



2019-20 Annual Report

Showcasing the work of Active Schools
and other sections of the Shetland Island
Council's Sport and Leisure Service

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Foreword

Hello and welcome to our Annual Report sharing details of the work undertaken by the Sport and Leisure team at Shetland Islands Council. It goes without saying this has been a challenging year in unprecedented circumstances but our team has rallied together and kept busy during the pandemic situation.

Despite an unfortunate early end to our academic year, our comparisons based on August to March for the last two years demonstrate that we have increased the number of pupils accessing opportunities. We have also increased the number of volunteers and local sports clubs that are working with us.

We are also proud to highlight several new projects and initiatives that have been developed by our team this year, including the Y LEAD event for S3/4 pupils, trialling new leadership programmes for upper primary, a new Primary Football League, paralympic sport 'boccia' being added to our competition calendar, a series of local badminton festivals to expand recreational opportunities for juniors, a dance leadership week of training for potential young dance instructors and a conference focused on Changing Lives Through Sport.

Our Sports Development Officer has also organised a series of learning opportunities for local sports coaches and volunteers, including a popular Sport Specific First Aid course. He has also been working with our funder and support network at sportscotland to develop a local Performance Development Programme tailored to the needs of aspiring performance athletes in our isles.

We are grateful to the plethora of clubs, agencies, organisations, parents, schools and other council departments which continue to work with us and enable us to engage with people of all ages and abilities across Shetland. We remain committed to the Active Shetland Sport Strategy vision to make Shetland "the most active community in Scotland".

We wish everyone the very best during these challenging times.

Louise Johnson, Active Schools Manager

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Active Schools in statistics

Active Schools Coordinators submit data to sportscotland three times a year (in December, April and July). We have combined the statistics for Terms 1 and 2 for the current and previous annual year for comparison. With many activities being cancelled following the announcement of the first covid-19 cases in Shetland in early March, there were less weeks of activity in Term 2 in the current academic year than the year before.

Participants

1333

2019

1517

2020

The number of individual participants increased this year compared to last, and the percentage of school pupils engaging with Active Schools increased from 41% to 46%.

Participant Sessions

34886

2019

32521

2020

The number (of participants multiplied by the number of attendances) is understandably lower this year as the last 2-3 weeks of activities in Term 2 were cancelled due to covid.

Deliverers

132

2019

177

2020

The number of deliverers increased this year, as well as the percentage who are volunteers (from 91% to 93%). There was also an increase in the number of qualified deliverers from 39 to 60, and the number of secondary pupils delivering activities rose from 25 to 34.

School Club Links

397

2019

404

2020

The number of school to club links increased on the previous year, and this also reflects both an increase in the number of schools having a connection with at least one sport club, and the number of clubs engaging with pupils via Active Schools.

National feedback

Sportscotland carried out a schools survey (between December and March) to demonstrate progress being made on achieving the outcomes in the Scottish Government's 'Active Scotland Outcomes Framework'. 9000 responses were received from primary and secondary schools across the 10 local authority areas selected to participate. 44% of pupils stated that they would be less active without the input of Active Schools. 94% of pupils said that doing sport and physical activity with Active Schools made them want to keep doing activity when they are older. The infographic below details pupil responses to how activity makes them feel.

**WE SUPPORT WELLBEING AND
RESILIENCE IN COMMUNITIES
THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
AND SPORT**



**SCHOOLS &
EDUCATION
2019-20**



97%

of pupils feel
healthier



82%

of pupils have
made friends



85%

of pupils feel
included



80%

of pupils feel
interested



88%

of pupils feel
happier

School Sport Competition



With the outbreak of covid-19 many of our inter-school competitions were cancelled this year. Before schools closed, secondary competitions took place in Football, Netball and Badminton.

Secondary Football
Total Participants: **111**
Winners: **North Isles**

Secondary Netball
Total Participants: **96**
Winners: **AHS Aces**

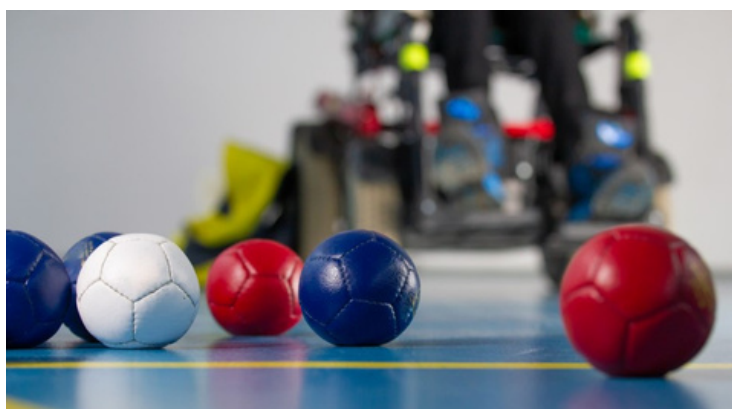
Secondary Badminton
Total Participants: **18**
Team Winners: **AHS**



Boccia Bonanza

Active Schools worked in partnership with Shetland Sport For All to introduce a Boccia Festival. Boccia is a Paralympic sport which is similar to bowls. Pupils from Bells Brae, Sound and Brae Primaries attended organised lunchtime sessions leading up to the event, which was led by PE teachers and other school staff. 41 pupils attended the lunchtime sessions, and 13 were selected to attend the Boccia Festival. The event was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff.

"This is the first sporting event my son has been selected to attend. He is so happy to be taking part and has been talking about it all week." Parent



School Sport Competition

Primary Football League

Our first Primary Football League took place over the winter. 12 schools participated (15 teams) and were split into 2 leagues. The top 4 teams from the leagues were due to compete in the finals, which are delayed due to covid-19. A range of schools took part, from North Roe with its school roll of 14 pupils to Sound Primary with 270.



Support from teachers, schools staff and parents was key to making the first year of the Primary Football League a success.

Primary Netball League



The popular Primary Netball League began with 16 teams from across the isles, split into North/South leagues. The top 2 teams from both leagues (Dunrossness, Baltasound, Sound Blue and Whiteness) were due to play in the finals which are delayed due to covid-19. Whalsay 2 collected the most points to win the Sportsmanship Trophy.

**13
schools**

**175
pupils**

**29
volunteers**

Scottish Schools Competitions

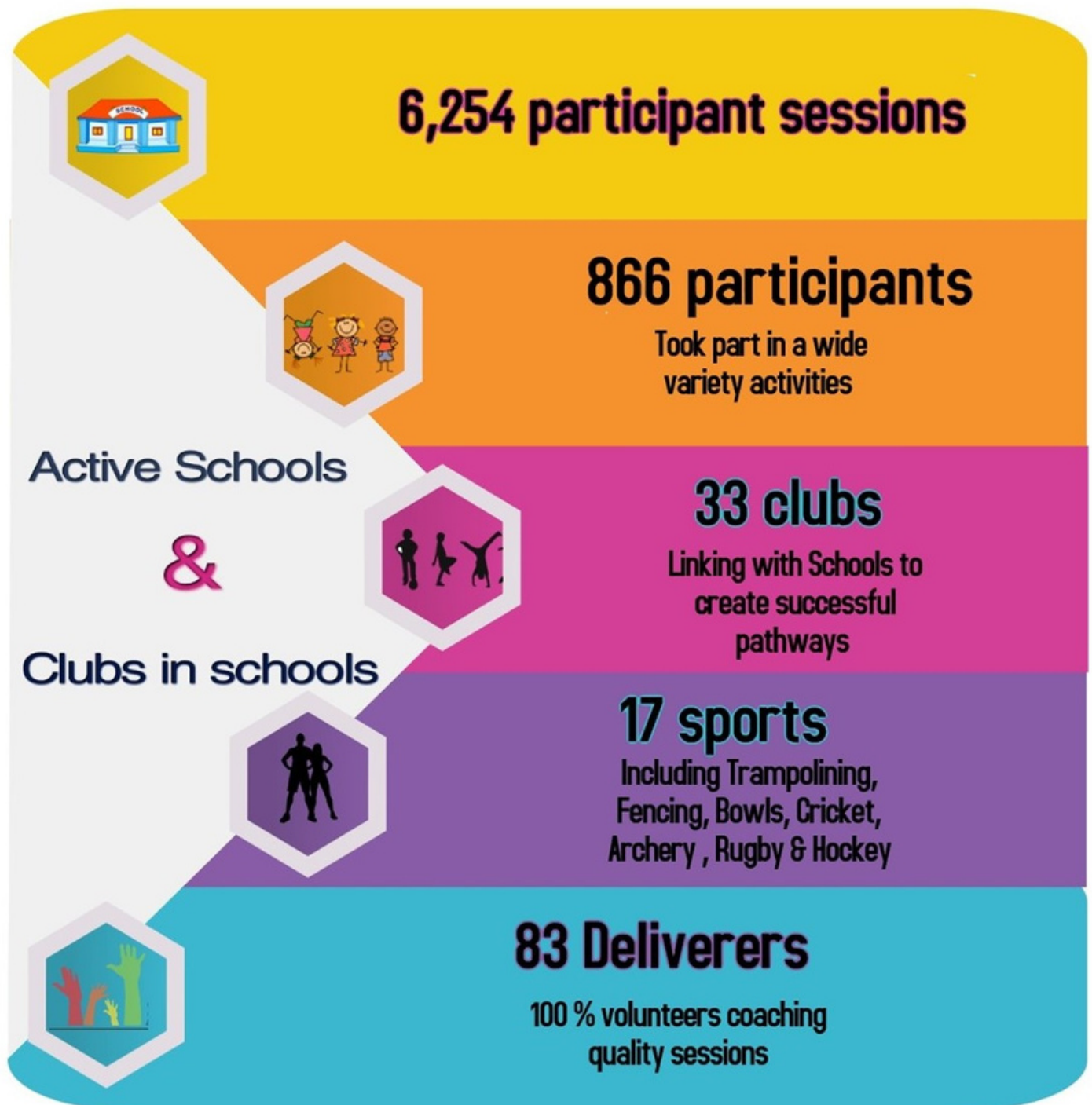


This year Shetland was represented at off-island school competitions in netball, badminton and football. 4 badminton players qualified for the Scottish Schools Badminton Championships, with Ruth Anderson winning the singles plate, and James Smith and Keegan Brown winning the boys doubles plate.

The AHS netball team qualified for the silver section of the Scottish Schools Netball Competition and made it to round 4, narrowly missing out on the quarter finals. The AHS football team made it to the finals of the Gerrard Cup and were due to play Cults Academy but this was cancelled due to covid-19.

Working with Sport Clubs

This infographic gives a statistical insight into the numbers of pupils and clubs connected through our school to club links. The figures below include activities that happened both within and outwith curriculum time that were led by members of our local sport clubs.



Working with Sport Clubs

South Mainland Come & Try

This year saw the return of the popular Come and Try Club for South Mainland Schools. A 5 week block was organised for P2-4 pupils and P5-7 pupils. Each week there was a different activity on offer for the kids to come along and try, these were: Hockey, Netball, Generation Pound, Basketball and Rugby. The sessions were delivered by club coaches and supported by parent volunteers.



35 pupils
7 voluntary coaches
6 parent volunteers

Carpet Bowling in Schools



Bowling sessions continued this year with volunteer coaches visiting schools throughout Shetland between September and March. They secured funding from Specsavers to cover the cost of mileage and ferries. The Top School Bowls Competition usually takes place in late March, where teams of 4 pupils compete for the Top School title. However, this years event was cancelled due to covid-19.

19 schools

302 pupils

Shetland Rugby Club and Calcutta Cup visit

Scottish Rugby Union visited the isles with the Calcutta cup after Scotland retained the silverware following a draw against England in the 6 Nations .

SRU rep Tavish Scott took the Cup to Shetland and visited schools with the Shetland Rugby Club who delivered fun sessions to pupils, followed by some questions about the Cup. The Shetland Rugby Club also ran an open day for families at the weekend where 150 people came along to get their picture taken with the famous Cup and enjoy some tea and cake.



Working with Sport Clubs

Smash In Festivals

The idea of Smash In Festivals came from discussions at various Community Sports Hub meetings, where it was a recurring issue that there were not enough opportunities for recreational and fun ways for juniors to play badminton with their peers. A series of Smash In Festivals were set up across Shetland with Active Schools working alongside local badminton clubs to promote the festivals, and local club coaches leading the sessions with Active Schools support.

4 festivals

53 pupils

7 club volunteers



Friday Football in Unst

Following last year's success, Friday Football at Baltasound JHS was again delivered by Unst FC coaches during the winter. The shorter school day on a Friday enabled 2 sessions to run immediately after school for nursery through to S2, with a 3rd session in the evening for S3+ to play alongside the seniors.

The popularity of these sessions has increased the interest in volunteering within the club, and fifteen new coaches are now planning to complete the Early Touches coaching course.



35 pupils took part



Leadership and Young People

Playmakers and Go Lead!

Some Coordinators have been trialling new leadership programmes for our upper primary pupils in place of Young Leaders.

Both programmes have worked well and proved popular. In the remote Westside primaries, the PE teacher supported delivery of 'Go Lead!' and subsequent sessions led by pupils during break and lunch times.



**172 pupils took part in Playmakers
32 pupils took part in Go Lead!**

Young Ambassadors

**All 7 secondary
schools participate
in the programme**



Young Ambassadors are secondary pupils who inspire and motivate others to get involved in sport. They promote opportunities and local clubs, and run activities and tournaments in their school. Two pupils from each school and their mentor attend the regional conference in Aberdeen each year, and all local Young Ambassadors are invited to a conference in Lerwick, where they get to meet Ambassadors from other schools and share ideas and successes.

Leaders in Primary

Leaders in Primary is a programme that gives S6 pupils a weekly opportunity to gain experience working in a primary classroom from September to March. They assist the teacher in supervising and sometimes delivering parts of the lessons as they grow in confidence. This year we had 9 pupils from AHS who completed an induction and were deployed in local primary schools. The feedback was very positive from the pupils who all said they found the experience invaluable.



**"I am really enjoying it and
getting so much experience
from it!" S6 Pupil**

Leadership and Young People

Dance Leadership

This year, Active Schools funded and coordinated YDance tutor Kelly to deliver an SCQF Level 4 in Dance Leadership. The course ran over 4 days where the group identified the skills and behaviours needed to be successful dance leaders, and learned how to plan and deliver their own dance activities.

Girls aged 13-17 from across Shetland completed the course with a 100% pass rate. The girls received their certificates qualifying them to lead dance activities in supervised situations.



10 girls took part from 3 secondary schools



Y LEAD

A new 2-day event for S3/4 pupils was organised and run by the Sport & Leisure team. Y LEAD, which stands for 'Youth Leadership, Exploration and Development', focused on developing key skills for life, enhancing confidence and self esteem, gaining qualifications and experience, and improving mental wellbeing. A choice of workshops were delivered by both locals and visitors, including specific sports leadership, first aid, confidence building, team challenges, disability inclusion and an inspiring film among others. The event was opened by motivational speaker and award-winning youth rights campaigner John Loughton. Feedback was very positive with surveys demonstrating that pupils had increased their skills, confidence and self esteem.



25 workshops
104 pupils



Changing Lives Through Sport

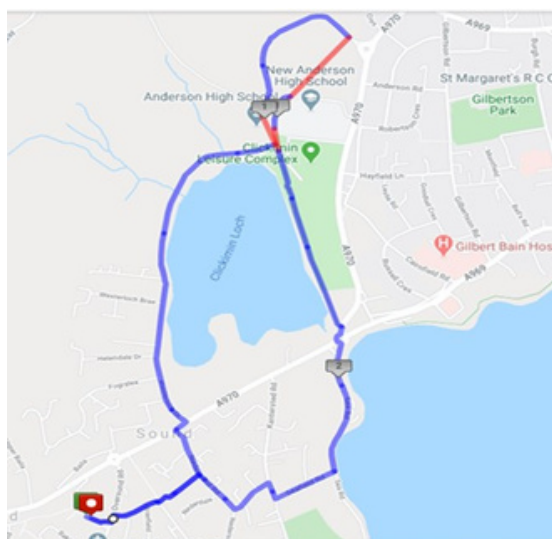
Social Fitness

Social Fitness was delivered in conjunction with staff from Educational Psychological Services to aid the transition of pupils moving from small primary schools in North, West and Central Mainland to the larger secondaries. The sessions encourage development of social and communication skills through group work and physical activities. A request has been received for an intensive P6 Social Fitness block to help some complex transitions, which is an indication that not only the programme is working well, but teachers and schools value its impact.



100% of pupils said they feel more confident about moving to secondary

Walk the Gap at Sound



Walk the gap is an intergenerational project that aims to bring people in the Lerwick community together while being active. The project partnered with NHS to utilise their Senior Walking group to create 4 walks in and around the Sound Primary school area. Plans have been put in place to introduce groups of 10 pupils to 50 min walks in their local area so that they can in turn introduce them to their families. The group is lead by qualified walk leaders and a further 8 members of the local NHS walking group. Active Schools has also developed a booklet of the walks.

Chatterbox

Each year as a community and leadership programme, Scalloway Primary School P7 pupils visit the Walter and Joan Gray Care Home to run weekly activities for the residents and day care group. The P7 pupils lead a warm up of chair exercises followed by group games. The session finishes with a discussion topic or bingo with juice and biscuits.

**18
pupils**

**15
care home
users**



Changing Lives Through Sport

Swim Skills

Active Schools has offered extra swimming lessons to P6 and P7 pupils to help them achieve their 'Triple S' (Scotland's Safe Swimmer standard) and develop water confidence before leaving primary school. Sessions are either for small groups of up to 6 pupils or on a one-to-one basis if needed. Funding has been secured from Tesco Bags of Help to cover the costs. Some schools had their sessions cancelled due to covid-19, but 30 pupils managed to complete their lessons before the schools closed.



30 pupils took part

**24 passed
their 'SSS'**

Changing Lives Through Sport Conference

In line with Sportscotland's vision of "Sport for Change", an approach has been introduced called "Changing Lives Through Sport" (CLTS), with the aim of using sport and physical activity as a driver to achieve positive individual and community change. Three of the Sport and Leisure team have trained as 'Champions' of the approach, equipping them to promote the message to local organisations and clubs. The Sport & Leisure team organised a Shetland-wide conference where many agencies including NHS, Social Work, SRT, local clubs and charity reps along with many more came along to learn about the approach and engage in discussion and idea building. The conference was delivered by Simon Turner from Changemakers and Pam Dewar from Sportscotland. The champions also delivered a workshop on "sport for change" and introduced the CLTS approach to coaches within rugby, netball, squash, badminton and football. The champions intend to continue regular delivery to clubs and community groups in the future.



Changing Lives Through Sport

Free Choice Fridays

Building on last year's success, Cashback funding supported Friday squash and other activities for 12 AHS pupils through the Support for Learning Department. Confidence & commitment has grown - from not wanting to participate in any organised activity at the start, to completing a coasteering day and trying the climbing wall - the latter was enjoyed so much that one boy and his dad have even joined the climbing club! Feedback has been really encouraging, and the pupils involved have developed positive relationships with members of Shetland Squash Club, Neighbourhood Support, Sport & Leisure and AHS staff.



Festival of Care

Shetland's first ever 'Festival of Care' was a 4-day event for care experienced children and young people which took place in November. Sport and Physical Activity Officer Lesley Spence was asked by the organisers to help co-ordinate the event's finale. Working alongside staff from Social Work, the Anti-Social Behaviour team and young people via #Shetland Crew, she helped to set up an event to bring together adults and children involved in care for a fun afternoon, in a relaxing and informal setting to encourage socialising. A wide range of activities were available including badminton, trampolining, swimming, pre-school soft play, climbing wall and Y-Pound Fitness. All activities were well attended by families, young people, carers and support staff, and each individual tried at least one activity. Many of the young people sampled every activity that was on offer! The event was hailed a great success with feedback from all involved being extremely positive. The organisers hope to deliver such an event again in the future.



Changing Lives Through Sport

60° North Youth Club

60° North Youth Club has continued over the winter months supported by Cashback funding which has covered staffing cost. Young people have had opportunities to enjoy a range of activities including pizza making, darts and games nights, and staff have developed great rapport with the young people aged between S1-3. There has also been engagement with Police Scotland and Neighbourhood Support staff. 60° North is run by Youth Services with support of Sport & Leisure Service.



**37 pupils
attended**

FAST

Cashback for Communities funding has been used to deliver 'FAST' sessions this year for 23 young people who were identified by local support agencies. FAST stands for Fitness, Attitude, Skills & Teamwork which are the themes of the sessions, which are designed and delivered by a professional steering group. This multi-agency working has been pivotal to the success of the programme. Specific thanks must go to Bridges, Neighbourhood Support and Through Care & Aftercare as well as staff from Anderson High School and Youth and Employability Service. Sessions were based around wellbeing, health and exercise, while providing an opportunity for the participants to talk to each other and support workers and make and eat food together. The young people have been fully engaged with the programme and regularly attended each week. They bonded well on fun days out to the West Mainland Leisure Centre, and many participants state that FAST is the activity they look forward to each week. For staff, the sessions provide a vital opportunity to improve engagement, coach life skills, and build confidence and motivation with the young people attending.



**"I like that it's very
social, you do
exercise and at the
end have food
together"** *Participant*



Changing Lives Through Sport

Sports Care Packages

During lockdown, our team became aware that many children in Shetland did not have access to toys and games to play with outdoors. We used some of our funding to pay for packages of equipment which we called 'sports care packages'. Social Work gave us the ages and genders of children and we created packages which the social workers distributed. The equipment was greatly appreciated.



"It is so nice to see their happy faces...they were so excited!"

Social Worker

19 families benefited

Dropbox Sportswear Recycling

Sport and Physical Activity Officer Lesley Spence coordinated another successful year of the Dropbox Sportswear Recycling Scheme. Shetland Recreational Trust kindly agreed to host the boxes at Leisure Centres all year round. Donations have been fantastic and the team blown away by the generosity of our locals. Donations were again very gratefully received from Intersport. Lesley is kept busy collecting donations, checking all clothing to ensure it is clean, and sorting donations into categories, gender and sizes. Lesley then sends emails to local contacts such as Social Work and other support services, who reply to give details of what is needed so that she can allocate accordingly. During Lockdown we have continued to support people with trainers, jogging bottoms, and other suitable leisure wear as required.



"I got trainers...and it has meant that I can now go out walking comfortably as I didn't have suitable footwear" *Recipient*

Clothing was donated to 55 individuals or families

Community Sports Hubs

We continue to have 9 successful Community Sports Hubs in Shetland, each led by a member of Sport and Leisure staff. CSHs bring together key local partners, clubs and volunteers with the aim of increasing opportunities in their local area.

Unst

This year the Unst CSH focused on setting up some new opportunities on the island. The Hub worked with SRT to set up trampolining sessions for primary pupils, which were very well attended and confirmed that this is a sport which could have better provision on the island. Unst Netball Club set up Walking Netball sessions with CSH funding enabling taster sessions to be offered for free. The activity has proved very popular. It was unfortunate that a small fun tournament planned for the end of March was postponed due to covid-19.



6 clubs engaged with CSH

Yell

Following on from the successful introduction of Peerie Netballers sessions last year, the Yell CSH helped the Junior Netball Club to purchase some age-appropriate equipment for these sessions. North Isles Junior Football Club were keen to pilot some joint training sessions over the winter which looked to bring players over from Unst to Yell to train. The CSH helped to support this through extra equipment for the increased numbers and towards the hall hire. These sessions have provided viable and the club is keen to take them on into the next season.



5 clubs engaged with CSH

Whalsay

Whalsay CSH has increased its membership this year, and has supported clubs with equipment, updates on coaching opportunities and general community discussions. The CSH supported the swimming club to relaunch their junior section by providing equipment, and the Netball Club to run a full day of fun sessions aimed at engaging with all ages from pre-school and up. Feedback was fantastic and the club developed "netbaa for aa" sessions, similar to Walking Netball, to encourage the community to get back into netball. This has been hugely popular and has even witnessed daughters, mothers and grandmothers all playing together.



7 clubs engaged with CSH

Community Sports Hubs

North Mainland

**5 clubs engaged
with CSH**

Last year, the North Mainland CSH organised the 'Come to Brae Days' event. There were Hockey, Football and Fencing opportunities alongside many other community-based events and attractions. The event raised over £3000 which was used to erect a Community Christmas tree in Brae, and will also contribute to the re-opening of the public toilets, an important community facility. The CSH plans to develop its work to increase the number of people participating regularly in physical activity in the area.



South Mainland

**6 clubs engaged
with CSH**

The meetings of the South Mainland CSH have been well attended. CSH funding was used to purchase equipment for the South Mainland Amateur Swimming Club, the Ness Badminton Club and Ness Senior and Junior Netball Clubs to enable the clubs to manage increasing participants. The hub funded 3 places on a 1.1 SFA coaching course for Ness FC to help meet the increasing membership demand. The hub has also supported the South Mainland Table Tennis club to become self-sufficient by covering some of their initial venue costs.



West Mainland

Throughout this year the CSH has supported clubs by purchasing a wide range of equipment to support development. This has ranged from radios for sailing clubs to balls and bibs for our football and netball clubs. The CSH worked in partnership with other swimming clubs and SRT to allow training to take place for coaching staff. This enabled the West Mainland Pool to open for early morning training sessions. The Hub also supported junior badminton development by hosting a 'Smash In' Festival, and promoted a traverse climbing training session to expand the availability of the climbing wall for locals.



**6 clubs engaged
with CSH**

Community Sports Hubs

Central Mainland

The central CSH is going from strength to strength with 9 clubs now involved. The group meets every few months to discuss how funding can best be spent to develop local opportunities. Discussions revolved around volunteer training, events and club development, and all clubs have benefited from being part of the hub. Some of the main developments includes work with Shetland Badminton to provide festival days, equipment to enhance the Scalloway Family Day and lots of free training for volunteers such as Keeping Adults and Children Safe.



9 clubs engaged with CSH

Lerwick

Over the past year there has been positive engagement with the Lerwick CSH. Hub funding has been used for equipment to enable expansion/development, for example new balls for Lerwick Junior Netball and shuttles for Lerwick Badminton Club. The hub has also supported the opportunity to access courses including Sports Specific First Aid. Hub Officer Jack Clubb attended a two-day residential in February which gave him a chance to share and hear ideas and good practice with other areas in Scotland.



6 clubs engaged with CSH

Shetland-wide Clubs

Similarly to the Lerwick hub, the Shetland CSH has really taken off since it became its own hub. We have had a variety of sports engage and there have been some valuable conversations across clubs and sports. The hub has funded equipment for development and hall hire for coach education, and supported a club to find a new space for training. The clubs have discussed a collaborative project to develop a new facility. It has been great to work with clubs during the pandemic and support them in their huge efforts to get restarted in difficult circumstances.



13 clubs engaged with CSH

Sports Development

Coach and Volunteer Education

Over the past year we have continued to work closely with sports and National Governing Bodies to provide on-island coach education opportunities. We really appreciate the commitment from our governing bodies to come to Shetland to deliver on-island education to coaches and volunteers. It is a major part of the great sporting culture we have on island and it helps the coaches and volunteers continue to deliver at the best level they can. This year the Scottish Football Association delivered a course to 25 coaches from 7 local football clubs (see image).

119 people from 6 different sports accessed coach education opportunities set up by Sport & Leisure



Safeguarding in Sport

We have delivered the newly updated Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport [CWPS] course to sports clubs and volunteers. Clubs have had the opportunity during lockdown to attend online courses run by sportscotland. Our Sport Development Officer, Jack Clubb, has almost completed his orientation as a tutor for CWPS. Over the past year we have also worked with Voluntary Action Shetland and National Governing Bodies to offer PVG [Protecting Vulnerable Groups] sessions for clubs in Shetland. This work has highlighted that our clubs are excellent and up to date with PVG checks, while allowing us to identify any gaps and where we can offer support.



29 people from 9 different sports have attended Safeguarding courses set up by Sport & Leisure

Athlete Travel Award Scheme

Year 2 of the Athlete Travel Award scheme came to a close in March 2020. It was great to see the eight athletes develop throughout the year and we would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to their sport and to the programme. We look forward to continuing to watch their development as athletes at home and on the mainland. Unfortunately year three of the scheme was due to begin in April 2020, however the ongoing situation with COVID-19 has put everything on hold. We were delighted to receive 15 applications across 6 different sports. We hope this scheme will recommence in 2021.



Year 2 ATAS athlete Finn Regan signing his contract with St Johnstone Football Club

Sports Development

Personal Development Programme - PDP

PDP is a programme set up by the Scottish Institute of Sport with the aim of helping island athletes take the next steps towards performance sport. Athletes have access to supervised Strength and Conditioning sessions, physiotherapy and educational workshops to help them understand what it takes to be a performance athlete. 4 of the athletes have also benefited from the Athlete Travel Award Scheme which provides them with a great platform to achieve locally and nationally. With 2 newly signed off PDP coaches, we are in a great position going forward to be able to deliver a strong support programme for our developing athletes.



PDP Athlete Lauren Sandison won bronze in the 200m butterfly at the 2019 Island Games

4 swimmers
2 netballers
1 badminton player
1 track and field athlete

Shetland Sport Awards 2019

The Shetland Sports Awards took place in November with members of the Sport and Leisure team playing a key role in supporting the event. Edward Oldbury won the main award for his achievements with the Scottish Volleyball team, notably at the European Championships. Katie Dinwoodie won the Young Sportsperson award for her gold medal in the 200m at the 2019 Island Games. The late John Nicolson received the Lifetime Endeavour award for his exceptional contribution to sport in Shetland over the years. We were delighted to welcome Dame Katherine Grainger, who did a Q&A on her career as well as presenting the main award.



Edward Oldbury receiving his Sportsperson Of The Year award from Dame Katherine Grainger

Shetland Sport For All

The group works with Scottish Disability Sport and others to provide improved sporting opportunities for people with disabilities. The group is volunteer-led which can be challenging when organising events, but the great success of the disability bike events are a real testament to the group's efforts. The group has created a sports development plan outlining their aims and objectives, and how they can be implemented, as well as working on a project to evidence the need for a Disability Sport worker in Shetland. Sports Development Officer and member of the group, Jack Clubb, sent out a survey to sports clubs which provided valuable information and clearly showed an appetite among local clubs to provide more opportunities for people with disabilities.



Lockdown Life!

The Sport and Physical Activity team have had to adapt almost all of their work during covid-19 and the lockdown period. With no school buildings, games halls, play parks or sports clubs open for many weeks, the team have had to be creative in the way we engage and motivate our service users and each other.

Our work has included making various short videos with fun challenges or information; staying in contact over various online e-communication platforms and engaging in online learning to help develop workplace knowledge and skills. We have used the opportunity to hold a series of Single Agenda Meetings (SAMs!) where we can focus on a particular outcome in our workplans or strategy, and develop ideas for moving forward. We have also held meetings with our counterparts in Orkney to share ideas.

Some members of the team spent time working in Essential Childcare for Key Workers' children during lockdown, and another of our team worked alongside Youth & Employability Services staff to support the foodbank once a week during times of unprecedented demand on their service.



**Active Schools Coordinator
Danny Peterson
demonstrating his skill in a
'Maradona 7' Challenge!**



Outdoor Education

Our Philosophy

"To offer young people and adults opportunities for personal challenge in the outdoors and an intimate appreciation of the wild landscape of Shetland"

Our Outdoor Education Officer, Pete Richardson, works alongside other qualified and experienced instructors to provide a range of outdoor adventurous activities for school pupils and youth and community groups. The aim is to connect them to one another and to the landscape through participating in various activities including Rock Wild, Hill Wild, Ocean Wild (Coasteering/Canoeing), and Woodland Wild Adventure Days in an atmosphere of fun.

Pete and his team also deliver the John Muir Award Scheme to pupils, which is an environmental award focused on wild places. It supports people to connect with, enjoy and care for nature, landscape, and the natural environment. It does this through a structured scheme where participants aim to meet four Challenges – Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share.

**970
outdoor
participant
sessions**



Facilities Management

Magnus Malcolmson and his team of staff have responsibility for the management of a wide range of leisure facilities, which include play areas, multi-courts, games halls, grass sports pitches, a bowling green, flower park and a 9-hole golf course.

Play Areas/Multicourts

71 Play areas and 15 multi-courts are located within communities the length of Shetland from Fair Isle to Haroldswick, Unst. The facilities are regularly inspected and maintained to a high standard and are available for use by all ages and abilities.



Games Halls

4 Games Halls are managed by the service: Gilbertson Park, Sandwick, Scalloway and Brae, and are used for sporting activities such as football, netball, badminton, archery and volleyball. Fitness classes, birthday parties, community events and festivals take place on a regular basis to help ensure these facilities remain central to the community.



30112 games hall users

Parks and Pitches

A small team of dedicated staff manage and maintain sports pitches within Lerwick, and also undertake specialist grounds maintenance works on rural football pitches. These facilities, in addition to a bowling green, flower park with tennis court and golf course at the Knab are all maintained to an excellent standard.



**18356
pitch users**



Above: a new contraption was added to the golf flag poles at the Knab to enable golfers to lift out golf balls without touching the poles during the pandemic.