

# street games case study

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**Report Subject:**  
**Easton Street Sportz, Bristol**

**Title:**  
**Football fights back  
at anti-social  
behaviour**



## Introduction

Easton Street Sportz is a multi sport project with a football focus. The club has been formed by Access Sport in partnership with Avon and Somerset Constabulary. It was based at the Rawnsley House court during the summer and now is about to move to Easton Leisure Centre as the courts do not have any lights so we cannot stay there.

The project is based in the centre of Easton as there is a lack of sports provision for these young people, the group is very diverse and this reflects the population in Easton with 31.7% BME residents, higher than the Bristol average of 8.2%. Easton is the most multiply deprived ward in Bristol and is in the top 1% of nationally deprived wards. The Lower super output area (LSOA) of Easton Road is ranked just 26<sup>th</sup> out of the 32,482 LSOAs for deprivation affecting Children.



## Why was the project developed?

The project was set up, in addition to the lack of provision, as a response to an increase in incidences of turf war between rival gangs, including violence, shootings and finally resulted in a fatal stabbing. 18 year old Abdi Razak was stabbed to death in Stapleton Road just 300m's away from Rawnsley House Court. The young people have grown up with this on their doorstep and so the project aims to reduce the risk of becoming involved in gangs by offering them different choices.



## How is the programme delivered?

After research by the Police on the day and time that most Anti-Social Behaviour occurs, it was found to be between 5:30pm – 7pm on a Friday. This is when sessions operate.

*Nick Roberts (PCSO Support who conducted research)*

*“Using police data, we studied various days and times of the week to identify when anti-social behaviour was at its peak on the Easton beats. Statistics indicated that Friday evening was a problem period for ASB calls in the area so we felt it would help alleviate the issue if we provided the children of Easton something to do for an hour or two.”*

The sessions were initially set up to offer a choice of sports but since the project began, the young people have continued to choose football. 25 young people now regularly attend.

Sessions are free at present and it is hoped this can continue until the club becomes more established. A very small fee to cover the hire of the leisure centre may then be introduced. However if money is a barrier to attending, Access Sport will cover those costs.

## What do sessions look like?

At the moment the project is an engagement project, this has meant the session is mainly game related with the equipment that has been provided by Access Sport,

including bibs balls and cones. They are coached by two PCSO's who are given the time during work hours to come and deliver the activity. The PCSO's are not in uniform and they are starting to break down the barriers that have been associated with the police.

The focus is to knit the community together and in-still respect in to each of the young people of both the community they are a part of but also of each other to try and alleviate the potential of joining a gang.

*David Bane (PCSO)*

*“I have attended 3 football sessions now and each week I am amazed at the positive reaction we are getting. More and more local children are joining in and we are getting a nice group of regulars who always cheer when me and nick turn up. We always start off with a few drills and training exercises and then a few 5 a-side matches to finish. We always encourage the youths to work as a team and support each other and in the short time I have been going, I have seen a real increase in this especially at the end of a game when all I see is high 5's and handshakes.”*

## Who runs the project?

This project is currently run jointly, with Access Sport undertaking the organisation and the PCSO's undertaking the delivery. When Easton Street Sportz moves to Easton Leisure Centre, Bristol City Council will also become part of the project, providing a coach and volunteer mentor for



# Background Facts for Doorstep Sport

6 weeks and negotiating a smaller fee for the sports hall.

Nick, the PCSO support, has been the continuous figure at the sessions. A local resident has been identified who is keen to take on the running of the club with the continuing support of others. With the funding from Access Sport he will attend his Level 2 coaching course and update his first aid qualification.

Older participants are also now being encouraged to take volunteer roles around the day-to-day running of the club. Once they have been identified Access Sport can pay for Level one coaching qualifications and other relevant courses for the smooth running of the club. This could also include excel training courses for doing the finance or fitness courses to help with general fitness. Neil Hall who has had StreetGames training for mentoring volunteers will be delivering on the project as soon as it moves to the Leisure Centre.

## What next?

The group is now moving into phase two which will move them into a club set up. The move to Easton Leisure Centre will give more space and allow for the group to be split into different age groups and coaching becoming more focused. Several local clubs are also going to provide taster sessions at the club, one of which is L'dub BMX club.

The move from Rawnsley House court to Easton Leisure Centre has been carefully planned to ensure that the young people are able to travel to the venue safely.

Participants will each receive T-shirts at the first session held at the Leisure Centre to encourage them to move with the club.

The young people are keen to enter into competitions and play matches and the project is now investigating the various leagues that they could join. When kit needs to be bought this again can be purchased by the Access Sport funding or alternatively the young people will be assisted to write their own funding bids.

## What are the key ingredients to the success of Easton Street Sportz?

The key ingredients to its success are:-

- A successful partnership between Access Sport and the police has enabled the project to be undertaken.

*Kelly Parfitt (Youth Coordinator Avon and Somerset Police) - "Easton Street Sportz aims to give young people the opportunity to take part in sport and aims to break down barriers and create strong links between the Police and young people in Easton. This project has been made possible because of Access Sport who have provided us with the opportunity to kick start this project."*



# Background Facts for Doorstep Sport

- The activity is situated in an area of need as defined by the ward data, LSOA data, crime statistics and local consultation.
- The Police Inspectors allowing the PCSOs to use some of their time to complete this project has kept coaching costs down in the start up stages and has shown the younger members of the community that the police are approachable and are a positive part of the community.
- Everyone is welcome and the informal sessions and promotion by word of mouth has meant the entire community knows they are welcome to the sessions.
- The young people have been consulted on the design of the t-shirts and feel that they really do have a say in the running of the club.
- No charge for the parents and no need to buy specialist kit as it's provided by the project.



## StreetGames

StreetGames is a national partner of Sport England and a centre of expertise for developing doorstep sport in disadvantaged communities.

The charity supports community based sports projects that deliver sport and volunteering opportunities to young people living in the 20% most deprived wards in the UK.

StreetGames works with National Governing Bodies of Sport to establish and develop links between community and mainstream sport. Recognised by the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Inspire Mark, StreetGames is creating a lasting legacy of doorstep sport in the UK.



[streetgames.org](http://streetgames.org)

