

# CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH SPORT FUND

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2022-23





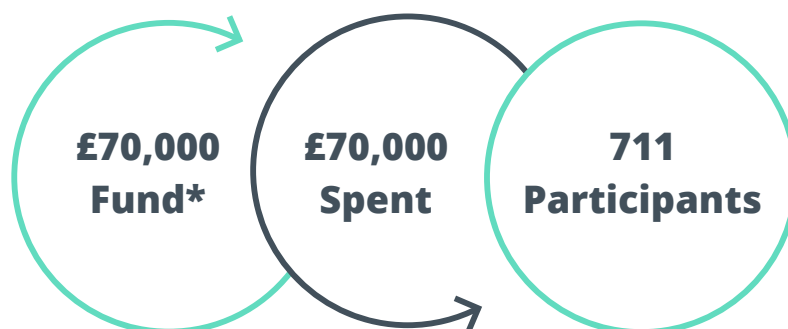
## **About The Project**

Avon & Somerset Constabulary worked in partnership with Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) and The West of England Sport Trust (Wesport) to deliver the 3rd year of Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund. Both SASP and Wesport fulfil the roles of Active Partnerships for their respective areas which cover the force boundary, they are the strategic leads for sport and physical activity and act as connectors to community organisations.

2022/23 marks the first year since the start of the pandemic that delivery has taken place without any restrictions in place. Our thanks go out to the funded partners, for their perseverance, communication and high standard of delivery and care given to all their participants. Please see a report from selected funded projects below including summaries on, sustainability, the added value that this partnership approach has delivered and results of our participant survey.

Inspector James Delafaille, Early Intervention Team, Avon and Somerset Police commented:

“ Having worked closely with Violence Reduction Units across the force I can see the value sport makes to the lives of young people. Identifying and signposting young people to local sport clubs and activities does make a real difference, providing opportunities for these young people to develop life skills that benefit them for the rest of their lives. ”



\*The Somerset and South Gloucestershire Violence Reduction Units have each contributed an additional £10,000 increasing the total fund to £70,000. The South Gloucestershire projects started later in the year and have therefore not been included in this report.



## Edu Action



- Age range: 14-17 years old
- Investment: £4,480.00
- Participants: 8

Edu-Action work with high-risk violent young offenders who have recently been released from prison or secure units or are at risk of repeat offending.

The focus of the sessions was in two parts. Part 1 was to use boxing, maui thai and a range of other sports activities to help build resilience, mutual respect, routine, self-worth, health and wellbeing. Part 2 of each session was a practical construction or mechanics session building to an ASDAN qualification. By gaining a recognised qualification the students will see a clear pathway to the next destination. The aim is for this to lead to a paid apprenticeship, future job security and a balanced lifestyle led within the law.

Of the 8 participants engaged, 5 were regular participants, with Participant 1 building a strong relationship with their mentor, engaging in all activities and returning to school to sit exams. Participant 2, with serious court cases pending was introduced to a local boxing club where he was able to see how membership was enriching the lives of others.

One participant from the sessions commented:



As a reward I was able to use the skills I had learned to design and make a sports water bottle.  
I have learnt transferable skills that I can use moving forward.





## **LPW**

- Age range: 12-25 years old
- Investment: £4,852.50
- Participants: 35



Through some targeted detached youth work sessions in partnership with Creative Youth Network, talking and engaging the young people playing basketball, it was decided that we offer a basketball session at Kingswood Sports Centre, seen as a safe place.

The basketball sessions were designed in principle to effect a social change within the Lyde & Emersons Green area of South Gloucestershire, as there had been a spate of anti-social behaviour within the local community.

The number of attendees has grown throughout the year with young people feeling the freedom to express themselves in a safe, welcoming environment. The popularity of the Friday night sessions has seen a group of participants set up their own Saturday morning sessions.

## **Somali Youth Voice**

- Age range: 16-25 years old
- Investment: £2,314.50
- Participants: 160 attended the football sessions
- Participants: 80 attended the workshops



The project worked with disengaged, disadvantaged young people from a range of different ethnic minorities within the community who were disproportionately affected both by the challenges of COVID-19 and the increased cost of living.

Using the combination of football to bring young people together, to build team work, creativity and positive character development, to build trust and resilience and workshops to discuss youth crime and the risks associated with anti-social behaviour, the sessions proved to be very positive and enjoyable.

A young participant of the project commented:



Everything is difficult, because of the increasing price of energy, food and fuel, but this is very interesting, I like sport and it is very right to talk about tackling down youth crimes, and it was very positive to be part of this. I enjoyed it, I know some of these people, sport always brings a smile, happiness and new faces, thank you for doing this"





## Trojan Education Centre

- Age range: 10-15 years old
- Investment: £4,940.00
- Participants: 20



The Trojan Education Centre used girls only Brazilian Jiu Jitsu sessions paired with focussed mentoring sessions to engage girls from some of the most deprived areas of Bristol. Using only female coaches and mentors, the participants grew in confidence and self-belief, equipping them for life and giving them strategies to help them deal with the stresses associated with school life and beyond.

Clear messaging around being the best you can be regardless of your background was re-enforced by the participants freely mixing despite being from a range of culturally diverse backgrounds. A number of girls took part in competitions and even won medals.

Quotes from participants:

“

This support from Trojan has been amazing for my daughter who would not leave the house before and is now so happy coming to the gym.

”

“

I am so happy I come to Trojan it is like one big family and I feel so good now I know I am more confident.

”



## Youth Connect South West

- Age range: 11-25 years old
- Investment: £4,934
- Participants: 149



Young people across Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Foxhill and Twerton were involved in the co production of the programme of sport and physical activities. Asking young people what they wanted to do led to regular participation, increased wellbeing, a sense of achievement all while meeting new people and developing relationships.

The sessions were led by qualified youth workers with the specific sports coaches working alongside them, the main coach being a very experienced one from Bath Rugby who was able to show inspirational behaviour as well as challenge poor behaviour.

Regular attendees were rewarded by a trip to watch a Bath rugby match and ice skating at Christmas. Young people continued to attend other activities run by Youth Connect SW once the sports sessions had been completed.

## Yeovil Boxing Club

- Age range: 11-16 years old
- Investment: £3,432
- Participants: 15



By using a well-known local boxing coach to run the programme, young people respected him and found it easy to relate to him. He was able to act as a mentor to those involved.

The targeted participants were young people that were close to exclusion, on the police radar for anti-social behaviour and those who struggle to form connections. All participants attended regularly and built friendships at the same time as learning new skills.

## **Foundation for Active Community Engagement (FACE)**

- Age range: 11-21 years old
- Investment: £4,580
- Participants: 150



This project started after reported ant-social behaviour and criminal damage in two local parks in Filton and Patchway. FACE's programme focussed on the issue in Patchway. Through detached youth work relationships were built with young people and football was used as the tool to engage participants. A weekly session was set up and attracted young people who would not normally engage in sport or community activities.

The older young people have become like mentors for the younger ones, issues around bad language and behaviour have evolved into taking responsibility for your actions and developing trust and sportsmanship.

The Town Council has subsequently offered the use of a 3G pitch outside of the organised sessions, the group have played a match against the police and against another group of young people from Little Stoke.

This is a group of young people who do not play football for their school or any organised teams, but have enjoyed coming together and developing skills as a team and the change in their behaviour and attitudes towards each other and others is the great impact that's now being seen.

## **Wellington Wellbeing Children and Young People Project**

- Age range: 7-15 years old
- Investment: £1,551
- Participants: 24

A partnership approach between Wellington Football Club, Blaze Martial Arts, Wellington Wellbeing, the Police and LiveWest Housing meant that the right young people were targeted. Using Martial Arts and Football, the participants developed an understanding of working in a team and how taking part in an activity can help with both your physical and mental health.

Blaze Martial Arts awarded Red Belts to all successful participants and offered additional tuition to some to make sure all who took part could be successful. Wellington FC have continued to support.

Sport has proved to be a great tool to engage disaffected young people.



## **Minehead Eye**

- Age range: 9-16 years old
- Investment: £4,250
- Participants: 145



The sessions focused on young people from Minehead, Carhampton and Watchet & Williton. The sessions included football and team building activities, but it soon became apparent that basketball was what was wanted, this resulted in the recruitment of a basketball coach to lead the sessions.

Most of the participants were aged 13-16 and were a mixture of sporty, popular young people, alongside more vulnerable disruptive youngsters. This proved to be a successful mix as the sessions were not 'labelled' for 'naughty kids' and session numbers grew. The team building games really helped build relationships across the group.

Despite the project coming to an end the basketball sessions will continue, with input from two of the PCSO's. In addition, a number of the young people have accessed free membership at Minehead Eye and others have joined a local boxing club.

## **Blake Boxing Club**

- Age range: 10+ years old
- Investment: £4,427
- Participants: 15



Many of the participants were previously roaming the streets of Bridgwater, naïve and vulnerable to potential anti-social behaviour.

The sessions were run by two very experienced Level 2 qualified active boxers. They were able to build trust between themselves and the participants and created a relaxed environment. The groups ages varied, and this worked well in respect of making participants feel humble, wanted, protected and positive.

Emotions run high in a boxing gym but the social environment and feeling of unity helped the young people channel their emotions in a positive way. Discipline within the group was self-managed, the fact that the young people were made to feel welcome, encouraged and supported played a large part of this.



## **Futsoul 360 CIC**

- Age range: 7-11 years old
- Investment: £4,811
- Participants: 28



Coaches and mentors worked with young people from Oasis Longcross in Lawrence Weston, focussing on those struggling in a traditional classroom environment, at risk of exclusion and victims of ACE's.

Phase 1 focussed on confidence and self esteem through learning the basic technical principles of futsal. Phase 2 saw them working in pairs in a more challenging context, working on their emotional literacy and self-regulation skills, learning how to express themselves and deal with challenging emotions. In Phase 3 the young people worked in small groups, progressing into full Futsal matches, putting into practice what they had learnt in Phase 1 and 2.

Mentors supported the young people throughout the phases helping them to set their own learning challenges. They were rewarded with certificates and futsal equipment.

## **The School of Hardknox Boxing**

- Age range: 10-16 years old
- Investment: £5,000
- Participants: 10



Young people were referred to the sessions from the Somerset Violence Reduction Unit. They were introduced to a consistent, safe place, where they knew what to expect, very different to some of their home lives.

The structure and routine whilst teaching them not only the fundamentals of arguably the most disciplined and skilled sport but also massively has increased their confidence, self-control and has allowed them to realise their potential through the challenging yet fun training routines.

The project has been flexible to grow around individual's needs, one of the young people found it too difficult to attend the sessions within the group setting so they were provided with one to ones to allow them to continue.

## Our Way Our Say

- Age range: 9-17 years old
- Investment: £4,590
- Participants: 32



Young people, some signposted by the police and social services took part in basketball and boxing sessions in a safe place. A disciplined and fun environment allowed the young people to find the very best in themselves and start on the path to a better future.

Certificates and medals were awarded at the end of the programme for regular attenders who had shown that they were capable of achievement.

Quotes from participants:

“ they believe in me and I now have a future to look forward too. ”

“ these guys really listened without judging and helped me get boxing certification and a medal. ”

“ Getting my diploma in multi sports means the world to me as I now have a future ahead of me in being a sports teacher. ”

“ I took back the power I lost being bullied by learning to box and feeling empowered and strong so I don't get bullied anymore. ”



## **Further projects run, reporting not received**

- **YMCA Brunel**, £1,500 – Multi Sport Project
- **Young Bristol**, £5,000 – Multi Sport Project (started late due to staffing issues. Will run for a further 6 months)

## **Sustainability**

The cost for investment in community prevention far outweighs the cost per head for young people who become involved in the criminal justice system. For more intensive programmes with less participants, the cost ratio increases but will still be a system efficiency to spend money on wider prevent agenda.

## **Added Value**

A key partnership benefit for the Crime Prevention through Sport Fund was for the insight and support from SASP & Wesport to further imbed the use of sport as a tool for development. This partnership also streamlined the application process, opened the funding pot up to a wider audience and used a theory of change to assess the projects.

## **Other Funding Streams**

Both SASP & Wesport manage other- funding streams through Sport England and other programmes of work. This enabled the team to fund projects that weren't necessarily right for the CPTSF but the project idea could be supported through another avenue.



## Participant Survey

This year we requested that all participants should complete a survey before they attended any sessions and then complete it again at the completion of the programme. Participants were asked to give themselves a score out of 10 across 8 questions. The results below are taken from the online responses and show an increase in satisfaction at the end of the programme across all questions.

A sample of the 330 responses from the online survey are shown below:

Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?



Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?



Overall, do you see yourself having a happy and positive future?



Overall, do you feel you are resilient and can cope with challenges you face?

