

PPA and School Sport

Planning, Preparation & Assessment Time for Primary School Teachers

CASE STUDY - SOMERSET ACTIVITY & SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

BACKGROUND

The Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) is the County Sports Partnership for Somerset. It is hosted by the County Council, has strong links with those involved in educational services and has built up good relationships with many of the schools. Within its staff is an ex-Head of a primary school, who has worked in an advisory role and in sports development at local and national levels. SASP has been a national pilot for the Community Sports Coach Scheme and has designed training programmes for introducing the fundamental and multi skill principles in schools.

At the beginning of this year SASP had a well established Community Sports Coach Scheme, a programme to train them as Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches and strong credibility with primary schools. When PPA came on the agenda and schools started contacting SASP for help and advice, the Partnership was geared up and able to respond.

Following a successful pilot, SASP launched its Specialist Primary Scheme in September 2005, which has attracted much interest from schools and now reaches 35,000 young people every week.

VISION

SASP has a dual vision for PE and school sport:

- To raise standards throughout schools
- To professionalise coaching and build a career structure for coaches in schools.

PRINCIPLES

Only Community Sports Coaches who meet the minimum operating standards are recruited to be trained and deployed in schools as Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches.

Underpinning the scheme are six principles:

- A title that conveys specialist competencies in PE, sport and education (which reflect the core competencies required)
- A selection process which assesses against the core competencies and satisfies the minimum operating standards
- A code of conduct signed by all

"Working closely with our colleagues in the three School Sports Coordinator schemes we have been able to respond to the needs of Somerset schools. We're making a positive impact on the 35,000 young people involved and already have evidence of raising standards across the PE and sport curriculum. It is also enabling us to professionalise coaching and open up career pathways as well as providing full time opportunities to well qualified and motivated sports coaches. It's fantastic...it's what we've been dreaming of for years!"

Joy Morton
SASP PE & Sport in Schools Manager

- Compulsory continuous professional training for coaches
- Built in support and quality control processes.

RECRUITMENT

All of the Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches are employed by the County Council and recruited in accordance with selection procedures. The posts are graded on a similar starting salary as teachers (£20,900 - £24,000) to attract high calibre professionals. All have access to the local government pension scheme.

To fulfil the minimum operating standards candidates:

Must Have

- An academic background (equivalent to degree level; most are graduates)
- Level 2 or 3 Governing Body Award
- Minimum 3 years experience of active coaching
- Attended scUK courses:
 - Good Practice and Child Protection
 - Working with Children and Young People
 - Coaching Disabled Performers
- Strong personal skills
- Wider community experience.

Should Preferably Have

- Professional qualification (PGCE/Cert Ed.)
- Tutoring qualification (experience of working with adults).

Must Commit To

- Full County Enhanced CRB check
- 3 Core Modules (12 hours)
 - Child Development
 - Fundamental Movement
 - Multi Skills and LTAD
- Working in Schools (inc. National Curriculum)
- CPD Programme
 - Coach Profile
 - scUK Analysing Your Coaching Workshop
 - SASP Child Protection Policy training
 - GAP Analysis
 - Personal Development Plan
 - Having a mentor and being a mentor.

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INDUCTION TRAINING AND SUPPORT

All coaches undertake two days of basic training covering:

- Fundamentals and multi skills
- Child development
- Working in schools and structures
- Behaviour management
- National curriculum requirements
- Child protection and first aid
- Baalpe regulations and safety standards.

Coaches also receive additional and ongoing training on schemes of work. The SASP Senior Support Coaches (all with an education background) and representatives from the three Somerset Schools Sport Coordinator schemes have drawn up a Somerset scheme of work consisting of 12 lesson plans for each year group for multi-skills, gymnastics and dance. outdoor adventurous activities and athletics thus ensuring that all areas of the curriculum are covered.

All coaches have nine additional days of continuous professional development based on their individual development needs.

Before going into schools, newly recruited and trained coaches work alongside an experienced Somerset Specialist Primary Coach for six weeks. When they take over the lessons they are supported by a buddy and an experienced mentor. Each has a personal appraisal every three months.

PROGRAMME

During term time schools have to commit to a minimum three hour session to make it cost and time effective for the coaches (given the rural nature of the county). Sessions can be morning or afternoon. The afternoon sessions comprise two hours of curriculum and at least one hour extra curriculum. The after school sessions can either be multi skills or sport specific. At the end of the day, the school receives a photocopy of the lesson plan with an evaluation report to track progress and learning objectives.

During last autumn's half term, SASP ran multi skill camps involving years 4, 5 and 6 on all of the secondary school sites promoted by the Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches and School Sports Coordinators. They took place over three days, offered multi skills and sport specific opportunities in 6-12 sports depending on the age of the participants. Their purpose was to build on the primary school programmes, to give the young people the opportunity of using their multi-skills in a multi-sport setting and also to experience the secondary school setting.

The coaches are working with the PE co-ordinators in each school to identify up to 1000 Gifted and Talented Year 5 and 6 youngsters to attend a two day festival at Millfield School in July 2006. From this 150 will be invited to monthly multi-skill academies. These youngsters will be supported and linked to the most appropriate sports as part of the KS3 Gifted and Talented programme.

A senior occupational therapist from the Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust is seconded for a day a week to the programme. Schools are invited to identify key stage 1 pupils who are experiencing coordination problems for assessment (with parental consent) by the occupational therapist during a SASP led lesson. The occupational therapist offers suggestions for suitable activities to be included in the PE / sport lessons to the parent, school and Somerset Specialist Primary Coach. Children with more severe problems can be fast tracked for an individual occupational therapist assessment.

SCALE

A pilot programme took place after Easter 2005 and the current programme was introduced to schools from September 2005. From the outset demand was very high. The programme now involves:

- Over 55 Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches (five to cover illness or holidays)
- 3 Senior Support Coaches who support the programme delivery
- 123 primary schools (out of 250 schools - 52%)
- 4 special schools
- 21 secondary schools (out of hours learning)
- 95 after school clubs in primary schools each week
- 600 teachers have received individual professional PE curriculum support
- Over 35,000 children are involved each week.

All Head Teachers are e-mailed for their views and all schools are visited every half term. 98% of schools have confirmed they are happy with the scheme. A programme administrator has been employed to look after the logistics of deployment, support and quality control.

FUNDING

Funding comes from a variety of sources:

- £30k from PESSCL funding
- £500k income generated by schools (£15 per hour)
- £140k from the DCMS (CSCS)
- £69k from the DfES (CSCS)
- £25k from three Specialist Sports Colleges (NOFF)
- £30k from one Specialist Sports College (for training primary teachers - a programme which enables experienced Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches to work alongside school staff – covering all 44 schools)
- £6k NGB PESSCL - squash and table tennis
- £70k from the CPD programme for teachers including income generated (experienced specialists involved in tutoring).

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SOMERSET

IMPACT

Headline achievements include:

- 82% of schools have two hours or more quality PE each week
- In the first 6 six weeks of the programme four Somerset Specialist Primary Coaches received very positive OFSTED reports
- Early perceptions would suggest that there are more consistencies between programmes of learning and activities for young people in schools and in clubs leading to a more integrated player pathway over time.
- Better links are developing between schools, clubs and communities because of the new relationships being formed and the contacts being made by the many different people involved in the programme
- Higher coaching standards are attained by those involved in the programme
- Five coaches successfully gaining NGB tutor awards.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The focus for the immediate future is to consolidate and ensure consistent high quality delivery across all areas and in all sports. Proposals being considered include:

- Linking into the Gifted and Talented programme
- Building on the CPD programme to offer a distance learning / part time package for coaches wanting to take a PGCE qualification (as an opportunity for career progression and to be able to gain similar work opportunities if the coach moves away from Somerset)
- Moving towards long term sustainability.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact SASP on 01823 447128



It's fantastic to see the reaction and development of those children who experience this approach for the first time.
Matthew Nolan, SASP Community Coach



"Best P.E. lesson I have seen in 15 years of teaching"
PE Co-ordinator to Sarah Lawler



Excellent session delivered with sustainable outcomes and superb group control.
Ofsted inspector – St Joseph's Bridgwater,