

Case Study

Sport 4 NRG

Neighbourhood
renewal and
community safety

What were our objectives?

To develop sport as a diversionary activity for young people who may have offended, or may be “at risk” of offending.



Project description

Sport England awarded Thanet District Council £151,500 revenue funding through the Active England programme out of a total £154,500 project cost. This funding employed a project co-ordinator for the Sport 4 NRG project from March 2005 to March 2008. The post is now funded by Thanet District Council.

The main aim of the project is to offer diversionary activities for young offenders on their final warning or at risk of offending or being excluded from school. Activities offered by the project include football, basketball, tennis, cricket, footvolley, boxercise, golf, surfing and trampolining.

The project works in partnership with Thanet District Council and Ramsgate Youth Offending Team. The partners were brought together through mutual goals. Thanet Council had to offer sports provision for the young people of Thanet, and Ramsgate Youth Offending Team had to provide alternative constructive activities for young offenders.

Rationale

Thanet has a clear need for the project with three out of the top ten most deprived wards in England. In each of these wards there are large numbers of young people who have little or no access to youth or sports provision.

Project origin

Sport 4 NRG started off as a pilot scheme in 2002. It found that after 6 weeks that only 1 in 7 of the young people re-offended and none of the referred young offenders committed youth crime while on the programme.

Project activities

The project provides a programme that engages young offenders, gives them a focus and offers direction in their lives. It

also runs a mentoring programme to help increase self-esteem and social skills in this group of young people.

Project performance

This project is able to have a major influence on the lives of young people. The project has a particular way of relating to the young people, engaging them in conversation, learning their names, listening to them and valuing their opinions. The project does not just run courses for four weeks but they run activities for as long as there is a demand. Activities are free and there is also free transport to and from sports activities by mini bus.

The project has been very successful and has engaged with over 900 participants, more than three times the original target. A number of young people who attended Sport 4 NRG Basketball have received their level 1 coaching badge and three are part way through Level 1 Football Association coaching certificate. Young people given the chance to train and become coaches have become role models for the other participants, it has also increased their self-esteem and confidence. Another twelve participants have completed 100 hours volunteering.

Research conducted at the end of summer 2007 showed that out of a random sample of 250 young people referred to the project, only 4.8% re-offended. This is much lower than the latest national youth re-offending rate of 41% (2004).

Sport 4 NRG has been widely recognised for its success and was in the final for the best Lottery funded sports project in 2007. Unfortunately it did not win but it is testament to its unique standing and success.

Future

The project is now funded by Thanet District Council and continues to engage with young people.



To get active visit
Tel: 01843 577728
http://www.thanet.gov.uk/leisure__culture/sports_clubs__centres/sports_4nrg.aspx

For more information:
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www.sportengland.org

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