CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH SPORT FUND

2024-25

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INSPIRING ACTIVE LIVES

AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

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Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership

About The Project

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), alongside the Avon and Somerset Police, worked in partnership with The West of England Sport Trust (Wesport) and Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) to deliver the 5th year of the Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund.

Both Wesport and SASP fulfil the roles of Active Partnerships for their respective areas which cover the force boundary in which they are the strategic leads for sport & physical activity and act as connectors to community organisations.

The Crime Prevention Through Sport fund aims to support projects that use sport and physical activity to reduce violence, crime, and anti-social behaviour in young people up to the age of 25. This report contains summaries from a selection of the funded projects and the results from the participation survey, highlighting the added value of this approach.

Clare Moody, the Policy & Crime Commissioner, commented:

> As Police and Crime Commissioner, I'm proud to support Wesport and SASP to help communities prevent antisocial behaviour and serious violence through the power of sport and physical activity. This has been an invaluable collaboration, bringing together Avon and Somerset Police and a range of local community and sports organisations to make a real difference.
>
> Sport and physical activity have a unique ability to engage young people. By diverting them away from negative influences and towards positive activities, Wesport and SASP's work with their providers is having a significant impact, not just on the young people involved, but also on the wider community.
>
> The feedback from these initiatives has been inspiring. Young people are building confidence, developing a sense of belonging and leadership skills, and finding safe spaces to explore their interests. In many cases, this is reducing their involvement in antisocial behaviour and violence. It's a fantastic example of how partnership and creativity can make our communities safer and stronger

£70,000 Fund*

£76,898.30 Spent**

1247 Participants

*An additional £10k was given to Wesport and SASP to administer this fund, plus the £70k given to delivery organisations.
**OPCC contributed £80k for the 24/25 year, via Home Office funding. An additional £6,898.30 was added from previous underspend that was to be utilised for delivery in Somerset.

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Bath City FC Foundation

- Age range: 12-16 years old
- Investment: £5000.00
- Participants: 90

The project has been a success overall with excellent feedback from schools (designated staff), Avon and Somerset Police and individuals engaged on the project. We worked with 5 schools in total (Broadlands, Ralph Allen, St Marks, Oldfield and Chew Valley) and engaged 90 young people through this.

The sessions delivered were aimed specifically at the group of young people we worked with. They included discussions around: choices & consequences, knife crime, county lines, women in sport, racism, domestic abuse, mental health and wellbeing, drug and alcohol awareness and anti-social behaviour. We supported these sessions with a sport session alongside to develop relationships and use sport as an effective tool for engagement and to bring out skills such as resilience, leadership and team building.

Blake Amateur Boxing Club

- Age range: 12-19 years old
- Investment: £4960.00
- Participants: 20

We conduct boxing and fitness sessions twice a week, each lasting one hour. Our program provides a safe and secure environment where young people can socialize away from societal challenges. We are committed to not only delivering effective physical exercise and stimulation but also equipping young people with vital life skills that will empower them to succeed in their personal, social, and career endeavours.

We have earned the trust of a group of vulnerable, high-risk young people. We have supported them personally and socially while educating them on topics aligned with their growth and development. This group does not want the project to come to an end!

Blaze Martial Arts

- Age range: 11-15 years old
- Investment: £3418.00
- Participants: 14

Project Ignite delivered weekly kick-boxing, personal safety and well-being sessions engaging small groups of participants in 'Red-Belt Bootcamps'. This involved high energy martial arts classes designed specifically to inspire self-esteem, self-control and self-belief, incorporated both physical fitness drills and a syllabus of techniques to prepare them for their red-belt grading at week 8.

Additional to the physical element, discussion topics promoting positive skill sets such as strong mental health, developing social skills, personal safety, conflict resolution and emotional resilience were built on while raising aspirations and encouraging good life choices.

Bristol Rovers Community Trust

- Age range: 11-18 years old
- Investment: £4600.00
- Participants: 70

During August, October, and February school holidays, we hosted free football sessions every Monday and Friday, 1:30-3:30pm providing young people with a safe and engaging environment.

Alongside the football, we delivered various workshops, including talks on anti-social behaviour (ASB), first aid training, and health & safety awareness. These sessions had a positive impact on participants by improving their physical and mental wellbeing, discipline, and personal development.

Additionally, we have seen a reduction in ASB incidents in the Lockleaze area by offering young people constructive activities and valuable life skills. The program has been instrumental in promoting community cohesion and encouraging positive behaviour among the young participants.

A coach from Bristol Rovers Community Trust commented:

> It's been great to see the progress these young people have made, not just in their football skills but in their attitudes and confidence. The workshops have given them valuable life lessons, and the sessions have helped steer them away from negative influences

Bristol Somali Youth Voice

- Age range: 15-25 years old
- Investment: £4400.00
- Participants: 75 (approx.)

The premise of the project was to run football and basketball sessions alongside workshops about educating on youth crimes and the subsequent consequences.

Monthly monitoring was received for most months so it is anticipated that approx. 75 individual young people attended throughout the duration of this project. No end of funding report was provided.

CHARIS Refugees

- Age range: 15-18 years old
- Investment: £4800.00
- Participants: 12

CHARIS (Christian Help & Action for Refugees In Somerset) provided weekly boxing sessions with a qualified coach to refugees and asylum seekers. The project encouraged participants to look after their physical fitness and probably more importantly, their mental health. All the participants are dealing with trauma. Most travelled many months across many countries and even seas to find sanctuary. Over the period of the programme the participants built good relationships with the coach and assistant volunteer which has been very helpful for them. Being able to share some of their worries has been therapeutic.

A staff member from CHARIS Refugees commented:

> Two of the boys who had not boxed before, enjoyed it so much that they were practicing at home between sessions and even bought their own kit!

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Creative Outbursts

- Age range: 11-17 years old
- Investment: £4166.00
- Participants: 62

This work delivers opportunities and activities for young people living on the Weston-super-Mare South locality estates which ranks in the top 5% most economically and socially deprived areas.

We created a traineeship for three young people aged 15, 16 and 17. The trainees attended 8 training sessions covering topics including safeguarding, risk management, ethics and values, equality and inclusion, safer working practice and introduction to youth work.

We also delivered open access youth sessions which included football activities that galvanised a core group of 9 young men as well as other irregular attendees. Prior to the football project these young men were very much involved in following social influencer Andrew Tate. They were presenting with extreme homophobic and misogynistic views and opinions. Some of them were involved in shoplifting and one was potentially heading towards gang membership within the town centre.

The football project brought them together. They played football at every Boombox youth session both on the Bournville and Oldmixon estates. They worked together to find ways to play constructively in teams, they included less able players and adapted their playing style to become far more considerate when there were younger players in the MUGA with them. They bonded and developed a very strong sense of togetherness and belonging. They described Boombox as "family".

We observed a style of leadership developing in a couple of the young men based on fairness, kindness, consideration to others. A culture of kindness and consideration became embedded within the sessions and these young men demonstrated the difference they can make when they become a force for good.

Some of the young men were asked what difference the session had made to them and they responded:

> It stopped me from getting in trouble

> It made me feel like I belong

> It was inclusive, everyone could get involved

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Creative Youth Network

- Age range: 8-16 years old
- Investment: £4697.00
- Participants: 55

The project delivered weekly football sessions on a Thursday afternoon, 3.30-5.30pm in the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) in Netham Park, Barton Hill. Each session started with some warm-up activities before playing a game of football. After the game, take away pizza from a local restaurant was shared while we facilitated group discussions on how things were, anything that was worrying them, etc.

The young people generally know each other from school and the local community, however new friendships and bonds were also built, alongside trusted relationships with the Youth Workers running the sessions.

For the last session, in collaboration with Bristol Somali Youth Voice, a short video was created to demonstrate the work and the impact it had on the young people. The video can be found here: YouTube.

Crewkerne Boxing Club

- Age range: 11-17 years old
- Investment: £4850.00
- Participants: 8

The project aimed to deliver boxing sessions within the community and support staff to gain further boxing qualifications.

No monthly data or end of funding report was provided by Crewkerne Boxing Club.

Fuse Performance

- Age range: 10-21 years old
- Investment: £4086.00
- Participants: 69

This project has helped focused on young people facing difficult challenges through creative hubs, sports, performing arts and outdoor activities/events. It was peer/youth led and young people feel they have been listened to. This has helped build longer term relationships with young people who meet each other outside of the sessions.

Sessions were held every fortnight and weekend outreach activities and taking part in community events during Halloween, Christmas and February Half Term. Activities included sports such as basketball and football, circus skills, aerial arts, walking, geocache, trampoline, climbing.

Young people were able to talk more about difficulties and feel listened to and were offered professional support and guidance.

Grassroot Communities

- Age range: 11-14 years old
- Investment: £3984.00
- Participants: 55

Grassroot Communities delivered weekly multi-sport sessions for young people aged 11–14, using sport as a tool to promote physical health, emotional well-being, and positive behaviour.

Sessions were community-focused and took place in a local school, with an informal, youth-led approach that encouraged engagement and inclusion. A wide range of activities were offered, from football and basketball to boxing and team games while promoting and encouraging teamwork, confidence, and fun. The project created a safe space for young people to build relationships with trusted youth workers, explore their interests, develop skills, reduce anti-social behaviour and support personal development.

A participant from the sessions commented:

> I usually spend my time down in the park or on the streets - it's mint being able to come here and it's free

Learning Partnership West

- Age range: 12-20 years old
- Investment: £4900.00
- Participants: 40

We hosted weekly informal basketball sessions, at Kingswood Leisure Centre, where the emphasis was on enjoying a game, gaining skills and doing something physical and positive rather than a dedicated "training" session. An experienced engagement worker attends to oversee the games and provide informal mentoring, advice and signposting. The age range of young people allows the older ones to informally mentor the younger ones. We monitor this carefully, but notice that they often take on this role with care, making sure that younger players get equal chances and feel included.

Although the sessions are based in Kingswood, there continues to be a large group of young people who attend from Lawrence Hill/Easton and are therefore positively engaged on Friday evenings. One of the young people who has been attending the sessions was spotted and asked to train with the Bristol Flyers basketball team. He now attends sessions with them as well.

The success of these sessions in Kingswood gave us the confidence and impetus to begin to replicate them in other parts of South Glos. Earlier this year we began another basketball session in Yate, building on detached youth work we had been carrying out there with a group of boys who were known to the Police and who had been engaging in anti-social behaviour.

A father who collects a group of the young people from session commented:

> Much respect, you stop so many of these boys from smoking weed and being on the streets

Life Cycle

- Age range: 8-14 years old
- Investment: £4090.00
- Participants: 557

The Youth Project runs regular cycling sessions at adventure playgrounds in Lockleaze, Southmead, and Lawrence Hill. Children can bring their own bikes or be provided with one to use. These sessions provide valuable access to social spaces where children and young people can exercise, build confidence, and learn new skills. This decreases the risk of antisocial behaviour by engaging directly with at risk children, providing a space where they are trusted to behave, listen, and respect staff and their peers.

Children attending our projects learnt new skills, broadened horizons, and improved their physical and mental wellbeing. All this served to protect and insulate them from becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour by giving them a healthy space to achieve and feel a sense of purpose.

Jamie was an attendee and now volunteers at the Youth Project. He commented:

> I've always wanted to open my own garage - work on cars, bikes and other things. I enjoyed engineering at school and learning about bike mechanics - it's just clicked!

Rhode Lane Wanderers JFC

- Age range: 7-12 years old
- Investment: £2153.30
- Participants: 48

Operating on the Hamp Estate in Bridgwater, we aim to bring football opportunities to one of the most deprived areas in the country. We offer a full grassroots football experience with training once a week and league matches once a week, or fortnight depending on age. We also offer training courses to people who want to help - e.g. coaching badges, referees etc.

A parent of the attendees commented:

> It's helped my children come away from the peer pressures of going down the wrong path and following other youths that choose the more negative lifestyles

Star* Scheme

- Age range: 5-18 years old
- Investment: £5000.00
- Participants: 34

Through this funding, we were able to expand our rugby-based intervention at St Bernadette's RFC in South Bristol. We have supported vulnerable young people who experienced trauma to build resilience, reduce anti-social behaviour, and foster community belonging. Through trauma-informed coaching, mentorship, outreach, and transportation support, star* offers long-term engagement and positive alternatives to crime.

Trojan Education Centre

- Age range: 5-18 years old
- Investment: £5000.00
- Participants: 20

We were able to provide Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes to local children. We identified those at risk/in need of additional support and the purchase of equipment enabled eligible low-income families to attend. We focused on 'girls only' classes, together with wellbeing and motivational sessions to the girls which included a motivational talks, criminal justice talks, wellbeing sessions and awareness of drugs/knife crimes. We worked with community police officers, schools and social services who referred into us.

We successfully helped with bullying and managed to negotiate that carrying knives was not a positive life choice resulting in the knives being deposited in our knife bin that has been supplied by the Police.

A parent and a participant from the sessions commented:

> Thank you for all you do for our daughter. This is the only gym she is happy coming to and it is keeping her off the streets and away from trouble and bad influences

> I am so proud of myself that I do not need to carry a knife anymore to protect myself. Thanks Trojan for helping me make the right choice

Willowdown Primary School

- Age range: 5-12 years old
- Investment: £4228.00
- Participants: 20

This work a youth club to be established once per week offering a range of activities for young people in the local area. The project is giving some respite to our families; we are providing a safe environment for their children to socialise with children of their own age doing things they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to do outside of school. Families are grateful and children are showing resilience and more confidence within themselves as time has gone on via the project.

A family of three siblings attend, family reported at home they often fight, since attending the youth club and being encouraged to turn take and socialise appropriately the family have reported the fighting has since lowered in incidents in the family home

Youth Moves

- Age range: 11-18 years old (anticipated)
- Investment: £2500
- Participants: 100 (anticipated)

The project aimed to combine sports, mentoring, outreach and partnerships to guide young people towards positive paths and away from crime.

No monthly data or end of funding report was provided by Youth Moves.

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 a wider prevention agenda.

Added Value

A key partnership benefit for the Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund was for the insight and support from Wesport and SASP to further embed 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 Wesport and SASP manage other funding streams through Sport England and other programmes of work. This enabled the team to advise projects,that weren't necessarily right for the Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund, but the project idea could be supported through another avenue.

Next Steps

Wesport and SASP are pleased to be in the position to coordinate this funding programme again for 2025/26, subject to availability of funding.

Our continued relationship with Avon and Somerset Police and understanding of the system will help support the network of providers delivering key intervention and prevention work across the area.

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Participant Survey

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

Below is a sample of the survey topics, taken from 249 responses:

Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

Before	After
6.45	7.92

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

Before	After
6.58	7.92

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

Before	After
6.69	8.32

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

Before	After
6.10	7.81

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Detective Superintendent James Raphael, Head of Serious and Organised Crime Investigation Team for Avon & Somerset Police, commented:

> This year marks the fifth successful year of delivering the Crime Prevention through Sport initiative. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Wesport and SASP for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and invaluable support in helping bring this programme to life.
>
> I am also deeply grateful to the many community and sports organisations who have partnered with us throughout this journey. Together, we have made a meaningful and measurable impact—providing vital diversion and intervention opportunities that continue to strengthen and support our communities.

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