



What was the challenge?

Sainsbury's School Games for everyone – inclusion

What were your proposed solutions and why?

Currently the provision for competition for pupils with disabilities (either at special schools or within mainstream schools) in Kent has been extremely disjointed and inconsistent. There are some examples of excellent practice taking place in some areas of the county and within some specific schools (most notably some of the larger special schools). The Kent Disability Games has been a major aspect of the Sainsbury's School Games programme in Kent for many years, but with funding cuts and specialist roles for the strategic management of sporting opportunities for young pupils with disabilities there is a concern that this work could be lost.

Overview of delivery

It was acknowledged that a certain amount of confusion and duplication existed in the delivery of competitions for pupils with disabilities.

Proposed solutions:

- To create clarity with regard to what the competitions are, at whom they are targeted, when they will take place and which sports are involved.
- To create a framework that can be sustained and mirrored elsewhere around the country.
- To ensure opportunities are available for ALL disabled young people in the county, regardless of their category of disability or school attended.
- To ensure that there is a focus on greater integration with mainstream sport and non-disabled young people in all tiers of competitions.
- To ensure that equal time/ resources and access is made to all tiers of competition within the Kent School Games disability structure.
- To make sure that ALL key deliverers work in a co-ordinated manner to provide their various outputs.

What were your findings?

Key projects:

Project 1:

Build and publish three-tier competition frameworks for disability competitions that provide clarity for all and includes each of the delivery agents:

- Each tier or pathway targets different level of abilities and has different qualification processes.
- Each tier or pathway has a different approach to integration with mainstream pupils.
- Schools may enter teams in any individual or all tiers or pathways based upon the nature of the pupils in their school and their ability to access the competitions.
- All competitions form part of the Kent School Games County Final.

Tier 1: Kent School Games Integrated Competitions

- Fully integrated competitions in boccia and athletics – disabled young people compete directly alongside or combine scores with teams of non-disabled performers.
- New innovative formats and structures/ scoring mechanisms.
- Focus – fully integrated competitive experience for non-disabled and disabled athletes, good performers.



Tier 2: Kent Disability Games

- Target special and mainstream school pupils, with disabilities of various category/ age.
- Multi-sport day/ event:
- Disability swimming/ New Age Kurling/ sitting volleyball/ boxing/ powerlifting (demo sport)/ table cricket/ wheelchair fencing.
- Selected events transferred to take place on Kent School Games main finals days (archery, indoor rowing, cycling).
- 'Open' events (no pre-qualification).
- Focus – competitive multi-sport event for young people with a disability, encouraging mass participation.

Tier 3: Panathlon Challenge

- Targets SLD pupils who do take part in other Kent School Games competitions.
- Six sports: Boccia, polybat, table cricket, football, New Age Kurling, athletics races.
- Four regional events leading to County Finals at Kent School Games Disability Day.
- Focus – fun environment, providing a fun opportunity for young people who may not normally have opportunities.





Project 2

Create a clear plan to increase the level of integration of mainstream and disability athletes within the three tiers of competitions through:

- a. Creating greater leadership opportunities for mainstream pupils within disability competitions.
- b. Merging Kent Disability Games events with the mainstream Kent School Games Finals.
- c. Creating competitive opportunities that will enable disabled and mainstream athletes to compete against each other.

Outcomes:

A. Leadership opportunities

- Panathlon ran three Young Leader training events to train staff to assist at the three regional competitions they ran. These were all pupils from mainstream schools within each of the three different areas. (See Appendix 1 – Panathlon Training course). In total 60 young people were trained on these courses.
- The lead teacher from Kent's Project Ability school ran both a Sportsability training day for SGOs with the remit of raising their level of knowledge and understanding of disability sport and how it can be accessed and delivered.
- This led to an additional training day prior to our Kent School Games boccia finals specifically to train Young Leaders to officiate at the boccia finals. At this event we used a combination of disabled and non-disabled young people in tandem to officiate on the various courts.

B. Merging Kent Disability Games events with the mainstream Kent School Games Finals

- The Kent School Games Finals consisted of a series of 'badged' events that took place throughout the year, alongside Level 3 Combined Finals that took place in both the spring and summer.
- In terms of integrating disabled competitions into the badged events we included disability elements in both the indoor rowing (February) and cycling (May) Finals.



Alannah Martin

Young Leader in Malling Views on Panathlon

"It was just as fun learning about the different sports involved in the Panathlon as it was to officiate and watch the children taking part. The children taking part loved playing all the different sports, and it was good to see them all working as a team. Panathlon gives children with different abilities the chance to join in with sport, and enjoy it. It was really rewarding to watch the children as they received their medals as everyone who attended got at least one medal, making everyone feel like winners. I have enjoyed all of the day, and would love to help out again as it was fun, and all of the children were very kind and respectful!"

(From blog section of Panathlon Challenge.com)





Impact and benefit

- We plan to adopt a similar integrated scoring approach used in the athletics competition in 2012 for the Indoor Rowing Finals for 2013.
- Panathlon has now been included as a fully integrated aspect of the Sainsbury's School Games Finals days for 2012/13. This will help them secure additional funding and access to branding, welfare and staffing support that they have previously missed out on.
- The badged disability finals are now on the Kent School Games calendar and no longer form a separate entity from a planning and logistics perspective (thus ensuring equal time and resources are applied to them). This will ensure that mainstream schools will now have greater awareness of the opportunities for their disabled performers to take part.
- For the next Kent School Games we have proposed that some of the mainstream events be moved to the Disability Games finals day (as opposed to always doing it the other way around – sending disabled athletes to the mainstream events). We have an aspirational target for 2014 to be completely integrated as one Games. However, we are aware that a number of the special schools actually prefer to have a separate Disability Games and as such we will need to investigate this option further.



What would your top tips be for other SGOs wishing to address a similar challenge?

Potential issues

- 1. Timings.** When integrating mainstream events with disability events the matter of timing becomes a major factor as most special schools have reduced time available due to pupils being transported in and out of schools by taxi or bus.
- 2. Space and facilities.** It took quite some time to co-ordinate the timings for the athletics to enable both track and field events to take place as per Super 8s structure and to include the disability elements as well. A good awareness of space and facilities at the venue is crucial, along with large numbers of Young Leaders.
- 3. Buy-in.** To test the viability of the integrated events in Year 1 we handpicked our schools and 'invited' them as we wanted to i) ensure that they'd actually commit to attend and ii) we wanted to access specific schools where there is already a greater awareness of disability sports (via their own disability units, or staff with expertise). We plan to roll this out to the greater audience in year 2.
- 4. Expertise.** We worked on the assumption from day one that mainstream staff (and SGOs) had no knowledge of disability sports and built everything around the need to educate them before we could run integrated events. Then we used experts to run all of the training!
- 5. Politics.** The politics within the whole program was quite considerable and therefore it needed leadership from individuals with strong diplomatic and sensitive negotiating skills to generate the buy-in from all parties.
- 6. Publicity and communication.** Raising awareness of what is going on was crucial in all aspects of delivery. It starts with education and ends with publicity. The more of each, the better for all involved.





Panathlon Young 'Officials' Training Courses

Purpose of training

- Develop knowledge of rules of the Panathlon sports
- Gain experience officiating one of the sports
- To be ready to officiate at a Panathlon competition in May
- To enjoy playing the Panathlon Challenge sports

Course outline

- Panathlon History
- Structure of the competition
- Who the competition is aimed at – Levels of ability of competitors
- Panathlon Sports – *Practical experience in*
 - Boccia
 - Table Cricket
 - Polybat
 - New Age Kurling
 - Athletics

For each sport

1. Setting up Equipment
2. Basic rules explained
3. Playing the game
4. Officiating tips
5. Techniques of play
6. More advanced rules explained

- Officiate one of the sports within the group
- NB. All Delegates receive a Course Resources and Rules Booklet

Dates of Training Days

- Tuesday 17th April at Ursuline College, Thanet CT8 8LX
- Monday 23rd April at The Malling School, ME19 6DH
- Friday 27th April at Sittingbourne Community College, ME10 4NL
- All Courses are 10.00am to 3.00pm

To register contact: james@panathlon.com or Mobile 07780 7113165

(Spaces available also for teachers, teaching assistants, coaches, SGO's etc)