

ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

FACTSHEET - STORY

Name	Sandra Hulme, Mark Palmer and Peter Wyman, Greenbank College
Details, area of experience	A disability charity in Liverpool offering education, training, employment, sport and recreational activities for disabled and other disadvantaged local people. Founded by Gerry Kinsella MBE, elite athlete, medal-winner for GB wheelchair basketball team in World and European championships.
Interview date	December 2020
Issues addressed	Inequality and lack of opportunities for young, disabled people and disadvantaged people in sport, education and employment.
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> class <input type="checkbox"/> faith <input type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/> neuro-diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> race <input type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>
Dates mentioned	1983 Greenbank charity registered and College opened
Locations referenced	Liverpool
Campaigns, movements, protests	Campaigning and fundraising for Greenbank project from 1982 onwards. Campaign to build sports academy and college offering sport and education for disabled people. The Equality Act 2010.
Historical context	In 1982 Gerry Kinsella began to raise funds for a project to renovate an old special school to make a building fit for purpose for disabled and non-disabled students. This was a time of inequality before the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Tactics	Gerry completed marathons and pushed his wheelchair from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise visibility and awareness of disability and to raise funds for the campaign. Those with lived experience of the issue (inclusion and access for disabled people) lead and take action. Perseverance and persistence. Changing/challenging perceptions of disability
Key words	Disability Elite athlete/ Paralympian Access and Inclusion Catalyst Visibility
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic disadvantage and inequality experienced by disabled people • Importance of action by people with lived-experience of inequality • Role of volunteers in fulfilling aims of project, both fundraising and creating new facilities • Project expanded from original aim of providing access, inclusion and opportunities for young disabled people in sport to include education, training and employment opportunities • Role models such as Gerry Kinsella and Roy Turnham inspire others to overcome challenges • A successful project can have unintended, positive spin offs • More work to be done to gain equal funding for provision such as Greenbank; still heavily dependent on charity for funding access and opportunities for disabled people.

Story summary	<p>Sandra Hulme, Mark Palmer and Peter Wyman tell the story of the founding of Greenbank College by Gerry Kinsella MBE, elite athlete, GB medal-winner in the World championships for wheelchair basketball. The College offers education, training, employment, sport and recreational activities for disabled and other disadvantaged local people in Liverpool as a form of economic justice.</p> <hr/> <p>Before 1968 physically disabled young people had limited opportunities for work, however able they were. Gerry Kinsella, as a result of polio as a child had become a wheelchair athlete in 1968 and felt passionately that everyone should be included in all areas of life. With donations he bought the old school he used to attend, 'Greenbank School of Rest and Recovery' and set up the Greenbank College in 1983. His aim was to promote opportunities and equality for local disabled and disadvantaged people through education, training, employment, sport and recreation.</p>
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	<p>At first the focus of the project was to build a sports academy to open up opportunities for sport, breaking down the barriers to access and inclusion by making specialist sports equipment available to enable disabled people to participate and to encourage people to have a go at new sports such as power football. The academy focussed on physically disabled young people (aged 16-24) but later broadened to include learning disabled people. The work, over many years, to achieve the creation of the academy/college was undertaken by volunteers, many of whom had lived experience of disability.</p> <p>Greenbank College was opened to develop and offer further activities for disabled and other disadvantaged local people, particularly in the areas of education, training and employment, often linked to sport. Offering real-life opportunities for disabled people to train as coaches, development managers and officers, work in catering and in customer services etc. was transforming. Former students often come back to work for Greenbank. The success of people like Roy Turnham, talented musician, GB Paralympian and footballer for England, who is blind, has a huge impact and provides inspiration for others. Greenbank has acted as a catalyst and created spin-offs such as motivating manufacturers to make new specialist sports equipment.</p>
Stand-out quotations	<p>“Once you begin to excel in anything, everything else just comes with it, your confidence grows ... everything.”</p> <p>“It (the original aim) was all about equality, recognition and to be heard and to just go for it.”</p> <p>“We didn’t really want help (or sympathy), we just wanted the chance to shine.”</p> <p>“Sad that (we’re) still having to rely heavily on charitable funds; it (Greenbank and similar) should be much more recognised that it is (they are) an established part of society and should get equal (funding) to what all the others get.”</p>
Main themes for learners	<p>What does inclusion mean, particularly for disabled people?</p> <p>What are the barriers to inclusion?</p> <p>Employment, economic justice and disability</p> <p>How has the law brought about changes to the lives of disabled people since 1968?</p>

<https://www.economicinjustice.org.uk>