

Briefing Note 7: Early Intervention Youth Funding to impact and build on the 'Safer Together through Sport' programme

An introduction to the Briefing Note

This paper outlines StreetGames involvement in the prevention and early intervention of engaging young people 'at risk' of going on to serious youth violence, and the expected project outcomes over the next 9 months as lead delivery partner for the Early Intervention Youth Fund.

This paper builds upon previous briefing papers (see below) associated to the 'Safer Together through Sport' programme (2017) and aims to demonstrate synergy between both current Home Office funded programmes.

Briefing Note
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Introducing 'Sport and Serious Violence Prevention Project'

The Sport and Serious Violence Prevention Project sets out to utilise StreetGames expertise of youth sports volunteering combined with a strong body of evidence that proves the value of sport, youth volunteering and peer leadership in developing critical protective factors and addressing the drivers of serious violence of 'at risk' young people.

StreetGames will work in partnership with 11 Police and Crime Commissioners, a range of Locally Trusted Organisations (LTOs) and key stakeholders to develop the protective factors for 165 young people in at risk locations. This is via engagement in high quality sports volunteering in their community alongside training to develop their critical thinking skills.

The project will engage young people aged 10-17 years, in targeted locations where they are 'at risk' of being drawn into serious violent crime, many of whom are already playing sport at a local StreetGames project. LTOs will support the young people to actively volunteer within their communities – building resilience, confidence, self-efficacy and the acquisition of social skills. It is expected that these 165 young people will impact on 1320 of their peers through their volunteering (ratio 1:8), and as a result they too will develop protective factors as well, diminishing their risk of becoming involved in crime.

Project Aims:

Intertwined with the Safer Together through Sport programme, the programme will address three key aims;

1. To utilise co-produced referral framework model(s) which connect the youth justice and community sport sectors to prevent and address prevention and early intervention challenges associated to serious violence
 - Extended consultation and engagement with criminal justice, policing and community sport partners to gauge stakeholder's needs
 - Design and deliver pilot frameworks complimenting existing pathways where appropriate
 - Record and evaluate impact of referral pathways to shape future practice

2. To advance stakeholder understanding of, and consideration to, addressing the drivers of serious violence through community-based volunteering and leadership opportunities
 - Disseminate StreetGames 'Lessons of Volunteering' research
 - Utilise StreetGames past learning to shape the design of local volunteering interventions – enhancing aligned to risk and protective factors
 - Engaging through; training, workshops, presentations and conference will be key

3. Build a robust evidence base to demonstrate the role sport based interventions can play, through early interventions and prevention strategies, to tackle the drivers of serious violence within 'at risk' individuals
 - Desk and field research will be completed to identify best practice methodologies
 - Promote the value of youth volunteering as a mechanism to address the drivers of serious violence
 - Shape future practice through the collation of best practice methodologies and impact studies

Project Delivery

The key components of this programme include:

- **PCC Engagement:** Local delivery will be strategically aligned through the 'design and delivery' phase of the Safer Together through Sport programme, where the pilot communities are based upon crime profiles provided by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner. The young volunteers will be carefully selected using a criteria of where they live and the number of risk factors in their lives, such as under attainment at school, aggressive behaviour, low-income and lack of neighbourhood attachment. This will be determined by the local partnership group in each PCC area.

- **Referral Pathway:** The programme will build on the previous Home Office learning, so will engage and invite relevant local partners to refer high risk young people to the Doorstep Sport provision. This programme will also explore mechanisms of LTOs making 'self-referrals' and/or 'reverse referrals' based upon a set guidance

- **Doorstep Sport Delivery:** LTOs who delivery weekly Doorstep Sport sessions, will work to engage and retain young people 'at risk' of serious violence, providing local volunteering opportunities. Relevant local partners will refer young people who have been identified as 'high risk' to divert or prevent them from getting involved in the first place. Doorstep Sport hosts will actively support young people throughout their development and towards paid coaching employment.

- **Young Volunteer Training & Development Opportunities:** All volunteers will be offered a range of qualifications and awards, including accredited qualifications in sports leadership, coaching and officiating, doorstep sport skills workshops, young volunteer residential (tbc) to help develop leadership and inter-personal skills together with other key workshops such as youth mental health first aid, managing challenging behaviour and critical thinking.

- Drawing similarities to the Full Time Volunteer Placement programme, a criteria which outlines the minimum amount of dosage and the training and development package each volunteer will be expected to complete for example will be designed.

- **Stakeholder Training & Development:** Stakeholders will have access to training opportunities that will support their ability to meet the needs of ‘at risk’ young people. All stakeholders will be offered the opportunity to complete the ‘Youth Mental Health First Aid’ award to support their ability in contributing to addressing prevalent risk factors.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Evidencing Impact:** A monitoring and evaluation system will be set up and managed to capture outputs and outcomes. We will record quantitative data but will also focus on qualitative methods through case studies and impact reports.

Loughborough University where appropriate will lead on demonstrating the evidence that our youth volunteering approach decreases the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in serious violence. It is hoped that this programme will also contribute to our growing body of evidence of demonstrating the impact of sport on desistance.

- **Insight Dissemination:** StreetGames will help to share and build knowledge amongst LTOs criminal justice partners and the wider community sports sector through:
 1. Taking part in ‘Sport & Youth Crime’ themed discussions and meetings, through formal and informal training,
 2. The dissemination of gathered insight together with the promotion and dissemination of related new reports and information relevant to partners working in disadvantaged communities – particularly StreetGames’ ‘Lessons of Volunteering’ report
 3. Providing opportunities for partners to share information and learning at regional network meetings and conferences
 4. Disseminating learning and information on a regular basis via e-communications, training workshops and information on the StreetGames’ website

The proposed PCC areas are;

1. Derbyshire
2. Nottinghamshire
3. West Midlands
4. Durham
5. Gloucestershire
6. South Yorkshire
7. West Yorkshire
8. Cleveland
9. Staffordshire
10. Greater Manchester
11. Northumbria

Training for stakeholders will be planned and StreetGames’ ‘Lessons of Volunteering’ will be disseminated.

Agreed Project Outcomes

1. Increase in ‘at risk’ young people’s resilience, self-esteem, confidence and acquisition of social skills

- a. Outcome Star Measurement tool completed by young people to measure growth in resilience, self-esteem and confidence throughout the duration of their engagement
 - b. Mental Health Well-being Surveys completed by young people to measure mental well-being of young people in the project, and support locally trusted organisations to effectively address any issues that may arise
2. Increase the number of 'at risk' young people enhancing their employability skills through a training and workforce offer.
 - a. A suite of training opportunities will be provided to enhance young people's development and connectivity to formal qualifications
 - b. Locally trusted organisations will support young people to develop their employability skills through front-line delivery and one-to-one support
 - c. Young people's engagement with volunteering opportunities with further support their future prospects
 3. Increase in the number of 'at risk' young people involved in and connecting with, community based positive activities, positively impacting their behaviours, attitude and engagement
 - a. 'At risk' young people will be connected with local Doorstep Sport provisions, delivering weekly sport programmes, enabling them to connect with other young people and form positive relationships in attempt to form new circles of influence

Agreed Project Outputs

1. 165 'at risk' young people actively volunteering at, and engaging with, community sport provisions
2. 11 referral frameworks, situated in alignment with local 'crime profiles', designed to support young people into, through and beyond, community sport provisions.
3. 1320 peers to be impacted and develop protective risk factors, as a result of 165 'at risk' young people actively volunteering
4. Residential(s) that provides outdoor challenges to develop leadership and inter-personal skills

Aligning Home Office Funded Interventions

As referenced above, the aims of the Sport and Serious Violence Prevention project compliment those of the Safer Together through Sport project. With this in mind, StreetGames propose to communicate and mobilise both interventions concurrently, where appropriate to;

1. Streamline conversations at an operational and strategic level
2. Extend current action-based research approaches associated to 'early intervention and prevention' to consider the drivers of serious violence
3. Extend existing referral pathways to address the drivers of serious violence
4. Build a greater bank of understanding integral to shaping future delivery, practice and investment strategic
5. Pool resources to support and sustain front-line delivery
6. Build staffing capacity – extending; reach into communities, engagements with stakeholders and ability to connect local programme and initiatives

The table below provides an overview of the Sport and Serious Violence Prevention programmes. More information on the Safer Together through Sport programme can be found in Briefing Papers 1 (Project Overview) and 2 (Additional Information)

	Sport and Serious Violence Prevention Programme
Lead Agency	Derbyshire PCC
Project Manager	Aaron Northmore
Programme Duration	June 2019 – March 2020
Programme Funding	£326,726