



Playground to Podium Framework

Programme information sheet

WHAT IS IT?

Playground to Podium is the national strategy for the identification, development and support of talented young disabled athletes, developed by the Youth Sport Trust, Sport England, UK Sport and the British Paralympic Association.

The Playground to Podium framework forms a pathway which will take young disabled people from PE, through participation, to high level performance and competition.

What is the aim of the Playground to Podium framework?

The ultimate aim of this pathway is to produce our next Paralympians and elite disabled athletes. However, it is essential that all young disabled people are able to take part in high quality provision of their choice.

The interventions within the Playground to Podium framework and the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) Disability strand, collectively aim to support the achievement of a five-hour offer for young disabled people, and ensure that those with a higher level of ability are identified and are able to access a talent pathway.



Who is the Playground to Podium framework for?

Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and pupils either on Action plus or with statements, may not be eligible to access sport performance routes as young disabled sports people. Whilst development work around the framework can clearly be inclusive of SEN pupils, the focus of these interventions is around pupils with physical and sensory impairments and those with severe learning disabilities. Therefore, targeting young disabled people in mainstream schools, as well as in special schools, is essential.

What is the school sport partnership's role in delivering the framework?

Turning the framework into opportunities for all young disabled people to participate and perform is the responsibility of a large range of sports organisations, but is heavily dependant on strong foundations being laid by school sport partnerships.

The four key interventions that school sport partnerships are tasked with delivering are:

1. **CPD for teachers** to develop skills in identifying and supporting ability in young disabled people.
2. Inclusive or dedicated **Multi-skill Clubs**, to develop the fundamental movement and sport skills of all young disabled people aged 7-11.
3. **Multi-sport Clubs** for young people aged 11-18, offering regular out-of-school hours coaching opportunities to enhance the sporting skills of those young disabled people wishing to progress further in a sporting environment.
4. **Identifying Ability Days** to bring together those young disabled people identified as showing higher ability in PE and sport through PE curricular routes, multi-sport opportunities and competitions, to experience a range of high quality coaching environments through which to assess their sporting potential.

What are the next steps for young disabled people identified as having higher ability in PE and sport?

Young disabled people who are confirmed as having higher abilities at the Identifying Ability Days will be signposted to the **County Assessment Centres** for a more formal assessment and high quality coaching in specific sports. School to club links should also be developed at the multi-skill and multi-sport clubs to ensure that all young disabled people have further opportunities to participate and perform in community-based sports clubs.

What support is available to assist school sport partnerships in delivery the framework?

For selected school sport partnerships the following training and resources are available:

CPD for teachers

- Access to the 'Identifying and Supporting Young Disabled People with Ability' six hour CPD course. This course is hosted by Local Delivery Agencies and delivered by Youth Sport Trust National Trainers.
- 'Identifying Ability in Young Disabled People' resource cards.

Multi-skill Clubs

- Access to the 'Multi-skill Inclusion Module' – a practical workshop which aims to provide multi-skill deliverers with additional skills to include a wider range of young people, especially young disabled people. This course is delivered by sports coach UK.
- Multi-skill Club resource cards.

Multi-sport Clubs

- Multi-sport Club coaching cards (under development).

Identifying Ability Days

- 'Profiling Physical Ability in Disabled People' resource cards.
- Identifying Ability Day handbook.



Web based resources including video examples of assessment, case studies, sport pathways and competition routes are available at www.inclusion.youthsporttrust.org

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

From a recent evaluation of the 'Identifying and Supporting Ability in Young Disabled People' CPD course it was found that:

- 70 per cent of responding staff rated the resource materials and organisation of the training course as either excellent or above excellent.
- The training improved staff confidence, knowledge and ability to identify athletic talent in young disabled people.



Working together with the school sport partnership has proven to be successful and beneficial to grass roots disability sport. Being able to identify young athletes and encourage them to participate in sport has increased numbers of potentially talented athletes who have been encouraged to the regional and national squads. ”

Sport Development Officer



Receiving the funding for this initiative has made a massive difference to the delivery of PE and school sport to pupils with disabilities or special needs. The courses which staff have attended have enabled them to improve the delivery of the subject and the benefits to both pupils and staff of putting community coaches into schools have been massive. ”

Partnership Development Manager

Responding staff indicated that their 'Identifying Ability Day' had:

- facilitated a situation where pupils could be observed in various sports with others of similar abilities;
- made it possible to signpost talented young pupils on how to progress;
- encouraged staff to identify pupils in schools and to get their pupils involved in the Playground to Podium framework.

In summary, the research illustrated that the Identifying Ability Days were successful in providing an enjoyable and appropriate experience for young people and in identifying sporting talent in young people with a disability.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

250 school sport partnerships have been invited to deliver the playground to podium framework in 2008/09.

The programme will be rolled out in phases with school sport partnerships being identified through 'readiness' factors.

Direct funding for school sport partnerships is available to support the delivery of Multi-sport Clubs and Identifying Ability Days.

For further information please contact the Youth Sport Trust School Support Unit on:

- Tel: **01509 226600**
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