



## Ability vs Ability Paralympic Education Case Study

### Study Name: Newsome

#### Quotes

"It has been good to witness the increased awareness of the Paralympics amongst all schools. Both myself and SSCos have been involved in discussion with PLTs on how to promote the Paralympics in their schools. The assemblies delivered by a disabled Young Ambassador has ensured that a greater number of pupils have been informed and received information about the Paralympics."

*Linda Stacey PDM Newsome School Sport Partnership*

"We used boccia as a calm activity at lunchtime for some of our more vulnerable pupils, not all pupils like the physical contact in football and rugby."

*Mr A Kitterick - Nortonthorpe Hall School. (school for boys with emotional and behavioural problems)*

#### About the Partnership

- Partnership was established in 2002. Now includes 6 high schools, 2 middle schools, 3 special schools and 37 primary schools. There is mix of urban and rural schools as well as a first/middle school system running alongside a primary/secondary system. Primary schools vary in size from schools with less than 50 pupils to schools with over 500. There are several areas of deprivation within the partnership.

#### The challenge

##### What was the issue and how was this identified?

- Through discussions with the SSCos and PLTs lack of awareness of Paralympics was immediate problem – no knowledge of when they went ahead, the sports involved or any of the competitors.
- Lack of interest/motivation to use BPA resource *abilityvsability* despite presence of disabled students in partnership.

#### Meeting the challenge

##### What we did

- Audit of knowledge relating to the Paralympics held at one of the full Partnership days.
- PDM and inclusion SSCo had a meeting to decide on way forward.
- Decided to introduce a new Paralympic sport at each cluster meeting, to be followed up with offer of one of talented disabled athletes from high school going into either class or year assemblies.
- The first sport was boccia with Rachael (talented student who represented Yorkshire in the Nationals) was present to give first hand experience.
- We borrowed 2 sets of boccia balls from high school to use at partnership day and other schools used these sets for own boccia sessions.
- We used some of the BPA development grant to buy 7 sets of boccia balls from Davies Sports so we have them available for schools to use.
- At partnership day inclusion SSCo gave out copies of the rules, ideas, Tops cards etc. so they didn't necessarily need to play a full game.
- Inclusion SSCo delivered goalball and seated volleyball in the same way at cluster meetings. Currently in process of buying a couple of sets of soft touch volleyballs to be made available to schools.
- Whole partnership event always held in the summer term eg. World Cup football and rugby. All students take part at their own level – and 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games has created higher profile for paralympic sport.



## Impact

### The difference this has made

- When inclusion SSSCo first tried to get the Primary Paralympic Project (*abilityvsability*) into schools it failed, but now a few schools are considering adopting project based on their practical experiences.
- From knowing nothing about boccia, approximately 10 schools have borrowed equipment to date, more are waiting. We have reached approximately 600 children so far.
- The PLTs from 40 primary schools have had introductory training in boccia, goalball and seated volleyball, all sports that can be safely played in small halls.
- Involvement of Rachel has been valuable on personal and professional level – developed confidence and worked with 6 schools

### Why it worked

- Project has reached 40 PLTs at one go using the Partnership days.
- Moving from borrowed equipment to provision from BPA development funding has improved level of equipment to lend out to schools and covered photo-copying costs.