# ACTIVE NEWS

Thursday, 27th September, 2024

# SIXTH EDITION

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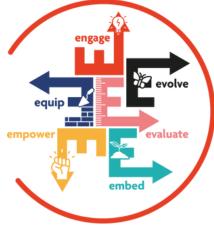
## #NationalInclusionWeek 23rd - 29th September 2024

This week has been National Inclusion Week (NIW), an initiative organised by the Inclusive Employers organisation and one we have tapped into and been inspired by.

This year's NIW theme is "Impact Matters" and the campaign is centred around how organisations apply an impact mindset to inclusion as according to Inclusive Employers, this is still rare in many organisations.

The six pillars of the Inclusive Employers Standard, Engage, Equip, Embed, Empower, Evaluate, and Evolve, provide a model for measuring the impact of your inclusion and diversity efforts. Each pillar represents an essential aspect of fostering an inclusive workplace, from initial engagement to continuous evaluation and improvement.

# Discover more about NIW on the Inclusive Employers website



Graphic created by Inclusive Employers





www.activationproject.org

# Why is Leadership Development Important in the Sport and Physical Activity Sector?

Leadership development is a cornerstone of success within the sport and physical activity sector, both on and off the field. Whether it's athletes, coaches, or the governing bodies that shape the future of sport, strong leadership plays a critical role in driving success at every level. From youth participation to elite competition, cultivating leadership equips teams, athletes, and sport organisations with the tools they need to thrive under pressure, foster collaboration, and overcome challenges.

In sport, leadership directly impacts team dynamics. Effective leaders—whether they are players on the field or central figures in National Governing Bodies (NGBs)—help unify teams, enhance communication, and build a culture of mutual respect. These qualities elevate not only team morale but also individual performance, creating a more cohesive and driven unit both on and off the field. In turn, this leads to stronger results, better performance, and a healthier sporting environment for all involved.

**READ MORE** 

For years, The Activation Project has supported the development of leadership in sport through funding from Sport England and Sport Wales.

If you want to learn more about how we can help develop leadership in your team or organization, <u>please get in touch</u>.

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Apcoming Events



- National Inclusion Week (23-29th September)
- 10th October World Mental Health Day (10th October)
- National Mentoring Day (27th October)



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Sport England to invest £120m in boosting diversity across grassroots sports and talent pathways. This will provide more and improved opportunities to all young people to "explore and develop their potential".

via www.sportsnation.org.uk



LTA has launched its new strategy for padel in Britain. The association has a vision to open padel up to more people across the country and with an ambition to grow the sport by making it more accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring. <u>via www.lta.org.uk</u>

Sam Kemp, Competition Product Manager at the LTA and part of the team leading the national development and delivery of all padel competitions, took part in our LeaderLine coaching programme a few years ago. He gave us some insightful feedback:

"Not only will LeaderLine support me in my own personal projects and programmes but I will, and have, use the learnings I have gained and tools I have received to further benefit those around me by providing a higher level of leadership and supporting them to become better leaders as well."

Case Study

# Helping AOC Sport's Leadership Team Navigate Through Significant Organisational Changes

In response to encouragement from Sport England, AOC Sport embarked on a new phase by entering multiple funding periods and establishing a fresh team with innovative work methodologies. AOC sought assistance in structuring and nurturing the team, defining its culture, and adapting to the evolving landscape.

#### The Challenge:

As a place-based team, AOC faced several challenges: During a pivotal period marked by the launch of a new strategy, restructuring and the commencement of a fresh funding cycle, brought about significant alterations to AOC Sport's composition and operational dynamics.

Navigating this transformative phase required a shift in approach, focusing on team development and ensuring clear understanding of individual roles and contributions.

### The Activation Project's Solution:

Through a tailored package of support containing both individual and team coaching, we provided the whole team with development, support and guidance in response to their unique needs and challenges.

Development: By working on the personal development of individuals as well as the team dynamics, the Leadership Team are now able to influence and grow collaboration.

Revised Working Practices: We worked with them to revise the way they operated and communicated. This helped the cross-district team develop effective relationships and trust with each other which helped with the growth of the organisation

#### **Testimonial from AOC Sport**

"Through this transformative experience, we gained clarity of purpose, cultivated clear thinking, and discovered profound insights into what it truly means for us as a united team and as individuals on this journey of growth." Matt Rhodes, Senior Policy Manager, AOC Sport

# How will leadership development transform your organisation?

Get in touch today and book a call with one of our expert coaches to discover more about the benefits of leadership coaching. <u>hello@activationproject.org</u>