Youth Justice Board data indicates that the number of young people in the youth justice system declined in the year ending March 2016. However:

There were 896,200 arrests made in England and Wales, of which 88,600 were of people aged 10-17 years, 10% of the total.

32,900 young people received a caution or court conviction in England and Wales.

The most common offence types committed by young people were: violence against a young person (26%): theft and handling (14%) and causing criminal damage (12%).

 Appropriately-designed sports programmes can help to reduce youth-related crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in hotspot areas.
In 2015, our partners in the Police and Crime Commission for Derbyshire successfully secured funding from the Home Office Innovation Fund. Their goal: to maximise the value of sport-based interventions as part of a wider youth crime-reduction initiative.

The project involved eight community organisations in the StreetGames network that piloted doorstep sport initiatives in their local area. These were comprised of Live Wire/Warrington Wolves, Gedling Borough Council, Bright Futures – Northumbria, Link4Life – Rochdale, Sporting Futures - Derby, Telford & Wrekin Council, Newport Live and Denbighshire County Council.

The programme has been overseen by the Head of Community Safety, a post funded by Sport England and hosted in the Derbyshire office of the Police and Crime Officer. This crucial seed funding from Sport England has acted as the catalyst both to secure additional non-sport funding and to enable a propagation of local and strategic relationships across the youth crime prevention sector.

The project took place between April 2015 – March 2017.
## PILOT INITIATIVES - SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>WESTY</th>
<th>NEWSTEAD</th>
<th>NORTH WALES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **PROJECT PARTNERS** | Livewire  
Warrington Wolves  
Cheshire Police and PCC | Gedling Borough Council  
Nottinghamshire | Denbighshire County Council  
Denbighshire PCC |
<p>| <strong>LOCATION</strong> | Community Centre | Youth Centre | Youth Centre |
| <strong>OVERVIEW OF PROJECT</strong> | Two sessions for different age groups on a Wednesday evening using Boxing as an engagement activity | Multisport session on a Monday evening | Boxing session on a Monday evening |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRIGHT FUTURES</th>
<th>ROCHELLE</th>
<th>SINFIN</th>
<th>TELFORD</th>
<th>GWENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bright Futures</td>
<td>Link4Life</td>
<td>Sporting Futures</td>
<td>Telford and Wrekin LA</td>
<td>Gwent PCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumbria PCC</td>
<td>Greater Manchester PCC</td>
<td>Derbyshire PCC</td>
<td>West Mercia PCC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure Centre and School (MUGA and Hall)</td>
<td>MUGA</td>
<td>MUGA</td>
<td>MUGA</td>
<td>3G pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Supermarket Car Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two different sessions offered. Friday night was initially a dance session targeting young women – this evolved into a sports leader’s course. Wednesday was a football session at a local school. Bright Futures also offered 6 week Yoga session in the summer at the same school.</td>
<td>Football -based session</td>
<td>Football -based session</td>
<td>Football -based session</td>
<td>Football -based session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Skateboard session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loughborough University were commissioned to evaluate the programme.

The main aims of the evaluation were to:

- Identify the critical success factors underpinning effective sport-based projects
- Gather robust evidence demonstrating the impact of the pilot projects, drawing on relevant police youth-related ASB data in order to analyse potential financial cost savings and efficiencies

The evaluation involved a literature review, development of a logic-model and qualitative case studies of eight pilot projects.

The qualitative case studies involved interviews with project leads, project staff and other partners e.g. youth service staff, parents, and Police & Community Support Officers (PCSOs) involved in the local projects. Focus groups were conducted with young participants and surveys were collated at the start and end of the project.

The evaluation also drew on monitoring data collated by StreetGames, as well as data collected by the police regarding youth-related ASB.
The evaluation undertaken by Loughborough University identified ten critical success factors underpinning effective sport-based projects - they are:

- Right Staff
- Right Young People
- Right Style and Right Place
- Rewards/Rewarding Activities
- Attractive Offer
- Clear Ethos
- Sustained Delivery
- Multi-Agent Partnerships
- Personal Development Opportunities
- Positive Pathways

During the evaluation, it became apparent that these characteristics could be aligned with different phases of the pilot project development. These were suggested to be:

**Phase 1:** Foundation of project – clear ethos and multi agent/partnerships

**Phase 2:** Creating the ‘right’ offer for young people – right staff, right style and place, right young people

**Phase 3:** Maintaining Engagement – rewards and rewarding, attractive offer, sustained delivery and personal development opportunities

**Phase 4:** Maximising Impact – sport plus – positive pathway

These phases are represented in diagram form overleaf.
CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

PHASE 1
FOUNDATION

Clear Ethos
• Relationships based on trust, respect, fairness, free choice, voluntarism, mutual respect and establishing a sense of community

Multi-agents/Partnerships
• Facilitate access to data on which to base key decisions about delivery (when, where, why who?)
• Enhance access to stable resources and learning opportunities

PHASE 2
CREATING THE ‘RIGHT’ OFFER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Right Staff
• Focus on young people as well as on sport
• Build long term relationships with young people
• Understand young people
• Be an authority but not authoritative
• Provide mentorship as role models

Right Style and Place
• Needs-based and accessible delivery
• Environment that feels safe to young people
• Based on clear understanding of the needs of the targeted young people (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, problem behaviour)

Right Young People
• People like me
• Target group – prevention or early intervention?
• Potential role models
Rewards/Rewarding

- Recognises achievement
- Incentivises young people
- Builds self-esteem

Attractive Offer

- Engaging, high-quality offer (e.g. enjoyable, challenging, energetic, varied)
- Organic and flexible enough to change over time
- Recognises the dynamic process between the participant and the programme

Personal Development Opportunities

- Focus on self-esteem, locus of control and cognitive skills that enable young people to take on greater challenges
- Clear focus on health, welfare and education

Sustained Delivery

- Consistent, reliable
- On-going, open-ended delivery

Positive Pathway

- Provide or link to opportunities for young people to continue to adopt a positive direction in their life - informal and formal
The end-of-programme survey undertaken by the Loughborough evaluation team highlighted how the pilot projects had helped young people to develop personally across a range of key aspects. These aspects are linked to a number of known ‘protective’ factors, which moderate the effects of exposure to the risks of young offending.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>DO NOT AGREE</th>
<th>AGREE A LITTLE</th>
<th>AGREE A LOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am more motivated to engage in activities now</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am more active now</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am better at working in a team now</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am more confident now</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am able to communicate better now</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I get on better with adults now</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel healthier now</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have learnt things that will help me to do well at school/college</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a better leader now</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have better leadership skills now</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can be relied on more now</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am more tolerant now</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I get on better with other young people now</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have learnt things that make me more employable</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have made new friends</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have learnt things that will help me to prepare for getting a job</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“One particular girl that we’re working with was involved in antisocial behaviour... she was misusing alcohol quite a lot... she wouldn’t engage with any other sort of support services... she was coming along and she was engaging with people she would never normally engage with before... Her mum texted to say thank you for all the work that we’d done and she really felt like it had made a massive difference.”

Project Manager, North Wales

“A lot of the anti-social behaviour they get involved in is because they’re bored and probably don’t realise the consequences and if relationships can be built, hopefully it will have a positive impact.”

Project Manager, Gedling

“Yeah, it’s mainly relationships to start with, just building relationships with young people then adding a bit of variety.”

Youth Officer

“Their relationships have definitely gotten better. Tony [PCSO] knows near enough every single kid in Westy and they look up to him, they come to him.”

PCSO, Warrington

“The youth workers are really understanding. They help me with my personal issues and they’re really nice.”

Young Participant, Newstead
The evaluation examined the changes made to youth-related ASB at a local level. It did this for the duration of the pilot project, before comparing it to results from the previous year.

This approach proved challenging – partly because of issues relating to data sourcing (e.g. not all police authorities record ‘youth-related’ ASB) and also because the areas where the activities took place were often located in complex local environments, which gave rise to many potentially confounding variables that could have impacted crime and ASB in the area.

In addition, it should be noted that HMIC undertook crime-recording inspections in 2015 and determined that on average 20% of crimes were not being recorded, with some Forces being less compliant than others. Similar inspections are currently in progress in 2016/17 and HMIC has stated that Forces which are deemed to be below 90% compliant will receive a ‘Requires Improvement Assessment’. Consequently, most Forces are now recording more incidents of crime and as a result total crime figures have increased substantially throughout the UK. This issue has a direct bearing on this project evaluation, as on the one hand, if Forces began recording more reported incidents as crimes, (or ASB) during this period, then that may understate the full impact of the interventions deployed. Alternatively, there is the possibility that more incidents of ASB are now being recorded as crimes (i.e. as public order offences, rather than ‘standard’ ASB incidents) in which case this may have overstated the results. Analysis of Forces subject to Crime Recording Integrity inspections shows that there are still differences in compliance rates, so this issue may be more pronounced in some Force areas than others. The impact on these results could therefore be in the region of + or - 10%.

The Loughborough evaluation stated that:

“The analysis highlighted the complexity of evidencing the impact of sports-based interventions on youth-related ASB using existing police data collection processes”.

IMPACT ON ASB LEVELS & COST SAVINGS
The data analysis showed that in the five pilot areas where relevant police data could be accessed, ASB rates saw a statistically significant fall in two of the localities, as well as a statistically insignificant drop in a further region. The remaining two zones reported no change and a small uptick in ASB, respectively.

At the Westy project in Warrington, the number of incidents of youth-related ASB decreased by 8-9 cases per month, with a corresponding drop in lesser incidents also taking place over the period examined.

At the Bright Futures project in Newcastle the results showed that the number of incidents of youth-related ASB reduced by between 30-37 cases per month whilst the intervention was running, which accounts for approximately 446 ASB incidents over the period of the intervention.

According to New Economy data on the associated costs of ASB, the reduction in incidences seen at these two projects alone equates to £413,604 of savings. Taking into account the costs of the programme, the net savings equate to £149,804.

According to Sportworks analysis, £150,543 of cost savings are expected to be made from the eight pilot projects, (as they relate to reduced crime and ASB figures), with total cost savings of £873,179 projected across all eight outcome areas analysed by Sportworks.
The evaluation by Loughborough University stated that:

The eight pilot projects that were established through the Home Office-funded programme were developed by experienced project leads from organisations within the StreetGames network. As a result they brought considerable expertise to the pilot about how to engage young people in sport-based projects in order to achieve social aims and objectives.

The projects were all unique and developed to reflect the context in which they were located. Despite this bespoke approach, the projects were underpinned by the same ten principles, and it is these characteristics that account for the success of the projects in recruiting and retaining young people in projects that were typically both diversionary and developmental.

The impact and the reach of these pilot projects was greatest where they were able to garner support from other agencies, particularly when this resulted in PCSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens becoming involved.

The evaluation utilised two approaches to exploring the potential cost savings of the pilot and both approaches produced very favourable figures - figures that indicate considerable potential benefits for PCCs and sports organisations when working in unison.

The analysis of the youth-related ASB data indicated a number of challenges in being able to use this data beyond its original purpose.

The ten key characteristics provide a useful way of ensuring that new projects are designed appropriately and they also provide a way of project leads self-evaluating existing projects.

The experiences of the pilot project indicate that the number of opportunities for young people in disadvantaged communities is reducing as a consequence of the impact of austerity and it therefore seems likely that there will be more young people left hanging around with nothing to do. This suggests that the need for similar bespoke approaches to addressing youth-related ASB is likely to remain for the foreseeable future.

For more information about the initiative and/or to read the full evaluation report go to:

http://www.streetgames.org/dsip/youth-crime-impact-programme
“The case study findings have indicated that the pilot projects can be considered to provide cost-effective solutions when they are viewed as a bespoke sport-based project which addresses an identified youth-related ASB issue within a disadvantaged community.”

“The pilot projects were shown to be effective in developing bespoke localised projects in response to local challenges.”

“The main strength of the pilot projects was the strong offer that was created for young people locally.”

“The Sportsworks analysis indicates that the pilot projects have engaged young people who are statistically known to be at risk of engaging in crime and ASB. By engaging at risk young people in sport-based projects, potential savings of £150,543 are predicted specifically relating to crime and ASB. Importantly it also recognises the complexities of young people’s lives in that the same intervention can deliver cost savings across a range of dimensions, including increased wellbeing and improved fitness.”
Building on the findings made in this research, we have again worked closely with the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commission, who have been successful in their application to the Police Transformation Fund. The fund will build on the previous two-year Crime Prevention through Sport programme, focusing on 3 key areas of work: ASB and youth crime, piloting and testing Early Intervention best practice, and rolling out a framework for effective youth-referral routes into sport. The programme will see a more widely-adopted approach that will see an increase from 8 to 26 of the 41 PCCs becoming involved in the new programme.