

This is one of four case studies funded and administered through Sport England that illustrate the partnership work undertaken by Youth Sport Trust **Lead Inclusion Schools**, Local Authority staff and community sports providers to explore and enhance the Local Offer for young people with SEND and how this is communicated. The project advocated collaborative approaches, student voice and added value experiences via improved signposting.

Case study 1

AWARENESS BUILDING, ALFRISTON SCHOOL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Context

Rachel Hutchinson's priorities on taking up her role in 2017 as SGO² and Youth Sport Trust Lead Inclusion School for Buckinghamshire were to build a local schools' network, to raise awareness of the Inclusive Health Check³ and to promote participation in inclusive festivals and activities. Over the next two years further schools were successfully brought on board in North Buckinghamshire, where provision had previously been less developed and participation lower. County sports bodies also shared their offer with this wider network of schools on a regular basis.

However Rachel was aware that both schools and SGOs (herself included) had a lack of understanding of the Local Offer⁴ and that this knowledge would enhance opportunities for young people and might improve ownership within PE departments. This in turn could facilitate a more significant and sustainable schools' offer.



Figure 1 Inclusive tennis at Halton Tennis Club, Bucks



The benefits are huge: sharing of information, access and ideas. Something we've realized is that we all need one another. If we work together there are more opportunities and we can access and help more young people.”¹

Objectives

Conduct a share and learn programme to:

- 1 Identify the scope and relevance of the Local Offer
- 2 Understand how the Local Offer is communicated
- 3 Dovetail the schools' offer
- 4 Improve collective ownership of a coordinated offer

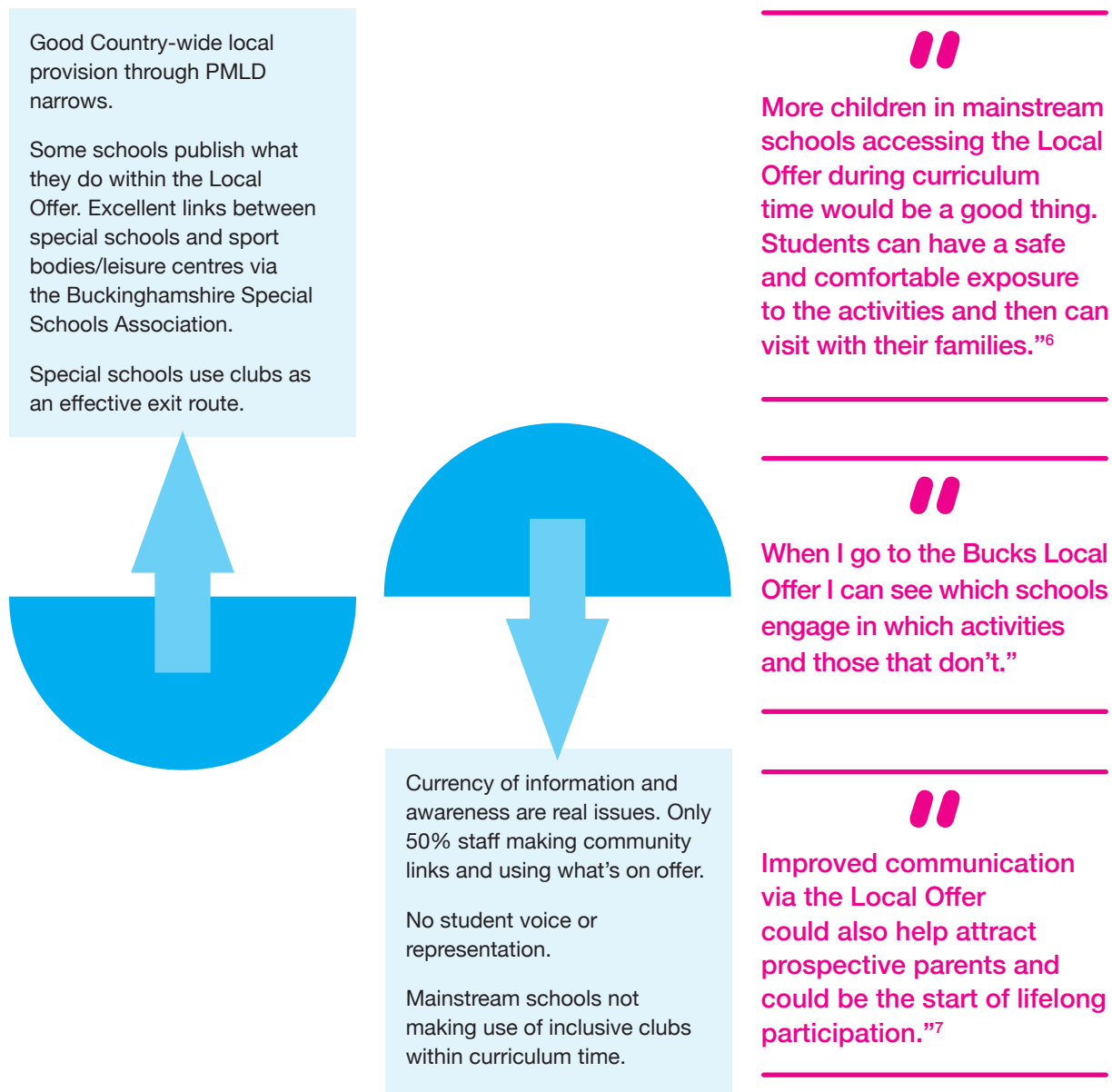
¹Rachel Hutchinson, SGO Buckinghamshire and Lead Inclusion School contact at Alfriston School.

²School Games Organiser

³Inclusive Health Check is a School Games self review tool designed to support SGOs, Schools and Local Organising Committees in counties to review their inclusive PE, school sport and physical activity provision.

⁴Buckinghamshire Local Offer is hosted within the Family Information Service website: <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/localoffer.page>

Figure 2: Observations from project⁵



Achievements

- 1 Expansion and promotion of the **Buckinghamshire Young Inspectors initiative**: young people with SEND⁸ that visit clubs to offer feedback on their inclusive provision and to raise awareness within schools
- 2 Young Inspector invited to join the Disability Task Group to support the Local Action Plan
- 3 Enhanced and more accurate communication of schools’ inclusive activities and festivals within the Buckinghamshire Local Offer website
- 4 Involvement of new communication routes to parents including the Local Authority, Family Information Service, Youth Forum Group, Bucks MIND⁹ and County Council Youth Workers
- 5 Advocacy for a range of communication channels including social media, online, email and offline (printed)

⁵PMLD: profound and multiple learning difficulties

⁶Rachel Hutchinson, SGO Buckinghamshire

⁷Rachel Hutchinson, SGO Buckinghamshire

⁸Special educational needs and disabilities

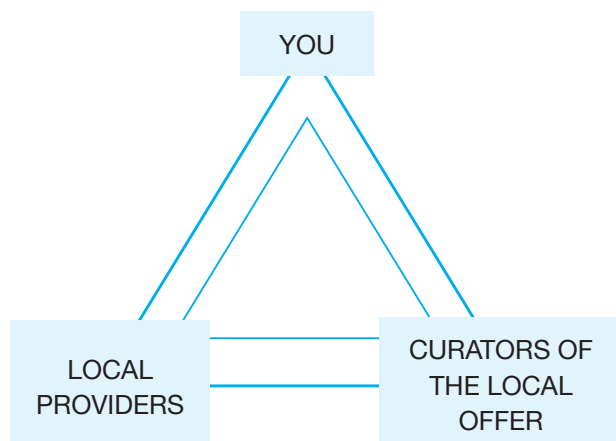
⁹Nationwide charity that offers advice and information to people with mental health problems

Further opportunities to be explored

- 1 Undertake a gap analysis to establish provision for all ages, needs and locations
- 2 Engage schools at a senior staffing level to ensure fullest ownership
- 3 Invite schools to take ownership of parent communications
- 4 Recruit **'content champions'** in schools to update the Local Offer as delivery expands

Recommendations

The key recommendation from this project was to encourage schools to 'complete the triangle' of communications between themselves, local providers and the curators of the Local Offer.



Teachers in schools need to not just share the Local Offer but spend time with staff in an inset training day so that they have an understanding of it and can signpost. It's great that the Local Offer shares it but teachers are much better positioned to communicate to parents. It's all about marginal gains."



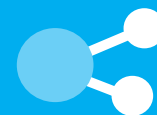
I have engaged with another Youth Sport Trust Lead Inclusion School that I've not historically engaged with. Good to be able to share practice in terms of what they've been doing and the value of sharing this."



Encourage parent briefings by all channels including verbal. This is more time consuming but incremental gains can have a significant impact for young people.



Within schools encourage PE staff to share the local offer within an INSET or equivalent to help embed awareness.



Promote the value of every school's contribution to the Local Offer regardless of extent of inclusive provision. In doing so engage the widest number of schools.