

Virtual Learning & Networking Session - Wednesday 29th July

Operating Safely: The Return to Sport and Physical Activity

Sport Birmingham Staff:

Amy Bird- Senior Partnerships Manager (Wellbeing)
Helen Corrigan- Senior Partnerships Manager (Community)
Alice Trevallion- Community Projects Manager
Sam Payne - Children and Young People Officer
Adam Warden - Workforce Development Manager
Tom McIntosh - Operations Director
Becks Byrne - Project Coordinator

Attendees:

Helen Mason - Freewheelin Dance
Steve Jewell - Ackers Adventure
Alex Pitts - British Blind Sport
Kirsty O'Shaughnessy - Lordswood Boys' School
Jaqui Bull - Aquarius - Steps to Change
William Chen - Chinese Community Centre Birmingham
Andy Craddock - Birmingham Wheelchair Basketball
Dionne Williams - Sutton Royals Netball Club
Phillip Heighway - University of Birmingham
Craig Corrigan - Sport 4 Life
Tracy Stevens - Fairfax Multi Academy Trust
Mohamed Mohamoud - Dream Chasers FC
Hannah Gavin - British Fencing

Guest speakers:

Rahib Rashid - Eidgah Academy CIC

- Very much focused on upkeep of communication with the community,
- Keeping cautious about not rushing a return to indoor activity taking place,
- Extremely responsive from the first point of lockdown, which helped in keeping good engagement - families certainly needing support and eager to find physical activity for all age groups - difficult at this point.

Murium Asim - Eidgah Academy CIC

- Based in Perry Barr
- 180-200 children engaged on daily basis
- After school club – including informal learning and teaching, activities, support with homework. Also have people from the community come in and talk to the children.
- Provide fitness and football sessions online.
- Now phasing return of football sessions to face-to-face with a small group.
 - Targeted at age 10 and above to start as they have more understanding of social distancing etc. 18 children and 4 volunteers socially distancing outside across the park. Looking to continue for the next 4-6 weeks and to review throughout..
- Phasing coming out of lockdown and looking to open the facility gradually – need to make sure the children have readjusted.
- Readjustment project – community garden, children come one family at a time. Aiming to help get people back out and back to normal.

- Creation of Women's online support group - Much needed as a result of lockdown and has been very popular.

Alex Gardener– RFU.

- Community Rugby Coach working across Birmingham.
- RFU “return to rugby road map” – <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:93c142b4-8eeb-46eb-a9ec-dc7db22f4519> - Community needed a different plan compared to elite rugby. Currently stuck at Stage B – being a contact sport, very difficult to social distance as contact is needed especially at scrum time.
- Clubs are allowed small exercise in groups of 6 and have these groups spread across the pitch - equipment can be shared within a group / not between them.
- Unsure of when the game will return and do not want participants to get bored with long blocks of fitness so looking at the possibility of touch rugby as it allows for “fleeting contact”.
- Facilities – clubs can now open their club houses as long as appropriate risk assessments are completed. Eg. one-way systems in buildings, sanitising stations.
- Sharing good models of practice and ideas between clubs.
- Clubs have been socialising on social media platforms – quizzes, end of season awards season.
- Now gym training and weight training can return, looking at using this in sessions.
- Looking to get an action plan and working more remotely with clubs.
- Launching CPD opportunities via webinar so staff are ready to get back to training eg. DBS, safeguarding etc.
- Some clubs have got a COVID-19 officer – dedicated to COVID-19 queries and to discuss ideas between clubs etc.

Matt Tew - Sports and facility manager at Billesley Tennis Centre, a Serco Leisure facility.

- Billesley Tennis Centre in Kings Heath
- All 10 venues across the city have been closed.
- Hit the business hard and also a big loss to the community. Focus on engaging the community and getting those back fit and healthy.
- 3 strand focus now – keeping engagement up with staff and partners, planning ahead and being prepared for opening - which came about at Billesley last Saturday (25th July)
- During lockdown they have kept up their connections with the local schools whom they worked with, but shifting their efforts to support and prepare the distribution of community boxes for families in need. - Along with Fareshare
- Challenges - losing workforce – lots of staff were self-employed. Looking to plan with them what the future looks like.
- Have been working closely with NGB's / UK Active.
- Prep for opening - Risk assessments of the venue – barriers, sanitising stations, one-way systems and how to make the building safe again. Using feedback from customers – learning as we go.
- Reinductions for every member of staff and all the new systems.
- Looking at a better way of working going forward.
- All venues are now operating and include a booking system.

Questions and further discussion notes:

U14 can't use a ball due to RFU guidance – has this changed due to COVID?

- Coaches should try to stick to these rules and regulations – give the children a break from traditional rugby training back to back for 12 months.
- Try to use different activities and be creative – eg. netball, handball etc

Getting in touch about school programmes?

- Projects are currently under review and discussions are happening about whether they will be able to be delivered in schools.
- Likely a reduction in coaches' presence in schools – but when schools allow visitors they will be back in. Individual schools may have a policy around visitors so will be on a case by case basis.
- Schools are a main area where participants are picked up especially for women and girls so it's important we can get back in.
- Sport Birmingham available to support in attempting comms with education facilities and aiding planning between activity deliverer and school

Opening schools to the community:

- Some schools are having to hold back on allowing external deliverers into their facilities - This is down to the individual school and Head Teacher and senior staff making those decisions as to what is safe for them and their school community.
 - Groups and deliverers who are looking to re-engage with schools would need to ensure guidelines or advice from the school facility are followed and clear risk assessments of activity followed out and provided.
 - Having such documents in place before approaching a school can strengthen the reassurance of safe delivery with the Head Teacher and school board.
- Ensure that groups and organisations follow the facilities guidance as they are trying to keep other users safe.

Online engagement:

- Noted that several organisations have had increased reach and engagement with online sessions and so will be continuing.
- This online provision may adapt from its lockdown model to respond to audience and changing landscape, along with new online options and virtual platforms.
- There is a want to do everything for everyone and provide as much as possible, but it is important to see what is needed most.
- Lots of learnings taken from the online provision and engagement including how to communicate more effectively with parents and participants.
- Some organisations have found that people have attended online sessions and not those that were running in person – important to think creatively about how we can continue to engage online.

Reduced space in facilities:

- Facilities now have new cleaning regimes and one way systems. Managing flows of people is complex in a small facility.
- Facilities now have reduced access to space and are asking clubs to think outside the box - how can you use outside space and how can you still use zoom to help with this.

- Exploring all options of outdoor training and activity whilst there are still so many restrictions in place.