**East Riding Talent Identification Programme 2016**

**What is it?**

The Talent Identification Programme is a 6 week programme that will work with players aged 11 to 16 who show potential to progress along the England Disability Talent Pathway.

The programme will start with an England Talent Day that will look to identify players to move on to the 6 week programme. The England Talent Day will be open to any young person with a disability to attend and also for those identified through professions such as teaching, community grassroots football coaching and others that come in to contact with young people we are looking to attract. Following completion of the England Talent Day, players identified will be invited to attend the 6 week programme.

**England Talent Day – What is it?**

The England Talent Day will be a 3 hour session held at St Marys College, Hull. The day will include a series of different football drills and games that aim to identify those players capable of moving on to the next stage. All players with a disability are invited to attend the England Talent Day and showcase their potential to coaches in attendance.

**6 Week Talent Identification Programme – What is it?**

The Talent Identification Programme is a 6 week course that will provide further expert coaching in all aspects of football. This opportunity is additional to any coaching being received at their current clubs (players are not required to leave their current clubs and can use this as extra quality coaching) and will allow them to enhance their development. Throughout this period, players will be assessed against their abilities and what they demonstrate.

Following this, those players that demonstrate further potential will be signposted to Regional Centres of Excellence.

**What Players Are We Looking For?**

The programme is open to players with the following disabilities:

* Learning Disability
* Cerebral Palsy
* Partially Sighted
* Deaf
* Blind
* Amputee

Along with those individuals currently associated with disability organisations, we are looking for those that are currently within mainstream sport, mainstream football and mainstream education. This opportunity will provide them additional coaching that will run alongside their current coaching sessions, it is in no way a replacement of what they are currently doing.

It should be explained to all those that this is an opportunity to join the talent pathway and potentially begin the journey to represent England within their respective impairment specific squad. The talent pathway within disability football is much shorter than within mainstream football and with a higher success rate.

One local example to use would be Jack Fox-Hockney who played mainstream football with Springhead in the Hull Boys Sunday Football League and also plays for the England Cerebral Palsy Development squad.

One main aim is to provide extended opportunities to progress for those players with a disability. This will allow them to continue playing before it becomes a too much of challenge to continue playing competitively in mainstream football. Some players participating within mainstream sport will not necessarily consider themselves to have a disability as they are competing on an even playing field with others without a disability at this present time. However, there will come a point when ability levels start to widen and this can cause them to drop out of sport. This pathway offers them an opportunity to continue playing competitively in a field that will be more suited to them for longer.

Players may not be easily identifiable there the use of school database to identify pupils with a disability or special educational need may be a good tool.

**Talent Identification Programme – Key Dates and Information**

**Recruitment:** Taking place now until February

**England Talent Day:** Tuesday 16th February 2016 at St Marys College, Hull. 10am-1pm.

**Talent Identification Programme:** Starts Tuesday 12th April 2016 for 6 consecutive weeks. 6pm-7:30pm.

**Your Role – What impact can you have?**

Within your role you can have a huge impact in reaching out to the players we are looking target for this opportunity.

Within PE Lessons or grassroots sports sessions you can help to identify those sportsmen with a disability or special educational need that could attend the England Talent Day. I would strongly encourage you to look to forward as many people as possible towards the day as it could potentially open up more new opportunities besides the Talent Identification Programme.

Through liaising with SENCo’s you can help to reach out to a wider audience of players with a disability or special educational need and encourage more to attend the England Talent Day.

If you are within a grassroots sport environment, liaise with parents through the available form to identify players currently within their squads who have a disability.

**What to do next?**

Begin identifying players who would be eligible for the programme.

Circulate attached England Talent Day poster with all information about the date and encourage them to contact myself to register for the England Talent Day as soon as possible.

For any parents requiring more information please pass on my contact details and encourage them to contact me with any information:

**Pete Allison**

**07798 884500**

[**Peter.allison@eastridingfa.com**](mailto:Peter.allison@eastridingfa.com)