

# Impact Report

April 2021 –  
March 2022

This document is  
available in alternative  
formats upon request.



Disability  
Sport NI

Be active.  
Be the best.



Inclusive Cycling at Dungannon Leisure Centre

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## A Message from Our Chair and Chief Executive

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Welcome to Disability Sport NI's 2021-22 Impact Report which describes our charity's programmes and achievements in the second year of our four year Strategic Plan 2020-24.

It has been another challenging year as our normal range of face to face community and performance sport programmes were significantly disrupted by the negative impact of COVID-19 related restrictions.

As a result, we continued to focus on the delivery of our 'Stay Active Online' social media and telephone campaign, with a particular focus on the delivery of a series of live 'Zoom' exercise sessions. Alongside this, through a thorough risk management process, we also gradually rebuilt our normal range of face to face programmes and services as COVID-19 restrictions were finally lifted towards the end of the year.

Through this blended approach, our dedicated team of staff continued to successfully progress their individual areas of work. This resulted in significant achievements 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 the successful rebuilding of the majority of our programmes, we have been concerned to find that the number of people participating in our face to face programmes is significantly lower than pre COVID-19 levels. This is because of a complex range of reasons which we plan to actively address in the forthcoming year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a negative impact on our charity's ability to raise income from well-established training and coach education programmes. We are confident that we can re-establish this source of income next year, but in order to protect the charity from similar difficulties in the future the Board has taken a decision to gradually increase the organisation's level of reserves over the coming years. These plans will begin with the development of a formal reserves policy.

Finally we would like to thank our main funder Sport Northern Ireland for their continued support, flexibility and encouragement during what was another challenging year. We look forward to working with them and our other funders and partners to once again increase the number of disabled people benefitting from our programmes in a post COVID-19 world.

**Paddy Marshall**  
Chair

**Kevin O'Neill**  
Chief Executive

## About Us

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**Disability Sport NI 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 education benefits of sport and active recreation.**

We believe that every disabled person 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 a number of 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 126 member groups made up of disability sports 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.

We have also developed a strong partnership with our main funders Sport Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities and continue to work with them and other government departments and District Councils to develop and implement strategies and programmes designed to further reduce the under-representation of disabled people in sport and active recreation.

Disability Sport NI is a limited company with charitable status and is a member of the British Paralympic Association, Boccia UK, Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland, Disability Action, the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action and the Northern Ireland Sports Forum. Disability Sport NI also maintains close links with Paralympics Ireland.



# Our Vision, Mission and Strategic Outcomes

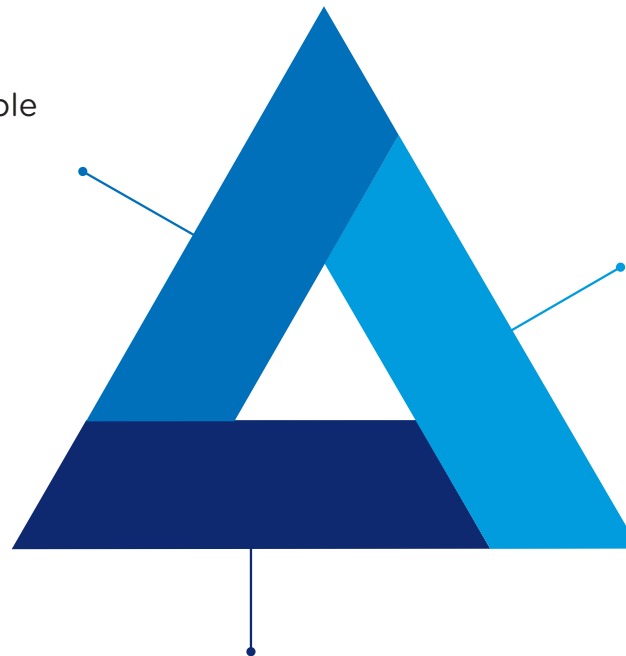
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## Our Vision for the future is:

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 2021-22

**4,538** participants delivered 'Face to Face' activity programmes with 16,857 participant opportunities

**158** people delivered All Out Trekking (AOT) outdoor recreation.

**11th** Archery NI became the 11th Governing Body of Sport to achieve our **Inclusive Sport Award**

**53** live online 'zoom' exercise sessions delivered in a range of activities through our 'Stay Active Online' campaign.

**4** **Active Recreation Projects** delivered in 3 District Council Areas.

**Inclusive Club Award scheme** organised and presented to **Ballymena Bears Tag Rugby Club** and **Bangor Bulls Wheelchair Basketball Club**.

**Our full Wheelchair Basketball programme re-established post COVID-19**

**Our full Boccia Programme re-established post COVID-19**

New '**Accessible Outdoor Places Guide**' guide developed and launched.

**69** **inclusive training courses** successfully delivered to **922** coaches, leaders, teachers and leisure services staff.

A more detailed description of our achievements against each of our 5 key strategic priorities is provided over the following pages:

Foyle Down Syndrome Trust Summer Scheme



# Improving Health and Wellbeing

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**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.**

During the previous year the charity's ability to deliver its normal comprehensive programme of face to face community sport programmes was severely restricted because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The charity responded to this by developing the 'Stay Active Online' social media and telephone campaign supported by the Progressive Building Society. The campaign was designed to encourage and support disabled people to be as active as possible while at home during the pandemic.

The campaign involved the delivery of pre-recorded exercise videos, the delivery of a series of live 'Zoom' exercise sessions, blogs and podcasts, the development and distribution of exercise resource cards and the delivery of 'virtual' sports leagues.

However as COVID-19 restrictions were gradually relaxed during the current year the charity gradually reduced the delivery of 'online' activities and began rebuilding it's normal range of face to face community sport programmes.

By the end of the year the following combination of online and face to face activities had been successfully delivered through the charity's different community projects:

## Stay Active Online campaign:

The delivery of a total of **53 live online 'zoom' exercise sessions** in a range of activities including 'Low Intensity Exercise', 'Love 2 Move' and Tai Chi.

## Face to Face Programmes:

The gradual reintroduction of all of the charity's community sport and recreation projects throughout Northern Ireland, initially focusing on outdoor activities but gradually moving to a full range of indoor activities in the last 6 months of the year. By year end, the charity had delivered **16,857 participant opportunities to 4,538 participants.**

A breakdown of delivery in each of the charity's community projects is provided over the following pages:

## Disability Sports Hubs Project – Northern Ireland Wide

This project was originally developed to provide programmes of ‘face to face’ disability sports activities in the ‘Disability Sports Hubs’ located in each of Northern Ireland’s 11 District Council areas, but because of COVID-19 restrictions had been largely replaced in the previous year by the ‘Stay Active Online’ campaign.

The campaign continued to be delivered throughout the current year until all restrictions related to COVID-19 ended towards the end of the year on 15th February 2022. By year end the project had delivered 31 online live ‘zoom’ exercise sessions in a range of activities including ‘Low Intensity Exercise’, ‘Love 2 Move’ and Tai Chi.

Alongside this online activity, ‘Face to Face’ programmes were gradually reintroduced in the vast majority of the 11 District Council Disability Sports Hubs. These initially focused on outdoor activities but gradually moved to a full range of indoor activities in the last 6 months of the year. The most popular activities delivered were inclusive cycling, supported/guided walking sessions, recreational boccia, ‘Wheelie Active’ clubs, low intensity exercise sessions and fun based multi-sport sessions.

A big thank you to the Progressive Building Society for continuing to support our charity as we gradually rebuild our normal range of community sport programmes.

**“It has improved my mental and physical wellbeing, making me talk to others despite having problems with my speech due to MS. I come home each time with a buzz that I haven’t had in a long time and I can’t wait to the next week.”**

**DISABILITY SPORTS HUB PARTICIPANT**



## Inclusive Sports and Active Recreation Projects

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The charity currently delivers the following four sport and active recreation projects 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**

In this project funded by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council our Inclusive Sport and Leisure Officer, Colleen Connolly contributed to the development and delivery of online resources for the Stay Active Online campaign and gradually rebuilt a range of much needed face to face programmes.

- The delivery of live 'Zoom' exercise sessions including the 'Monday Club'.
- Outdoor activity sessions in inclusive cycling, low intensity exercise, multi-skills & Nordic walking.
- The reintroduction of indoor activity programmes including Wheelie Active, Monday Club, Autism programmes, the Richhill Activity Group and inclusive gym programme.

Monday Club



## **GOGA in Action Project - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

A legacy project from the first phase of the Get Out Get Active (GOGA), this Project is now funded by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, and delivered through our Community Interest Company, Live Active NI. Active Recreation Officer, Ryan McQuillan contributed to the development and delivery of online resources for the Stay Active Online campaign and gradually rebuilt a range of much needed face to face programmes. Popular activities included:

- **The initial delivery of a series of live 'Zoom' exercise sessions, specialising in the delivery of Tai Chi.**
- **Outdoor activity sessions in Tai Chi, Walking, Buggy Fit, GOGA Fit, Nordic Walking and Inclusive Cycling.**



# Get Out Get Active (GOGA) Project

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This 'Spirit of 2012' funded project is delivered through our Community Interest Company, Live Active NI and involves the delivery of 'phase 2' of the project in partnership with two District Councils, namely Mid Ulster District Council area and the Mid and East Antrim District Council area.

## GOGA - Mid and East Antrim

In the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area, Active Recreation Officer Niall Irwin contributed to the development and delivery of online resources for the Stay Active Online campaign and gradually rebuilt a range of much needed face to face programmes. Popular activities included:

- The initial delivery of a series of live 'Zoom' exercise sessions, specialising in the delivery of Tai Chi.
- Outdoor activity sessions in Tai Chi, Walking, Buggy Fit, GOGA Fit, Nordic Walking and Inclusive Cycling.

## GOGA - Mid Ulster

In the Mid Ulster District Council area, Active Recreation Officer Rebecca Williamson contributed to the development and delivery of online resources for the Stay Active Online campaign and gradually rebuilt a range of much needed face to face programmes. Popular activities included:

- Dance, Mum Fit, walking and chair based activities, the 'Happy Mondays' Club, Autism group sessions, Wheelie Active sessions, Nordic Walking, health walks, low intensity exercise, 'Over 50s Better Connected', 'Pawsitive Walks & Talks' and multi-skills activity sessions.

## Inclusive Clubs

The **Inclusive Club Award Scheme** was updated during the year in order to capture and recognise the work of clubs during the COVID-19 pandemic with updated applications forms circulated via email and on social media in October 2021.

The decision making panel subsequently met to consider applications with the Inclusive Club Award presented to the following two successful applicants at Disability Sport NI's AGM held in Antrim on 30th November 2021:

- **Mainstream Club Winner: Ballymena Bears Tag Rugby Club**
- **Disability Club Winner: Bangor Bulls Wheelchair Basketball Club**

In addition the charity supported the following three club participation initiatives:

- In partnership with Athletics NI and CP Sport a 'Frame Running' workshop was held on 24th July to introduce the discipline into the Torque Athletics club based in Belfast.
- In partnership with NI Blind Golf, Disability Sport NI provided support at the 'Golf For All' event held at Galgorm Golf Club 23rd August. The event attracted 20 participants.
- A meeting was held with the Ulster Barbarians Wheelchair Rugby Club to explore player recruitment. An open training session was promoted and supported on the 17th February and three new members recruited for the club.



Inclusive Club Award Winners - Bangor Bulls

## All Out Trekking Project

Despite the challenge of COVID-19 restrictions the charity was able to continue to deliver the innovative All Out Trekking (AOT) project, an 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. By the end of the programme 158 people had participated in the project.

**“My dad said it was the best day ever. The All Out Trekking made him feel alive again! As soon as it was over, he wanted it booked again.”**

**All Out Trekking Participant**



## 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

Our 'Inclusive Sport Award' (ISA) is designed to recognise governing bodies of sport who make a commitment to creating an inclusive sports environment for disabled people through the development of a disability action plan.

By the end of the financial year, one new governing body of sport, namely Archery NI, had achieved the award. This meant a total of 11 governing bodies of sport had secured the Inclusive Sport Award and were implementing their individual action plans developed to make their sport more inclusive of disabled people (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).

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.

During the year our performance sport staff continued to work with each of the eleven sports on the implementation of their individual disability action plans, with plans in place to rebuild inclusive opportunities post pandemic.



# 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
  - 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:

## Wheelchair Basketball Club Development

This involved the gradual rebuilding of training and competition programmes as COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. The five existing Wheelchair Basketball clubs were supported back to full training by the end of Quarter 1 with a new club, South West Storm launched in Quarter 2. Northern Ireland League fixtures were successfully organised and played in Quarters 3 and 4 with the league being won by Bangor Bulls.



NI Wheelchair Basketball League sponsored by Perennials RFC

## Wheelchair Basketball Performance Pathways

The performance programme is aimed at creating pathways that support the development of local players with the aim of feeding talented athletes into the GB & NI World Class Paralympic Programme and preparing a Northern Ireland 3x3 Team to compete in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Key achievements were:

- Weekly NI Academy Training returned in May within carefully managed COVID-19 guidance.
- The organisation of 5 Residential Women's Training Camps and 4 Residential Men's Training Camps in preparation for the newly introduced 3x3 event at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. As COVID-19 restrictions were eased training moved away from residential camps to daily camps, providing more flexibility for players and coaches.
- A 3x3 competition was also successfully secured with the Cardiff Women's Team in October and the Sheffield Steelers in November, with both NI men and women's teams travelling away on both occasions.
- The men's 3x3 Squad also continued to train for the forthcoming Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Qualification event which will take place in Largs, Scotland in April 2022.
- Weekly strength and conditioning (S&C) training returned on 3rd June in line with the easing of restrictions and on court home based training was delivered to GB athlete Conn Nagel from 5th - 21st April.
- Talented athlete James MacSorley was selected to represent the GB & NI Wheelchair Basketball Team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics (which took place in June 2021 because of COVID-19). An agreed preparation plan was delivered to James by the Wheelchair Basketball Performance Officer from 7th - 16th June, 2021 with the support of the GB Head Coach. James successfully travelled and competed at the Tokyo Games, securing a bronze medal, becoming one of NI's most successful wheelchair basketball players to date.



James MacSorley, Paralympian, returning with Tokyo 2020 Bronze Medal

# 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

**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 across:

Boccia Development



## Boccia Club Development

This involved the gradual rebuilding of training and competition programmes as COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. Because of the potentially increased risk of the virus to players with higher levels of impairment a very gradual return to club training was supported and facilitated, with all six clubs returning to weekly training in September and October 2021.

Partnership working with Derry City and Strabane District Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has resulted in new clubs being developed in each of the areas, with both clubs successfully launched in October 2021.

Eight Boccia UK Workforce meetings were attended during Q1 - Q3 to support the development of a blended learning approach for coaching and officiating courses which will greatly increase the access to the education framework in Northern Ireland. This led to the first blended (online and face to face) Boccia Level 1 Coaching Award being delivered and eight candidates from NI successfully achieving their coaching qualification.

A Return to Boccia Blitz was held on 25th September as a soft, re-introduction to competition. Two Individuals League Days were held on 13th November and 4th December. In Q4, three rounds of the Pairs League were organised with the final league day scheduled for 7th May with the Individual Championships scheduled for the 2nd April.



Claire Taggart, GB Boccia Paralympian

## Boccia Performance Pathways

The performance programme is aimed at creating pathways that support the development of local players with the aim of feeding talented athletes into the Boccia UK World Class Paralympic Programme. The focus during the year was managing the gradual return of face to face training and competition programmes for talented athletes in the NI Boccia Pathway Squad, as COVID-19 restrictions were eased.

Initially the organisation of monthly online squad and individual training sessions were organised and delivered. Return to training sessions were delivered to all squad athletes during Q2 to provide a phased and supported return to boccia, with the first face to face NI Pathway Squad training session held on 18th September and continued on a monthly basis for the remainder of the year.

Local talented athletes Claire Taggart, Robyn McBride and Daniel Elliot were supported to attend a number of UK and international training and competition opportunities where they performed well. Key achievements were as follows:

- **Claire Taggart was selected to represent the GB and NI Boccia Paralympic team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics (which took place in June 2021 because of COVID-19). An agreed preparation plan was supported by the Boccia Pathways Officer in liaison with Sport NI Sports Institute staff.**
- **Claire went on to perform well at the Games producing some very competitive performances and achieving her individual targets set by Boccia UK. After a period of recovery from the Games, Claire returned to full time training and competed for Boccia UK at the European Championships in Seville in November. Although a very challenging environment, Claire secured a silver medal in the Individual Event and a 4th place finish in the Team Event. Based on her performances Claire has been invited to represent Boccia UK at the Boccia World Cup which takes place in Brazil in April 2022.**
- **In March 2022, Robyn McBride was invited to a Boccia UK Challenger event and based on her performance was invited onto the Boccia UK World Class Programme. Most recently she has been selected to represent Boccia UK.**

# 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.

One new facility, South Lake Leisure Centre in Craigavon achieved ISF Accreditation during the year bringing the total number of ISF Accredited Facilities to sixteen. A further 3 sports facilities including Newry Leisure Centre continued to work towards ISF Accreditation during the year.

A full list of ISF accredited centres is provided 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)



ISF Launch at South Lake Leisure Centre

## Inclusive Equipment Projects

The charity has in previous years actively worked in partnership with other organisations to secure funding for specialist inclusive equipment which can facilitate the inclusion of more disabled people in sport and active recreation opportunities.

This has included successfully securing funding for pools of Wheelchair Basketball Chairs, Power Chair Football Chairs, Tandem Bicycles and a range of inclusive all-terrain electric vehicles and bikes for the All Out Trekking Project.

With these previous successes in mind and taking consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic it was not necessary to progress this area of work during the year.

## Accessible Outdoor Places Guide

A new '**Accessible Outdoor Places Guide**' funded by the Public Health Agency was developed during the year and launched on the 6th October with Ministerial statements of support from the Public Health Agency (PHA), the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

The guide will promote a greater understanding of the inclusive design of outdoor places in Northern Ireland and encourage designers and operators to embrace optimum levels of good practice in terms of access for disabled people.

The 207 page document provides comprehensive technical guidance in relation to the following issues and also includes a series of newly created technical drawings:

1. Accessible Parking and External Routes
2. Multi-sensory Greenspace and Outdoor Places Amenities
3. Wayfinding, Signs and Information
4. Access to Water
5. Outdoor Wheelchairs, Adapted Cycles and Inclusive All-terrain Vehicles
6. Inclusive Play - Accessible Play Parks and Play Equipment



Accessible Outdoor Places Guide Launch

# Communications, Training and Engagement

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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

In support of the delivery of Strategic Priorities 1, 2 and 3 a comprehensive range of marketing and social media activities were implemented during the year. In addition work has progressed well on the development of a new improved Disability Sport NI website and a new 'Active Living No Limits' disability sport opportunities website for Northern Ireland.

Both websites will be launched next year. Both sites have been designed to make more disabled people aware of the disability sport opportunities available throughout Northern Ireland.

In addition the following project launches were organised:

- **Accessible Outdoor Places Guide, 5th October 2021**
- **Progressive Community Sport Programme Launch, 21st October 2021**
- **Department for Communities 'International Day of Disabled People' Online Seminar, 3rd December, 2021**

## Inclusive Training

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions continued to have a negative impact on the demand for courses, education based sports challenges and team building experiences throughout the year.

However, there was a welcome increase in demand for courses during the last six months of the year. By year end 69 training courses and sports challenges had been successfully delivered to 922 paid and volunteer, coaches, leaders, teachers and leisure services staff.

## Research and Insight

An annual impact report and 9 'Insight Pieces' focusing on different areas of the charity's work were completed during the year. The annual impact report and 'Insight Pieces' are available on the Disability Sport NI website

[www.dsni.co.uk](http://www.dsni.co.uk)

## Volunteers

Despite COVID-19 related restrictions being in place for most of the reporting period, which resulted in a large reduction in normal face to face programmes, volunteers continued to make a very important and valuable contribution to the work of the charity. This was particularly evident as the organisation gradually rebuilt its programmes during the last six months of the reporting period. Indeed, by year end, 59 volunteers had contributed a total of 1093 hours to the work of the charity. This involved a contribution from three types of volunteers as explained across:



DSNI Volunteer

## Trustees and Honorary Presidents

Volunteers with a range of individual skills required to effectively oversee the governance and strategic direction of the charity.

### Regular Volunteers

These are 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

These are volunteers who help the charity organise and deliver its community events programmes by supporting the organisation and delivery of one off sports and active recreation events.

# Governance and Income Generation

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## 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 NI.

## Income Generation

By maintaining close and open communication with key funders during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation was able to retain its main sources of income during the period. However the pandemic did significantly reduce the charity's ability to raise income from well established training and coach education programmes. The charity is hopeful of building back this area of work post pandemic.

## Policy Development

Disability Sport NI continued to influence relevant policy by representing the interests of disabled people in Northern Ireland on the following key national organisations and committees:

- **Active Living: No Limits 2016-2021 Forum**
- **British Paralympics Association National Paralympic Committee (Paralympics GB)**
- **Boccia UK**
- **Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport Task and Finish Group**
- **Home Country Disability Sports Organisations' CEO 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 2021 to 31 March 2022 is provided below:

**Total income** for the financial year was £699,816 compared with £706,150 in the previous year.

**Total expenditure** for the financial year was £718,845 compared to £718,144 in the previous year.

There was a net deficit in the current year, after transfers, in the amount of £19,029. This comprised of a net surplus in unrestricted funds of £29,486 and a net deficit of £48,515 in restricted funds. Accumulated funds at the end of the year therefore decreased from £379,941 to £302,129.

### Restricted Funds

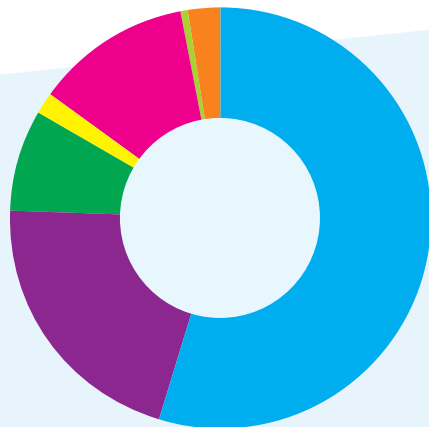
Restricted funds held at the year-end amounted to £58,783. A substantial amount of these funds (£50,456) will cover the depreciation costs associated with assets acquired in the last few years and will be expended in line with the organisation’s depreciation policies.

### Unrestricted Funds

The charity held unrestricted funds of £302,129 at the year end, which includes £145,874 that can only be realized by disposing of tangible fixed assets.

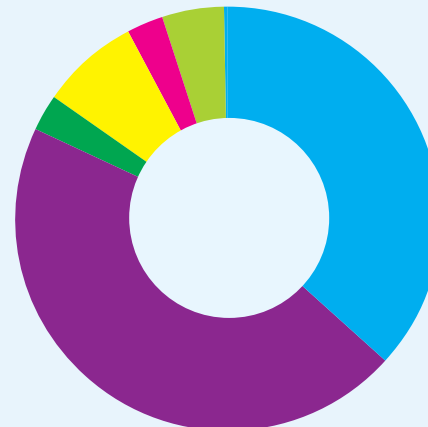
£84,835 of these funds have been designated to support future costs associated with specific projects which include the All-Out Trekking programme, the Northern Ireland Boccia League and other community events and activities.

**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 54.76%
- Sport NI Project Grants 20.96%
- Other Grants 7.73%
- Training Income 1.82%
- Other Income 11.72%
- Donations 0.72%
- Consultancy Income 2.29%



**Chart 2 Expenditure Figures**

- Performance Sport & Club Development 36.81%
- Community Participation & Competition 45.16%
- Training, Education & Volunteering 2.88%
- Communications & Engagement 7.60%
- Sports Facility Access 2.66%
- Strategic Planning and Policy Development 4.81%
- Fundraising Costs 0.08%

# Our Board of Directors and Staff 2021-2022

## Honorary Presidents

**Angela Hendra MBE**  
**Dr Janet Gray MBE**

## Directors

**Patrick Marshall** (Chair – Appointed as Chair 29th March 2022)

**Jill Poots** (Vice-Chair – Appointed as Vice Chair 29th March 2022)

**Michael McAteer MBE** (Chair – Resigned 29th March 2022)

**Dawn McGookin** (Vice-Chair – Resigned 15th February 2022)

**Graham Fitzgerald**

**Stephen Friel**

**Michael Hilland**

**Tony Barclay** (Appointed 15th February 2022)

**David Cowan** (Appointed 15th February 2022)

**Laura-Lee Jenkins** (Resigned 24th May 2022)

**Darren Cave** (Resigned 17th June 2021)

## Staff Chief Executive's Team

**Kevin O'Neill**, Chief Executive

**Linda Moody**, Finance & Governance Manager

**Andrea Herron**, Training, Communications & Engagement Lead

**Anita O'Connor**, Administrator

## Community Sport Team

**Aubrey Bingham**, Community Sport Manager

**Mark Montgomery**, Regional Development Officer

**Colleen Connolly**, Inclusive Sports & Leisure Officer

**Danny Cooper**, Regional Development Officer (P/T)

**Pablo Córdoba Huertos**, Regional Development Officer (P/T)

**Brian Lenehan**, Assistant Community Sports Development Officer

**Barbara Redmond**, Hub Activity Leader (P/T)

**Diane Fernie**, Hub Activity Leader (P/T Resigned May 2021)

**Ian Carlisle**, Hub Activity Leader (P/T Resigned July 2021)

**Victoria McCormack**, Hub Activity Leader (P/T Resigned October 2021)

**Andrea McAlinden**, Hub Activity Leader (P/T Resigned April 2022)

**Shona Costello**, Hub Activity Leader (P/T Sept 2021-April 2022)

## Performance Pathways Team

**Elaine Reid**, Performance Pathways Manager

**Judith Cooper**, Performance Pathways Officer

**Philip Robinson**, Wheelchair Basketball Pathways Performance Officer

**Danny Cooper**, Wheelchair Basketball Pathways Officer (P/T)

**Terry Conroy**, Boccia Performance Pathway Development Officer

## Live Active NI CIC Directors & Staff Directors

**Michael McAteer MBE**, Chair (Resigned 29th March 2022)

**Kevin O'Neill**

**Aubrey Bingham**

**Elaine Reid**

## Staff

**Sonia Langasco**, Projects & Services Manager

**Ryan McQuillan**, Active Recreation Officer, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

**Rebecca Williamson**, Active Recreation Officer, Mid Ulster

**Niall Irwin**, Active Recreation Officer, Mid & East Antrim

**David Purdy**, EBA Active Recreation Officer, (Temporary)

# Funders

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





Wheelie Active Club



Be active.  
Be the best.

**Disability Sport NI**

Unit G, Curlew Pavilion  
Portside Business Park  
189 Airport Road West  
Belfast, BT3 9ED

**Telephone:** 028 9046 9925

**Textphone:** 028 9046 3494

**Email:** [email@dsni.co.uk](mailto:email@dsni.co.uk)

[www.dsni.co.uk](http://www.dsni.co.uk)

