



NEWS RELEASE

23/11/07

For immediate release

Blind children's sports clubs win national award

Action for Blind People has won a national award in **The Children and Young People's Services Awards 2007** for the charity's sports clubs for visually impaired children. Action scooped The Play and Social Development Award, at a ceremony hosted by Blue Peter's Connie Huq at the Hurlingham Club, London, last night (Thursday 22 November).

The Play and Social Development Award is given to projects that have advanced opportunities for young people to play or socialise freely. Action for Blind People's sports clubs for children, known as Actionnaires, offer young blind and partially sighted people the opportunity to do regular sport. Action set up its first Actionnaires club in 2002, currently runs 27 clubs across England, and plans to have 56 running throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by 2010. Colin Vince, Action's National Sports Development Manager, commented:

"We are really proud of the Actionnaires project. Visually impaired young people are often left on the sidelines when it comes to taking part in PE at school, or joining a local sports club. The Actionnaires clubs have literally changed the lives of hundreds of blind and partially sighted children.



NEWS RELEASE

“Our project gives children the opportunity to try different sports, stay healthy, make friends and develop their confidence. It’s fantastic when you see them developing week by week - some even go on to win sports competitions or become leaders coaching the younger children. We are delighted to receive this award but the real winners here are the children!”

The Play and Social Development Award was sponsored by Play England.

-Ends-

For images from the awards ceremony or of the Actionnaires, please contact Zoë Patel, press office on 020 7635 4898/ 07739 819954 or email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. Contact Action for Blind People’s National Freephone Helpline on 0800 915 4666 or www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk
- Action for Blind People is breaking down barriers that prevent visually impaired people from achieving the same opportunities as sighted people.
- 2007 marks Action’s 150 years of transforming the lives of blind and partially sighted people.
- If abbreviating “Action for Blind People”, please use "Action" rather than AFBP or ABP.