

Paper to Note

National Assembly for Wales

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Inquiry into participation levels in sport in Wales

Additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association following the meeting held on 27 June 2013

First document : Strategic plan for Swim Wales which is now forming the fundamental structure behind all local authority swim pathways.

Second document :The specific strategy for Swansea showing the links from the governing body pathway for swimming into its own delivery strategy.

Third document : I referred in the meeting to the way in which local authorities are working together on a regional basis to share good practice, to collaborate and make improvements. This document is the shared planning document for the South East Chief Culture and Leisure officers

Fourth document : The detailed delivery plan and priorities' for sport and physical activity for the South East area

Fifth document : Swim report for Newport from learn to swim to excellence.

Sixth document : Disability successes just for Newport.

Seventh document : Sports participation rates for Swansea showing some remarkable improvements in swimming and other areas.

The documents are typical of the way in which local authorities collaborate with national partners and between themselves regionally and nationally.

This was not always the case and most of this work has happened over the last two years in a more formal environment.

I could provide more examples but I think this is enough at this stage in response to the questions raised and evidence given.

I apologise once again for the fact that data for 2012/2013 is not finalised but for swimming in particular we are awaiting the end of the summer term. We will have the data in the early autumn which I am sure will be of value to supplement the report at a later stage.

SWIMMING PATHWAY

1. WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

To deliver a pathway for swimming across Wales that gives everyone the opportunity to take part in the sport throughout their life. Providing opportunities including learn to swim, recreational swimming and a performance pathway to allow competitors to reach their potential.

This will mean achievement of the following targets:

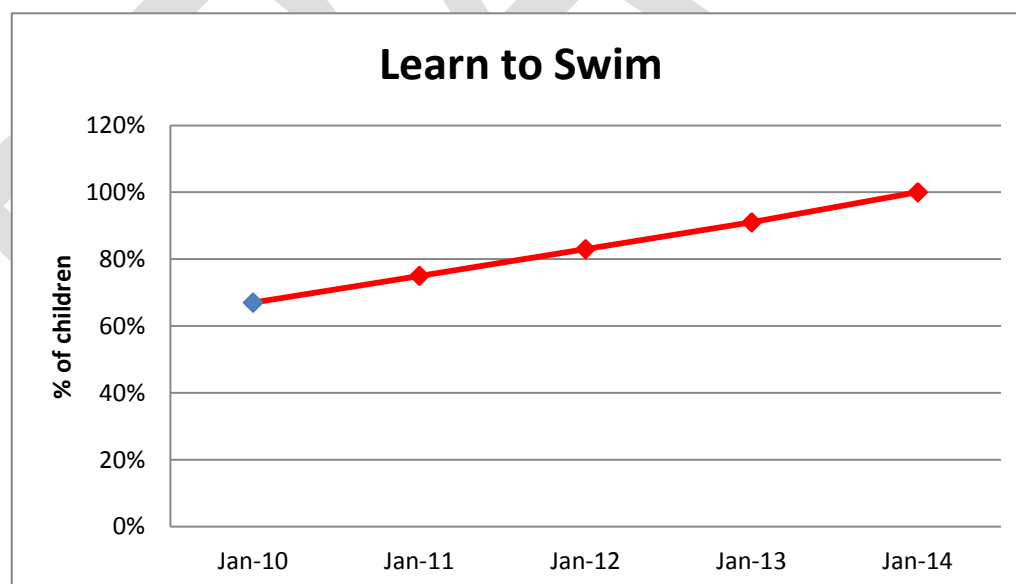
- Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014
- 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014
- 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020
- Consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway on an annual basis
- 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

2. WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Swimming is often the first sport that we experience and is a sport that you can actively participate in at all ages and abilities. It's a life skill which provides a vehicle to participation in other aquatic sports and its importance is acknowledged as part of the national curriculum in Wales.

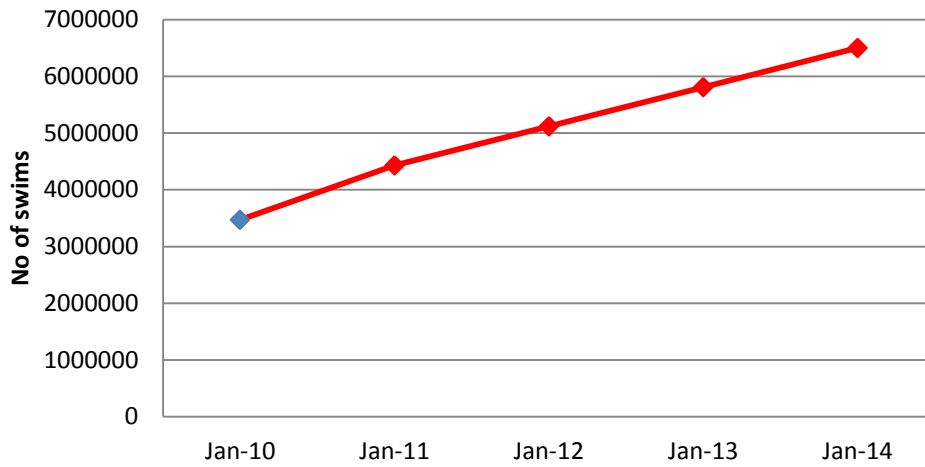
3. HOW ARE WE DOING?

LEARN – Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014



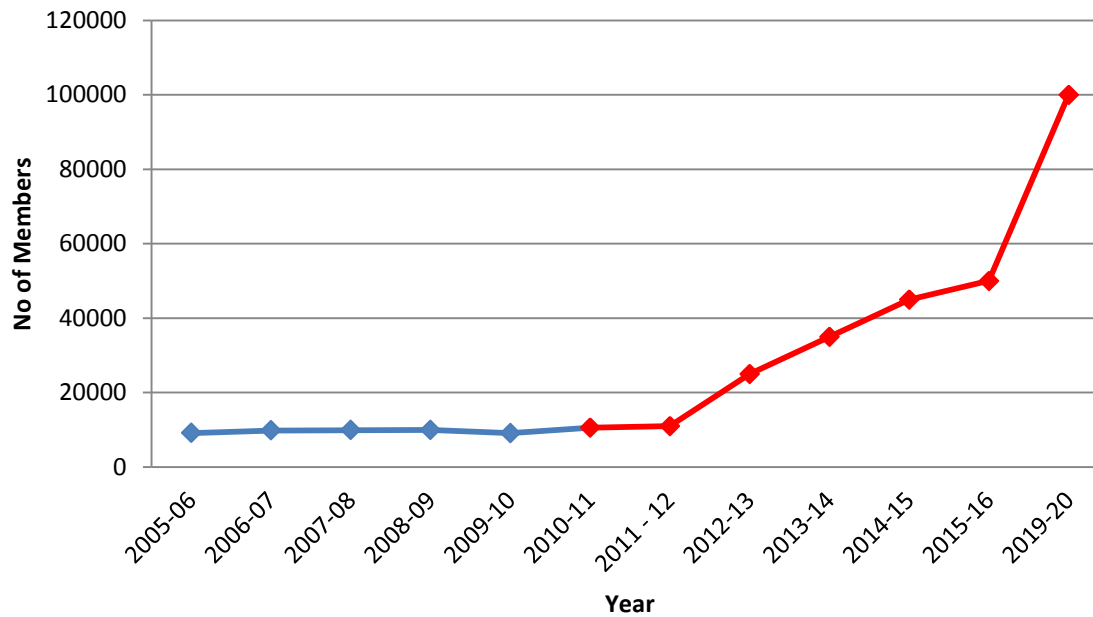
SOCIAL PARTICIPATION– 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014

Total swims accross Wales



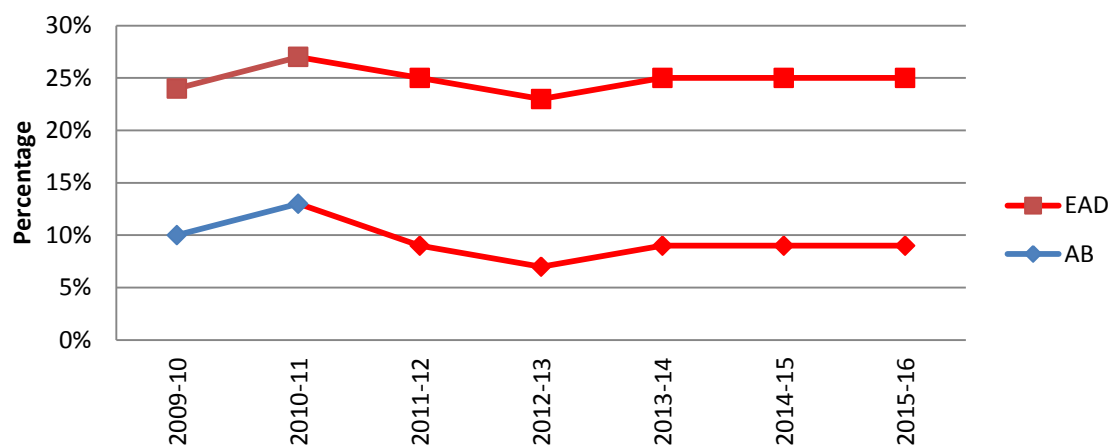
COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020

Registered Aquatic Members



PERFORM – consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming’s World Class pathway on an annual basis

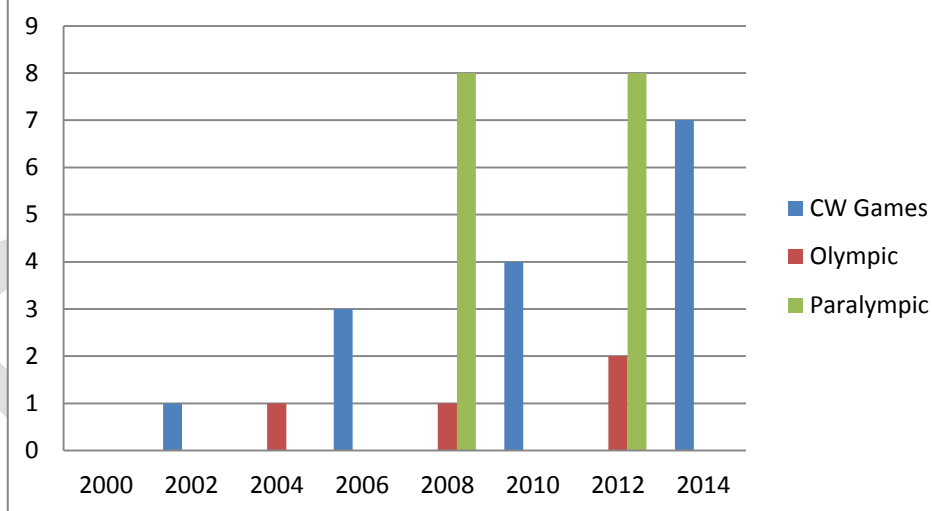
% of Swimmers on British Pathway



AB = Able bodied , EAD = Elite athletes with a disability

EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

Commonwealth / Olympic / Paralympic Medals



4. STORY BEHIND THE GRAPHS

LEARN – Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014

- New data being collected, only one year of history available
- Learn to Swim standards based on:
 - Swim 25m in an efficient manner;
 - Tread water or float for a minimum of 30 seconds to include full rotation to a vertical or horizontal (face up) position;
 - Submerge the body competently underwater and surface to face the assessor.
- Varying range between local authorities, ranging from 37% to 94% (average 64%)

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION– 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014

- This target is based on the current highest performing local authority and setting the target that every authority in Wales could aspire to being comparable with this
- Number of swims declining, therefore target is extremely ambitious
- Different approaches will be required to achieve target
- Data doesn't show trend over a long period of time. The peak in 08/09 could be an exception

COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020

- Current membership figures are predominately based on competitive swimmers
- The achievement of 100,000 members is based on increasing competitive swimmers to 20,000 and attracting a different type of membership to the swimming family – social adult membership, aquatic activities that maintain the interest of those that have no desire to be a competitive swimmer

PERFORM – consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway

- Target is being exceeded consistently
- British Swimming control the number of swimmers on the World Class pathway and the number of swimmers vary over a four year period. For example, four years prior to a major event the number increases however this typically gets squeezed over the four year period. This does / will have an impact on the number of Welsh swimmers supported. The target set doesn't account for this fluctuation and the NGB would prefer the consistent target so show a true reflection of whether swim wales are contributing to British level swimming.

EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

- Good increases over past ten years. Olympic medals are predominately Paralympic medals (able bodied Olympic medals consist of 1 in 2004 and 1 2008)
- Targets are ambitious, particularly for AB swimming but achievable

5. PARTNERS

The following key partners are involved in the swimming pathway:

LEARN – WAG, LA Education, LA Leisure, Swim Wales

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – LA leisure & education, Swim Wales

COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL - LA leisure & education, Swim Wales, British Swimming other NGBs e.g. surfing, triathlon, lifesaving

PERFORM – Swim Wales, British Swimming, LA leisure

EXCEL - Swim Wales, British Swimming, LA leisure

Specific roles and responsibilities have been identified for local authorities and NGB's. An example of this is indicated below with Swim Wales and Pembrokeshire Council :

LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA)	National Governing Body (NGB)	OTHER - CLUBS
LEARN – Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014		
Deliver Learn to Swim programme	Provide appropriate training	Talent ID – recruit swimmers
Liaise with education	Provide models and share good practice	Interface with learn to swim to pick up swimmers
Capture data and respond	Publicity about aquatics	
Publicity, marketing	Create next step opportunities	
Quality assure delivery	Support clubs to work with LA's/ leisure centres to enable further opportunities following learn to swim	
Pass swimmers on to other exit routes		
SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014		
Provide varying opportunities	Teacher / coach education	Create exit routes
Provide appropriate pool time	Resource development where appropriate	
Implement opportunities	Promotion and marketing of swimming / aquatics	
	Support mass participation events	
COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020		
Facilitate appropriate pool time	Offer appropriate competitive structure	Implement structure for competitive and social aquatics
Provide opportunities (particularly wider social participation)	Support clubs to flourish	Cater for demand
Recruit and retain sufficient workforce	Teacher / coach education	Host club galas for less formal competition opportunities
	Volunteer recruitment	Recruit and retain sufficient volunteers
	Link with other aquatic NGBs to support exit routes	
PERFORM – consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway on an annual basis		
Provide sufficient pool time	Ensure swimmers receiving appropriate training, coaching, completion and support	Provide quality training
		Support transitions to performance centre as and when necessary
EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals in 2012		
As above	As above	As above

6. WHAT WORKS

LEARN – Every Child in Wales can Swim by the age of 11 by 2014

Ceredigion currently have 87% of children Learning to Swim by the age of 11yrs. In restructuring their lessons, some of the key aspects have included:

- delegating the money to the community trust run pools who employ the swimming teachers. The swimming teachers have all attended training and all teach to the ASA National Plan for Teaching Swimming. This has created consistency between school swimming lessons and the local authority run swimming lessons. All swimming teachers produce a record for each child that in the future will hopefully feature as part of the child's transition information
- establishing regular meetings with pool managers to create an annual plan for school swimming
- offering schools swimming lessons based on the number of children in the school. Schools with 100 pupils are offered one lesson a week for 30 weeks; schools with 200 pupils are offered 2 lessons a week for 39 weeks; schools with 300 pupils are offered 3 lessons a week for 39 weeks; and so on.
- offering any spare capacity to secondary schools
- creating partnerships so that schools can visit a pool site for a day and take part in swimming, dry-side PE activities and activities in other curriculum areas.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION– 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014

- Wrexham County Borough Council records the highest number of recreational swims (2184 per 1000 population). Learn to swim figures are also promising (75% of children met the standard) and they operate a performance club. This would suggest that the programming is effective therefore more information should be sought to identify success factors
- Wrexham CBC have invested significant time and resource in marketing aquatic opportunities to participants on learn to swim programmes, adults who have children in swimming lessons , via schools and via the county council website.
- Over 80 hours of FSI is offered each week which is been planned across the county to ensure there are no duplications in provision
- Significant time has been spent in ensuring that data is collected effectively and accurately across all programme delivery.
- Specific family sessions have been introduced which allow 3 children under 8 to take part in sessions with one adult supervising.

COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020

- Membership gains have taken place via Aqua passport – a tracking scheme for children attending swimming lessons
- Significant opportunities to further develop this area – membership benefits, adult social participation, aquatic clubs, outlets to other sports

PERFORM - consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway

- 10 performance clubs which provides sufficient training time, equipment and coaching
- Regional squad structure through to National Youth Squad and Senior Elite Squad and World Class pathway
- Ever increasing qualifying standards to reach squads

EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

- Intensive Training Centre in Swansea (recognised by British Swimming)
- Elite Clubs – Cardiff & Swansea
- Athlete support to elite swimmers e.g. physiology, nutrition, strength & conditioning, performance lifestyle

DRAFT

The Strategic Swimming Priorities and Pathways for Swansea

Overview

This document provides an initial strategic overview on key priority areas for the swimming pathway in Swansea. It covers high level priorities and requires consultation with key partners, deliverers and facility providers to provide a detailed action plan to ensure the priorities and aspirations can be delivered.

Swansea is a coastal area with the main city situated on the sea front with the main area enclosed by the sea and the rivers Tawe and Loughor, with beaches ranging from the marina and Swansea Bay, those around Gower and the tidal estuary of the Bury inlet to the River Loughor. Swansea is also the home of the Wales National Pool and the offices of the Governing Body for the sport of Swimming. The City and County of Swansea Council has therefore designated swimming as a Division 1 sport.

The main areas covered within this paper include pre school, school swimming, Learn to swim, Social swimming, Clubs, including various aquatics club, performance, workforce development, facilities and equipment and how the whole pathways interact with the Welsh Government's Free Swimming Initiative.

Pre School Swimming

Strategic Priorities

- Each Council and partner facility to offer pre school swimming opportunities
- Pre School swimming to be included in the Free Junior Structured programme

School Swimming

Strategic Priorities

- Minimum of 95% of all pupils to achieve National Curriculum Test (NCT) by end of year 6 (by July 2014)
- All Primary Schools to buy into CCS Primary Phase Swimming SLA
- Increase Year 4 participation in SLA to 60% of all pupils
- Continuation of Primary Phase Swimming to Years 7 and 8 through free swimming for Comprehensive Schools at this age group.
- Targeted Free Structured Swimming Lessons during holiday periods for those pupils up to year 8 recognised by the Council's Swimming Co-ordinator requiring additional swimming lesson support.
- Feedback annually to schools, Education Department and Sport Wales on participation and NCT levels
- All schools to receive free annual water safety awareness training
- Expand Schools Swimming SLA to Morriston Leisure Centre
- All SLA pools to conduct 'non competitive' swimming competitions

Learn to Swim Programme

Strategic Priorities

- Increase Learn to Swim programme at CCS venues from 1300 – 2000 by reviewing pool programmes and expanding pathways from School swimming to Learn to Swim
- Increasing WNPS Learn to swim from 800 to 1200
- Introduce Learn to Swim at the LC
- Ensure Swansea Sharks, Poseidon and any other local Learn to Swim programmes follow the ASA National Plan for Swimming Teaching if using Council owned Swimming Facilities including School sites.
- Expand to 1 to 1 Learn to Swim programme
- Include the Long Term Athlete Development Timeframe within the Learn to swim Programme
- Expand the opportunities for Swimming Clubs to attend the Learn to Swim programme for pathway opportunities and talent ID.
- Expand the opportunities for alternate aquatic opportunities to follow on from the Learn to Swim Programme including Rookies, Bronze Medallion, Canoeing, Surfing, Water Polo.
- Introduce the Learn to Swim free swimming promotion to all CCS active learn to swim participants at all times at CCS run pools and expand to partner pools.

Social Swimming

Strategic Priorities

- Aspire for Swansea to be within the top quartile for paid and free swimming in Wales per head of population
- Ensure there is a wide and varied programme of opportunities across the City facilities
- Maximise the Free Swimming Programme through continuation of the 60+ free swimming and introduce structured 60+ FSI at WNPS
- Continue the Xmas free swimming across CCS venues and encourage partner participation in the scheme
- Expand the weekend free swimming and include greater opportunities for dry side programmes to be linked to the scheme
- Encourage parents to participate in the Learn to Swim free swim opportunities by discounting parents with participating children
- Review the Active Swansea membership to monitor the uptake on use of the swimming pools as part of the packages.

Club Opportunities

Strategic Priorities

- Help increase Swim Swansea and Penyrheol membership.

Document 2

- Review pool space agreement with Swim Swansea until numbers increase significantly
- Offer Penyrheol Club pool space agreement until Swim Swansea Membership reaches optimum levels
- Review Swim Swansea Development and Performance structures
- Encourage Swansea Sharks to become part of the Swim Swansea 'Umbrella'
- Further develop links to all aquatic clubs and providers as pathways from the Learn to Swim programmes
- Create a new Aquatics Pathways Co-ordinator (part time) to work alongside CCS Swim Co-ordinator, partner key staff, swimming clubs and other aquatic providers to forge clear pathway opportunities for all swimmers
- Develop CCS non competitive swimming clubs at CCS venues and WNPS as interim club environment to recognised swimming clubs
- Review CCS management of Swim Swansea
- Continue the support of the disabled club at Pentrehafod through free pool space
- Expand the licensing of surf schools and all outdoor water borne opportunities
- To assist the new Watersport Centre of Excellence (Swansea Bay 360) and include in any aquatics pathway from learn to swim and club swimmers

Facilities and Equipment

Strategic Priorities

- Ensure all facilities to be of an appropriate condition
- Ensure all facilities have suitable and appropriate equipment to deliver the programmes
- Review the asset management / condition surveys of all CCS swimming pools to identify potential repairs and future capital spend
- Ensure CCS Education project QEd takes into account the community demand for swimming across the city to include the potential demand at school swimming pools

Workforce Development

Strategic Priorities

- Increase the opportunities for work on the swimming sector in Swansea from Lifeguarding to instructor and coach opportunities through providing up-skilling opportunities.
- Ensure that all coaches and instructors are suitably qualified
- Ensure that all lifeguards of Swansea Swimming Pools are qualified to the CCS standard and where appropriate, SLA's with partner organisations are in place with CCS Water Safety Team
- Up-skilling of Level 1 instructors to Level 2

Document 2

- To run a series of appropriate workshops for instructors and club coaches and volunteers
- To increase the base of L1 swimming instructors

Performance Swimming

Strategic Priorities

(to be reviewed)

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Headline Targets

Area for Improvement:

Aim: To ensure all children with the SE Region have the opportunity to engage and develop in aquatic activities.

Service Description

- Swimming & Aquatic Development Officers from the following 5 local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.
- Swim Wales Regional Development Officer (Hanna Guise)
- Sport Wales Senior Officer (Richard Dando)
- PESS (JE, JM & AHJ)

Priorities for Development

1. School Swimming – Data collection and other agreed areas
2. Learn to Swim (after school) – consistency in delivery/structure, no's in lessons, capacity & income, pathways
3. Social Participation – Free Swims for Young People and older Persons
4. Governing Body Membership – Broken down into relevant categories including A, B & C
5. Workforce development – agreed SE Wales plan for employees, clubs, volunteers.

Headline Performance Measure

1. No. of children achieving National Curriculum Standard for **years 3, 4, 5** and 6 and **current standard of children attending programmes**; realistic targets for LA's (see attached information.) Agreed and consistent structure delivery and evaluation.
2. Learn to Swim – number of LA's striving towards Swim Wales Passport Scheme, capacity within lessons (maximising pool space/resources and income) and numbers of children attending swim lessons, inclusion and provision for disabled children/adults
3. Social Participation – as per WAG Free Swims for Young People and Over 60's. Analysing trends and targets.
4. Swim Wales membership – number of competitive and non-competitive members e.g. through Aqua Passport scheme per LA/competitive clubs and realistic targets for forthcoming years. Highlighting numbers of learn to swim and comparison of non-competitive and competitive in some clubs/regions.
5. Workforce Development – number of Courses and Workshops within SE Wales; no. of participants who attend these courses with agreed targets for region and each authority.

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Data Development

Please see below data that was not available at start of research

1. More accurate and specific Schools Swim Data needed such as National Curriculum standard for years 3, 4 and 5. (Currently only Year 6 collected until now) Structure within lessons, delivery, assessment of the children, awards etc for 11/12, 12/13 and targets for 13/14 – wide range of inconsistency currently practised.
2. Accurate Swim Lesson data e.g. numbers/capacity currently in lessons for 11/12, 12/13 and target setting for 13/14.
3. FSI from data unit information (Lack of Historical Data and issues with data collection & new website) – Informed Data Unit.
4. WASA Members broken down into various categories e.g. competitive and non-competitive, gender and age groups.
5. Workforce development – number of participants in 10/11, 11/12 and 12/13 and targets for 13/14 (Funding Issues highlighted.)

How Much?

Please refer to data on separate spread sheet

How Well?

Please refer to data on separate spread sheet

Is anyone better off?

By looking at the data collected, trends analysed and from speaking to various partners involved, the following can be stated:

- Aquatic Clubs have witnessed a slight increase in members both competitive and non-competitive
- School children within SE Region are achieving National Curriculum at an increasing rate**
- An increasing number of Older People within the SE Region are accessing Free Swim

Story (last 3 years) behind the Baseline

School Swim Programme – from data received and meetings with all relevant partners all 5 local authorities are showing improvements with regards to the % of children achieving the National Curriculum Award in Year 6. However, there are a number of inconsistencies including structure of lessons, assessment (criteria and who assesses), awards and also clarity of data given i.e. % of how many children. In addition, the swimming ability of children attending their relevant school swim programme has dropped dramatically within the last 2 years.

With regards to **Learn to Swim** again all authorities have witnessed an increase in the number of children attending swim lessons, with some LA's setting and achieving high targets and all currently follow the same framework (ASA NPTS) which aids consistency across the SE Region.

It has become apparent that for all 5 Local Authorities to acquire & deliver the new Swim Wales Aqua Passport will be even more challenging than first thought. There are potential issues with system administration, collation & sharing of data and access to Aqua Passport interactive website. There have also been concerns raised with regards to the criteria being implemented.

Social Participation – it is apparent that all local authorities have experienced a dramatic drop in the number of Young People (16 years & Under) participating in the Free Swim Initiative, although some have witnessed an increase during the past 12 months. Research will be need to be carried out (by all relevant partners) to determine why there has been such a decrease, which is also a national issue. In stark contrast all 5 authorities, have witnessed an increase in Older Person's participation, which may be a result of an increasing age of population (people living longer), repeat visits etc. This is not what the initial aim of FSI was when it was first launched.

Swim Wales Membership - Again there is positive news here, with all 5 LA's showing a steady increase in Swim Wales members. This demonstrates that pathways from Learn to Swim are in place, albeit some have more established programmes than others. It must also be noted that some clubs have a high percentage of category A Swimmers (under 10's) as a result of delivering their own Learn to Swim programmes, which of course, causes conflict with the relevant local authority's own programme.

Workforce Development – Through the data collected, most LA's have seen an increase in workforce development within Aquatics, however there are some that have not invested at all. Over

Partners who can help us do better

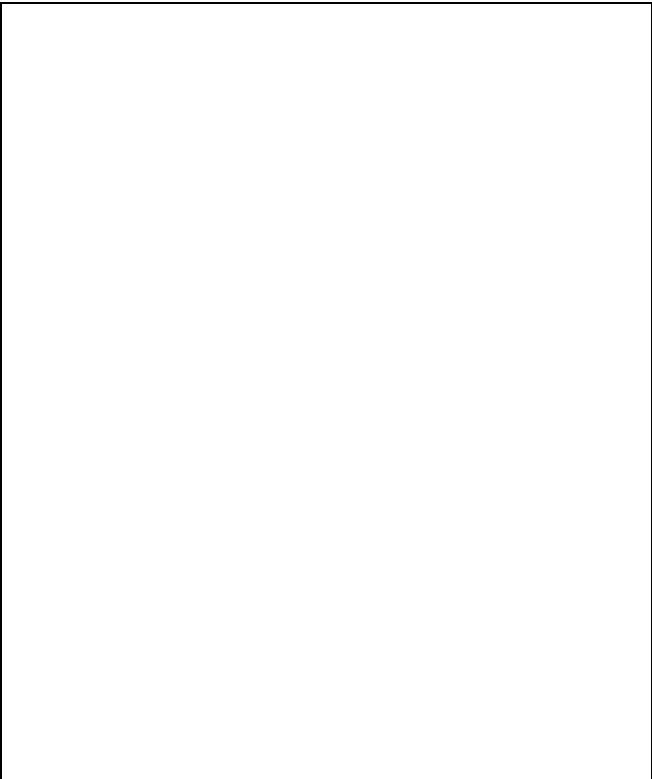
Swim Wales, Sport Wales, PESS, Local Education Partners, Schools, Parents, and **ourselves**.

the past 3-4 years, all local authorities (including SE Region) have become dependent upon external funding (Improvement Fund & LAPA) to deliver appropriate workforce development. It is also apparent that some LA's have been more proactive than others in supporting staff, volunteers and clubs alike.

However, these funding avenues are potentially no longer available and therefore at least two authorities will be unable to deliver any coach education within the region for this year. This will therefore impact upon current staff/volunteers and quality of provision and the recruitment & up skilling of new coaches/teachers. LA's are encouraged to utilise Free Swim funding but will this will impact upon free swim access to the public and will undoubtedly impact upon performance indicators for Free Swim participation.

As you will see from the above, there are a number of examples of best practise and also many examples of poor and also inconsistencies within the SE Region. Also, through consultation and collecting of data, it has become apparent in some LA's that aquatic plans & targets are not requested and therefore, this will have a significant and negative impact upon the long term solutions and aquatic development within the Region. **In addition, it is apparent that all of the 5 LA's have a different focus i.e. development, income generation etc. – there needs to be a common theme and focus here.**

It is also apparent that for a successful Aquatic Programme to be delivered and to develop, a Swimming/Aquatic Development Officer is needed in post, who in addition has full responsibility for total aquatics in their authority and has the relevant support mechanisms in place.



What do we propose to do to improve performance?	
Action	Update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BS to meet relevant partners to consult over CORL Actions and proposed plan 2. BS to meet with all relevant partners (as listed above) to agree on action plan and implement changes and improvements as agreed. 3. School Swim Programme – Nat Cur for all years relevant, consistent framework, awards etc. 4. Learn to Swim – all LA's aiming to achieve consistency through acquiring of Aqua Passport and agreeing new capacity targets, pathways to other aquatic options 5. Social participation – as per LA's scorecard; all LA's offering Free Swim to Armed Services and/or VETS, evaluating current Free Swim allocation and participation. 	<p>BS has met with all relevant partners/officers including fellow SDO's (x4), Swim Wales, Sport Wales and PESS.</p>

Document 3

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. WASA Membership – Address conflict with Learn to Swim in relevant authorities; implement increase in Swim Wales Membership through improved competitive pathways.7. Workforce Development – SE Wales wide provision to employees, volunteers and aquatic club members; accessing of funding to help deliver comprehensive coach education in SE Wales Region | |
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All people in Gwent lead active lifestyles

What would success look like?

- Increased participation levels in sport and physical activity in adults
- Increased participation levels in sport and physical activity in children and young people

How are we going to achieve this outcome?

- The Gwent Sub Group for Sport and Leisure to demonstrate impact against priorities agreed.
- To instil accountability for collaborative improvement across the local authorities
- To meet quarterly to measure progress and identify improvement areas.

How are we doing so far?

Indicator		2009 /10	2010 /11	2011/12	Target 2012/13
% of young people attending 30 or more sessions per academic year (Source: Sport Wales 5x60 MI Report)	Caerphilly	3.61%	5.27%	6.75%	
	Blaenau Gwent	2.7%	4.6%	6.31%	
	Torfaen	1.92%	5.46%	2.87%	
	Monmouthshire	6.14%	1.21%	8.24%	
	Newport	1.57%	1.49%	3.41%	
	WALES	4.29%	5.16%	6.53%	
% of 7-11 year olds "Hooked on Sport" (Source: School Sport Survey, Sport Wales)	Caerphilly	N/A	N/A	26%	
	Blaenau Gwent	N/A	N/A	27%	
	Torfaen	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Monmouthshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Newport	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	WALES	N/A	N/A	28%	
% of pupils achieving Level 5 in the Key Stage 3 Non Core Teacher Assessment Results in Physical Education (Source: National Office of Statistics)	Caerphilly	69.6%	77.7%	81.2%	
	Blaenau Gwent	62.7%	73.1%	72.9%	
	Torfaen	64.6%	71.9%	78.4%	
	Monmouthshire	82.2%	84.4%	85.9%	
	Newport	78%	80%	83.1%	
	WALES	73.9%	78%	82.2%	
% of children age 11 years achieving swimming 25 metres (Source: Local Government Data Unit)	Caerphilly	53%	27%	61% (T)	68% (T)
	Blaenau Gwent	55%	80%	70%	75% (T)
	Torfaen	86%	90%	80%	No data
	Monmouthshire	73%	63%	75%	78% (T)
	Newport	49%	63%	65%	68% (T)

	WALES	67%	69%		
The number of visits to a local authority sport and leisure centres during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity, per 1000 population <i>(Source: Wales Data Unit)</i>	Caerphilly	N/A	6456.88	6634.77	
	Blaenau Gwent	N/A	12350.79	13716.61	
	Torfaen	N/A	7478.74	7624.62	
	Monmouthshire	N/A	4873.65	5962.37	
	Newport	N/A	7639.19	7408.32	
	WALES	N/A	8523.52	8760.86	
% of customers reporting good or excellent for Leisure Centre facilities and provision <i>(Source: Local Authorities)</i>	Caerphilly	Data Development Agenda			
	Blaenau Gwent				
	Torfaen				
	Monmouthshire				
	Newport				
	WALES				

Story Behind Performance

- There is a general upward trajectory in LA participation rates in the 5x60 programme from 2009/10 to 2011/12, however Newport, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent are positioned below the national average of 6.53%. Monmouthshire have the highest participation rate at 8.24%.
- With regards to “hooked on sport for life” (3 times or more per week) Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly are the only LA’s in the regional with a full Sport Wales survey and have 27% and 26% of 7-11 year olds participating three times or more a week, just below the national average of 28%. It’s critical in 2012/13 that all Gwent LAs strive to obtain a greater Sport Wales survey sample, in order to improve benchmarking across the region.
- There is an overall upward trajectory across the region with pupils achieving Level 5 at Key Stage 3 via non-core teacher assessments, however both Blaenau Gwent (72.9%) and Torfaen (78.4%) are performing below the national average of 82.2% for the academic session 2011/12.
- The indicator for the % of children age 11 years achieving swimming 25 metres fluctuates across the region. Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Newport mirrored the Wales trend of showing an upward trajectory, however performance in Caerphilly (>26%) and Monmouthshire (>10%) has significantly decreased.

What we propose to do to improve performance

- Agree regional priorities at Gwent sub group level that will lead to increased participation and quality provision (and gain approval from Gwent Chief Officer Group).
- Identify lead people within the sub group lead on each priority and report back on progress on impact quarterly to the sub group.
- Chair of sub group to report on progress 6 monthly (using RBA format) to Gwent Chief Officer Group.
- Chair of sub group to report progress 6 monthly (using RBA format) to CORL group.

Documents that will support the implementation of this outcome

- Creating an Active Wales
- A vision for Sport in Wales
- Sport Wales Coaching Strategy
- Local Authority Partnership Agreements

Newport – ‘A technology city infused with sporting and cultural excellence’.

Swimming and Aquatic Development

The report outlines some key successes for Swimming and Aquatic Development in Newport.

Swimming has been identified as a priority sport in the city. It is also a priority in Wales where a key aspiration agreed by each local authority is to ensure that each child can swim by age 11. Swimming is a priority sport for Welsh Government in encouraging people of all ages to be physical activity and improve their health. This is supported by WG's funding for Free Swimming for children and also Older People.

The delivery of swimming and other aquatic sports has been transformed in Newport over the past 3 years and positive outcomes are now being evidenced.

Newport City Council developed and implemented an Integrated Swim Programme which has now been in place for 2 ½ years. The programme is now seen by Swim Wales and Sport Wales as an example of best practise with regards to the structure, pathway and quality of the programmes. Many other clubs/local authorities are now looking to replicate this model, which has seen the fastest growth in membership for a competitive club.

Swim Lesson Programme

The swim lesson programme currently has 2,000 children attending weekly swim lessons at the council's 3 swimming pools (NISV, Newport Centre and the Active Living Centre). Two of the pools are achieving 90% capacity with the other achieving 88% on a regular basis. This shows evidence that the swim lesson programme is continually delivering a quality of standard of teaching and customers are willing to return each term.

Competitive Swim Programme

The swimming & water polo club currently has 240 members paying direct debits each month. This shows a 50 % increase from when the Integrated Swim Programme was implemented when membership stood at 160.

Swim Development in partnership with the club and coaches, have recently completed a review of the competitive programme and have now introduced two new squads to a) accommodate the growing demand in the swimming club b) improve training within the relevant swim squads.

All the remaining swim squads are doing extremely well, with three of the four squads currently at **100% capacity**. This is due to the excellent coaching in the lower squads as well as the club attracting swimmers from the region as a whole. If all squads were full within the club (including water polo) then the club would have a membership of 300, which would make the club the third biggest in Wales.

Arena National Swimming league

The National Swimming League is the premier team swimming competition in Great Britain. The City of Newport has been competing in the Premier division for the 5th consecutive year. This year, our swimmers put in a great team performance over the three rounds to equal our highest ever league finish of 11th. This was an excellent

performance, especially when considering that the City of Newport is now one of only a few single clubs competing at this level, with many clubs choosing to merge to form county/regional squads.

ASA British National Championships

The City of Newport will have its highest ever number of swimmers competing at the prestigious ASA British National Championships in 2013. The championships are the benchmark for competitive swimming in Great Britain and therefore the qualifying standards are extremely difficult to achieve (only the top 20-30 swimmers in Britain qualify in each event). The City of Newport will be sending a team of at least 14 swimmers which includes Cameron Brown, Matthew Jayne, Matthew Eke, Alex Griffiths, Tristan Cuer, Connor Acland, Jonathan Eke, Sam Hynd, Emily Peacock, Emily Whiting, Elizabeth Smith, Louise Bell, Erin Bryce and Cerys Coley. This may further increase as there is still one opportunity to qualify.

Welsh National Championships

Performances at the Welsh National Championships in December were absolutely outstanding from City of Newport swimmers. Almost all who took part recorded new personal best performances and the squad of swimmers won an incredible combined total of 28 medals. This is a remarkable result when considering that our swimmers were competing against all of the most talented swimmers from across Wales. The most pleasing aspect was the number of different swimmers from Newport winning medals at this level, therefore showing a real increase in the strength in depth of national levels swimmers across our performance squads.

International Honours and records

During the last year many City of Newport swimmers have received many international honours.

The club had its highest ever number of swimmers selected onto Swim Wales regional training squads with a total of 13 swimmers participating in the stroke specific training camps.

Cameron Brown, Jonathan Eke, and Alex Griffiths represented Wales at the UK Schools games in London, where both Cameron and Alex were part of the Welsh team that broke the national junior record in the 4x200m and 4x100m freestyle relays. This added to Cameron's individual national junior 200m freestyle record set at the nationals.

Cameron Brown was selected as part of the Welsh Youth team, which competed at the recent Luxembourg International meet, where he picked up a gold, silver and bronze medal. He was also selected as part of the Welsh senior team (as the youngest male swimmer) to compete in the Celtic Tri-nations held in May, in which the Welsh team were victorious.

Sam Hynd and Jonathan Eke have both been selected as part of the British Disability squad for 2013. Jonathan was selected for the World class podium potential squad, while Sam was selected to World Class Podium Squad.

In April Sam Hynd qualified to represent Great Britain at the World disability championships in Montreal, Canada, in August 2013.

City of Newport Head Coach Ross Nicholas was selected as Welsh National Team Coach for the Celtic Tri-nations and also Welsh Youth Head coach for the Luxembourg International meet.

Assistant Coach James Goodwin was selected as coach for the Swim Wales Regional skills squads.

Water Polo

The water polo section has also seen a dramatic increase in the number of children playing water polo each week, with 35 children in the Junior Squad.

The club is now part of the Welsh Water Polo League, which has three age groups for children born in 95, 97 and 99. In addition, children born in 2000 or younger also play in friendly matches so that they can practise what they are coached and also retain their membership.

All our junior squads are very young in comparison to the other teams, with many children playing out of age. However, results have shown that the players have improved in performance, stamina and skills.

We currently have 8 players within the Welsh Junior Squads and have represented their country at various competitions. This is reward for all their hard work over the past 2 years and also the quality of the coaches who take the sessions. In addition two thirds of the club now attend monthly Welsh Water Polo clinics, with about ½ the club players attending specific regional training on a weekly basis at NISV.

The Senior squad has also witnessed an increase over the past 12 months. These players train on a weekly basis at NISV with older members of the junior squad. The club have also now joined the Bristol & West League for the **1st time in 15 years**, which shows the strength in depth within the club. One of the players (James Farror) is currently goalie for the Welsh Senior team who competed at the recent Tri Nations and is also training with the Commonwealth Squad.

The Newport International Sports Village, is seen as a vital training base for both junior and senior water polo, with the Welsh training Clinics now using the pool every Friday evening, and the Welsh Senior Squad (Men's and Women's) using the pool for Commonwealth training Camps. This is a reflection of the fantastic facilities at the Sports Village.

Finally two of the coaches within the club have been recognised and are now coaching within the Welsh Squads and Welsh clinics, these being Brian Jones and Barrie Swift.

Disability Sport Successes Last 6 months

- One of the first authorities in Wales to achieve the Disability Sport Wales insport ribbon award. The award recognises Newport City Council's commitment to delivering an inclusive sport and leisure programme.
- There has been a 39% increase in participation in disability sport activities in Newport in 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.
- Partnership with day services extended providing disabled adults with a programme of leisure centre based activities. Currently the programme provides 10 sessions a week to an average of 85 disabled adults.
- 5 x 60 programme expanded into Maes Ebbw Special School, 1 sports session provided each lunchtime 5 days a week.
- New disability football session established and linked to Caerleon Junior Football Club, and the Welsh Football Trust festival programme.
- 2 riders from the Newport based Para Cycling session selected onto GB development squads.

Sports Participation Rates – City and County of Swansea trends 2011-2013

The trends identified here generally refer to 2011-12 (pre Olympics) and 2012-13. However, where possible figures showing a longer trend period are used e.g. 2008-09 to 2012-13.

Sport / Performance Indicator	Pre Olympic Year 2011-12 Result	Olympic Year 2012-13 Result	Current Trend	Factors supporting increasing participation
<p>The number of people (adults & Juniors) enrolled on swimming lessons</p> <p>CCS Leisure Centre Learn to Swim Programme (Lessons & Courses, FSI Lessons)</p>	12,287	13,527	+ 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free swim lessons have been a catalyst for increasing the numbers attending as they are initially identified through the school programme as needing additional tuition which is given as FSI structured sessions and then encourages participants to join the regular programme. ▪ The swimming tuition has been highlighted by the ASA as being of a high standard and has a high success rate – success breeds success
<p>% of Children who can swim at age 11 (8-11)</p> <p>Learn to swim programme – schools.</p>	55% (2008-09)	93% (projected results due in Jul 13)	+ 38% since 08-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional teacher at each site was implemented to support school swim lessons as identified this would deliver significant improvement ▪ Efforts to concentrate on pupils who have missed lessons/terms concentrating on key target areas, also providing transport (with Comm 1st).
<p>Total Swimming Usage – CCS & Partner Sites</p>	790,965	884,567	+12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ + 6k increase at CCS sites ▪ + 85k at LC Water Park ▪ WNP on par with previous year.
<p>National Strategic Indicator - LCS/002 - The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity, per 1,000 population</p>	7,805 (2008-09)	8,038	+ 3% since 08-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General upward trend ▪ CCS LC fitness programme expanded successfully ▪ Additional venues added into measure such as TS365 and sport based community centres.

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<p>Total Sports Usage across the CTS&L Department (LC's, Sports Dev, Pitch, partners usage etc.)</p>	<p>2,294,400</p>	<p>2,353,425</p>	<p>+ 2.6%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General upward trend ▪ Additional venue – TS365 added ▪ Increased Swim participation ▪ Increased schools gymnastics programme (at Penyrheol LC)
<p>Total Physical Activity Usage (includes all Sports & Physical Activity usage)</p>	<p>3,113,863 (2009-10)</p>	<p>3,384,731</p>	<p>+ 9% since 09-10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General upward trend ▪ Additional venue – TS365 added ▪ Increased Swim participation ▪ Significant increase in gym and fitness class usage
<p>Community Sports Participation</p>	<p>105,095</p>	<p>124,860</p>	<p>+21% increase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus Sports – With partners, selected sports that can make the biggest difference to participation and performance based on –Capacity/demand, local infrastructure, equity and legacy. Including Football, Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Sailing, Rowing, Basketball, Gymnastics. ▪ LAPA – In Swansea the LAPA directly supports the focus sports and other identified sports in partnership with the NGB or hub clubs. ▪ Be Part of it – Marketing campaign based on Olympic/Paralympic legacy including events, press releases, club sport profile. ▪ Community Chest – Raising the profile of the funding mechanism to take advantage of almost double the amount of funds available to Swansea clubs on previous years (130k).
<p>Disability Sport Usage</p>	<p>16,295</p>	<p>21,639</p>	<p>+ 33%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Included in “Be Part of it” Olympic/Paralympic legacy campaign. ▪ Focus sports programme. ▪ Achievement of Ribbon award accreditation and related action planning.

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<p>AYP Girls Sporting Participation (5x60)</p>	<p>42.66% (2010-11)</p>	<p>55% (2011-12)</p>	<p>+ 12.34%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12-13 result due Aug 13 ▪ During 11-12 4,500 sessions delivered across 5x60 programme offering the opportunity to try 38 different sports. ▪ Established top 5 sports attract more girls participation – Street Dance, Basketball, Badminton, Multi-skills, Girls Football. ▪ An increase in female young ambassadors as role models has had a positive impact on female participation.