



Active Sussex Coach Mentor scheme

CPSU Newsletter

The Sportivate programme is designed to provide a fun and engaging experience to semi-sporty participants aged between 14 and 25. As a CSP we wanted to start to look at the quality assurance of actual project delivery, as well as supporting the dedicated coaches/facilitators who are involved in the programme.

Therefore the aims of the Sportivate Coach Support scheme are:

- For Coach Mentors (Coach Support Officers – CSOs) to add value to the experience of coaches and participants by providing a 'critical friend' to Sportivate coaches to share good practice and identify potential CPD need
- To influence a positive change in both project leads and coaches/instructors, which will increase the value and quality of projects' to therefore enhance the experience for participants and increase the probability of retaining them throughout a project;
- CSO process to be standardised and regulated through the use of an overall project Mentor. Identifying and recruiting the appropriate mentors, and placing them with appropriate projects has been key to kick starting the scheme on the right foot. Identified mentors attended an induction, to ensure they are fully aware of the schemes objectives and outcomes as well as Sportivate requirements. Project leads/coaches also attended an induction and met their mentor. We have put a specific focus on projects targeting females, NEETS and disabled participants. Not only are these target groups for us in terms of increasing participation, but they are very much areas where we want to monitor quality assurance more closely

All project organisations have to supply a Safeguarding and Best Practice Disclaimer along with their Service Level Agreement, before any activity or funding release can take place. Mentors will be able to spot check against these, and ensure all minimum standards (qualifications, safeguarding, etc.) are in place prior and during delivery.

Through the duration of the scheme the Mentors will also be monitored and evaluated through the Coach Development Manager and the University of Chichester, to ensure the mentors themselves are providing a quality service. From evaluations, support needs and development opportunities will be offered to all involved.

The scheme is in its infancy and therefore constant feedback from all parties is being received and evaluated, to help manage it currently and shape processes and expectation in the future. As mentioned all projects have to provide confirmation of minimum standards being in place, so this scheme is in addition to this.

It really is start into digging a bit deeper into the assurance of quality and best practice of Sportivate deliverers and therefore ensuring an enhanced participant experience and an increase in retention.