


Partnership name	Kingdown Community (West Wiltshire)	
Local Authority	Wiltshire	
Case study title	Young Officials Day: Developing and deploying officials in West Wiltshire	

The challenge

What we wanted to do

As a partnership we identified the need to create a volunteer workforce, specifically trained as young officials, to support local cluster festivals and whole partnership competitions.

To do this we wanted to deliver a young officials training day, offering sport-specific courses and around 70 places for students to train as officials. We hoped that through this, we could provide opportunities for young people to engage in sport from a different perspective.

Meeting the challenge

What we did

The PDM applied for funding to financially support the young officials day. We gathered information about the types of course, costs, duration, maximum number of candidates per course and facilities required for each course.

It was decided at an SSCo meeting which sports to involve, taking into consideration those that are most relevant to our area, the young leaders and that would have the greatest deployment opportunities. We chose to offer badminton, swimming, athletics and tennis.

Each secondary school was allocated a certain number of student places per sport to ensure that trained young officials were evenly distributed across the SSP. For example, each school could select two students for the badminton course and two for the athletics. An SSCo centrally managed the information gathered from the schools and created a reserve list, due to the large demand.

A confirmation letter was circulated to all young people involved regarding the day, and facilities and lunch provision were arranged.

The SSCo liaised with the young official development manager from Youth Sport Trust to centrally co-ordinate National Governing Body (NGB) tutor availability for each of the courses and awards selected to run. Equipment requests from tutors were considered to ensure requirements were met on the day, with final numbers sent to each NGB to prepare and send resources.

On the day we ensured all facilities were prepared, tutors were happy and ICT provision set up. Each of the courses ran from 9.30am-2.30pm and were split into two, two-hour blocks with a break for lunch. The sessions included both theoretical and practical aspects.

Students were given a resource pack to take away which contained a range of items to support them in their role as a young official. These packs varied by sport and included task cards, resource workbooks, whistles and stopwatches.

Impact

The difference this has made

The range of courses was well received by all involved, especially those with a high practical content, for example badminton and athletics.

Our senior competition manager now has a list of all trained young officials so that they can be used to support cluster festivals or whole partnership events. It is intended now that these young officials will be used within their own secondary school to support inter, intra and local cluster festival competitions.

The courses have given the young leaders confidence and the knowledge to officiate or run an event.

Why it worked

- We nominated one person to centrally co-ordinate the day and liaise with NGBs to gather information.
- Ensured SSCos and heads of PE were proactive in recruiting young leaders, volunteers or interested young people in the school to take part.
- Encouraged schools to support the initiative and release young people to attend training and competitions.
- Kept registers of all young people trained as officials to send to each SSCo, and collectively gave this to the senior competition manager to ensure future deployment opportunities are communicated.
- Took photos and raised the profile of young volunteers as officials within their school/SSP. Officials are often forgotten about, but they are pivotal to ensuring competitions can run!

Date	July 2009
------	-----------

Building a brighter future for young people through sport

