



Launch of the Paralympic Academy

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Who?

Why?

What?

Where?

How?

Who?

Optua (formerly Rethink Disability) was set up in 1981 by disabled people to improve access to services.

Since then it has grown into one of the largest charities in Suffolk, with an annual turnover of £3m.



Optua Leisure

Optua Leisure was set up in 1996 to work with mainstream leisure providers to enable disabled people to take part in a full range of leisure activities, including sports.

We have helped set up new disability sports groups and assisted sports clubs make their facilities accessible.



Why?

- London being awarded the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games has acted as a catalyst for all of the UK to rethink sports provision.
- The core aim of Optua is to enable people to be their best, whatever their disability

Success starts at the grass roots

Every champion started their sport at the grass roots:

- School
- Local Club
- Parental involvement in sport

We want grass-roots sports clubs to work with us to give disabled people the chance to try out different sports and develop their skills and abilities in the sport of their choice.

What?

- The Suffolk Paralympic Academy is not a building.
- It is a partnership between Optua, sports clubs, schools, development agencies and governing bodies.




What?

- Three-way process




1 – The disabled people

- Central point of contact for disabled people interested in sport 
- Signposting to clubs and facilities 
- Taster days 

2 – the sports clubs

- Accessibility and awareness 
- Equipment and facilities 
- Training for sports coaches 

3 – Improving provision

- Creating new opportunities for sports not played in Suffolk 
- Supporting the creation of new clubs to foster competition 
- Working with planning authorities to ensure new mainstream facilities are accessible 

Where?

- The Paralympics are bigger than Suffolk Alone
- A Regional Approach
 - welcome to the representatives from Cambridge, Norfolk and Essex
- Regional Facilities

How?

- One-to-one discussions with clubs and other providers
- Build a picture of need
- Create a strategic plan
- Secure funding as a partnership
- Co-ordinate with local funders to create a cohesive funding plan.

Why Optua?

- This is what Optua Leisure does for a living.
- Optua has the infrastructure to support clubs, leaving them to get on with what they do best

Round table discussion

- 30 minutes discussion time
- 15 minutes quickfire feedback

Over to you...

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats
- Comments
- Ideas
- Solutions
- Suggestions
- Bouquets
- Brickbats