This has been Disability Sports NI’s most successful year to date with 18,371 children and adults in Northern Ireland directly benefitting from our programmes.

**Key achievements included:**

**Community Sport**
- Community participation initiatives, activity sessions & events involving 10,649 participants organized.
- 17 sports facilities working towards Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Accreditation
- An Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG) established.

**Performance Sport**
- Disability Performance Pathways for people with disabilities involving 643 competitive athletes further developed in 10 focus sports.
- Funding for Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer and programme secured.
- Pool of 16 sports wheelchairs purchased to support the future development of Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby.

**London 2012 Paralympic Games**
- Eight athletes qualified, securing 5 gold and two bronze medals, making the games the most successful Paralympic Games in history for athletes from Northern Ireland.
- The organisation of two London 2012 training camps for Paralympics Ireland and the Paralympic Council of Jordan, in partnership with Antrim Borough Council and Sport NI.
- 6,116 children participated in the ‘5 Star Disability Sports Challenge’ education project, increasing the total number of children to complete the project since it was first launched to 29,491.

**Training & Coach Education**
- 53 training courses courses involving 763 participants organised.
- Development of Sainsbury’s Active Kids For All Inclusive PE Course
- Boccia ‘Leaders’ and ‘Level One’ coaching awards developed.

**Governance**
- Foundation level of the UK Equality Standard for Sport achieved.
We are delighted to report that this has been Disability Sports NI’s most successful year to date with 18,371 children and adults in Northern Ireland directly benefitting from our programmes.

Grassroots sports and recreation provision for people with disabilities continued to grow during the year, with a second inclusive leisure project funded by Sport Northern Ireland introduced in the Craigavon Borough Council area. A third Active Communities coach was also employed in the Belfast City Council area bringing the total number of disability coaches deployed in Northern Ireland to six. This has enabled us to significantly increase the opportunities available to people with disabilities in these areas.

There was also further improvements in performance sport. Eight governing bodies of sport now have well established disability performance pathways in place and our most talented disabled athletes are routinely accessing Sport Northern Ireland funding and the support services of the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland. In addition new pathways and structures are being developed in the disability specific sports of Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball.

But of course the highlight of the year was the London 2012 Paralympic Games, which clearly demonstrated how much the disability sport system in Northern Ireland has improved. With eight athletes securing 5 gold and 2 bronze medals, the games were the most successful Paralympic Games in history for athletes from Northern Ireland.

The games also resulted in unprecedented levels of media coverage and public interest in disability sport and a marked increase in demand from people with disabilities to participate in sport.

Unfortunately, despite the success of the Paralympic Games and the very welcome improvements in the disability sports system, disabled people in Northern Ireland are still only half as likely to participate in sport and physical recreation as the population as a whole, with only 19% of disabled adults participating regularly compared to 37% of all adults.

The challenge ahead then is to build on the success achieved to date and to meet the increased demand from people with disabilities to participate, by greatly increasing the scale of sports and recreation opportunities available across Northern Ireland.

We look forward to meeting this challenge, giving more people with disabilities an equal opportunity to lead a full, active and healthy lifestyle through sport and physical recreation.

Yours in sport

Angela Hendra MBE
Chairperson

Kevin O’Neill, Chief Executive Officer

Angela Hendra MBE (Chairperson)
Barry Macaulay (Vice Chairperson)
Janet Gray MBE (Honorary President)

Alan Crooks
Jan Dinsdale MBE
Jason Kennedy
June Logan
Noel Logan
Niall Dempsey (Retired 30th November 2012)
Steve McCrudden (Retired 30th November 2012)
Michael McAteer (Appointed 30th November 2012)
Ian McAvoy (Appointed 30th November 2012)

Kevin O’Neill, Chief Executive Officer
Karen Drennan, Finance, Personnel & Governance Manager
Elaine Reid, Senior Development Officer, Performance
Aubrey Bingham, Senior Development Officer, Community Participation
Claire McVeigh, Senior Development Officer, Facility Access
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, Belfast (Appointed November 2012)
Anita O'Connor, Administrator
Jonathan McCarthy, Assistant Development Officer (To March, 2013)
David Telford, Project Assistant (RNIB Placement to October, 2012)
**Objective:** To lead and support the development of locally available participation opportunities and facilities which enable people with disabilities to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

**Key Achievements:**

- **8 Northern Ireland Community Events involving 1,102 participants organised.**
- **Activity Communities Programmes and sessions involving 7,148 participants organised as part of the Sport NI Active Communities Programme.**
- **Over 20 events, participation initiatives and weekly activity programmes involving 1,842 participants organised through the Fermanagh Inclusive Leisure Project.**
- **Second Inclusive Leisure Project established in Craigavon and 522 participants involved to date in the developing programme.**
- **17 sports facilities working towards Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Accreditation.**
- **An Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG) established.**

**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, attracted a record number of participants during the year. In total 8 community events involving 1,102 participants were successfully organised, representing a 17% increase in the number of participants. Details of each of the events are provided below.

- **New Age Kurling Schools Championships,** 8th November 2012, Antrim Forum Leisure Centre - 124 participants.
- **Northern Ireland Swimming Championships,** 20th October 2012 Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn - 220 competitors.
- **New Age Kurling Senior Championships,** 22nd November 2012, Antrim Forum Leisure Centre - 128 participants.
- **Boccia Schools Championships,** 24th January 2013, Antrim Forum Leisure Centre - 66 participants from 11 Schools.
- **Boccia Senior Championships East,** 12th February 2013, Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn Centre – 128 participants.
- **Boccia Senior Championships West,** 21st February 2013, Cookstown Leisure Centre, 112 participants.
- **Sports Hall Athletics Championships,** 5th March 2013, Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn – 228 participants from 19 Special schools.
- **North West Sports Hall Athletics Championships,** 6th March 2013, Templemore Sports Complex, Derry - 96 participants from 8 schools.

**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 Councils.

Following the introduction of the programme two years ago, Disability Sports 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 Sports NI in partnership with Belfast City Council, with the work of 3 further disability coaches supported by Disability Sports NI 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.

**Number of participants by area:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast (3 Coaches)</td>
<td>3,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armagh, Banbridge &amp; Craigavon,</td>
<td>1,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlereagh &amp; Lisburn</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookstown, Magherafelt &amp; Dungannon</td>
<td>1,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,148</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY SPORT -

Fermanagh Inclusive Leisure Project

During the sixth year of this project, the Lakeland Forum based Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer (ISLO), Roisin Henry, continued to increase the number of local people to benefit from the initiative, which 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.

Partly funded by Sport NI the project is a partnership between Disability Sports NI and Fermanagh District Council, and this year resulted in the organisation of over 20 different participation initiatives, events, and weekly activity programmes in a range of sports involving 1,842 participants, 63% of whom were people with disabilities.

Craigavon Inclusive Leisure Project

Based on the success of the Fermanagh Inclusive Leisure Project, a second inclusive leisure project funded by Sport Northern Ireland was introduced in Craigavon during the year. The project which is a partnership between Disability Sports NI and Craigavon Borough Council, has also been designed to give more local people with disabilities the opportunity to lead an active and healthy lifestyle through sport, with a particular focus on increasing the use of the fitness suite at Craigavon Leisure Centre.

The newly appointed Craigavon Inclusive Leisure Officer, Colleen Murray, has got the project off to a great start with 522 participants involved to date in the newly developed programme.

ENABLING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Inclusive Sports Facilities

Following the successful development of the Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Accreditation Scheme in partnership with Sport Northern Ireland two years ago, the scheme continues to grow with 17 sports facilities audited and currently working towards achieving ISF accreditation.

The ISF scheme was developed to provide District Councils and other 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.

Building on the success of the Inclusive Sports Facility scheme, the focus of the Facility Access Officer’s work this year was on the extension of the scheme to cover the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure’s Regional Stadia Programme, which will see the major redevelopment of Northern Ireland’s three main Football, Gaelic games and Rugby stadia by 2015.

To support this work an Inclusive Stadia Advisory Group (ISAG) was established during the year to advise on stadia access issues at all three stadia and to oversee the development of Stadia Design and Management Guidelines and a related accreditation scheme. Work on these areas of work is progressing well and will be completed by December 2013.
PERFORMANCE SPORT -

Objective
To support the development of ‘performance pathways’, and to manage support programmes which enable talented children and adults with disabilities to train, compete and achieve higher levels of performance in their sport.

Key Achievements:
- ‘Disability’ performance pathways for people with disabilities involving 643 competitive athletes further developed in 10 focus sports.
- Athlete Investment Programme (AIP) funding managed for 4 talented athletes.
- Athlete classification service successfully managed.
- Boccia ‘Leaders’ and ‘Level One’ coaching awards developed.
- Funding for Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer and programme secured
- Pool of 16 sports wheelchairs purchased to support the future development of Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby.

Focus Sports
In line with Sport Northern Ireland’s ‘disability mainstreaming’ policy Disability Sports NI continued to work in partnership with selected governing bodies of sport to improve the opportunities available to people with disabilities in 10 designated ‘focus’ sports. The ‘focus’ sports have been selected because they have the greatest potential to provide a full range of participation and competition opportunities for people with disabilities.
The ten ‘focus’ sports are archery, athletics, badminton, boccia, cycling, football, 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 Sports NI.

Significant progress continued to be made in each of the focus sports throughout the period, with a total of 643 talented children and adults with disabilities training and competing in the 10 focus sports. The most significant programme during the year was the organisation of six successful talent identification days, organised in partnership with governing bodies of sport in the months immediately after the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Particular achievements in relation to the two sports which Disability Sports NI has sole responsibility for, are summarised below:

Boccia
- The organisation of the NI Special Schools Boccia Championships in Antrim in January 2013 and two Regional Senior Boccia Championships in Lisburn and Cookstown in February 2013.
- The organisation of a Boccia Development squad on a fortnightly basis, at the Ozone Leisure Centre, Belfast.

Wheelchair Basketball
- The relocation of ‘Taraflex’ competition standard Boccia courts, purchased for the Boccia World Cup, to 6 District Councils, to facilitate the development of regional Boccia squads.
- The development of a UK wide ‘Leaders’ and ‘Level One’ Boccia Coaching Awards in partnership with GB Boccia and other UK partners.
- The continued development of club programmes in partnership with British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB) and local wheelchair basketball groups in Antrim/Belfast, Enniskillen and Derry.
- The participation of the Northern Ireland team in the Sainsbury’s UK School Games in London during May 2012.
In the build up to and during the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Disability Sports NI worked closely with Sport Northern and the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure to ensure that people with disabilities in Northern Ireland benefitted from the games.

Key achievements

- Eight athletes qualified, securing 5 gold and 2 bronze medals, making the games the most successful Paralympic Games in history for athletes from Northern Ireland.
- 6,116 children participated in the ‘5 Star Disability Sports Challenge’ education project, increasing the total number of children to complete the project since it was first launched four year ago to an amazing 29,491 children from 201 schools and community organisations.

5 Star Disability Sports Challenge Education Project

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

In recognition of the project’s success, the ‘5 Star Challenge’ was awarded the prestigious London 2012 ‘Inspire Mark’ which recognised exceptional community projects inspired by London 2012.

Athlete Classification

Disability Sport NI’s Performance Officer 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 the Performance Officer also continued to represent Disability Sports NI on the Paralympics Ireland Classification Advisory Group.
Paralympic Celebrations
Disability Sports NI played a key role in the Northern Ireland Paralympic Flame Festival on the 25th August 2012, one of a series of five events held across the UK to celebrate the opening of the Paralympic Games. Disability Sports NI Chairperson, Angela Hendra MBE had the honour of lighting the Paralympic cauldron at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on the morning of the event and Disability Sports NI Chairperson, Janet Gray MBE led the Lantern Parade and lit the Paralympic cauldron at the main flame festival event at Belfast City Hall. A series of disability sports demonstrations and ‘5 Star Challenge’ events were also organised by Disability Sports NI staff in Strabane, Lisburn, Cookstown and in two locations in Belfast throughout the day.

Disability Sports NI Chairperson, Angela Hendra MBE and Chief Executive, Kevin O'Neill also had the privilege to present medals and flowers at victory ceremonies during the London 2012 Games.

Paralympic Games Information Guide
In response to the unprecedented level of public interest in disability sport in the build up to the Paralympic Games, Disability Sports NI teamed up with Paralympics GB and Paralympics Ireland to produce a Paralympic Games Information Guide. The guide which included a profile of all eight Northern Ireland athletes participating at the games was widely circulated at London 2012 related events in the build up to the games.
Performance of Northern Ireland Athletes

From a Northern Ireland perspective the London 2012 Paralympic Games were the most successful in history. Eight athletes from Northern Ireland, representing five different sports successfully qualified for the games, six on the Paralympics GB squad and two on the Paralympics Ireland squad. The athletes secured a total of 7 medals, 5 gold and 2 bronze, making Northern Ireland the most successful region of the UK or Ireland in terms of gold medals secured per million population. Northern Ireland athletes also broke 3 world records and set 2 new Paralympic records in the process.

The success of the Northern Ireland Paralympians clearly demonstrates how much the disability and performance sport system in Northern Ireland has improved in recent years, as a result of the work of Governing Bodies of Sport, Disability Sports NI, Sport Northern Ireland and the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland.

Local stars of the games were track athletes Michael McKillop and Jason Smyth, who both won two gold medals in spectacular performances, closely followed by Bethany Firth who won gold in the 100m backstroke event.

Michael McKillop was also one of only two Paralympians to be awarded the Whang Youn Dai award, a prestigious award made to athletes who exemplified the spirit of the Paralympic Games.

Disability Sports NI would like to congratulate all eight athletes on their performances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Firth</td>
<td>100m Backstroke</td>
<td>Gold (Paralympic Record)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eilish Byrne</td>
<td>Equestrian – Overall Team Test</td>
<td>Bronze 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Championships Test</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Freestyle Test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Brown</td>
<td>Tandem Time Trial</td>
<td>Bronze 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4km Individual Pursuit</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1km Time Trial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Smyth</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>Gold (World Record)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200m</td>
<td>Gold (World Record)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurence McGovern</td>
<td>100m Backstroke</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael McKillop</td>
<td>800m</td>
<td>Gold (World Record)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1500m</td>
<td>Gold (World Record)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Brown</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200m</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Vennard</td>
<td>Individual Recurve</td>
<td>Quarter Finals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective:
To develop an infrastructure of trained development and leisure services staff, coaches, teachers and sports leaders, with the knowledge and skills required to successfully include people with disabilities in sport and physical recreation.

Key Achievements:
- 53 sports training courses involving 763 participants organised.
- 100% of participants rated their course as either ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.
- Development of Sainsbury’s Active Kids For All Inclusive PE Course.

Training Course Delivery
A total of 53 courses involving 763 participants were successfully organised and delivered at locations throughout Northern Ireland during the year. A breakdown of the type of courses organised is provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Number of courses Delivered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Inclusion Training</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive Games/Skills</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sainsbury’s Active Kids For All Inclusive PE Course</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boccia Leaders Award</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Training</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Workshops</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Sainsbury’s Active Kids For All Inclusive PE Course
During the year a new inclusive PE course was also developed in partnership with Disability Sport Wales, the English Federation of Disability Sport and Scottish Disability Sport, and funding of £850,000 secured from Sainsbury’s to train 20,000 teachers, trainee teachers and classroom assistants across the UK over a four year period in the build up to the next Paralympic Games in Rio.

The project was launched in London in September 2012, and the first 10 Northern Ireland courses involving 150 local teachers were successfully organised by the end of the year.

GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND REPRESENTATION

Governance
To ensure the organisation was meeting optimum levels of good practice in governance, Disability Sports NI reviewed and updated its board structure and membership system during the year. Two EGM’s took place on 19th October and the 23rd November 2012 to approve agreed amendments to the Articles of Association. The main change to the Articles was the introduction of skills based advisors to the Board of Directors for the first time.

UK Equality Standard for Sport
During the year, Disability Sports NI became one of the first sporting organisations in Northern Ireland to achieve the foundation level of the UK Equality Standard for Sport. The standard, which was developed by Sport NI and the other UK Sports Councils, recognises organisations who take positive measures to widen access and reduce inequalities in sport by under represented groups.

Annual Accounts
An overview of the organisation’s financial position for the year 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 is provided below.

- Total income for the financial year was £481,282 compared with £487,629 in the previous year.
- Total expenditure for the financial year was £480,707 compared to £459,531 in the previous year.
- The organisation had a surplus for the year of £575 compared to a surplus of £28,098 in the previous year. Accumulated funds at the end of the year therefore increased from £162,082 to £162,657.

A full set of the organisation’s audited accounts is available from the DSNI office.

Representation
Disability Sports 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 Organisation’s Chief Executives Officers Forum (UKCEO)
- UK Disability Sport Coaching, Learning & Leadership Group (UKDSLCL)
- UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities (UKSAPLD)
- London 2012 Northern Ireland Nations & Regions Group

The organisation also maintained a close working relationship with Paralympics Ireland.
Disability Sports NI
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www.dsni.co.uk