedures during the year, successfully securing the 'substantial' level of Assurance from Sport Northern Ireland.

The organisation also moved offices in February 2014. The new larger offices at Portside Business Park, are located on Airport Road West, in the Harbour Estate area of Belfast.

UK Equality Standard for Sport

During the year, Disability Sport NI became 1 of only 2 organisations in Northern Ireland to achieve the preliminary level of the UK Equality Standard for Sport.

The standard, which was developed by Sport Northern Ireland and the other UK Sports Councils, recognises organisations who take positive measures to widen access and reduce inequalities in sport for under represented groups.



Antoinette McKeown, Chief Executive of Sport Northern Ireland presents the award to Angela Hendra MBE and Karen Drennan from Disability Sport NI.

Representation

Disability Sport NI continued to represent the interests of people with disabilities from Northern Ireland on the following key national organisations and committees:

- British Paralympic Association National Paralympic Committee (Paralympics GB).
- GB Boccia Federation.
- UK Home Country Disability Sports Organisations' Chief Executives Officers Forum (UKCEO).
- UK Disability Sport Training & Education Source Group.
- UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities (UKSAPLD).
- Paralympics Ireland Classification Advisory Group.

Disability Sport NI also maintained a close working relationship with Paralympics Ireland during the year.

Rebranding Exercise

As part of the development of Disability Sport NI's communications strategy, we called in local branding and marketing experts, Mammoth to carry out an audit of our brand identity in autumn 2013.

We asked them to examine for us levels of awareness among the public of our charity and the work we did and also levels of awareness in general terms about sports opportunities open to people with disabilities.

The research identified that there was still a significant lack of knowledge with members of the public regarding the opportunities open to people with a learning, sensory or physical disability to get involved in sport and recreation at both recreational and performance levels.

Mammoth consulted widely with our staff, Board and other stakeholders to help us define and develop a new identity as a means to draw attention to our work.

Our new brand which features key elements such as the strikingly angular 'D' and 'S' logo and our new slogan, Get involved. Take part. was completed during spring 2014.



Making it Happen

Annual Accounts 2013 - 2014

An overview of the organisation's financial position for the year 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 is provided below:

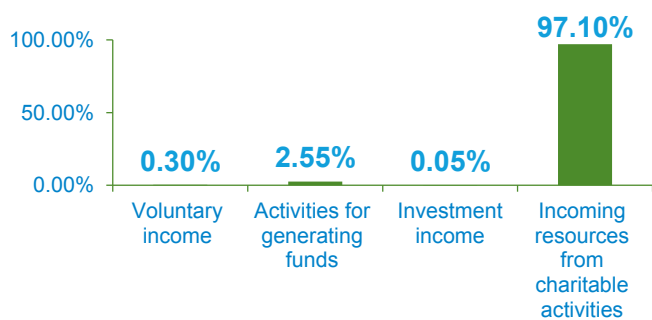
Total income for the financial year was £582,752 compared with £481,282 in the previous year.

Total expenditure for the financial year was £578,935 compared to £480,707 in the previous year.

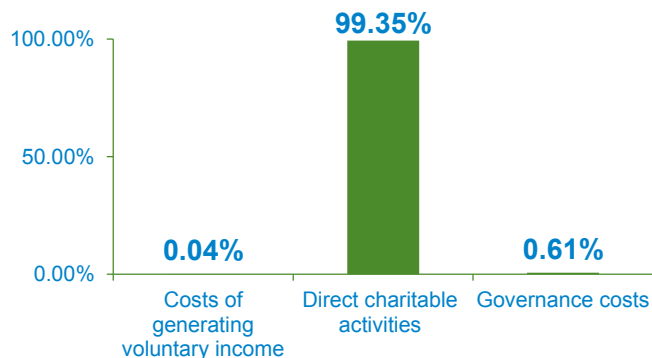
The organisation had a surplus for the year of £3,817 compared to a surplus of £575 in the previous year. Accumulated funds at the end of the year therefore increased from £162,657 to £166,474.

A full set of the charity's audited accounts for the period is available on request.

Incoming Resources 2013 - 2014



Resources Expended 2013 - 2014



Our Funders 2013 - 2014



All of us at Disability Sport NI are very grateful for the support we receive from everyone who kindly helps to make our charity's work possible including: individuals; schools; groups and businesses who have kindly donated to us. We would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you**.



**You can make a real difference
to the lives of local people with
disabilities.**

Text: DSNI22 £3 / £5 / £10 to 70070

(e.g. text DSNI22 £5 to 70070 to donate £5)



We're helping children take part in sport.

Get involved. Take part.



We're supporting talented athletes.

Get involved. Take part.



We're improving health and wellbeing.

Get involved. Take part.



We're training others to help.

Get involved. Take part.

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