

# Chesterton SSCo/SEN Coordinator

## Identifying Gifted and Talented pupils with Special Educational Needs (2007)



### What we wanted to do:

We wanted to identify gifted and talented pupils from across ours and a neighbouring partnership, South Cambs, who had Special Educational Needs. We wanted to identify two strands of pupils, those with SEN where there are recognised development pathways and those with SEN where those pathways are yet to be developed.

We wanted to address this by offering a Talent ID day for pupils with a wide range of SEN. We then wanted to provide pathways for these youngsters to develop their sporting ability. We wanted to include local development officers and local clubs from the outset.

### How we did it:

We established a Cross Partnership Working Party at the outset in order to create a team of people with all the necessary knowledge and skills. This group consists of the SENCO from one partnership, two special school SSCo's (one from each partnership), a level 4 TA with responsibility for SEN Inclusion in PE from one partnership, and two Sports Development Officers with responsibility for disability sport, one from each SSP

We held a gifted and talented ID day.

We focused on three activities, Athletics, Rowing and Swimming.

We contacted all schools through SSCo's and PLT's inviting them to the day.

Each of the activities on the day was staffed by the local Development Officer, a SSCo who had completed the YST ID Training course, a local club representative and, in the case of swimming, the National Development Officer.

All pupils were monitored by club coaches and Development Officers, as well as SSP personnel.

Staff had been identified to accompany pupils where necessary to both the ID Day and to subsequent coaching sessions.

Funding has been allocated in one case to support travel costs to and from the coaching sessions.



### The difference it made:

From the day 16 pupils have been identified and support programmes have begun to be put into place.

Rowing – 8 pupils identified. These pupils will now be attending the local rowing club in Cambridge, having their own discrete sessions initially. The Amateur Rowing Association sent their National Adaptive Rowing Co-ordinator to meet the personnel involved with a view to assisting the creation of a Centre of Excellence in Cambridge for Adaptive Rowing. The focus will not just be on functionally disabled performers, but also young people with other SEN. We are awaiting the decision.

Athletics – 4 pupils identified. These pupils will now be attending the local athletics club, Cambridge & Coleridge.

Swimming – 4 pupils identified. These pupils will now be attending the local swimming club, through the provision pathway provided by the City Council

All youngsters have received a big boost to self confidence as they are being given the opportunity to succeed in a safe and secure environment.

One youngster in particular is working very hard to control behaviour in school so that he is allowed to attend the rowing sessions

A second mainstream specific Identification Day will be held before Easter, to identify further youngsters, particularly from the primary sector.

### Critical Factors in why it worked:

The creation of the Working Party allowed the whole process of organising the day to run smoothly. It also ensured that we had representatives from both partnerships so that both sets of interests were catered for.

Liaison with Development Officers and local clubs was again fundamental to the success to ensure that we had the necessary links with clubs and coaches following the ID Day.

Close communication between key members of staff from the two partnerships.

The willingness of individuals to take responsibility for their area of expertise was also a factor