

Physical Activity & Sport for Young People

2013 to 2015

Recreation Week

Recreation Week is a joint initiative between the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and Local Authorities, and is aimed at young people aged 12 to 18 years. The overall purpose of the event is to highlight the importance of recreation for young people and to encourage an inter agency approach to achieving some of the main goals of the DCYA's National Recreation Policy.

Since 2013, Offaly Sports Partnership has secured funding from the Department to deliver physical activity and sport for teens as part of Recreation Week annually.

2013

Offaly Sports Partnership supported / facilitated the delivery of a range of physical activity and sport for young people programmes in the county including a ***12 bout boxing tournament*** for 24 participants.

2011 to 2015

Play Day

Play Day is the national day of play for preschool children hosted by Offaly County Council and the Offaly County Childcare Committee; and supported by Offaly Sports Partnership and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The Partnership has been involved in the delivery of Play Days, and typically provides mini sport activities as part of the Play Day programme. Almost 400 families have participated in Offaly's Play Days every year.

2011 to 2014

Community Games supports

From 2011 to 2014, five groups were supported: -

- Two to establish (Banagher and Killeigh);
- One to re-establish (Tullamore); and
- Two (Gracefield / Walsh Island and Portarlinton) in the delivery of their annual programmes. A number of the participants from the Gracefield / Walsh Island and Portarlinton Community Games areas have competed in the All Ireland Community Games athletics finals since 2012

In addition to the supports offered to groups, the following activities were also supported: -

1. A "Come Try Day" was held with the ultimate aim of this day being to encourage girls to participate in the range of sports tried on the day. 22 children / teenagers participated on the day, with three sports introduced (hockey, rounders and timber skittles).
2. *Community Games Futsal* was delivered in two primary schools and three after school settings in 2013 by our interns, and participants from our summer 2013 Community Coaching programme.
3. Initial meetings were held with Offaly Community Games with the intention of rolling out SPORTSHALL Athletics for u13s and u15s subject to a minimum number of areas participating. Unfortunately, due to poor uptake (only two areas), this programme has been deferred.

Summer camp supports

Since 2011, Offaly Sports Partnership has supported childcare services, clubs, community organisations and schools in the delivery of summer camps.

2011 & 2012

Shane Lowry Golf Tournament for Disadvantaged Young People

This programme was established to: -

1. Run a training programme in golf for disadvantaged teenagers in the county who have no prior background in the game, and
2. Link up golf clubs with youth organisations for delivery of the project

Shane Lowry, Irish Open winner 2009 permitted the Partnership to establish a perpetual trophy in his name for use in conjunction with this project similar to the way in which Pauline Curley lent her name to the annual Pauline Curley Relay Marathon for girls in post primary education. A working group was established to roll out this programme.

Six golf clubs and five projects (six teams) registered their interest in the project, and professional training in preparation for the Shane Lowry Tournament 2011 was offered. Attendance at training was near 100%.

18 young people from five youth projects competed in the inaugural Shane Lowry Golf for Disadvantaged Youth Projects in 2011. In respect of the Acorn Project, four young people continue to play golf weekly with one joining Highfield Golf Club; with feasibility issues in relation to the remaining three joining a club. In respect of the SUB project in Birr, two of the three participants continue to play with one joining the local club and receiving a set of new clubs for Christmas. Both young people are involved in peer mentoring, where they are training peers to compete in the 2012 competition. One of the participants has also gained work experience within the local club. In respect of Tullamore, while there is still interest in the game, no one has joined the local club to date.

A further nine young people from three youth projects participated in the tournament in 2012.