

Networks and Collaboration - Wesport

Recent developments in the UK have centred around the development of Coaching System Support Networks (CSSN's). Although a simple concept the reality is often more complex.

The theory is to pull together all of the individuals and organisations that provide a part of a successful coaching system, these could be the employers of coaches, training providers, deployers of coaches, funding providers, strategic bodies and of course not forgetting the actual coaches.

With these individuals sat around the table and discussing purely coaching, it has meant that solutions to problems can be solved much easier, therefore increasing the 'support system for the coach'. This is demonstrated in the diagram below and focuses around the three objectives for coaching in the West of England – More Coaches, Better Coaches, Coaching More Often.

The Coach Development Managers role within the CSSN is to be the facilitator and to maintain a strategic overview of the key partners. The role also entails running a rudimentary 'dating service'; this entails identifying gaps within the system through an audit process. Organisations will therefore identify services/functions that they do not offer or struggle to offer to the coaching system. By matching this organisation with another that is strong within this specific field, it can plug a gap and begin to provide solutions with a partnership approach.

There are numerous challenges with this concept and the primary issue being the protective nature of individuals and organisations. The initial thought process is to take the route of providing the solution themselves instead of engaging with other bodies. The threat comes from losing ownership and also recognition for what they are delivering. The challenge for the Coach Development Manager is to ensure that recognition is provided to all partners and that the successful outcomes are shared and celebrated by all involved.

Further information on the work Wesport do for coaching can be found at www.wesport.org.uk/coaching

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University
"We can provide the facilities"

MORE

National Governing Body
"We need people to book onto our courses as we require a larger coaching workforce"

University
"We have experts that are quality tutors"

BETTER

SportsCoachUK
"We can orientate the tutors to our workshops and provide quality assurance"

Further Education College
"We can access funding to support the coaches attending the course"

County Sports Partnership
"We have a list of other coaches that have requested this training"

The Coach
*"I want to gain **more** qualifications in other sports, be **better** at what I do and coach **more often** so that I can make a living from coaching"*

Local Sports Club
"We have a room that can host the course"

County Sports Partnership
"We can advertise the course, take bookings and sort the finances"

SCHOOLS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
"We have after school clubs to be delivered in 3 schools and 2 curriculum sessions on a weekly basis"

MORE OFTEN

SPORTS CLUB
"We require a club coach to establish and provide coaching for our adult and junior programmes"

COUNTY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
"We have a funding scheme that coaches can apply to in return for getting teenagers active"