

Virtual Learning & Networking Session – Tuesday 23rd June

Sport Birmingham Team	
Amy Bird - Senior Partnerships Manager (Wellbeing)	Helen Corrigan - Senior Partnerships Manager (Community)
Adam Warden - Workforce Development Manager	Alice Trevallion - Community Projects Manager
Sam Payne - Children and Young People Officer	Becks Byrne - Project Coordinator
Tom McIntosh - Operations Director	
Delegates - Group A Hosted by Helen, Alice and Sam	
Name	Organisation / Club
Michael Parker	Run Brum Crew
Helena Russo	Badminton England
Asha Rage	Dream Chasers Youth Club
Rajab Noor	Sporting Your Futures
Alex Gardener	Rugby Football Union
Matthew Inniss	Fitniss - Wellbeing in Care
Bally Bhogal	Bhangra Blaze Xpress
Delegates - Group B Hosted by Adam, Amy and Becks	
Name	Organisation / Club
Jeevan Chagger	City of Birmingham Hockey Club
Andy Warmington	Inclusive Sports Academy
Mohamed Hagi	Dream Chasers and Olympia (Community Football Clubs)
Keith Wraight	National Trust

Zahida Kahn	Mind
Callan Barber	Sense

Michael Parker - Run Brum Crew

- Michael's group is licenced by Run Together and has a community of 71 strong to date
- The regular group was meeting every Monday evening to run and then socialise together after over a drink.
- The group has 4 licenced Run coaches

Actions:

- Run together have provided them with free virtual space to share, upload runs; Strava and other physical activity recording apps
- This has been encouraging individuals to continue
- Michael has tried to keep a regular run time slot going and has set up a virtual social to happen after in order to keep contact and social interaction
- (via chat box) Engagement = regular core group of 7-8 participants each week (dependant on weather)
- They have created challenges and have taken part in fund raisers – One run raised money for St Mary's Hospice

Challenges:

- Maintaining engagement
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep people involved and drop off began after 5/6 weeks
- The 2 metre restriction has been an issue when thinking how to run together again – not wanting to risk people going in the road etc
- (via chat box) the provision is a mental health aid to many participants and the absence of physical sessions has been missed.

Ideas:

- The group are looking at how the leaders could maybe do some remote runs across the city with those from the group in their own area – ‘Run Brum crew on tour’
 - They are considering small groups of 6 being able to run together
 - Something coming up more so in social conversations are current issues, such as BLM and the lack of diverse engagement; Michael wants to look into how they can expand their reach to different communities and groups.
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Helena Russo – Badminton England

- Nothing much has been happening over the lockdown period with venues closed

Actions:

- Badminton England are now supporting more clubs and are taking an umbrella stance in overseeing and assisting them with queries

Challenges:

- Lack of clarity from government guidelines is leaving clubs feeling very unsure about what they can do/plan for going forward

Ideas:

- Wanting to put some focus on updating safeguarding information and signposting clubs and groups to any appropriate training which could help them adapt to any online focus and delivery
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Asha Rage – Dream Chasers Youth Club

- Asha has not stopped since lockdown began immediately responding to those needing support within the community

Actions:

- The support has included, being on call to the young people they work with, doing shopping for the elderly or those isolating, responding to those with no food and providing for them and counselling families through some difficult times
- They have been fundraising within the community to help those in need

- Asha is now operating Zoom sessions, which include:
 - Sessions for the most vulnerable to share and socialise, or to just listen and be a part of something
 - Fitness sessions
 - English classes
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Rajab Noor – Sporting Your Futures

- Running community football clubs – needing to make these as accessible for communities as possible and preferable would offer for free, but this is a real struggle
- After running taster sessions within the Yardley / Small Heath area, SYF has engaged with young people to join football sessions

Actions:

- During the lockdown period main communication with young people has been kept up through Whatsapp and the Facebook group
- (via chat box) Communication has also been maintained to young volunteers.

Challenges:

- Young people have struggled to stay put within their homes and for some it isn't a healthy environment to be contained to.
- Rajab has tried to advise the YP to follow guidelines to the best of their abilities
- Rajab has witnessed Goals facility being full of young people playing football having found a means to get in.
- They were still meeting up and having a kick about when they weren't meant to
- That physical sporting engagement is needed for the young people and hasn't been something they have managed without easily
- (via chat box) Lack of access to wifi seen as a major preventative factor for participation.

Ideas:

- (via chat box) Rajab has been using his additional time during lockdown to plan methods of educating parents/ careers as they have noticed that parents do not always prioritise PA.
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Alex Gardener – Rugby Football Union

- Community rugby coach

Actions:

- Alex has been doing cluster calls for clubs in different areas
- These calls include Leaders, coaches, managers and Alex has been gathering information from them around what they're doing and how they're operating throughout lockdown
- Encouraged engagement has included Strava challenges, uploading activity, providing targets and classes online

Positives:

- Alex has seen some great examples of keeping up communicating, including celebrating the end of season in inventive ways, such as Zoom chats, letters being sent around
- These positive responses have mainly come from the female clubs showing a real engagement with keeping up social interaction

Ideas:

- Really important to keep up to date and in contact with NGBs
 - Upskill where possible around online tech and how to keep going forward, accessing information and training if available
 - (via chat box) Potential need for e-safety/ safeguarding sessions/guidance to be highlighted to local clubs.
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Matthew Inniss - Fitniss - Wellbeing in Care

- Matthew's usual engagement would include

- - Animal therapy for people
- - Fitness sessions
- - Mental Health work
- With the care sector effectively closed down a lot of their work has ceased

Positives:

- Matthew has spent this period reaching out to other charities looking at where they can partner together
- This has provided strength in completing grant applications showing unified working
- (via chat box) Link provided: www.edgefund.org.uk/other_funders
Potential funding streams.

Bally Bhogal - Bhangra Blaze Xpress

- Operating in Sutton Coldfield
- Has a group of 70-80 participants
- Classes have always been very popular, but have halted due to the pandemic
- The group was part of a franchise, however the groups were all let go and were given permission to continue operating and to still be able to use the business name

Actions:

- Bally has adapted her business to function within the new restrictions
- Moving classes online delivering live sessions
- Started 'on demand' sessions as of 1st June
- Continues to use Facebook live
- Bally has kept good engagement with her participants by mixing up her sessions each week

Challenges:

- Bally was nervous at first with the idea of delivering sessions online
- Bally wanted to do outdoor classes however needs permission, which can take up to 8 weeks, from the council
- It has felt like she has had to start all over again – finding funding for herself and shifting her way of delivery
- Some participants would rather wait for face to face session than join in with online, just because they like what they like
- The main challenge has been adapting

Positives:

- Her groups ages range from 20-65
- They all love the contact with Bally and are appreciative of the online sessions – however they do prefer face to face and look forward to that returning
- There are no tech barriers of such which Bally has come across for her participants, it's more the social block rather than the tech

Jeevan Chagger - City of Birmingham Hockey Club

- Before lockdown started project with other Hockey clubs – agreed before COVID to partner up and join together and change name (City of Birmingham Hockey Club – male and female).

Positives:

- now had time to do all the admin – paper work etc for the partnership.
- - online tutorials to reach out to people at home so they can still stay active and involved.
- Good to know the support is out there – mentoring and support from the SB team.

Challenges:

- Delay on big campaign that was to launch before lockdown
- secure a pitch
- how do we recruit?? Also - still uncertainty as to whether they are able to play or not. Putting feelers out to register interest but where do the club go from there?
How do we stand out as a club more?

Actions:

- Plans going forward as a new club, new location and bigger partnership.
 - Recruitment of players
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Andy Warmington - Inclusive Sports Academy

Positives:

- maintaining relationships with participants – we can keep in touch with the centres but also important to keep in touch with the individuals.
- Had some in person session but also using zoom for online connection.
- Got SE funding to go in and deliver at service users' homes in the garden – encouraging them to get their confidence back so they feel comfortable when we get back to “normal” provision.
- time to stop and think about where we're heading as an organisation – time to reflect – also to revamp business plans.
- Creating links with other organisations eg. equipment supplier to get discounted equipment to use for sessions.

Challenges:

- All facilities used across the city are shut.
 - working with people with disabilities to get them back to the care / day centres before we can go and deliver.
 - People are desperate for us to get back in and we are very keen to get back but doors are still closed to the day and care centres at the moment.
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Mohamed Hagi - Dream Chasers and Olympia (Community Football Clubs)

- Similar situation to Jeevan – ventured on a partnership between two clubs to combine adults and children provision to increase opportunities for movement and progression from juniors to adult leagues. Hoping to enter into new leagues in the coming months.

Positives:

- Still got plenty of players and in regular contact with them.

Ideas and actions:

- Looking at introducing different elements to the club – around education and training for participants (FA quals).
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Callan Barber - Sense

Challenge:

- how do we reach the audience we want to reach when there's so much out there already in terms of online provision?

Positives:

- Online success and good reach to your audience goes down to the quality. There seemed to be a lot going out straight away almost the next day after lockdown was announced – Sense were a bit slow but it was needed to ensure our content was quality eg- including BSL.
- Doing consultation and then shaping ideas on what people suggested they wanted to see. Meeting the needs of you audience and then content may rise above what else is out there.