

Sporting behaviour Summer scheme hailed as success

ISLINGTON Council leader Councillor Catherine West proved an agile player when she aimed a basketball at the net during a meeting of sports players at the Sobell Centre this week, writes Peter Gruner.

She was celebrating the success of the Access to Sports free summer programme in which hundreds of young people have taken part. Sports included football, basketball, cricket, tennis, athletics, netball and handball, as well as cheerleading and dance.

Cllr West, who used to play netball at school, said: "Netball and basketball are both great

sports because you don't need much equipment – just a ball and a hoop. It's really easy for people to just start playing and get involved."

The programme was funded with more than £100,000 from the council and Homes for Islington, and other organisations.

The Access to Sports programme continues into September, and young people in Islington can also take part in free or low-cost sport all-year-round.

For more information go to www.islington.gov.uk/active or www.islington.gov.uk/events



Cllr West (second from right) meets young basketball leaders at an Access to Sports session at the Sobell Leisure Centre this week

Police action to stop far right march welcomed, but human rights groups warn of precedent

MP 'concerned' over protests ban

ISLINGTON North MP Jeremy Corbyn has questioned the blanket ban on protest marches in Islington, saying he will raise the issue in Parliament.

The ban comes into force today (Friday) and

by PETER GRUNER and ANDREW JOHNSON

unable to do so unless they have specific permission from the Home Secretary or the police.

Mr Corbyn said that Islington has tradition-

lic Order Act on the grounds that there was "serious risk of public disorder".

Chief superintendent Julia Pendry said the decision had been based on "specific intelligence and information".

Secretary must realise how serious it is to ban marches in a free city," said Liberty's legal

director James Welch. "We are told that this grave step has been taken on the basis of specif-

ic intelligence of serious violence at a very delicate time in the capital. "But we will watch

with great care to ensure that 30 days doesn't gently slip into 90 and so on."

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