



Rochdale Borough Disability Sports and Leisure Forum

2008





About the Award

The Sporting Buddy Scheme is a new disability access accreditation scheme put together by the Rochdale Borough Disability Sports and Leisure Forum to assist and encourage sports and physical activity providers to be more accessible for disabled people.

There are already legal requirements for facilities to be accessible through the Disability Discrimination Act, but the Sporting Buddy Scheme will offer further assistance by providing close, individual support.

The award will be delivered in three stages Bronze, Silver and Gold. Bronze will be at an introductory level indicating that you are making efforts to be accessible. Silver demonstrates a progression towards being self sufficient in delivery of activities. Achieving Gold will demonstrate that you are self sufficient in both providing and encouraging use of your facilities by disabled people.

The scheme will have the unique benefit of having a Sporting Buddy Mentor appointed to each provider to take you through the scheme. There is also the possibility of financial support in achieving the awards.

The award is not a legal document or part of a national scheme but will integrate awards that are nationally recognised for example Moving and Handling or Disability Awareness Training delivered by National Governing Bodies. It is here purely to encourage and advise on access.

Benefits will be

- Improving the quality of lives of disabled people
- Increased usage of your facilities by disabled people
- Fulfilling requirements of grant linked initiatives
- Increased uptake of your activities leading to increased revenue
- Advice on grants available
- Improved chances of getting grants
- More diverse coaching abilities.
- Broaden your network
- Broaden your channels of support



The Pack includes

Going through the Award

Policies and Procedures

The syllabus Explanation

Procedure for achieving the award

Support Organisations

Going through the award.

To achieve the award you will get a pre booked visit from your Sporting Buddy Mentor who will go through the pack with you. The mentor will explain each element and outline where you can get assistance in achieving each element. Basically the mentor is there to give you lots of support and assistance.

Each service doing the scheme will be at different levels in terms of achieving it however each service will be given 6 months for the first award, 12 for the silver and 24 for the gold with a totalling 3 and half years. Time lines will not be strict. If consolidation time is needed between each award that is not a problem.

On achieving each award you will be presented with a certificate, which you can display on your premises. You will also go on to the RBDSLFL website approved providers list

Policies and Procedures

In addition to the syllabus we also have to run a check on other policies and procedures for example health and safety policies, constitution, first aid certificates. These are policies that are usually a requirement of being a club or activity provider. Again your mentor can advise you on these elements. There is lots of support available for either updating or putting these elements together, through Link4life, Council for Voluntary Service and Rochdale Gateway.