

# Sport Hampshire and IOW

## Partner Organisations/Individuals

Watersports development officer WITH Aiming High for Disabled Children



**What were the main objectives of the project?** To raise awareness amongst clubs in Hampshire of how easy it is to develop Paddleability with existing equipment and assist and encourage clubs to offer sessions by providing specific disability awareness training to coaches.



**What we did:** Aiming High for Disabled Children was a project launched in Hampshire in 2008 and more importantly a focus on recreational inclusion was introduced in 2009. Since then I have worked in partnership with the Recreational Inclusion Officer Kaz White to support Canoe Clubs and Centres to develop Paddleability in Hampshire. Initially funding was used to deliver a series of Disability Awareness Courses by the Calvert Trust, endorsed by the BCU with one course specifically for Canoeing/Kayaking. Aiming High also subsidised these sessions for Canoe Club Volunteers and Coaches to encourage attendance. Following the success for the training and demand for activity Aiming High funded a fleet of Sit On Top boats, both double and singles and based them at an accessible location on a lake in the New Forest and a selection of specific adaptable equipment including wrist supports and back rests and seats to house a full wheelchair in a boat allowing the individual to experience without having to leave the support of their wheelchair. This new equipment became the centre of attention at an Activity Festival entitled 'Inspiring You' hosted by Avon Tyrell Activity Centre. Disabled Children and Young People from across Hampshire got to enjoy Canoeing amongst other sports with friends and family.



<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/specialneeds/aiminghigh.htm>

**Barriers and how they were overcome:** Barriers to participation all stem back to funding. However, thanks to Aiming High this has been overcome and equipment purchases and carer support has been able to be granted.

**Results and the future:** All of the above has been a catalyst for young people with disabilities across the County to start paddling and the four clubs and four centres that attended the training have all introduced new people and are running specific Paddleability. With the numbers of attendees we hope to extend next years Parallel Games to include a canoeing competition.