

## Play It Again Sport

Adding value by placing volunteering at the heart



*Ton Pentre Primary School pupils, staff and families did a two week citizenship project (in February) collecting a bin full of sports kit for Play It Again Sport (four pupils pictured with PIAS Project Worker, James Watts-Rees).*

Play It Again Sport (PIAS) is an award winning social enterprise that encourages local people and organisations to donate unwanted sports kit to prevent clothes going into landfill and to help more people to gain access to sport by providing low cost or free sports kit. Working in partnership with Too Good to Waste, all items sold have helped to contribute to the costs of co-creating community sports events, such as termly inter-school sports days in Rhondda.

PIAS takes great pride in providing volunteering opportunities for all ages; involving young children in sports kit collections as part of their citizenship week activities; providing volunteering and work placement opportunities for

comprehensive school pupils; as well as encouraging parents and guardians to volunteer in sports clubs and for sporting activities to enable more young people to access sport.

A key purpose of the project is to support young people and adults to flourish and thrive in education, employment and wellbeing. They do this by providing comprehensive training and support - treating all volunteers as fully fledged members of staff. All volunteers undertake an induction course as well as receiving training on things like health and safety and safe-guarding. This all contributes towards developing skills and confidence needed for future employability.

By familiarising themselves with the world of sport, young people are enabled to see it as a leisure option, a route to employment and even employment itself. A number of these volunteering opportunities have led to further employment such as coaching, with PIAS providing funding for volunteers to take additional tag rugby training with the WRU. This additional

support is vital to ensuring long-term sustainability for the different groups and clubs supported in the local community. Sport requires self-discipline and this is also a cornerstone of a person's employability.

By being involved in the collection and re-selling of sports kit and equipment, volunteers also learn about environmental responsibility as PIAS is effectively diverting waste from landfill and using cleaning methods that are water efficient and minimise or avoid discharge of harmful chemicals to the water treatment system.

By volunteering with PIAS, young people are also brought into an environment of active participation and team work, which can counter the growing epidemic of obesity and social isolation that comes from a life led indoors.

### Practical actions

- Develop a volunteering policy that actively supports and protects your volunteers and staff
- Value your volunteers like members of staff to demonstrate that their contribution is important as well as ensuring they thrive as a result of volunteering
- Champion the benefits of youth social action with project partners, networks and employees
- Provide support and guidance regarding progression into further volunteering, education or employment

### Further details

For more information you can Play it Again Sport online at:

Website: [www.playitagainsport.wales](http://www.playitagainsport.wales) | [www.gadnichwarae.cymru](http://www.gadnichwarae.cymru)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/playitagainsport](http://www.facebook.com/playitagainsport) | Twitter: [@pias2016](https://twitter.com/pias2016)