

English Learning Disability Sports Alliance

A partnership between Special Olympics Great Britain and Mencap

Special Olympics GB

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Our purpose

The English Learning Disability Sports Alliance (ELDSA) is a unique partnership between Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB) and Mencap to promote the inclusion of people with a learning disability in sport and physical activity. The ELDSA work across the sports sector to ensure that people with a learning disability have the best possible opportunity and choice to participate in sport at a recreational and competitive level. While SOGB and Mencap remain as two separate organisations, this partnership provides a single united voice for people with a learning disability in sport.

Who we represent

English Learning Disability Sport Alliance represents people with a learning (intellectual) disability. There are an estimated 1.5 million people living with a learning disability in Great Britain (Papworth Trust, 2014). ELDSA believes people with a learning disability (PWLD) should have the same sporting opportunities as non-disabled people, regardless of their ability level. The ELDSA aims to:

- Raise awareness of learning disability sport
- Work together with a clear common purpose to increase sporting opportunities for PWLD
- Be a single united voice for sport for PWLD
- Engage, enable and support PWLD to regularly take part in activity
- Support the development of inclusive provision
- Establish a single point of contact for National Governing Bodies of sport, County Sports Partnerships and other organisations to develop more sport provision for PWLD



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Mencap

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People with a learning (intellectual) disability

There are an estimated 1.5 million people in the UK with a learning disability. Over 1 million adults over 20 years and above, and over 410,000 children aged up to 19 years old have a learning disability (Papworth Trust, 2014).

Approximately 59% of people with a learning disability do not participate in sport, even as little as once a month. However 2 out of 3 people with a learning disability would like to do more sport and physical activity.

Visit www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk for more information.

Our support

Working together as the ELDSA we are able to offer support and advice on inclusion policies, training opportunities, and campaigning for better provision for people with a learning disability. Both SOGB and Mencap support a range of organisations including NGBs, government, CSPs and charities. We manage a programme of all ability sports delivery. This includes hosting a pathway of local to international competition, and a programme to support the identification of gifted and talented athletes with a learning disability.

As part of Sport England's Inclusive Sport programme, the ELDSA is working to represent and develop both the provision and demand of sport for people with a learning disability.

We run two projects to engage inactive PWLD and support sport providers on delivering inclusive opportunities:

- 1.** The ELDSA's new Round the World Challenge and volunteer Sports Champions aim to engage and motivate 900 people with a learning disability, who are currently inactive to take part in sport and physical activity. This project will promote and help educate PWLD about the benefits of sport and physical activity.
- 2.** The ELDSA will work with sport organisations such as NGBs, CSPs and other leisure providers, supporting them to provide more inclusive opportunities for PWLD. Using targeted engagement and establishing new delivery networks we hope to provide sport and physical activity opportunities to a minimum of 1,800 people with a learning disability.

The ELDSA also offers a 'Let's Get Active' EasyRead guide to sport and physical activity for PWLD. It provides information on the benefits of being active and where you can find local opportunities - available in both electronic and hardcopy formats.

We also offer a 3 hour 'Learning Disability in Sport' workshop, aimed at sports clubs, coaches, teachers and activators to educate and help them feel confident in providing sporting opportunities for PWLD.