

Impact Report

April 2022 –
March 2023

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A Message from Our Chair and Chief Executive

Welcome to Disability Sport NI's 2022-23 Impact Report which describes our charity's programmes and achievements in the third year of our four year Strategic Plan for the 2020-24 period.

Following the partial return of our face to face programmes towards the end of the last year we are pleased to report that we managed to successfully rebuild our full range of programmes this year, after almost two years of COVID-19 related disruption and restrictions. Indeed, it has been great to once again experience first-hand, at numerous events and activities throughout the year, the fun and enjoyment that our programmes bring to the lives of thousands of disabled people across Northern Ireland.

We were also delighted to see how our dedicated and committed team of staff successfully progressed their individual areas of work, resulting in significant achievements and fulfilling our charity's mission to develop sports and active recreation opportunities which give disabled people an equal opportunity to live a full, active and healthy lifestyle.

However, despite these successes and the successful rebuilding of all of our programmes we are very concerned that the number of community sport opportunities for

disabled people in Northern Ireland, and the number of participants in our own community sport programmes, are now significantly less than in the pre COVID-19 period.

This situation is because of a complex range of reasons which the charity will try to better understand and address, as it develops a new Strategic Plan for the next four year period, over the forthcoming year.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our funders and supporters for helping our charity rebuild its programmes following the many challenges presented by COVID-19. Particular thanks must go to our main funder Sport Northern Ireland for its continued support, flexibility and encouragement.

We look forward to a brighter future where our charity can once again further develop and grow its much needed programmes, bringing the many benefits of participation in sport and active recreation to more disabled people across Northern Ireland.

Paddy Marshall
Chair

Kevin O'Neill
Chief Executive



About Us

Disability Sport NI Ltd is Northern Ireland's main disability sports charity working to improve the health and wellbeing of disabled people through sport and active recreation. We work with people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities of all ages and with schools, disability groups, sporting organisations and clubs to ensure that everyone can benefit from the health, social and educational benefits of sport and recreation.

We believe that every person with a disability has the right to participate in all aspects of life and are committed to building a more inclusive society where disabled people have the same opportunity as non-disabled people to lead a full, active and healthy lifestyle through sport and active recreation.

Launched in 1998 by several small disability sports groups to address the under representation of disabled people in sport, we have gradually grown to represent the vast majority of disability sports groups and clubs in Northern Ireland.

We currently have 130 members made up of disability and mainstream sports organisations and clubs, disability groups, schools and adult centres and organise a range of participation programmes, events, training courses and education projects all designed to improve the health and wellbeing of disabled people.

We also work closely with Governing Bodies of Sport and British and Irish performance sports organisations to ensure that talented disabled sports people have the same opportunity as their non-disabled peers to train, compete and excel in their chosen sport on the world stage.



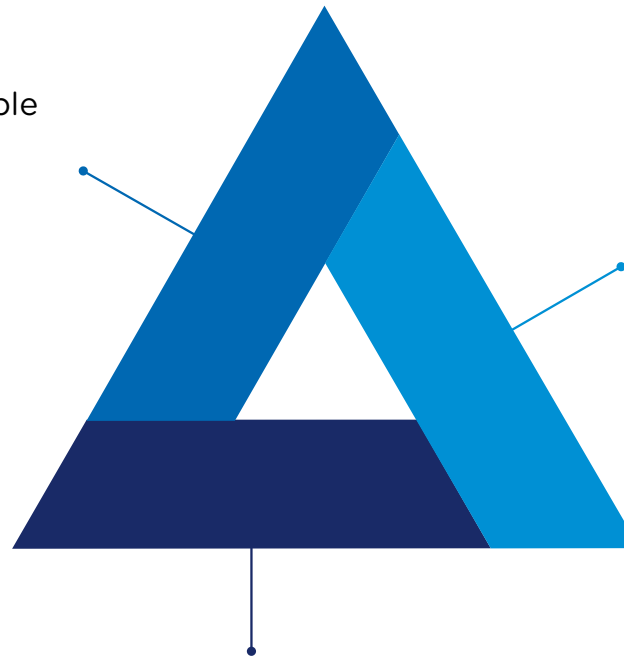
Our Vision, Mission and Strategic Outcomes

Our Vision for the future is:

An inclusive society where disabled people fully participate in all aspects of life, including sport and active recreation.

Our Mission is:

To develop sports and active recreation opportunities which give disabled people an equal opportunity to live a full, active and healthy lifestyle.



Our Strategic Outcomes are:

- A more equal and inclusive society, where more disabled people participate, compete and excel in sport and active recreation at a level of their choice.
- The improved health and wellbeing of disabled people.
- Equality of access for disabled people to participate in sport and active recreation throughout Northern Ireland.

Key Achievements 2022-23

- ▶ **11 community events hosted with 854 participants:**
Including Junior Paralympic Fun Day, Disability Swimming Championships, Special Schools competitions in Boccia, New Age Kurling & Sports Hall Athletics, Archery events for people with sight loss and a multi-sports day for young deaf people.
- ▶ **19,569 participant opportunities delivered to 6,107 participants.** A range of community sport and active recreation programmes were delivered.
- ▶ **4 Active Recreation Projects** were delivered in 3 District Council Areas.
- ▶ **All Out Trekking (AOT)** - an outdoor recreation project involving **218 people** was delivered.
- ▶ **11 Governing Bodies** were supported through our Governing Body of Sport **Inclusive Sport Award**.
- ▶ **Inclusive Club Award scheme** organised and presented to the following two successful clubs:
 - **Mainstream Club Winner: LX Gymnastics Centre**
 - **Disability Club Winner: Trailblazers Powerchair Football Club**

- ▶ Northern Ireland Men's 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball Team finished **5th at Commonwealth Games 2022**.
- ▶ **Claire Taggart** secured Gold in the BC2 Individual and **Silver** in the BC1/BC2 Team events at the **World Boccia Championships 2022**.
- ▶ **11 clubs** received development grants through the **Progressive Club Support Programme**.
- ▶ **63 inclusive training courses** were successfully delivered to **1270** coaches, leaders, teachers and leisure services staff.

A more detailed description of our achievements against each of our 5 key strategic priorities is provided throughout this report.



Strategic Priority 1: Improving Health and Wellbeing

To improve the health and wellbeing of disabled people and people with long term health conditions through increased participation in sport and active recreation opportunities in every area of Northern Ireland.

Following on from the negative impact of COVID-19 in the previous year the charity built back a range of sports and active recreation programmes in partnership with a number of District Councils and disability organisations across Northern Ireland. By the end of the year the charity had organised a varied range of sports and recreation activities which delivered 19,569 participant opportunities to 6,107 disabled people. A summary of these programmes is provided below:

Local Participation Programmes

The delivery of a varied range of participation programmes linked to the District Council Disability Sports Hubs previously established by the charity in all 11 District Council areas continued. Activities included inclusive walking, adapted cycling, boccia, inclusive gym/fitness programmes and 'Wheelie Active' sessions.

Following negotiations with the Progressive Building Society, an additional donation of £60k was secured to deliver the charity's community sport programmes throughout Northern Ireland for the 2022-23 financial period. ►



A Progressive Partnership

► Through this partnership funding, the charity organises and delivers regular active recreation programmes across Northern Ireland. Programmes delivered activities ranging from Inclusive Cycling, badminton tasters, fitness to music sessions, Wheelie Active clubs, adult group multi-activity days, recreational Boccia, sailing, walking groups through to kids' summer schemes.

In addition, the charity has delivered an educational outreach programme for 11 mainstream primary schools designed to raise awareness of disability sports through a fun and engaging participation format.

Disability Sport NI wishes to thank Progressive Building Society for its support and look forward to continuing to develop sustainable opportunities.



5 Star Disability Sports Challenge - St Mary's, Killyclogher



Schools Boccia Competition - Shantallow Community Centre



Schools New Age Curling Championship



Schools New Age Curling Championship

Community Participation Programmes:

The charity currently delivers the following four community participation programmes in partnership with District Councils, three of which are delivered through the charity's Community Interest Company, Live Active NI.

► The Inclusive Sport and Leisure Project - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

This participation programme, funded by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, is delivered by our Inclusive Sport and Leisure Officer, Colleen Connolly. The programme contributed to the development and delivery of activities including Nordic walking, indoor adapted cycling, 'wheelie active' sessions, inclusive gym programmes, specialist sports programmes for people with learning disabilities, people with autism and people with physical disabilities held at the new South Lake Leisure Centre in Craigavon.

► GOGA in Action Programme - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

GOGA in Action is a legacy project from the first phase of the Get Out Get Active (GOGA) project, delivered from 2016-2020. The project is now funded by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and led by Active Recreation Officer, Ryan McQuillan. The programme has developed and delivered activities such as 'Buggy Fit' and Tai Chi sessions, as well as three local fitness programmes in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon areas.



Tuesday Club - Uni Hockey



Inclusive Gym

Special Schools Sports Hall Athletics



GOGA Dance Roadshow

Get Out Get Active (GOGA) Project

This project, which is delivered through our Community Interest Company, Live Active NI, continued to deliver inclusive events and activities that encouraged disabled and non-disabled people to participate together.

► GOGA - Mid and East Antrim

This project was delivered in the Mid and East Antrim area, funded by Spirit of 2012 and the London Marathon Charitable Trust. Active Recreation Officer, Niall Irwin, developed activities including Nordic Walking, an 'Over 50s Better Connected' exercise programme, a 'Pawsitive Walks and Talks' programme, a social Racquets Club, an autism friendly 'Quiet Family Swim Hour' at Seven Towers Leisure Centre, an adult pan disability come & try session at Carrickfergus Leisure Centre, as well as the delivery of Inclusive PE training and 'Walx Community Leaders' training for local teachers and volunteers.

► GOGA - Mid Ulster

This project was delivered in the Mid Ulster area, funded by Spirit of 2012 and the London Marathon Charitable Trust. Active Recreation Officer, Rebecca Greenaway, developed activities including inclusive walking programmes, 'Wheelie Active' sessions, a 'UV Glow Up Disco Dance' organised in partnership with Mencap and the delivery of Inclusive PE training and Inclusive Skills and Games training for local teachers and volunteers. In partnership with the other GOGA and GOGA in Action areas, a social, active and mindful Better Connected - over 50's event to celebrate Positive Ageing Month was also organised.



GOGA Over 50's Better Connected

Impairment Specific Programmes:

The development of a range of impairment specific programmes in partnership with Deaf sports and Blind sports organisations. Programmes included:

- ▶ The organisation and delivery of a year-long training programme for Belfast Panthers Ladies (Deaf) Basketball Club.
- ▶ The delivery of a 'Multi-skills' programme for Cregagh Primary School Hearing Impairment Unit.
- ▶ The delivery of a community Boccia programme for an RNIB group in Coleraine, walking programmes for RNIB groups in Belfast and Antrim and archery events for RNIB groups in Newtownabbey and Bangor.
- ▶ Engagement with Northern Ireland's four Tandem Clubs in Belfast, Derry, Lisburn and Newry and Vision Sport Ireland to plan a Tandem Pilot Training course which will take place early next year.



All Out Trekking Project (AOT)

The charity continued to develop and deliver this innovative outdoor based project which gives disabled people, and their non-disabled friends and family, the opportunity to access countryside paths and mountain bike trails using a range of inclusive all-terrain electric vehicles and bikes.

This year's AOT programme consisted of twice weekly guided sessions for small groups of disabled people and their friends and families, throughout the summer months from July to September inclusive.

In preparation for the 2022 season, maintenance work and servicing of the equipment was carried out, plus the training of new 'trail guides' took place. Promotion of the initiative was supported by GetActiveABC and benefited from a promotional slot on BBC Radio Ulster.

A total of 218 participants attended the programme in 2022 with an overwhelmingly positive response. In addition, a presentation on the project was showcased at the European Network for Outdoor Sports symposium, held in Denmark in September 2022.



"It was fantastic to take part in a programme as a family."

"What an excellent and 'inclusive', in the true sense of the word, experience."

"My Dad had tears in his eyes when he remarked that it was the first time he'd been in the heart of a forest in 20 years!"

"Can we book again for next month..."

"We would love to have an outdoor programme like this in our area."

"What a magical, beautiful, calming environment to be out in, this is just wonderful for a person's mental health, bravo Disability Sport NI."

Strategic Priority 2: Developing Sporting Talent

To lead the development of performance pathways and support programmes which enable talented disabled athletes to achieve higher levels of performance in their sport including continued international medal success.

Inclusive Governing Bodies

The 'Inclusive Sport Award' (ISA) is the charity's accreditation scheme designed to recognise governing bodies of sport who make a commitment to creating an inclusive sports environment for disabled people.

Following the widespread disruption and suspension of Governing Body of sport programmes over the last two years caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the charity's focus this year was on reengaging with Governing Bodies who had previously achieved the award and to revisit their ISA related action plans. By the end of the year the charity's Performance Sport staff had successfully reengaged with all 11 Governing Bodies and were in the process of reviewing and updating their individual ISA action plans.

The 11 sports organisations who have achieved the ISA Award to date are as follows: Irish Football Association; Athletics NI; Ulster Rugby; Swim Ulster; Ulster Tennis; RYA NI; NI Judo Federation; British Gymnastics; Ulster GAA; Canoe NI and Archery NI.



Ulster GAA's Wheelchair Hurling programme

Progressive Club Support Programme:

Distribution of small development grants of £300 each, funded by the Progressive Building Society, were awarded to the following 11 clubs during the year:

- Antrim All-Stars Boccia Club
- Northern Ireland Polio Fellowship Boccia Club (Belfast)
- Bangor Boccia Club
- Causeway Giants WBC (Coleraine)
- North West Wolves WBC (Derry)
- NI Knights WBC (Belfast)
- Bangor Bulls WBC
- Craigavon Lakers WBC
- South West Storm WBC (Omagh)
- Belfast Panthers Ladies Deaf Basketball Club
- Ulster Barbarians Wheelchair Rugby Club (Lisburn and Antrim)

The Progressive Building Society's Regional Manager Kevin Flannery attended the AGM at the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim on 29th November, 2022 to present the grants to representatives of each club.



North West Wolves Wheelchair Basketball Club receiving Progressive Club Support funding



Ulster Barbarians Wheelchair Rugby receiving Progressive Club Support funding

Inclusive Clubs

The Inclusive Club Award is an annual awards scheme run by the charity to recognise clubs, and key individuals within clubs, who are being inclusive of disabled people. The charity received a number of strong, good quality applications for the scheme this year, with a panel consisting of the Chair Paddy Marshall, Honorary President Angela Hendra and Performance Pathways Manager Rhian McCarroll meeting on 17th November, 2022 to shortlist and select the winners.

The four individual awards which make up the scheme were presented at the AGM at the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim on 29th November, 2022.

The winners of the awards were as follows:

- Disability Sports Club of the Year - Trailblazers Powerchair Football Club
- Mainstream Sports Club of the Year award - LX Gymnastics Centre
- Wheelchair Basketball Club Person of the Year - Anna Shields (Craigavon Lakers Wheelchair Basketball Club)
- Boccia Club Person of the Year - Tessa King (Bangor Boccia Club)



Club of the Month November 2022 - Bangor Bulls Wheelchair Basketball Club

British Paralympic Association (BPA) 'Parasport' Website:

Staff worked in partnership the BPA's 'Parasport' Team to facilitate a 'Parasport' video featuring the Bangor Bulls Wheelchair Basketball Club, as part of the BPA's 'Club of the Month' initiative.

Wheelchair Basketball Development

As the recognised development agency for the sport in Northern Ireland we continued to implement our Wheelchair Basketball development plan. The plan which is funded by Sport NI's 'Sporting Winners' and 'Sporting Clubs' programmes has two main focuses:

1. **Club Development** - the development of a network of local clubs with training and competition opportunities and
2. **Performance Pathways** - the development of performance pathways that produce talented players who can compete and excel internationally.

A breakdown of achievements around both these areas of work is provided below:

► Northern Ireland Wheelchair Basketball League 2022-23:

Disability Sport NI continued to organise the Northern Ireland league, sponsored by the Perennials RFC, with all 7 local wheelchair basketball clubs participating. Throughout the season each club hosted a 'Game Day' with the final 'Game Day' being hosted by Disability Sport NI at Ulster University's Jordanstown campus on the 25th March 2023. The Knights won the league after a very competitive final game with the Bangor Bulls. Disability Sport NI would like to thank the Perennials RFC for its continued support of the league.

► Coach Education and Training:

Throughout the year the charity organised and delivered a range of courses for coaches, umpires and referees, designed to build a skilled and qualified volunteer workforce around the sport of wheelchair basketball in Northern Ireland.



NI Wheelchair Basketball League sponsored by Perennials RFC



NI Wheelchair Basketball League sponsored by Perennials RFC

Wheelchair Basketball Performance Pathways

The wheelchair basketball performance programme, which is delivered in liaison with British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB), is concerned with developing and improving performance pathways in Northern Ireland which support talented local players to be selected for national teams. This year's programme was focused on feeding talented athletes into the GB & NI World Class Paralympic Programme as well as preparing a Northern Ireland 3x3 Team to compete in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Disability Sport NI's 3x3 Men's Northern Ireland team qualified for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games at the IWBF Europe 3x3 Commonwealth Games Qualifiers at Inverclyde, Scotland in April 2022.

The Northern Ireland squad consisting of Matt Rollston, Nathan McCabe, Conn Nagle and James MacSorley and coached by Disability Sport NI's Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer, Phil Robinson went on to perform extremely well at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Despite losing their opening fixture to a very strong Canadian team, the squad went on to achieve a 5th place finish, with impressive wins against eventual Gold Medallists Australia in the group stage and South Africa in the 5th/6th place play-off. In all Northern Ireland won two of their three games during the competition narrowly missing qualification for the semi-finals. The team's performance at the games has had an undoubtedly positive impact upon the Wheelchair Basketball community in Northern Ireland.



Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Men's 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball Team



Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Men's 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball Team



NI Women's Wheelchair Basketball team in BWB League action
(Photo credit - Jenny Rutter)

Weekly Monday evening training sessions restarted for the Northern Ireland Wheelchair Basketball Academy at the Antrim Forum Leisure Centre with a number of players across Tiers 1, 2 & 3 of the programme and the Women's Development Group all involved in the sessions. To facilitate the Northern Ireland Academy programme an interim Coach, Matt Rollston was appointed in October 2002, with another coach, Paul McKillop appointed upon Matt's departure to play abroad.

For the first time the charity entered the Northern Ireland Academy Squad in to the British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB) League competition with a mixed gender team participating in the BWB Division 1 (North) League and a women's team participating in the BWB Women's League. Participation in these BWB competitions enables the NI Academy Players access to higher levels of competition and helps to increase their skill and ability levels.



Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Men's 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball Team

During the period, Conn Nagle was one of the 2 successful recipients of the Mary Peters Trust 'Make it Happen Award' and Northern Ireland talented athletes James MacSorley, Conn Nagle and Katie Morrow attended various GB Wheelchair Basketball training camps in England. A strong partnership and working relationship continued with British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB) throughout the year.

Boccia Development

As the recognised development agency for the sport in Northern Ireland we continued to implement our Boccia development plan. The plan which is funded by Sport NI's 'Sporting Winners' and 'Sporting Clubs' programmes has two main focuses:

- 1) Club Development - the development of a network of local clubs with training and competition opportunities and
- 2) Performance Pathways - the development of performance pathways that produce talented players who can compete and excel internationally. A breakdown of achievements around both these areas of work is provided below:

Boccia Club Development

All 6 local Boccia clubs returned to training ahead of the 2022-2023 Northern Ireland Competition season with new club sessions taking place at Lough Moss Leisure Centre in Carryduff. Throughout the year Disability Sport NI organised 4 Pairs League Competitions, 3 Open Championships and a Northern Ireland Championship.

The Northern Ireland Championship took place on 4th March, with 25 participants across 6 classifications. The results from this competition fed into the selection process for the 2023 UK and Irish Championships. National Classification was delivered alongside this competition, with 7 new athletes receiving a new National Classification and 1 receiving a review.

The Boccia Pathway Officer represented Disability Sport NI at Boccia UK Workforce meetings and the Boccia Pathway Group (BPG) throughout the year to share learning and gain insight with the other Home Nations. A Boccia volunteer attended and passed the BISFed Basic Classifier training in Poland, ensuring that the charity now has a medical classifier based in Northern Ireland which will be a great benefit to the sport and athletes moving forward.

Local coach Caroline Millar also won the Disability Coach of the Year Award at Sport NI's 2022 'SportMaker' Awards, attending the awards ceremony at the Titanic Centre on 15th March to receive her award.



Caroline Millar SportMaker Award presentation



Claire Taggart at the 2022 World Boccia Championships in Rio De Janeiro

Boccia Performance Pathways

The boccia performance programme, which is delivered in liaison with Boccia UK, is concerned with developing and improving performance pathways in Northern Ireland which support talented local players to be selected for national Paralympic programmes.

The Northern Ireland 'Pathway Squad' training sessions took place in UUJ throughout the year with several new players from clubs and taster sessions invited along to join the squad. Ongoing communication continued with Boccia UK and Boccia Ireland to ensure the pathway programme aligns to their programmes. Northern Ireland athletes also competed at the Scottish Open, UK Championships and Irish Championships during the year.

For the first time Disability Sport NI hosted a Northern Ireland Boccia Challenger event, which took place in Antrim Forum Leisure Centre from 20th – 22nd January 2023. The event attracted 26 players from Northern Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland and received very positive feedback from players, home nation leads and Boccia UK staff.

Local talented athletes Claire Taggart (World #1) and Robyn McBride (World #18) were selected to compete at the 2022 World Boccia Championships held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in December 2022. The pair were part of the Boccia UK team that reached three finals, with Claire securing Gold in the BC2 Individual and Silver in BC1/BC2 team competitions. Robyn showed signs of her promising future competing at her first world championships as she topped Pool D of the BC3 individual competition to progress and finish in the last 16.

Claire Taggart and Robyn McBride also confirmed their places in the Boccia UK World Class Programme for 2023, with both players being selected for the Zagreb 2023 World Boccia Challenger which took place from 25th March – 1st April, 2023. Claire won a gold medal in the BC2F event and a silver medal in the BC1/2 Team event.

In addition, Claire Taggart was nominated for and won the 'Sports Person/Team with a Disability Award' at this year's Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Sports Awards.



Claire Taggart with 2022 World Boccia Championships medals

**“Brilliant event with a great standard of competition.
Everyone was so helpful, welcoming and friendly”**

Athlete at Northern Ireland Boccia Challenger Event”

**“Disability Sport NI put on a great tournament that
showed all the work that they put in to developing boccia
in Northern Ireland in recent years and still does!”**

Athlete at Northern Ireland Boccia Challenger Event

Strategic Priority 3:

Inclusive Sports Facilities and Outdoor Places

To develop access services which encourage and support the development of sports facilities and outdoor places which are inclusive of disabled people.

This area of the charity's work is concerned with encouraging and supporting designers and facility operators to design, develop and manage sports facilities, stadia and outdoor places which are fully inclusive of disabled people.

Inclusive Sports Facilities and Stadia

In partnership with All In Access Consultancy, the charity continued to encourage and support sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland to work towards achieving the organisation's 'Inclusive Sports Facility' (ISF) Accreditation Scheme which recognises sports facilities that meet optimum levels of good practice in terms of access for disabled people.

There are currently sixteen facilities in Northern Ireland that have achieved ISF Accreditation at a standard or excellence level and a further three sports facilities including Newforge Sports Hub and Events Complex are currently working towards accreditation.

A full list of ISF accredited centres can be found below:

- Omagh Leisure Complex
- Tollymore National Outdoor Centre
- Glenravel Sports and Community Centre
- LORAG, Shaftesbury Community Recreation Centre
- The Torrent Complex
- The Vale Centre
- RDA Causeway Coast Arena
- Bready Cricket Club
- Beragh Red Knights GAC
- Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex
- Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre
- Lakeland Forum
- Dunville Pavilion
- Dungiven Sports Centre (Excellence Level)
- Foyle Arena (Excellence Level)
- South Lake Leisure Centre (Excellence Level)

We have continued to update our Access Guides to reflect the most up to date practice and standards and currently have a suite of seven design guides and guidelines. These have been developed to support Strategic Priority 3; that sports facilities, stadia and outdoor places meet optimum levels of good practice in terms of access for disabled people. In 2022/23, the charity successfully reviewed and updated the following four key access guidelines documents during the year:

- **Guide 1: Accessible Sports Facilities Design Guidelines**
(December 2022 version)
- **Guide 2: Accessible Sports Facilities Management Guidelines** (December 2022 version)
- **Guide 3: Accessible Sports Stadia Design Guidelines**
(March 2023 version)
- **Guide 4: Accessible Sports Stadia Management Guidelines**
(March 2023 version)



Strategic Priority 4:

Communications, Training and Engagement

To inspire, facilitate and encourage disabled people to participate in sport and active recreation by engaging with disabled people and the broader community, by delivering inclusive training and by promoting the social model of disability.

Marketing and Social Media

A comprehensive range of marketing and social media activities were implemented during the year in support of this strategic priority. Key areas of delivery are listed below:

- The development and launch of a new improved Disability Sport NI website.
- The development and 'soft' launch of a new 'Active Living No Limits' disability sport opportunities website for Northern Ireland. The site will be formally launched by the 'Active Living No Limits' Forum next year.
- The successful management of information and news on the charity's website and social media channels.
- The production of a monthly Ezine.
- PR activities around the World Boccia Championships in Rio de Janeiro providing pre, during and post tournament coverage.

- 'Homecoming' event PR activity for athletes from Northern Ireland, which successfully secured media coverage.
- The marketing, promotion and delivery of training courses and youth sport challenges.

Inclusive Training

Disability Sport NI delivered a range of training courses during the year, all designed to give volunteers, coaches, teachers and leisure services staff the knowledge and skills required to better include disabled people in sports and recreation opportunities. The charity also delivered a number of education based sports challenges designed to increase understanding of disability and challenge negative attitudes and misconceptions about disabled people. In total 63 courses were delivered to 1270 participants during the year.

Research and Insight

How we measure success

When developing its current strategic plan for the 2020-2024 period the charity decided to adopt the performance management system of 'outcome-based accountability' (OBA) to focus on impact rather than simply on activity levels.

In line with this performance management system, we evaluate each area of our charity's work by using three OBA questions:

- ▶ **How much did we do?**
- ▶ **How well did we do it?**
- ▶ **Most importantly, is anyone better off?**

During the current 2022 - 23 financial year the charity used this OBA performance management system to demonstrate its success by producing an annual impact report and a series of OBA based 'Insight Pieces' on an ongoing basis which focus on different areas of the charity's work. A range of 'Insight Pieces' and an annual impact report for the year are available on the Disability Sport NI website www.dsni.co.uk



James MacSorley, GB Men's Wheelchair Basketball Player



Volunteers

How we measure success

As the charity built back its full range of programmes following almost two years of COVID-19 related disruption and restrictions, the organisation increasingly recruited volunteers during the year to support the delivery of its programmes. Indeed by the end of the year **82 volunteers** had contributed a total of **1420 hours** to the work of the charity. This involved a contribution from three types of volunteers as explained below:

- ▶ **Trustees and Honorary Presidents:** 14 volunteers with a range of individual skills required to effectively oversee the governance and strategic direction of the charity.
- ▶ **Regular Volunteers:** 52 volunteers who regularly help the charity deliver its range of local community sport and active recreation programmes as well as its wheelchair basketball and boccia competition programmes.
- ▶ **Casual Volunteers:** 16 volunteers who helped the charity organise and deliver its community events programmes by supporting the organisation and delivery of one-off community sports competitions.

The above figures included 17 new volunteers recruited through a specific volunteer leadership programme which was successfully organised early in the year to meet a demand for volunteers from clubs rebuilding their programmes following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Disability Sport NI would like to thank its volunteers for the very important and valuable contribution they continue to make to its ongoing work. The charity simply could not carry out its full range of programmes and activities without the commitment and dedication of its team of volunteers.



Volunteers - GOGA Dance Roadshow

Strategic Priority 5:

Governance and Income Generation

Making It Happen

To manage an effective well governed organisation with the capacity to lead the development of disability sport and active recreation in Northern Ireland.

Governance

Disability Sport NI continued to review and update its policies and procedures as required during the year, maintaining its 'robust' level of assurance from its main funder, Sport Northern Ireland.

Income Generation

A welcome uplift in funding was also secured from Sport NI for the last two years of the current 4 year 'core investment' funding package. This was to take account of the negative impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on the charity's ability to generate unrestricted income from long established training services, access services and community fundraising initiatives over the previous two years. The additional investment in the current 2022-23 financial year is £63,741 with a further additional investment of £78,777 provided for the next financial year (2023-24).

Representation:

Disability Sport NI staff continued to positively influence relevant areas of policy development and partnership working by representing the interests of disabled people in Northern Ireland on the following key national organisations and committees during the year:

- Active Living: No Limits 2016-2021 Forum
- British Paralympics Association National Paralympic Committee (Paralympics GB)
- Boccia UK
- Home Nation Disability Sports Organisations' Chief Executive Officers Forum

Annual Accounts

A full set of the charity's audited accounts for the period is available on the Disability Sport NI website, however an overview of the organisation's financial position for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 is provided below:

Total income for the financial year was £847,145 compared with £699,816 in the previous year.

Total expenditure for the financial year was £810,395 compared to £718,845 in the previous year.

There was a net surplus in the current year, after transfers, in the amount of £36,750. This comprised of a net surplus in unrestricted funds of £85,995 and a net deficit of £49,245 in restricted funds. Total accumulated funds at the end of the year therefore increased from £360,912 to £397,662.

Restricted Funds held at the year-end amounted to £9,538 (2022: £58,783).

Unrestricted Funds

The charity held unrestricted funds of £388,124 at the year end, which includes £188,174 that can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets.

The board has designated £86,707 of the Charity's unrestricted funds to support the development of the All Out Trekking project at Gosford Park over the next 1-2 years, the delivery of the Northern Ireland Boccia League during 2023-24 and also other community activities and events.

Note: The annual accounts exclude income and expenditure related to projects delivered through Disability Sport NI's Community Interest Company (CIC), Live Active NI. Annual Accounts for Live Active NI are available on the Live Active NI website.

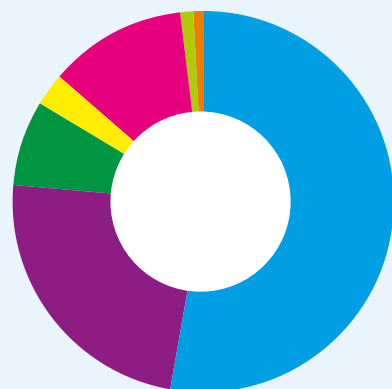


Chart 1 Income Figures

- Sport NI Core Grant 53.03%
- Sport NI Project Grants 23.48%
- Other Grants 7.25%
- Training Income 2.66%
- Other Income 11.78%
- Donations 1.04%
- Consultancy Income 0.76%

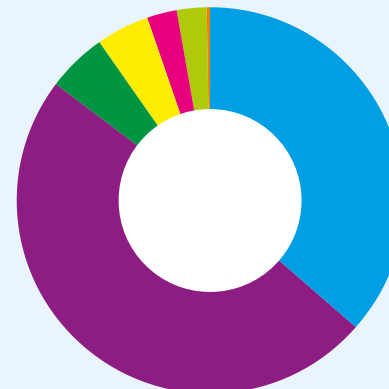


Chart 2 Expenditure Figures

- Performance Sport & Club Development 36.57%
- Community Participation & Competition 48.88%
- Training, Education & Volunteering 4.84%
- Communications & Engagement 4.51%
- Sports Facility Access 2.56%
- Strategic Planning and Policy Development 2.59%
- Fundraising Costs 0.04%

Our Board of Directors and Staff 2022–2023

Honorary Presidents

Angela Hendra MBE
Dr Janet Gray MBE

Directors

Patrick Marshall (Chairperson)
Jill Poots (Vice-Chairperson)
Stephen Friel
Michael Hilland
Tony Barclay
David Cowan
Barry Shannon, (Appointed 28th January 2023)
James David Rose (Appointed 28th January 2023)
Gregory Neil Yarnall (Appointed 28th January 2023)
Nicola Jane Woods (Appointed 28th January 2023)
Graham Fitzgerald (Resigned 25th October 2022)
Laura-Lee Jenkins (Resigned 24th May 2022)

Staff

Chief Executive's Team

Kevin O'Neill, Chief Executive
Linda Moody, Finance and Governance Manager
Anita O'Connor, Administrator
Mark Montgomery, Communications, Training and Engagement Lead (Appointed 1st October 2022)
Caitlin Kelly, Engagement & Training Officer (Appointed 10th October 2022)
Andrea Herron, Training, Communications and Engagement Lead (Resigned 29th July 2022)

Community Sport Team

Aubrey Bingham, Community Sport Manager
Colleen Connolly, Inclusive Sports and Leisure Officer
Ryan McQuillan, Regional Development Officer (Appointed 6th February 2023)
Niall Irwin, Regional Development Officer (Appointed 6th February 2023)
Barbara Redmond, Hub Activity Leader (P/T)
David Purdy, Active Recreation Officer
Shona Costello, Hub Activity Leader (P/T Resigned 30th April 2022)

Performance Pathways Team

Rhian McCarroll, Performance Pathways Manager (Appointed 19th September 2022)
Judith Cooper, Performance Pathways Officer
Terry Conroy, Performance Pathway Officer Boccia
Danny Cooper, Performance Pathway Officer Wheelchair Basketball (Appointed 1st October 2022)
Pablo Córdoba Huertos, Wheelchair Basketball Club Development Officer (Appointed 1st December 2022)
Elaine Reid, Performance Pathways Manager (Resigned 31st May 2022)
Philip Robinson, Wheelchair Basketball Pathways Performance Officer (Resigned 5th August 2022)
Ryan Ragoo, Performance Pathways Officer (Maternity Cover – Appointed 10th October 2022. Resigned 22nd March 2023)

Live Active NI CIC Directors and Staff

Directors

Kevin O'Neill
Aubrey Bingham
Elaine Reid (Resigned 31st May 2022)

Staff

Sonia Langasco, Projects and Services Manager
Rebecca Williamson, Active Recreation Officer, Mid Ulster



Funders

We would like to acknowledge the support of the following funders during the year:





Be active.
Be the best.

Disability Sport NI

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