

Transforming lives through sport

WheelPower Strategy 2022-2027

Moving Forward Together



Our Founder - Sir Ludwig Guttmann 1899-1980

“If I ever did one good thing in my medical career it was to introduce sport into the rehabilitation of people with disabilities.”



Foreword

WheelPower is the national charity and disability sports organisation for wheelchair sport, and through our work aims to transform the lives of disabled people through movement, physical activity and sport.

Our heritage and iconic facilities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, provide a wonderful base for us to reach out across the UK to inspire disabled people to improve their physical and mental health.

Through the provision of opportunities and programmes from local to national level and using digital programmes we will connect people in person and online creating a wheelchair sport community. We will inspire disabled people to enjoy life through being active and leading healthy lives.

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE DL

Patron



Moving Forward Together

Moving Forward Together sets out our ambition to further develop opportunities and programmes for disabled people alongside partners to increase participation in sport and exercise more widely. We are excited about our plans to further enhance and develop our inclusive facilities and create a world class “Centre of Excellence for Rehabilitation and Sport” in partnership with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. We hope this will enable us to attract an even more diverse range of disability sports groups and events to Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

Through increased collaboration and partnerships with a range of organisations we will seek to tackle the gross inequalities faced by disabled people and reduce the barriers to participation.



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We will create exciting and innovative programmes that enable disabled people to access sport and physical activity closer to home, that meets their social, health and sporting aspirations.

We will also play a full and active role as a System Partner and support the Sport England “Uniting the Movement” strategy and work to support other strategies that align with our own.

We will extend our engagement with beneficiaries by offering more online services as well as a series of regional hubs that work with local partners. We wish to rapidly expand the numbers of people we help and support via these methods and improvements to Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

Rob Wilson, Chair



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Our Values

- **Integrity** - we strive to be honest, open and transparent; we will do the right things in our governance structure and for the environment
- **Inclusivity** - we recognise the worth of every individual and value team and partnership working
- **Ambition** - we aim to realise the potential in people, in places, in facilities and in programmes



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Our Vision

transformed lives through movement, physical activity and sport

Our Mission

to increase participation of disabled people in movement, physical activity and sport by tackling inequalities and improving accessibility



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Strategic Priorities

- Expand our reach
- Develop partnerships
- Develop WheelPower resources which realise our ambitions
- Inspire through our work, our heritage and the power of the Paralympic Movement



Expand our reach to help disabled people recover from Covid 19 and lead healthy active lives

We will:

1. Provide a range of events, in person, and online including our 'Exercise at Home' programme
2. Develop a workforce to deliver programmes for disabled people: this will include training programmes to increase the knowledge and skills of the workforce to support more disabled people to engage in movement, physical activity and sport
3. Provide programmes for young disabled people
4. Provide programmes for newly paralysed people including rehabilitation through working with the national network of spinal units
5. Develop resources to support disabled people to be active
6. Use improved facilities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium to increase awareness and train coaches, leaders and healthcare professionals about engaging disabled people and wheelchair users in sport and inclusive physical activity

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Develop Partnerships to increase participation in movement, physical activity and sport through developing partnerships with Sports, Disability, Health and Education

We will:

1. As a System Partner of Sport England, work with a range of sports partners including National Governing Bodies of Sport, Active Partnerships, Activity Alliance, National Disability Sports Organisations, and our Member Sports
2. Strengthen partnerships to reach communities of disabled people including Disabled People's Organisations (e.g. Spinal Injuries Association, SHINE (Spina Bifida), British Polio Fellowship), Clubs (helping to make them more inclusive and accessible/training coaches), Wheelchair Suppliers and others
3. Develop partnerships with the health sector and Healthcare Professionals (Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, and others) through the new Centre of Excellence for Rehab and Sport at Stoke Mandeville to support disabled people through rehabilitation to access movement, physical activity and sports opportunities
4. Develop partnerships within education including the Youth Sports Trust, Universities (BUCS), Colleges and Schools
5. Work with partners to support our work including donors, fundraisers, volunteers and supporters

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Develop WheelPower Resources

Develop our People, our Places, our Programmes and our Structure to deliver opportunities for disabled people

We will:

1. Develop and support our people including beneficiaries, volunteers, Trustees, and our team
2. Develop our workforce including tutors, coaches, officials, and volunteers to support the delivery of our programmes and Events
3. Maintain compliance with the Governance Code for Sport (Sport England/UK Sport) to Tier 2 but with ambition to reach Tier 3 including developing our Board Members
4. Meet our governance and legal obligations
5. Maintain effective management of our finances
6. Implement a robust and diverse programme of fundraising including grant support
7. Ensure risk management is undertaken to protect our reputation and to mitigate damage
8. Progress the delivery of a National Centre of Excellence for Rehabilitation and Sport at Stoke Mandeville in partnership with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and others to promote a positive journey for disabled people from rehabilitation to an improved quality of life through sport and physical activity across the Hospital and Stadium campus

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Develop our People, our Places, our Programmes and our Structure to deliver opportunities for disabled people

We will:

9. Develop a Regional Hub structure to support our work:
 - at Stoke Mandeville Stadium
 - linked to spinal units
 - linked to communities (sports festival locations)
 - through partnerships with NGBs/NDSOs/Clubs

10. Develop our programmes, including innovative opportunities, to reach and support disabled people to be active and play sport

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"Our son Nathaniel loves playing sport and really enjoyed the WheelPower Sports Festival. He's loved trying new things and realising what he can do in a wheelchair. I would absolutely and most definitely recommend these events to other parents."



Inspire people through our work, our heritage and the power of the Paralympic Movement and use our work, heritage and Stoke Mandeville as the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement to inspire disabled people through our dynamic Marketing and Communications

We will:

1. Celebrate our stories to inspire people to take part in movement, physical activity and sport or to support our work
2. Celebrate our history on special occasions and anniversaries to engage with our community
3. As an active member of the National Paralympic Heritage Trust use our archives to tell the stories of our history
4. Support the delivery of the Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony to increase its impact locally and nationally
5. Consider new inductees to the WheelPower Stoke Mandeville Hall of Fame



“I never thought I would play tennis or volleyball again and yet here I was feeling empowered to do so. Thank you WheelPower for a spectacular day.” - Valerie

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British Wheelchair Sport

www.wheelpower.org.uk