Community sport hubs in action

Calderglen HS community sport hub

How community sport hubs are being developed across Scotland

The story....

Calderglen High School in East Kilbride is home to over 1700 students. It is the first of a number of community sport hubs (CSH) to be rolled out across South Lanarkshire.

The school was opened in 2007 following the merger of two local schools and hosts a variety of excellent sports facilities. It also shares its campus with Sanderson High School for children with additional support needs.

Calderglen’s Head Teacher, Tony McDaid, has been instrumental in establishing the hub. It uses sport to develop students as well as offering opportunities to the local community to be more active.

What are community sport hubs?

CSH's are places that bring local people together through sport and provide a home for local sports clubs. They are all unique to their own community and make sport easier to get involved in!

For more info:

Check out the sportscotland website – click here
The CSH at Calderglen HS is being developed through a strong working relationship between the school, South Lanarkshire Leisure and the local sports clubs. Tony’s initial vision sparked the initiative and the project is now being driven by a steering group that has been working hard to understand the opportunities to develop sport in their community.

One of the steering group’s first tasks was to audit all of the activity going on at the school. Working in partnership with their Active School Co-ordinator (ASC), they managed to gather all club and recreational participation information which enabled the group to understand the users and identify the gaps in provision and times that were available for growth.

The group also wanted to take their community with them from the outset. To ensure this happened they held an open evening at the school, led jointly by school and leisure trust staff. The event provided them the opportunity to tell their community what they were trying to achieve and to understand more about the needs of local clubs. The event brought together more than 150 people and led to some new recruits who stepped forward to take roles on the steering group.

“I went along to the evening meeting wanting to simply get better access for my football team – however once I heard what the school was trying to achieve by bringing the local clubs together I changed my outlook. I have now offered my services to the Hub and hope to develop my team but also help develop the other clubs involved in the initiative.”

Mark Watson – East Kilbride FC and Chair of the Calderglen Community Sport Hub Executive Committee

The support for the project has been overwhelming – the clubs feel engaged and they are receiving tangible support. The ASC and Sports Development officers are committed to working with each club and agreeing an action plan to help clubs with their short and longer term development needs.

Since the start of the project, new clubs have been established in basketball, dance and pre/post natal. In addition, existing cycling and cricket clubs within the community are now using space at Calderglen HS.

“Without the Calderglen Community Sport Hub there would not be a highland dance school.”

Wendy Cathcart, Secretary of the Myra Miller Highland Dance School

These clubs are now working better together and promoting themselves to community members. In fact the Calderglen HS CSH website has been developed by a S4 pupil from the school, showing how sports clubs can help contribute to the curriculum for excellence.

The steering group is now working to a plan that will see the hub develop over the coming years. One immediate action is to employ senior school pupils in the evening as the CSH Officers. They will staff the facility in the evening and provide a familiar face for club and community users. This idea will provide students with real employment experience that will stand them in great stead for the future - one of a number of ideas that engage young people and a great example of how club sport can link to school sport.

“As a young leader, our role in the CSH is to encourage young people to take part in sport.”

Laura Carberry – Pupil at Calderglen HS

The long term future of the project is that it will be owned by the volunteers who run the local clubs and the steering group is focused on developing real community leadership on this project.

Putting sport first