

Sports Inclusion Development Programme

2011

Claire Grehan continued her work in bringing sport and physical activity programmes to people with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities.

Among the activities organised and delivered, or jointly planned and delivered in conjunction with neighbouring Sports Partnerships were: -

- A number of **disability awareness** programmes were delivered to second and third level students. 30 second level and 50 third level students attended this training.
- A number of **gym based** programmes were delivered to a variety of people with disabilities throughout the year. 15 women with disabilities participated on the **Get Active** programme. 17 men with intellectual disabilities participated on a **spinning** programme. 32 people with disabilities availed of the standard gym programme.
- 100 people (50 from Offaly) with disabilities from five service providers competed in the **Midlands Boccia League 2011**. In support of this programme, training was offered to service providers to enable them to deliver the Boccia programme in their services weekly; third level students were also trained to officiate at games: while a **Boccia club** consisting of 30 members was established in Tullamore in the latter half of the year.
- **Midlands United Power Chair Football Club** continued to flourish in 2011 with eight members attending training regularly. The club finished second in the Association of Irish Powerchair Football League 2010 / 2011. Three of the Midlands United Powerchair Football Club were also awarded international caps and competed at the World Cup in Paris in October 2011.
- The **basketball** programme continued into 2011, with 28 people with intellectual disabilities participating on the programme.
- **Wheelchair Hurling** for children with physical disabilities continued into the first half of 2011. 12 children with physical disabilities participated on the programme.
- The **Meet and Train Sports Ability** programme continued into 2011. Two programmes were delivered to 48 adults with intellectual disabilities. Activities included walking, circuit training, orienteering, basketball, gym instruction, GAA and boccia.
- **SPORTSHALL Athletics** for primary school children with disabilities continued in 2011. 23 children from four schools participated on the programme.
- The **soccer** programme continued into 2011. Two programmes were delivered to 20 people with intellectual disabilities.
- The **walking** challenge continued into 2011. 58 people with disabilities participated on the programme. Seven people achieved certificate standard, 16 people achieved bronze standard, 13 people achieved silver standard, and 22 people achieved gold standard.
- A new **rowing** programme delivered in conjunction with Offaly Rowing Club was piloted in 2011. 10 teenagers with a visual impairment participated on the programme.
- A new **sailing** programme delivered in conjunction with Comhairle na nÓg was piloted in 2011. 16 teenagers (8 of whom with a disability) participated on the programme.

- As part of ***Bike Week 2011***, six people with a sensory disability and two people with a physical disability attended the ***Family Fun Cycle*** in Birr. Thanks are extended to our volunteer sighted pilots for their support on the day.

To date, a total of **1,179** (202 in 2008, 194 in 2009, 414 in 2010, 369 in 2011) people with disabilities have been reached by Claire, and the organisations she works with. Some have gone on and competed at national and international level.

Claire was one of 17 Sports Inclusion Disability Officers in Ireland funded from the Dormant Accounts from 2008 - 2009 and the Irish Sports Council / partner agencies from 2010 - 2011. Unfortunately due to budgetary constraints, Claire's employment with the Partnership ceased at the end of 2011. The Partnership is however looking to put in place some type of Sports Inclusion Development Programme (albeit a reduced programme) from 2012 on.

The Partnership would like to take this opportunity to thank Claire for her hard work in her role as Sports Inclusion Development Officer and we wish her well in the future.