



ENGLAND FOOTBALL COUNTY FA AWARD NOMINATION



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

**CEREBRAL PALSY AND
FRAME FOOTBALL**

LINCOLNSHIRE FA



WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

The COVID-19 Pandemic had a massive impact on football, reducing the number of opportunities across all pathways. However, the pandemic disproportionately impacted the disability community. This meant that disability football opportunities in Lincolnshire had reduced drastically compared to pre-pandemic levels.

During mapping of current impairment-specific provision in Lincolnshire, it was identified that there was a lack of Cerebral Palsy specific sport in Lincolnshire. This was especially true for football. With this in mind we contacted CP Sport to discuss the opportunity to develop CP Football in Lincolnshire and provide an impairment specific opportunity for those in the county.

The focus was to develop a CP and frame football recreational offer for youth players.

HOW WOULD WE SOLVE IT?

Lincolnshire is largely rural with pockets of urbanisation and a very low population density, and as it is the second largest county in the country by area, developing football opportunities that are accessible is a regular challenge. To overcome this, we agreed to develop two opportunities in the county - one covering northern areas of the county, and one covering southern areas – for those aged 5-15.

Utilising local knowledge of the disability football landscape to identify the clubs that could drive CP football and make this project a success, Sleaford Town and Barton Inclusive were engaged to deliver with us. The physiotherapy network was utilised to consult with and to support in the promotion of sessions, directly communicating the details of sessions to users of their service. The physiotherapists also attended the first few sessions, easing any anxieties of the players and offering advice and support where necessary. This collaborative approach with the physiotherapist network was a huge success.



WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

This project was a tremendous success with 12 players attending the first session in Barton-upon-Humber (9 of these were frame users) and 6 attending the first session in Sleaford. This has since grown, with many players becoming consistent attendees.

Testimonies from parents include:

"I never thought I'd be a football mum!"

"My child is able to see other children just like him and not feel like he is different."

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

The County FA's objective is to maintain these sessions into 2022/23 and support them to grow further. Discussions have already taken place with CP Sport about developing further to affiliate a competitive Cerebral Palsy junior team and developing an open-aged CP recreational session.

If you, or somebody you know would like to be involved in the programme please don't hesitate to get in touch with jordan.mason@lincolnshirefa.com.

A BIG THANK YOU MUST GO TO OUR PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Richard Kerr - CP Sport
- Sophie Bartup - Little Victories in the Community
- Dean Williams - Sleaford Town FC



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