

Cheshire Cricket Board Disability and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2026



The **Cheshire Cricket Board Disability and Inclusion Strategy** underlines our commitment to supporting people with disabilities and using cricket as “the vehicle to make a positive difference to people’s lives”.

Working alongside a number of key partners and stakeholders, we have outlined a range of activities designed to engage and inspire those living with a disability so that every member of our Cheshire family can confidently say: “Cricket is a game for me.”

Our strategy is divided into **five pillars**, each with associated tasks, aims and objectives. We have also identified some key performance indicators (KPIs) to enable us to measure progress and to refine and restructure our goals where appropriate.

The five pillars:

1. Participation – Creating opportunities for people to play
2. Pathway – Identifying and developing talented individuals
3. People – Supporting those who deliver our programmes
4. Places – Safe and accessible venues for disability cricket
5. Partnerships – Working together to achieve our objectives

The Disability and Inclusion Strategy is one of several development plans published and reviewed annually by CCB and as such should not be read in isolation. Further information, including Cheshire’s overarching Countywide Strategic Plan, is available via the [Board website](#).

Last Updated: October 2025

PARTICIPATION: Creating Opportunities for People to Play

Activity / Programme	Aims and Objectives	Who and when?	Success Measure (KPIs)	Evidence
SEND Delivery (Lord's Taverners)	To deliver curricular and extra-curricular coaching at SEND specific schools and/or SEND units within mainstream settings	Disability Manager, DCOs / Coaching Officers Year Round	➤ Delivery schedule agreed with Lord's Taverners ➤ Children and staff have a positive experience of cricket and seek further opportunities to participate in the game	☒ ☒
			2025: 53 schools, 1458 children engaged. New participant experience survey launched in September	
	To promote and deliver a programme of Table Cricket competitions throughout Cheshire	Disability Manager, DCOs / Coaching Officers Year Round	➤ Number of Table Cricket competitions organised throughout the county ➤ Number of teams (and children) taking part in CCB-run events	☒ ☒
			2025: 6 Table Cricket Comps, 36 teams, 277 children	
	To promote and deliver a programme of Softball Cricket competitions throughout Cheshire (including skills festivals, games festivals and Dynamos Schools)	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Number of competitions organised throughout the county ➤ Number of teams (and children) taking part in CCB-run events	☒ ☒
			2025: 9 Softball competitions, 39 teams, 438 children.	
	Together with our partners, to deliver a series of 'Ability Days' which aim to extend the reach of our SEND provision and promote other opportunities to participate in cricket (eg Super 1s)	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Cross-county coverage of events (engaging local SGOs to support with delivery) ➤ Number of children progressing to other club or community offers	☒ ☒
			2025: 15 Ability Days engaging 783 children. Super 1s sessions advertised at all events.	

Super 1s	To identify venues for and promote a number of Super 1s hubs at venues throughout Cheshire	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Number of active hubs (minimum of 6)	☒
			➤ Delivery partners (schools, local authority etc) support promotion and marketing of hubs	☒
			2025: 6 hubs operational at venues including Cheshire. Birkenhead, Chester, Warrington, Winsford, Macclesfield & Stockport	
	To deliver inclusive and inspiring weekly coaching sessions (term time) for participants with a disability aged 8-25	Disability Manager Coaching Officers Year Round	➤ Number of young people attending each hub	☒
			➤ Participants complete LT registration form and attend on a regular basis	☒
			➤ Participants develop skills and confidence within sessions	☒
			2025: 74 unique participants, weekly average of 48 in attendance (8 per hub)	
	To create opportunities for all participants to attend Super1s Competitions and Festivals, both intra and inter	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Number of competitions delivered within County	☒
			➤ Number of Cheshire hubs (and participants) competing in regional / organised events	☒
			2025: CCB hosted 2 Super 1s Festivals in 2025 and attended two festivals outside of county	
	To help develop the 'whole person' through a series of CPD workshops within the weekly coaching sessions	Disability Manager Coaching Officers Year Round	➤ Workshops delivered in line with Lord's Taverners funding (minimum 15 per year)	☒
			➤ Participants grow in confidence as a result of these sessions	☐
			2025: 15 workshops delivered across 6 Super 1s Hubs (average of 2/3 per hub). New participant survey launched September 2025	

ECB Champion Clubs	Promote the ECB Champion Club initiative to all affiliated Cheshire Clubs	Disability Manager DCOs Year Round	➤ Number of ECB Champion Clubs in Cheshire ➤ Number of Champion Clubs retained each year	☒ ☒
			2025: 6 clubs delivered the Champion Club programme with 4 more identified for 2026	
	Support clubs to establish and sustain a Champion Club programme, including CPD opportunities for volunteers	Disability Manager DCOs Year Round	➤ Clubs operate successful disability sessions ➤ Club coaches attend CPD sessions to further their knowledge	☒ ☒
			2025: Online CPD delivered for Champion Clubs and coaches with an interest in developing disability cricket	
Walking Cricket	Identify suitable venues/spaces to set up weekly/fortnightly walking cricket hubs.	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Identify at least 3 Walking Cricket venues ➤ Share details on CCB website/social media	☒ ☒
			2025: Walking Cricket activity at three hubs – Sandbach, Northwich and Halton (new). Looking to add two more venues in 2026	
	Once established, support club and community venues to deliver fun, inclusive sessions	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Participant numbers increase across all sites ➤ CCB support the delivery of some sessions	☒ ☐
			2025: 58 unique participants, weekly average 36.	
	To facilitate and support the running of Walking Cricket competitions within Cheshire and across County borders	Disability Manager Year Round	➤ Number of fixtures played by each venue ➤ Number of participants engaged in each competition	☒ ☐
			2025: Sandbach Hub played 3 fixtures and attended a festival in Worcester. Other hubs 'intra' matches	

PATHWAY – Identifying and developing talented individuals

Activity / Programme	Tasks	Who and when?	Success Measure (KPIs)	Evidence
Super 9s	To promote and deliver a softball coaching (training) programme for talented disabled cricketers who wish to play representative cricket	Disability Manager County Head Coach <i>Year Round</i>	➤ Countywide promotion of opportunities ➤ Number of unique participants engaged in Super 9s training	☒ ☒
			2025: Super 9s sessions promoted widely across all digital platforms, including bespoke X page. 29 unique participants engaged in County squads.	
	To organise an annual match programme for Cheshire's softball (Super 9s) cricketers, to include friendly and competitive matches with other County Boards	Disability Manager County Head Coach April to September	➤ Annual fixture programme including relevant ECB competitions ➤ Number of unique participants representing Cheshire each season ➤ County teams are competitive at all levels	☒ ☒ ☒
			2025: 13 Super 9s games, with 29 participants engaged. Cheshire Cougars finished top of the S9 Regional North League; Cheshire Leopards were 4th in the same group. The Cougars progressed to the national finals, losing to eventual winners Middlesex.	
	Where appropriate, to support the transition of softball cricketers into the Cheshire hard-ball (D40) squads, allowing them to reach their full potential	Disability Manager County Head Coach <i>Ongoing</i>	➤ Number of players transitioning to hard ball ➤ Players feel supported in the their journey (identify via surveys)	☒ ☒
			2025: 5 Players playing D40 for the first time this year and all 5 played in County Final vs Middlesex; Chris met with 6 players in a 121 basis (winter 2024) to discuss future progress and development	

D40	To promote and deliver a hardball coaching (training) programme for talented disabled cricketers who wish to play representative cricket	Disability Manager County Head Coach <i>Year Round</i>	➤ Countywide promotion of opportunities ➤ Number of unique participants engaged in D40 training	☒ ☒
			2025: 23 players involved in D40 training sessions with Cheshire this year. Sessions promoted widely in club and community network.	
	To organise an annual match programme for Cheshire's hardball (D40) cricketers, to include friendly and competitive matches with other County Boards	Disability Manager County Head Coach <i>April to September</i>	➤ Annual fixture programme including relevant ECB competitions ➤ Number of unique participants representing Cheshire each season ➤ County teams are competitive at all levels	☒ ☒ ☒
			2025: Cheshire finished runners up to Lancashire in the D40 Quest North division; D40 Bobcats (development squad) played first competitive season. 5 more players played D40 league cricket for first time.	
	Where appropriate, to support the transition of D40 cricketers into ECB DPL programme and National squads, allowing them to reach their full potential	Disability Manager County Head Coach <i>Ongoing</i>	➤ Number of players transitioning to DPL ➤ Players feel supported in their journey (identify via surveys) – Player welfare meetings	☒ ☒
			2025: 4 players nominated, 1 successful (Max Griffin). Zaghham Farhan); Head Coach Chris Edwards met with 6 players one a one-to-one basis to discuss future progress and development. DPL 2026, 6 players nominated, 3 successful (Dom Develing, Stephen Redfern, Josh Brown)	

Visually Impaired (Cheshire Cobras)	To raise awareness and promote the activities of the County's visually impaired team (Cheshire cobras), including taster sessions within the community	Disability Manager Cobras Chairman/Secretary <i>Ongoing</i>	➤ All opportunities promoted to the cricket network via website and social media ➤ Number of people attending taster sessions / number of new enquiries	☒ ☐
	To make cricket accessible for visually impaired cricketers to train and compete; to help the squad source additional fixtures with club teams	Disability Manager Facility Support Officer <i>Ongoing</i>	➤ Cheshire Cobras complete all planned fixtures ➤ Disability host venues receive investment via ECB funding (County Grants Scheme) ➤ Cost is not a barrier for people participating in VI activities (funding via CCCC on request)	☒ ☒ ☒
Emerging Player Programme (EPP)	To run an Emerging Player Programme for talented cricketers with a disability, including psychology and strength and conditioning sessions	Performance Manager Disability Cricket Manager <i>Ongoing</i>	➤ Identify those with potential to join programme ➤ Develop talent for the Disability Premier League and future England teams	☒ ☐
			2025: EPP launched in September. Initial training sessions held at King's School, Chester. 10 players selected for first cohort (supported by ECB EDI Strategic Fund).	
CCB Player Development Scheme	To ensure the CCB Development Scheme is accessible to children of all abilities.	Performance Manager Disability Cricket Manager <i>Ongoing</i>	➤ Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure all players can participate fully in sessions ➤ Where eligible to compete, players are signposted to County Disability squads	☒ ☒
			2025: All CCB Pathway venues 'accessible' (facility audit); Staff monitor registers to identify those with impairments or additional needs	

PEOPLE – Supporting those who deliver our disability programmes

Activity / Programme	Tasks	Who and when?	Success Measure (KPIs)	Evidence
Activators and Young Leaders	To create and develop a network of 'Young Leaders' who support SEND competitions (Table Cricket)	Disability Manager Coaching Officers <i>Year round</i>	➤ Engage and train a minimum number of Young Leaders in line with Lord's Taverners funding ➤ Young Leaders attend all events and contribute to an enjoyable experience	☒ ☒
	To ensure National Programmes Activators are aware of the STEP framework and can confidently differentiate sessions to support those with additional needs	Disability Manager Coaching Officers <i>Year round</i>	➤ Number of new Activators trained each year ➤ Activators attending additional CPD related to disability and inclusion	☒ ☐
Disability Ambassadors	To appoint Disability Cricket Ambassadors (DCAs), creating 'heroes' for players in the disability (and mainstream) community to look up to.	Disability Manager DCAs <i>Year round</i>	➤ DCAs to carry out visits within school and community settings ➤ DCA activity is championed on the Cheshire Cricket Board website and social media pages	☒ ☒
			2025: Chris Edwards has spoken at competitions and events about his role with England and coaching	

Volunteer workforce	Support our coaches, officials and volunteers to create more inclusive environments for disabled participants	Disability Manager Clubs Manager DCOs / COs <i>Year round</i>	➤ Number of CPD opportunities per year ➤ Number of club and community coaches attending CPD workshops	☒ ☒
			2025: 1 CPD training session for coaches, plus ongoing one to one club support	
	Provide an appropriate reward and recognition programme for volunteers working in the disability field	Disability Manager Clubs Manager DCOs / COs <i>Summer</i>	➤ Number of volunteers on CCB 'shout out' page ➤ Number of volunteers nominated for an ECB Cricket Collective Award	☐ ☐
			2025: No overall winners but several coaches working at Champion clubs nominated for Cricket Collective awards	
CCB workforce	To champion the development of disability cricket by investing in training opportunities for all CCB staff members.	Disability Manager DCOs / COs <i>Year round</i>	➤ Number of staff members attending CPD sessions each year ➤ CCB staff feel more confident to support the development of people with a disability	☒ ☒
			2025: Three staff training sessions delivered, two specific to disability – Working with People with Complex Needs and Autism Awareness.	
	To ensure adequate provision of staff time to deliver all programmes within our Participation and Pathway pillars	Disability Manager DCOs / COs <i>Year round</i>	➤ All scheduled sessions progress as planned ➤ All CCB staff have the opportunity to participate in disability and/or inclusion programmes	☒ ☒
			2025: All planned sessions took place, cover was found with staffing numbers when main coach unavailable.	

PLACES – Identifying safe and accessible places for people to enjoy cricket

Activity / Programme	Aims and Objectives	Who and when?	Success Measure (KPIs)	Evidence
Indoor venues	Identify accessible indoor spaces for Super 1s hubs and other community sessions	Disability Manager DCOs / COs Year round	➤ Venue hire agreements secured for entirety of programme ➤ All venues meet minimum standards for disabled participants (accessibility, space etc)	☒ ☒
			2025: 6 indoor venues and 4 outdoor cricket club venues used throughout the year	
	Provide high quality indoor training environments for players on the Cheshire Disability talent pathway	Disability Manager Disability Lead Coach Year round	➤ Secure venues with good transport links (road, rail, bus routes) ➤ Identify a venue in East Cheshire for Indoor County sessions ➤ Obtain bursaries from ECB and other stakeholders to reduce hire costs	☒ ☐ ☒
			2025: Sessions delivered at Birkenhead park CC indoor centre pre Christmas and at The Grange school January - April	
	Secure suitable venues for successful delivery of Table Cricket and other SEND competitions and Festivals	Disability Manager DCOs / COs Year round	➤ Sports halls of appropriate size secured for all CCB-led competitions ➤ Partners and key stakeholders provide venues free of charge for SEND delivery	☒ ☒
			2025: 5 school venues and 3 clubs venues used	

Outdoor venues	Support Cheshire's ECB Champion Clubs to create safe, welcoming environments that are accessible for all users	Disability Manager	➤ Champion clubs deliver safe, inclusive sessions for their participants	✓
		Facility Support Officer	➤ Clubs secure grant funding from ECB and other organisations to develop their facilities	✓
	Year round	➤ Champion Club venues are made available to Super 1s hubs and participants	✓	
	2025: 4 Champion Clubs received grants – Macclesfield, CBH, Bowdon Vale, Oulton Park. Several used as outdoor venues for Super 1s			
	Provide high quality outdoor training environments for players on the Cheshire Disability talent pathway	Disability Manager	➤ Venues with appropriate on and off field facilities (inc accessible parking, toilets and good transport links) secured	✓
		Facility Support Officer	➤ Host clubs secure grant funding from ECB and other organisations to develop their facilities	✓
Year round	2025: Neston CC, Caldý, Chester BH & Oulton Park all used for training. All good access, some with limited transport links but support is offered to those who struggle.			
	Secure suitable match venues for Cheshire's Disability County teams, including the VI team (Cheshire Cobras)	Disability Manager	➤ Full Super 9s and D40 match programme completed	✓
Facility Support Officer		➤ Venues with appropriate on and off field facilities (inc accessible parking, toilets and good transport links) secured	✓	
Year round	➤ Cheshire Cobras secure appropriate venues for all home fixtures	✓		
2025: Venues used: Barrow, Frodsham, Macclesfield, Neston and New Brighton				
For more information on the above, please see the CCB Facility Strategy				

PARTNERSHIPS - Working together to achieve our collective goals

Partner organisation	Nature of relationship	Link to Strategy
ECB Subject Matter Analysts (SMAs)	CCB work closely with the ECB SMAs to establish national and local priorities for disability cricket. Our contact is ECB National Disabilities Manager Edgar Herridge	➤ Resources and funding to support ECB Champion Clubs
Lord's Taverners	Lord's Taverners are a major funding partner for CCB, enabling us to employ staff members dedicated to the delivery of disability cricket programmes.	➤ Super 1s and SEND (including Table Cricket) delivery
School Games Organisers	The network of SGOs throughout Cheshire play a crucial role in creating opportunities for disabled participants. They support with booking of venues, hosting competitions and in some cases lead on delivery too. Work closely with Cheshire & Warrington Special School PE consortium. Wirral Inclusion Sport lead & Stockport Council	➤ Foster school-club links ➤ Sourcing of competition venues ➤ Lead on Ability Days
Local Authority Leisure Providers	CCB work alongside several local authority leisure providers including Active Tameside , Life Leisure (Stockport) Livewire (Warrington) and Active Halton . These organisations support with venues and (occasionally) staffing and some run community sessions of their own, including Walking Cricket.	➤ Venue providers for community-based events including Super 1s ➤ Coaches deliver on some participation programmes
Community organisations and Foundations	There are several Community groups and Foundations in Cheshire that deliver sport to those with additional needs. CCB have engaged these organisations as delivery partners – current examples include the North Wales Super 1s Group, Warrington Wolves Foundation and The Hive (Onside Youth Zone) based on the Wirral	➤ Supporting our Super 1s delivery and recruitment ➤ Signposting participants to other club and community offers
County Cricket Boards	CCB work closely with first class neighbours Lancashire Cricket Foundation, sharing ideas and resources to enhance the experience for disabled cricketers across the region. We will continue to play an active role in the Northern Counties Forum.	➤ Regional Table Cricket and Super 1s competitions and Festivals ➤ Sharing of best practice across all disability programmes
Charities	CCB continue to work with registered charities including Cheshire Buddies and SENSE to increase the knowledge and understanding of our staff and the wider volunteer family.	➤ CPD for staff and volunteers at Disability Champion Clubs