

PRESS RELEASE - GET BACK IN THE GAME

New Football Initiative Aimed at Job-Seekers and Unemployed.

Fingal County Council have teamed up with the FAI to launch a new innovative 'Stay Active' programme aimed at men and women aged 18-50 years who are job seekers, unemployed and particularly long-term unemployed. This free programme will take place at three locations across the county and is run over three phases starting with weekday recreational 5-a-side football, progressing to FAI Coach education courses for interested participants and finishing with linking to local clubs to assist with coaching underage teams.

Co-ordinated by Fingal County Council/FAI development officers Paul Keogh, Michael Pender and Sharon Boyle the programme will be rolled out in Balbriggan, Swords and Mulhuddart, and is fully supported by Fingal Leader partnership, community Gardai, and Rapid in Blanchardstown and Fingal County Council's sports unit.

Chief Executive of the FAI John Delaney said, "The Stay Active League pilot scheme is one that I hope will capture the interest of people who are currently out of work. As we all know, the unemployment rate is increasing and we are happy to use our game in partnership with local authorities to address this difficult social issue. Sport, and the motivation it provides, has an important role to play in assisting people, who through no fault of their own, find themselves without a job. If the pilot schemes prove successful we hope to be able to roll it out in other areas through our co-funded development officers."

Commenting on the programme Marion Brown, Principal Sports officer with Fingal County Council added " We can't underestimate the huge social benefit of an initiative such as this, which allows people to develop and improve their sports and fitness skills, and encourages them to become involved in their communities. Unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment can be damaging to people's confidence and self-esteem, and the proven health and social benefits of sport and active lifestyles can help reduce these issues in a positive manner. Fingal County Council fully support this initiative."

ENDS 27.09.11

Get Active - Stay Active - Turn Up And Play

Full list of venues and times:

Glebe North All-Weather, Balbriggan.

Starts Wednesday 12th Oct, 12pm-1.30pm

Every Wednesday

Cost - Free

Contact paul.keogh@fai.ie

Or 086-0444435

Rivervalley All-Weather, Swords

Starts Wednesday 12th Oct, 12pm-1.30pm

Every Wednesday

Cost - Free

Contact mpender@fai.ie

Or 087-1273258

Mulhuddart All-Weather, Mulhuddart,

Starts Thursday 27th Oct, 12pm-1.30pm

Every Thursday

Cost - Free

Contact Sharon.boyle@fai.ie

Or 087-1323260

