



WRU Hub Programme Term Report

September 2021 – December 2021

Introduction

This document aims to show how the WRU Hub Programme has supported the return of rugby from the pandemic in the first academic term of 2021/22.

The mission of the Hub Programme this year is to:

Use rugby in inclusive and diverse ways to improve the health and well-being of our young people, both within WRU Hub Programme educational establishments, and through Hub Officers linking with their partner clubs and Female Hubs to enable Welsh rugby to thrive.

The WRU Hub Programme is aligned with the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales in its aim of creating healthy, ambitious, enterprising and ethical young people.



Establishment Types

Total 84 active officers and 14 officers in the recruitment process through the first term.

Secondary Schools (60 active 4 recruiting) The majority of the establishments in the programme (60%) are specific secondary schools that are linked to WRU Clubs, Female Hubs and Inclusive teams. Through the targeted work of the officer they are able to connect to the local needs of the area to enable Welsh Rugby to Thrive.

Colleges (6 active 3 recruiting) & **Universities** (4 active 1 recruiting) Making up 15% of the current hub landscape Colleges and Universities provide the opportunity for targeted deployment of volunteers into the community but also an opportunity to engage participants as they transition into adult rugby.

ALN/SEN Schools (Officers 2 active 2 recruiting) All officers support SEN establishments as part of their wider engagement. We have targeted agreements with 3 SEN Establishments and 1 Regional Foundation officer. The aim is to have 100% of SEN schools engaged through the WRU Hub programme and the Digital Classroom.

Partners (12 active 4 recruiting) Regional Foundations, Local Authorities, Charities and 3rd Sector Organisations provide us with the opportunity to target specific areas, outcomes or objectives for the programme.



2021-22 Establishments

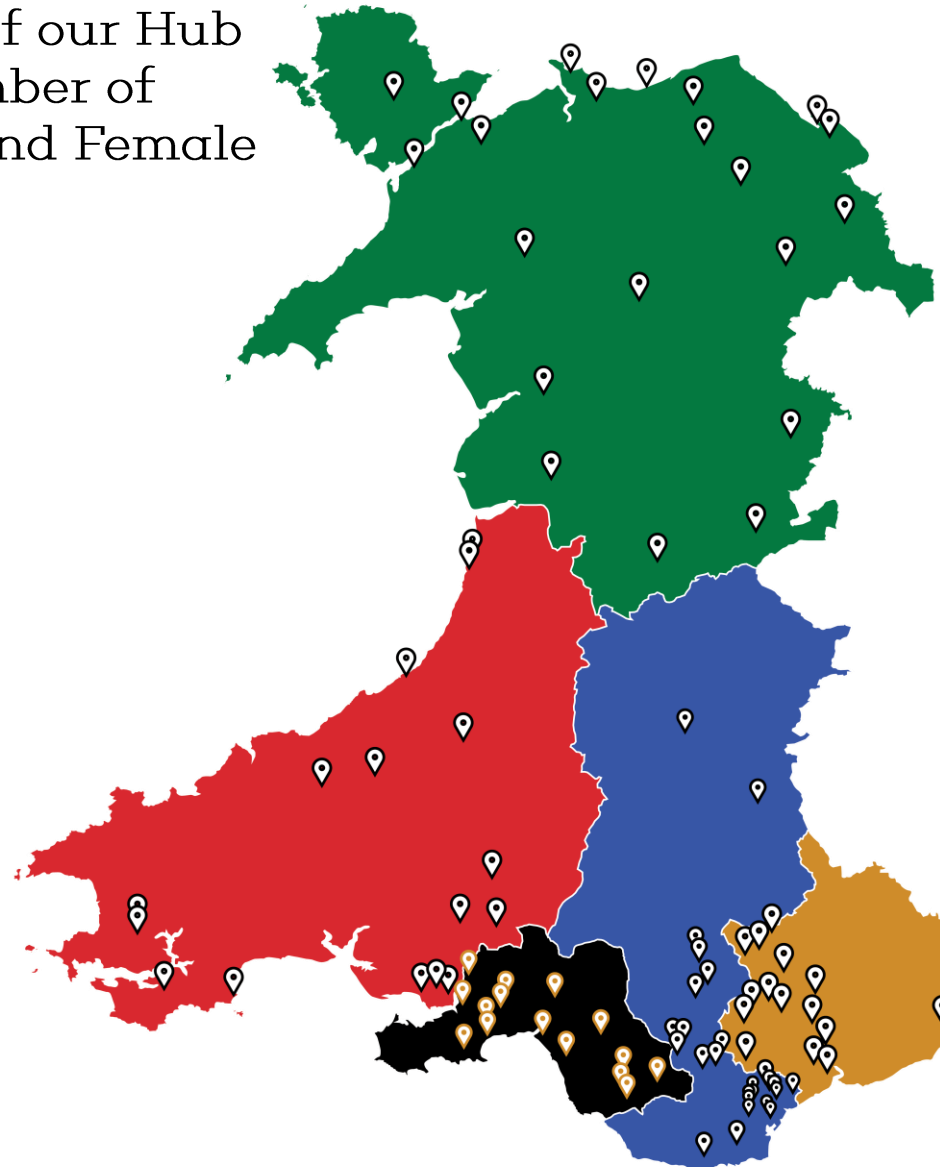
Map showing locations of our Hub Establishments and number of supported WRU Clubs and Female Hubs throughout.

Scarlets

20 Hub Establishments
38 WRU Clubs
7 Female Hubs

Ospreys

15 Hub Establishments
33 WRU Clubs
3 Female Hubs



North Wales

20 Hub Establishments
22 WRU Clubs
5 Female Hubs

Cardiff Rugby

25 Hub Establishments
52 WRU Clubs
7 Female Hubs

Dragons

16 Hub Establishments
34 WRU Clubs
4 Female Hubs





Establishment Feedback



Feedback

The WRU Hub Establishments were asked to provide feedback about the programme's impact in the first term.

We asked the following questions:

How important has it been for you as a Hub Establishment and for your learners' to have the rugby programme back up and running following the last 18 months?

What kind of impact has it had on learners' mental and physical well-being, behaviours, and attitude to learning?



Wellbeing

Dewi Lake - Headteacher - Ysgol Y Moelwyn

"One of the principles of the scheme is that we use rugby activity as a basis to improve confidence, enhance enthusiasm, improve mental wellbeing. This is very real and has made a significant difference for some specific individuals but more than that, the provision has been a universal boost for children and young people within the community."

James Young - Head Of Department Sport Tourism and Public Services - Cardiff & Vale College

"It was clearly evident that college students, including rugby academy players were less confident on return, skills and conditioning levels dropped dramatically. Many learners had considerable body mass increases, however, the overwhelming emotion displayed was one of happiness to be back in college, engaging in physical activity, especially rugby."



Attitude

Nerys Lloyd - Head of Secondary Campus - Ysgol Pen Y Cwm

"Our post-16 students have welcomed the normality of routine within the curriculum. Routine that is so vitally important to all students but even more so to those Learners with ALN. The experiences the WRU Hub Officer Martin Cooke from Coleg Gwent provides enables the development of all areas of Health and Wellbeing."

Claire Lewis - Head of Health and Well-being - Cyfartha High School:

"As a WRU Hub Programme establishment we feel the rugby programme is an important provision in our setting and we have had some very positive experiences with students this year. It has also helped re-align attitudes and behaviour in school for some of our challenging students. We have used rugby as a vehicle to help improve this and give them a focus especially returning from the pandemic."



Behaviour

Gwenan Price - Head Of PE - Bro Edern

"Many who have behavioural issues (anger/ energy) have truly benefitted. Being able to participate within a set of rules and compete against others has helped their well-being. Many felt trapped without sport. Rugby has given them their social life back in a positive way."

Darren Bool - Yr 11 Progress Leader - Newbridge School:

"Classroom behaviour certainly deteriorated in some players with the lack of rugby. Now they are back playing regularly they seem far more settled and focused."

Daniel Owen - Headteacher - Llanidloes:

"The rugby officer has engaged effectively with students, including those who are more vulnerable, to ensure their participation rates are high."



Motivation

Paul Davies - Headteacher - Dylan Thomas Community School:

"We have noticed an improvement in motivation of groups of learners who are now able to participate in rugby sessions that were not normally offered. This is seen in the classroom and in and round the school as a whole."

Ioana Williams - Sports Development Manager - Bangor University:

"Having the rugby programme back up and running has been so important for students. They have returned to what they are used to by training regularly and playing fixtures. Student experience is key for Universities and being involved in sports plays a large part in that. Students are seeing their friends once again and the impact of physical and mental health has been immense whether they are playing competitively, playing for fun or coaching and volunteering."



Engagement

Osian Griffiths - Deputy Headteacher - Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda:

"We firmly believe at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda that the Hub programme is currently re-engaging young people with not only sport but with the school and ultimately education. The Hub programme is a vehicle to re-engage young people within their school communities which is critical if they are to re-engage with education (that's priceless!)."

Phil Bowen - Head Of PE - Dyffryn Amman:

"We have seen big numbers in attendance in the extra-curricular sessions, with a lot of these players not having any sort of rugby experience post-Covid, which is great to be able to offer them an inclusive and fun environment to be a part of. Hopefully, this sort of environment can have a positive effect on the pupils' mental well-being, improve behaviours and attitudes through the disciplined nature of the sessions, and hopefully getting them to continue to be active for longer."





Outcomes

Outcomes Sep - Dec 21

The WRU Hub Programme continues to deliver against the WRU Community Strategy and its objectives

People Provide the targeted training and tools that will enable everyone involved in rugby to be the best they can be.

Places Identify those educational settings, WRU clubs and local communities where there is a tangible benefit to be gained from the development of rugby

Playing Grow and develop the game in targeted communities of Wales so that individuals achieve their potential

Promote Provide an inclusive offering for all our people and communities

Partners Link up and support with other key strategic partners to help grow all our strategic priorities and increase opportunities for rugby across Wales



People

Qualifications are provided by Hub Officers for students to gain qualifications and experiences alongside their academic qualifications.

Rugby Leaders – **572 Leaders** have been trained and deployed throughout the country with good examples across several hub establishments.

Cardiff High - **Tom Morgan** trained and deployed 16 Yr 10 & 11 Pupils

Bro Teifi - **Llyr James** trained 14 leaders to coach Yr 5 and 6 Pupils

Pencoed College - **Jack Pope** upskilled 16 leaders to support his programmes.

TAG Leaders, Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching – **273 students** were qualified throughout the first term.

Cardiff Met – **Rhys Roberts** Delivered to 130 TAG Leaders, 38 Level 1 Coaches and 19 Level 2 Coaches from the University

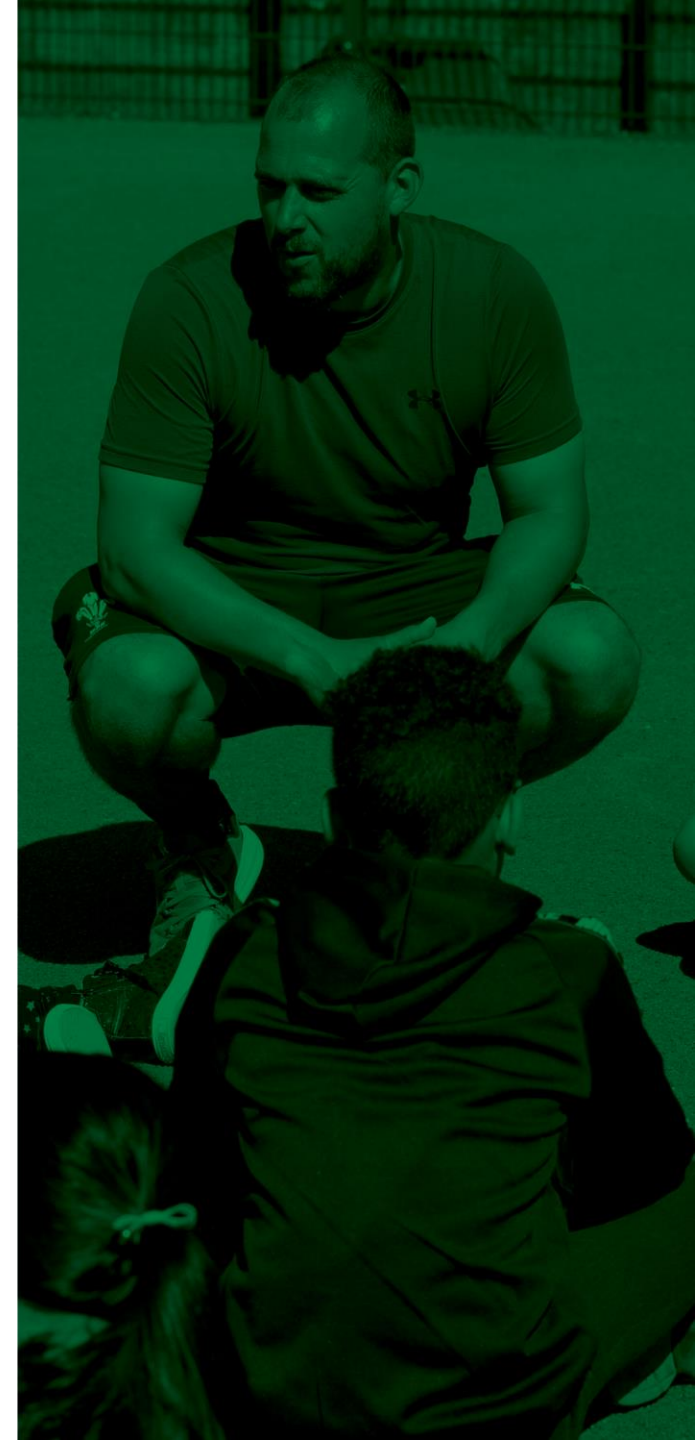
Aberystwyth Uni - **Lewis Ellis-Jones** Teamed up with Aberystwyth RFC to train 7 students alongside 4 club coaches who are now active throughout their teams

Callum Hall - **Penydre, Josh James** - **Afon Taf** and **Jack Smyth** - **Cyfartha** ran a Tag Leaders course for 18 new coaches at Dowlais RFC

Referee Courses – **199 Referees** have been deployed internally and externally throughout the community. Regionally hub officers are also targeted in providing referees courses each year.

The **Scarlets Region** ran a successful referees course to develop 65 referees across their 3 courses in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion.

Eon Williams - **Bro Idris** and **Euros Jones** - **Ysgol Gerdre'r Berwen** ran a successful referees course for 19 students across the area.



Places

With rugby returning following breaks due to the pandemic, Hub Officers have played a key role in introducing learners to community-based opportunities such as clubs and Female Hubs. **179 Clubs and 26 Female Hubs** are connected to the WRU Hub Programme. Here are some examples of the targeted support provided by Hub Officers.

Dyffryn Amman - Dyfrig Davies 27 new players across Amman Valley Junior sides

Aberaeron - Ryan Willams transitioned 3 boys to Aberaeron and 6 girls to Bae Ceredigion Female Hub

Greenhill - Gwion Jones identified 10 new players for Tenby Swifts

Bro Dinefwr - Lee Rees supported Llandovery to start an U14s team

Rhondda Valleys Kids - Jack Dunning supported Ystrad Rhondda to find 8 new players

Penydre - Callum Hall 7 new players to Dowlais U12s

Calon Cymru - Wayne Morris helped recruit for Builth Wells U10s to increase numbers to 25

Cardiff West High - George Tavner enabled Glamorgan Wanderers to start a mini section with over 50 new players joining

Brynmawr - Ashley Sweet helped the club to start an U13s team to start a side with 17 new players

CCYD - Chris Dicomidis supported Nantymoel U13s to recruit 8 new players



Playing – Male

Rugby is provided on curriculum throughout Wales. Hub Officers support establishments to deliver rugby activities during extra curricular opportunities. **4500 boys** have participated in extra-curricular or inter school/ college/ university programmes in term 1.

These are examples of where establishments have seen the return of players to the game in there establishments.

Cardiff High - Tom Morgan 170 pupils represented the school in the first term around 20% of the boys in the school.

Bryntirion - Lewis Crabbe has seen a rise in extra-curricular participation with Yr 7 numbers growing from 18 to 38 participants in the first term.

Swansea Uni - Siwan Lillicrap has grown its membership to over 240 players with them running inter uni competitions alongside the BUCS programme and a team entering the Swansea and District League for the first time.

Cwmbran - Callum Redman has seen over 130 players participating in Extra Curricular sessions. 62% of these pupils have never participated in rugby before.

Islwyn High - Jacob Allan 152 Pupils involved in inter school games 29% of the school population of boys.

Maes y Gwendraeth - Gareth Potter 201 (37%) pupils from have participated in Extra Curricular Activity with 169 representing the school.



Playing - Female

The girls' game has a variety of offers from traditional contact rugby to non-contact touch rugby. **3500 girls** have participated in educational establishments supported by the Hub Officer.

Contact Sessions

Bro Dinefwr - Lee Rees 50 girls training in contact sessions

Cardinal Newman - Tom Massocchi delivered in curriculum sessions seeing 26 girls transition into the extra curricular sessions

Bro Edern - Dylan Morgan has also seen the growth in girls participation with 15 new players joining extra curricular sessions

Touch Rugby Sessions

Chepstow - Jack Dunbar 274 participants (54% of the girls in the school)

Bishop Of Llandaff - Chris Czekjai 220 participants (33%)

Rugby Fitt Sessions are proving popular in our Educational Establishments as it focuses on rugby themed activities to develop general physical fitness.

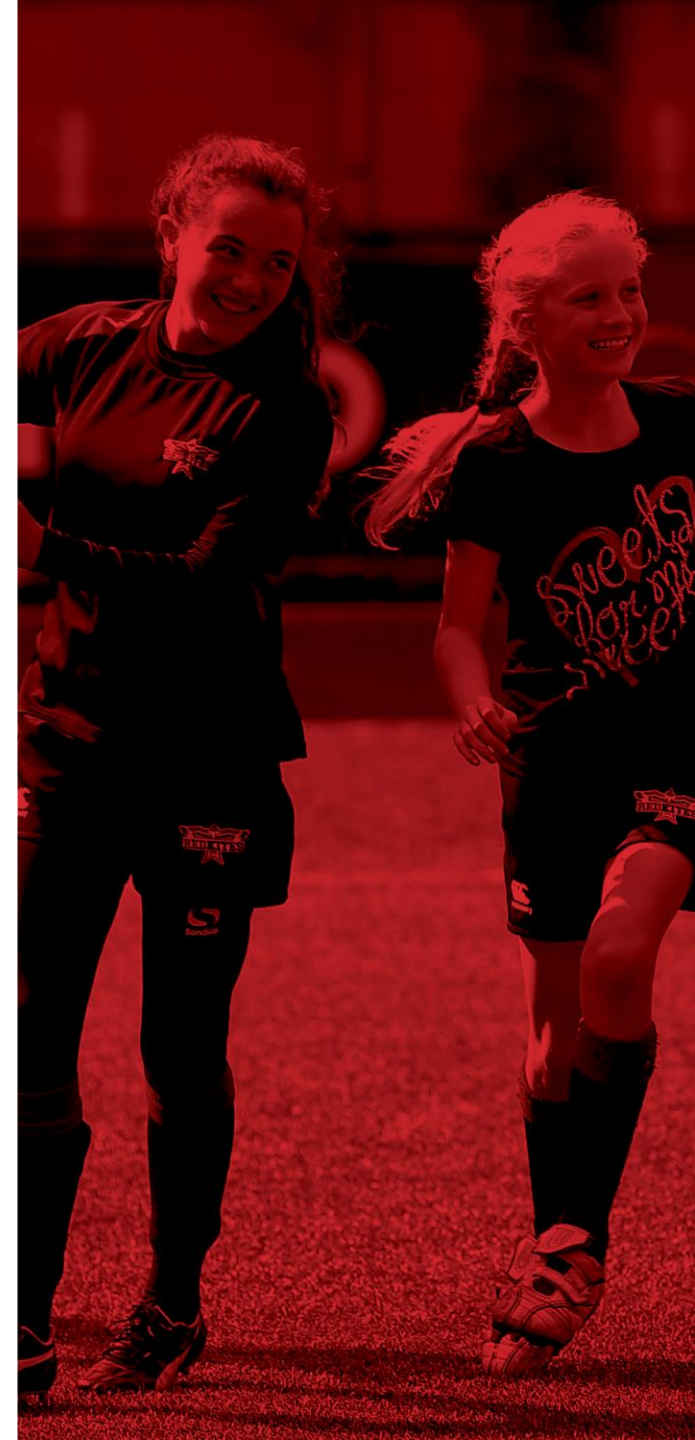
Bro Idris - Eon Williams 144 (80%) **Denbigh High - Sokcheatra Brandon Thach** 113 (50%)

Aberaeron - Ryan Williams 100 (37%)

Newbridge - Joel Raikes 100 (20%)

Eastern High - Llyr Davies 150 (25%) **Bryncelenog - Gavin Gallagher** 180 (29%)

Ysgol Bae Baglan - Stef Andrews 304 (52%)



Promote

Alongside supporting WRU Clubs and Female Hubs the WRU Hub Programme supports our disability framework. The framework provides opportunities for participants to access rugby via SEN sessions & events, Inclusive Community Clubs, Wheelchair Rugby, Deaf rugby sessions, VI Rugby and Mixed Ability teams.

These are examples of the WRU Hub Programme supporting this framework.

Maes Y Gwendraeth - Gareth Potter Introduced to pupils in year 7 to wheelchair rugby

John Frost School - Dan Knight supported the return of the Dragons Wheelchair rugby sessions as part of his work programme

Coleg Gwent - Martyn Cooke has re-engaged with Pen Y Cwm on a weekly basis

Penybryn - Jac Hopkins supported rugby opportunities for all pupils in s179 Clubs and 26 Female Hubs are connected to the WRU Hub Programme the school

Scarlets Officer - Jonny Griffiths has engaged Heol Goffa

Haverford West - Christian Rumbellow has engaged pupils in Portifield School

Ponthafren Association - Huw Williams a mental health charity delivered a walking rugby event in Welshpool to engage participants

Cardiff Rugbys - Owain Marchbank held the first walking rugby festival since the return of rugby. 70 players participated with players participating up to the age of 84



Partners

Partner establishments have enabled the hub programme to support different communities of Wales. Specific agreements with these organisations allow us to support communities in different ways.

Primary schools

Whitchurch - Harry Boxall (7 schools) engaging pupils on a weekly basis.

Cardiff West High - George Tavner (5 schools)

New Scarlets and Cardiff Rugby Regional Foundation Officers have engaged over 9000 pupils in 576 sessions (**Darcey Thomas - Llanelli, Nico Setaro - Carmarthen, Mike Jones - Whitland, Craig Enticott - Rhondda, Bronnie Jones - South Powys, Calum Digby - Vale of Glamorgan and Tal Harding - Cynon Valley.**

Community Links

Scarlets Officers delivered Christmas Hampers to hospitals and care homes.

Calon Cymru - Wayne Morris has been engaging the community in different ways by recycling boots for pupils who cannot afford.

Partner Organisations

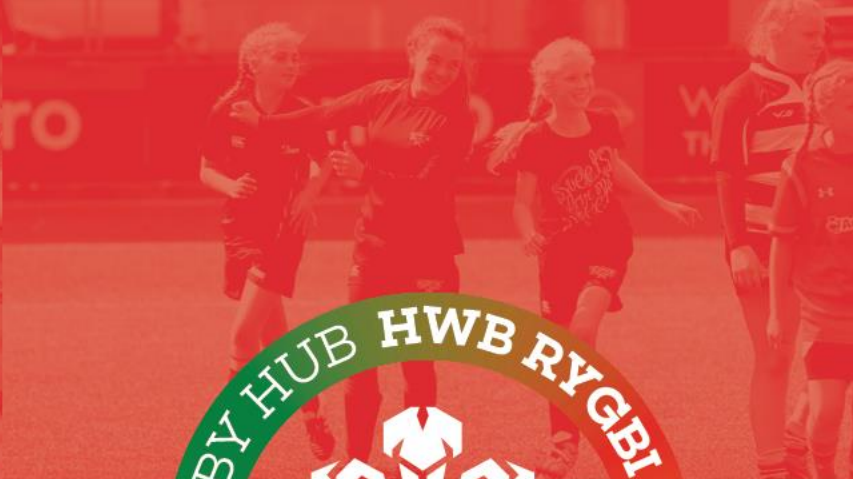
Penydre - Callum Hall linked in with Dallaglio – Rugby Works 6-week course for specific pupils within the school. We have also seen

Scarlets – Jonny Griffiths gave opportunities to NEET 16 – 19yr olds. with Began Actif





Headlines



Headlines

People

572 Leaders deployed internally and externally

273 Coaches qualified across TAG, Level 1 and Level 2

74 CPDs were delivered to 657 attendees across these communities

Places

179 WRU Clubs and 26 Female Hubs are supported by the WRU Hub Programme

82% of registered boys and 86% of registered girls aged U7s to U18s are supported by the WRU Hub Programme

Playing

4500 boys and 3500 girls have participated in extra curricular or inter school/college/university programmes

Promote

80 girls and 150 boys are supported in Pen Y Bryn school

9 teams and 72 players attended the walking rugby festival at Cardiff Arms Park with 4 teams attending an event in Welshpool

Partners

850 sessions were delivered by college officers (6) and partner officers (12) to 9,000 primary school children





DIOLCH