

Catherine Watson - My week

Development Officer
County Durham Sport

"I support clubs and coaches to improve the quality of sports provision across the county. This can involve organising generic courses and club support evenings covering topics such as funding, Clubmark and volunteer recruitment. I also support the delivery of sports activities for 16-19 year olds aimed at increasing the number of people participating"

Monday

Today I am spending the day completing a number of resources for clubs that will be placed on the **County Durham Sport website**.

The first of these resources is a club welcome pack template. When new members join a club, there is a lot of information they need to know about, such as coaches' contact details, codes of conduct. The welcome pack template will allow clubs to provide all of this information in one place.

The second resource is a funding guidance document. This document will provide clubs with information on funding organisations as well as hints and tips on how to complete funding application forms.

Tuesday

For the past 2-3 years, County Durham Sport has been running a Workforce Development programme and more recently was involved in the Recruit into Coaching programme. Both programmes allowed new and existing coaches and volunteers to gain coaching qualifications, with the aim of improving the quality of activity delivered across the county.

Today I am compiling a report on the two programmes which will include information on how many coaches received qualifications, which sports they received their qualifications in, where they are coaching and whether they would like to gain any further qualifications if money became available in the future.

Wednesday

Today I have a meeting with the Angling Development Board and Wheatley Hill Angling Club. Working for a County Sports Partnership means working with various organisations to support clubs and coaches. In this case we are working with the National Governing Body for angling to help Wheatley Hill Angling Club to achieve Clubmark.

Clubmark is an accreditation scheme that recognises a club as being safe and effective at delivering high quality activities to juniors. Accredited clubs must be able to demonstrate they have a number of policies and procedures in place such as equity and child protection policies. The club also needs to evidence the use of appropriately qualified coaches.

Thursday

We have a County Durham Sport core team meeting today. These meetings take place once a month where the team come together to discuss the progress made on work areas from the previous month. This month, I am delivering a presentation on the **Unlimited Combat programme**. This programme involved getting 16-19 year olds who wouldn't normally take part in sport or physical activity to try something new. After the success of this project, we are hoping to deliver something similar in the future, so I am looking to discuss some new ideas during this meeting.

Friday

I am spending the day organising Sport Unlimited club visits today. The Sport Unlimited programme provides funding for the delivery of sport and physical activity to 5-19 year olds in County Durham. The children and young people involved had the opportunity to take part in 10 weeks of activity in an after school club. If the children and young people wanted to continue taking part they were invited to attend their local club.

At County Durham Sport we try to visit all of the clubs involved to ensure they have all the suitable policies and procedures in place to deliver high quality activity in a safe manner. During these visits we run through a check list including questions about whether the coaches have the appropriate qualifications and whether there is safeguarding policy in place.

Get in touch!

Call 0191 372 9120

Email catherine.watson@durham.gov.uk