Kent's County Calendar for Alternative Provision Settings

Throughout the 2020/21 year, Kent SGOs and Kent Active Partnership collaborated to create a database of all Alternative Provisions (APs) across the county. This database contained information such as locations, contacts, links to other schools, and any additional information specific to each AP.

The team then held a county-wide pilot festival for APs to attend. The festival allowed the team to gather insight from pupils and staff about current sport provision, future events, challenges to participation, and motivations to participate.

This insight highlighted the barriers APs face within local competitions and demonstrated that mainstream events were not often accessible to APs as they require a higher number of pupils to participate. From this, the team were able to create a calendar of event opportunities designed to overcome these barriers to encourage the local APs to participate.

Kent's Calendar for AP Settings

Objectives

- Create a county-wide offer for APs that was fit for purpose, accessible, met the needs of the CYP, and engaging.
- To create more opportunities for CYP in APs to participate in competitions and have positive experiences through School Games events.

Who was the target audience and how were they engaged?

The calendar of events aimed to increase participation and engagement from pupils in APs, from Years 7-11.

A range of activities, including basketball, rowing, football, skateboarding, and bouldering were run throughout the spring and summer terms.

To ensure the local APs had sufficient notice, the event dates were communicated to the school network in the autumn term.

Why was the activity unique?

The creation of the AP-focused event calendar allowed the team to consider the specific needs of their local AP settings - each event was designed to the schools' needs and remove the barriers which limited them from taking part in mainstream events.

During and after each event, schools and pupils were asked to give feedback on their experience. Ideas for future activity and positive feelings about the experiences were expressed verbally, using emojis and graffiti walls.

What was the impact felt in schools and by CYP?

The events were attended by 12 schools, with a total of 188 pupils participating. Each event saw an increased number of schools engaged as word spread about the opportunities across the AP network; a result of this saw previously unengaged schools contact local SGOs to find out how they could get involved.

During the event pupils and staff had fun and whilst some pupils were initially reluctant to participate, all eventually joined in to create a positive atmosphere.

Why is this an example of School Games best practice?

The creation of a carefully considered events calendar resulted in CYP from AP settings mixing and socialising together across schools. Since then, the schools have been organising events between themselves, creating a community.

There was an increase in participation from previously unengaged schools, and 15 AP settings have now established relationships with their SGOs to continue driving targeted opportunities throughout the 2022/23 year.

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