



JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION:	Youth Development Officer
LOCATION:	Disability Sport NI, 189 Airport Road West, Belfast (with hybrid working).
REPORTS TO:	Inclusive Pathways Officer
SALARY:	NJC Pay Scale 6 Points 18 - 22 (£31,537 – £33,699 Under Review)
HOURS:	37.5 hours per week. Hours of work will be those necessary to carry out the full responsibilities of the post. Because of the nature of Disability Sport NI's work staff will be required to work unsociable hours on a regular basis. Time off in lieu will be allowed in respect of working unsociable hours.
DURATION:	Fixed term contract until 31st July 2032.

Background Information:

Disability Sport NI is the main disability sports charity in Northern Ireland working to improve the health and wellbeing of disabled people through sport and active recreation.

We believe that every disabled person has the right to participate in all aspects of life and are committed to building a more inclusive society where disabled people have the same opportunity as non-disabled people to lead a full, active and healthy lifestyle through sport and active recreation.

We work with people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities of all ages, and with schools, disability groups, sports clubs and District Councils to ensure that everyone can experience the social and health benefits of sport and active recreation.

We also work closely with Sport Northern Ireland and Governing Bodies of Sport to ensure that talented disabled sports people have the same opportunity as their non-disabled peers to train, compete and excel in their chosen sport on the world stage. This includes managing the development of the Paralympic sports of Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball in Northern Ireland.

From our experience over the last 25 years, we know that participation in sport and active recreation can and does improve the health and wellbeing of disabled people, so we aim each year to extend the benefits of our work to more disabled people in every area of Northern Ireland. The activities of our Youth Development Officer will be critically important in helping our charity achieve this aim.

Further information on the work of Disability Sport NI is available at www.dsni.co.uk

Job Purpose:

To deliver the Northern Ireland element of a new UK wide youth leadership and club development project, led by Access Sport and funded by the National Lottery.

This is an exciting opportunity to play a hands-on role in helping community sports clubs create meaningful opportunities for young disabled people to lead, shape, and influence the activities and communities they are part of.

This role sits within a new and evolving national approach to youth voice and youth leadership, designed to embed co-production and shared decision-making across community sport. You will work directly with local clubs to help them develop inclusive environments where young disabled people are supported to take on leadership roles, share their views, and progress into coaching, volunteering, advocacy and governance pathways.

The postholder will work closely with Access Sport's Youth Advisors and club volunteers and coaches to support the practical delivery of youth leadership activity. This will include club visits, helping organise local events, delivering training and ensuring disabled young people's voices are actively shaping practice at a local level.

This is a highly delivery-focused role, best suited to someone who enjoys being in community settings, building relationships, and supporting young people to take practical steps into leadership through sport.

Responsibilities:

Delivery and club development

- Work directly with community sports clubs to support the delivery of youth leadership and youth voice activity.
- Carry out regular club visits (including evenings and weekends) to build relationships and support ongoing delivery.
- Support clubs to embed youth voice into sessions, decision-making and wider club culture.

- Facilitate and support youth leadership workshops, sessions and activities with young people.
- Work alongside coaches and volunteers to help create inclusive environments where young people can lead and participate.
- Support the delivery of local events and youth leadership opportunities, including celebration and showcase activities.
- Help clubs identify and support young people into leadership pathways such as volunteering, coaching and peer support roles.

Youth engagement and support

- Build positive and trusted relationships with young people involved with community clubs.
- Work closely with our Youth Advisors to support youth-led delivery and ensure young people's voices are reflected in practice.
- Support young people to access leadership opportunities in inclusive and accessible ways.
- Gather informal feedback and insights from young people to inform learning and improvement.

Partnerships and local relationships

- Work closely with the Disability Sport NI team and Access Sport's Head of Youth and Youth Advisors and the wider project team across the UK to support consistent delivery, share learning and strengthen practice across local areas.
- Build strong relationships with clubs, schools, youth organisations and community partners in Northern Ireland.
- Support connections between clubs and wider local opportunities for young people.
- Represent Disability Sport NI in community settings in a professional, positive and engaging way.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Assist with the monitoring and evaluation requirements for the disability programme, using online monitoring platforms such as Upshot (training will be provided).
- Collect attendance registers from community clubs, coaches and volunteers.
- Help gather content for internal and external reporting purposes, including case studies, films, and news stories.

Other

To carry out any other duties commensurate with the grade and level of responsibility of the post.