Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide the committee with an update on progress within the disability programme and review some of the key aims set out in the recently completed National Development Strategy for Disability Football 2006-2010. A number of key issues have also been highlighted for the committee to consider.

Where are we now?

- Two part time regional disability coordinators (north and south split), following the division of the National Coordinator’s role for job share purposes.
- Eight pan-disability football clubs across Wales with approximately 267 children playing regular football in a club environment. Two specific partially sighted clubs with approximately 25 children attending. Ten Multi-sport clubs with 126 children that play football on a regular basis.
- We have worked with 30 Special schools/units to create extra-curricular playing opportunities, with in excess of 300 children receiving sessions. In addition there are 8 regular after-school clubs with 244 children participating.
- One annual national disability football tournament for community clubs, based at Aberystwyth.
- An annual programme of regional of secondary age school festivals, with approximately 500 children taking part in games. Primary school festivals to begin from September 2006.
- A dedicated programme for children with a visual impairment in partnership with the Royal National Institute for the Blind Soccer Sight Project – Swansea City VI, Cardiff Bluebirds and a further club under development targeting Anglesey and Gwynedd.
- FAW Footballers with a Disability Workshop – a three hour theory workshop helping to raise awareness of key issues when working with players that have a disability. The first sport specific disability coach education course in Wales.
- A National Disability Football Forum has been established.

National Disability Football Strategy 2006 – 2010 – Key Aims/Targets:
● Club Development – Create 22 pan disability football clubs across Wales for children Under 16 (one per local authority).
● School Development - Engage special schools/units to provide extra curricular opportunities for children to play football. Develop more inclusive provision through the School accreditation programme.
● Competition Structures – In consultation with the Area Associations and the WSFA create sanctioned competitions for clubs and special schools/units.
● Coach Education – Develop a three tiered coach education programme for coaches working within disability football.
● Communication – Improve communication between all key stakeholders involved with the development of disability football in Wales.

Key Issues

● Management of partnerships to ensure continued delivery of the disability programme.
● The practicality and logistics of developing competition and player development structures.
● Rules and regulations for disability football in Wales (age bands and mixed gender issues).
● National Squads – responsibility for squads and potential funding issues.

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