



Wednesday 8th November 2017

Dear Sir / Madam,

In Plymouth there are over 2500 people who live with an intellectual disability and many more living with a physical disability. Unfortunately, in Plymouth there is still insufficient support in helping this population take part in sport and physical activity. This lack of opportunity effects health, confidence and life chances. YMCA Plymouth has been running it's OnSide club for young people with additional needs for over 4 years, and Special Olympics Plymouth & District have been running their hugely successful club for those with intellectual disabilities at the YMCA for over 6 years.

Both clubs help make a difference to the lives of many people, but each organisation recognises that so much more still needs to be done to reach vulnerable people in Plymouth. Because of this, YMCA Plymouth and Special Olympics Plymouth & District are proud to announce a formal partnership, in order to share resources, expertise and work together in creating new and better opportunities for people with additional needs in Plymouth. As part of this exciting new partnership we are starting a new multi-sport activity club on **10th January 2018**, at the YMCA, for those aged 8 - 16 with a physical and/or intellectual disability. This new club will take place after school from 4:45pm – 5:45pm and will include a range of sports and activities delivered by our staff and volunteers. It's hoped this new club will engage many young people in the city, and use the strengths of both YMCA and Special Olympics to make a truly inclusive and beneficial club for all. Additionally, Special Olympics can offer athlete development pathways for those with intellectual disabilities helping them progress to competition level.

I would like to request your assistance in helping sign-post young people to this new club which will no doubt be of interest to those attending your school. As well as this, I would like to invite you and any staff to our launch event on **6th December 2018** where you can find out about the future of our partnership and more information about the new session. This will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about what we are trying to achieve together in Plymouth as well as how you can be involved in helping us reach some of our most vulnerable young people.

Please see attached an invitation with details for the launch date as well as a flyer with more details about the session starting this January. We also hope to soon send you some flyers which we would greatly appreciate if you could distribute at your school. I thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Andrew Robertson
Managing Director, YMCA Plymouth