

Showcase event will see 450 young performers in action



STRETCHING OUT: The Dazi Mumz in action at Middleton Sports Centre. Dazi will be displaying 450 young performers at Leeds Town Hall

# Group still giving 'em the old razzle DAZL

BY JONATHAN BROWN

A DECADE of cheer is set to be celebrated at a huge showcase.

Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL) will be displaying 450 young performers in front of an expectant 1,200-strong crowd at Leeds Town Hall, in The Headrow.

The pompom-filled dance event, on Saturday, from 6pm to 7.30pm, will feature guest speakers and a range of exciting acts and dance styles including cheerleading.

Jan Burkhart, from NHS Leeds, founded DAZL 10 years ago. She said: "It will go down as my life's great work getting it off the ground."



"The main thing about DAZL was always to improve health and well being and build up confidence and self esteem in young people in Leeds"

DAZL as a whole teaches around 2,000 children a week in after school clubs and community dance groups.

Ian Rodley, director of DAZL, said: "About 10 years ago I was just one of the young people, there was a small group of 12 of us run by Jan. And now I'm the director, it's a testament to the organisation that I am where I am."

Special guest speakers including the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Coun Alan Taylor, and Coun Judith Blake, Leeds City Council's executive member for children's services, will also be in attendance.

The event will feature inter-generational dance, with three to six year olds

dancing with adults, as well as a mass dance and multimedia footage of the history of DAZL.

Mr Rodley, 28, from Belle Isle, added: "It's about training local people up and giving back to the community, basically they're the DAZL's ideals."

"It's about engaging young people who wouldn't get the opportunity to get involved with dance troupes normally, as it often costs a lot of money to do it."

The theme of the show is 'coming together', celebrating cohesion and mass participation.

Contact Ian Rodley on 0113 2706903 (ext 17) for tickets costing £5.

[jonathan.brown@ypr.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.brown@ypr.co.uk)