

“I was inactive... and NOW I’m invigorated and **WINNING!**”



NCBI & VISION SPORTS IRELAND

Vision Sports Ireland merged with NCBI in March 2020. An opportunity to raise the public profile and understanding of how sport can be adapted to be **accessible** to those who are blind or vision impaired. This ensures greater availability of a **wide variety of sports to all using NCBI services as well as widening the scope of the sports and leisure services on offer. Vastly improving the quality of life,** opportunities to achieve, health and well being of those who are visually impaired for the future.

What are the CHALLENGES?

We at NCBI are:

1) Merging with Vision Sports two strong successful sight loss charities with a shared vision to improve opportunities and inclusiveness for people with sight loss to be involved in sport nationally and Internationally for the benefit of all.

Sport generates inspiration, passion, achievement, excitement, social community inclusion and well being for all people regardless of age, gender or background.

This will address serious issues such as the low level of employment, participation in sport; social isolation and the economic inequalities for those with sight loss.

Ireland’s Jason Smyth (centre—Board Member of Vision Sports) pictured below at the 2016 Rio Paralympics with Johannes Nambala of Namibia and Chad Perris of Australia.
Photograph: Sergio Moraes/Reuters



Jason Smyth—20 international gold medalist (including five Paralympian gold medals). Member of NCBI & Vision Sports Ireland.



“I found that once I took up sport again it really helped my self-confidence and my coordination, moving around and getting out and about on my own. Sport is such an essential part of life.

Especially for those with vision impairment, not just for fitness but for socialising, and for meeting people who have been through similar experiences as yourself. Its central to community cohesion. Having access and ability to do vision impaired sport is fantastic!”

Donnacha McCarthy
Paralympic athlete Tokyo 2020 and member of NCBI & Vision Sports Ireland.

We have three SOLUTIONS

- 1. Deliver** an accessible, coherent sports participation **service**.
- 2. Learner Strategy**— A first class learning & coaching programme with excellent facilities Inspiring those with sight loss to reach and fulfill their potential in life and access to elite sport.
- 3. Provider Network & inclusion** —Partnership to provide excellence and inclusion and positive support and commitment for all service users. Enabling them to participate and excel in sporting activity to serve communities in all areas for both charities.




NCBI
Working for People
with Sight Loss

Sight Loss Figures

54,810 People with significant sight loss. **NCBI works with over 6,500** each year. And **2,000** new referrals each year

Priority Projects



PROJECTS—Costs, Location, Impact

1. Deliver a merger programme that delivers a broad, balanced curriculum of activities including sport & fitness, health & social care and support in every aspect. NCBI & Vision Sport Ireland want to support at every point of their sporting journey, from childhood into adulthood; recognising challenges & opportunities not only with those that are visually impaired but the people, partnerships & services around them.
2. **Learner Strategy**— An expert learning & coaching programme with excellent facilities inspiring those with sight loss to reach their full potential locally, nationally & internationally. Sports such as Athletics, Blind Football, Blind Golf, Chess, 5-a-side Football, Rowing, Swimming, Tandem Cycling, Tenpin Bowling, Walking and Water Skiing.
3. **Offer opportunities for progression**— through sports and sporting participation through education, employment and social cohesion.
4. **Employment of specialists**— employ Sports Development Officers to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and developing suitable specialisations in key sports.
5. **Provider Network & inclusion**— Co-ordinated Partnership to provide excellence and inclusion and positive support and commitment for all service users. Enabling them to participate and excel in sporting activities to serve communities in all areas for both charities.
6. **Partnership**— a joint single gateway for combined business engagement and support with a positive united, innovative, comprehensive approach to develop existing partnerships and services for excellence. Collaborating with governmental bodies and corporate for progress, support and development for the visually impaired.



Visually impaired have the **2nd lowest participation** rates **of all disability groups**. **4.5%** take 3x30 (mins) sport a week

ABOVE: Donnacha McCarthy, stoking with guide Dave Tilly

Our OFFERING —Expertise

Our strategy aims to promote maximum participation and engagement in sporting activities at every level by providing expertise training and information awareness and practice programmes.

We aid two beneficiaries :

- 1) **Disability Users** —enabling, supporting, providing information, opportunity and training service to disability users to excel in sport and aid in education & employment and a better quality of life.
- 2) **Community, charities, stakeholders and policy makers** to aid a better more inclusive positive society.

Come be a partner in empowering those with sight loss and visual impairment.

HELP NCBI provide every individual with:

- Reassurance
- Direction and Focus
- A Pathway to Progress
- Skills & Training
- Improved Access & Opportunities
- Peer to peer engagement
- Improved Quality of Life



Jason Smyth—
20 international gold medalist (including five Paralympian gold medals). Member of NCBI & Vision Sports Ireland.

NCBI Charitable Foundation

Charity Number 12673

Further Information

NCBI - Working for People with Sight Loss,

Telephone: 01 830 7033

Email: foundation@ncbi.ie


NCBI
Working for People
with Sight Loss