

# NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate release

## **Sunderland MP gets sporty with local blind kids**

Good sport Chris Mullin MP will visit Sunderland's only sports club for blind and partially sighted children when it celebrates its second anniversary on Saturday 18 February, 10am-1pm. The Sunderland Actionnaires club is run by national visual impairment charity, Action for Blind People in partnership with Sunderland City Council.

Sunderland Actionnaires is aimed at blind and partially sighted children aged eight to 16. It offers kids the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of sports taught by both specialist and qualified sports coaches. On Saturday 18 February the club will be celebrating with professional basketball coaching from the Newcastle Eagles as well as swimming and trampolining. Sunderland Actionnaires is looking for more children to come along and join in the fun.

Ross Ford, club organiser and Sports Development Officer for Action for Blind People, comments:

“Sunderland Actionnaires offers a wonderful opportunity for blind and partially sighted children in the area to enjoy a wide range of sports in a safe, fun and encouraging environment. Whether a child is a future Freddie Flintoff, has an untapped interest or has never tried sport at all, it doesn't matter! All visually impaired youngsters are welcome.”

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Andrea Baldwin, Senior Sports Development Officer at Sunderland City Council comments:

“It’s a great way to develop young people’s confidence and the club is an excellent means of helping them realise and achieve their own potential.”

Sunderland Actionnaires meets weekly at Raich Carter Sports Centre, Commercial Road, Hendon, SR2 8PD. For more information on the club, please contact Ross Ford, Sports Development Officer on Tel: 01772320550 Mob:079 0002 6830, Email: [ross.ford@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:ross.ford@actionforblindpeople.org.uk) Sunderland Actionnaires is supported by BBC Children in Need and Visual Impairment North East (VINE).

## Ends

For interviews, images or further information, journalists should contact Zoë Patel, PR Officer, Action for Blind People on Tel: 020 7635 4898 or Email: [zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

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## Notes to Editors

- Journalists are invited to attend the launch on Saturday 18 February.
- There are currently 15 Actionnaires clubs across the UK in Huddersfield, Gravesend, Portsmouth, Essex, Sunderland, Blackburn, Coventry, Manchester, Liverpool, West London, South London, Hull, Birmingham, Southampton and Peterborough.
- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year. Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline is 0800 915 4666.
- Action works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.