

Submission from Barnet Football Club, in support of their request

Football has qualities that bring people together in ways that often defy usual barriers. People engage across geographic boundaries, age spans or even across the street where otherwise they can struggle to say hello to each other. The potential to harness this for the benefit of communities seems immense. A recent study from the University of Liverpool found that for every £1 spent by football clubs, 34 pence remains within the local economy¹.

Love it or Hate it, football is clearly a language within communities across the UK and internationally, and provides something that very quickly brings people together and engages them. For the 24 national teams, the 55 county football associations, the 125,000 FA affiliated teams in over 2,000 leagues, and over 7 million people playing and countless supporters across England alone, there is undoubtedly a significant social impact of football. And this is without consideration of organisations that daily use football as a medium for making a social impact. But what is this social impact? And in particular what impact do professional and semi-professional clubs make to our communities? And so we introduce Barnet FC.....

EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Our Community Charity, Barnet FC Community Trust have been delivering a number of education projects to primary and secondary school pupils within the London Borough of Harrow.

What's Your Goal?

What's your goal was a careers workshop that was delivered to over 250 secondary school pupils within the London Borough of Harrow. We obtained funding to deliver this project free of charge to the schools. During this project we delivered one hour sessions to groups of young people discussing careers in sport along with activities to identify required skill sets. During the sessions we also looked at application forms and how to fill out them out. The young people were then invited to apply for work experience placements at Barnet FC, along with the opportunity to win placements with national figures from Sport. What's your goal was very successful and we have since secured funding to deliver it again in the next academic year.

Respect

The Respect Workshop looked at the issue of respecting others , understanding respect and the reasons behind respect. We obtained funding to deliver this project for free to 240 primary school pupils within the London Borough of Harrow. This project obtained great feedback from the teachers at the schools we delivered to and due to this we have secured funding to deliver this again in the next academic year.

Who is responsible for me? Think Safe – Be Safe!

This project is designed to help create safer, stronger communities by helping children equip themselves for the leap into growing up and in turn make them aware that they are responsible for making the right choices. This project will be aimed at pupils in year 6, in order to help them with the transition to secondary school. The project will deliver workshops on personal safety and community responsibility with worksheets, safety cards, competitions, supported football training sessions and player visits culminating in a football tournament at The Hive.

Challenge Network Project

We are working with the challenge network to help participants to get a wide and full experience of their time on the programmes. We will be running a football tournament in September at the Hive staffed by the challenge network participants for young people between the age of 12-18 as a social inclusion project. Benefiting both the participants through engagement with positive activities and challenge network through volunteering.

Stanmore College Partnership

Scholarship Programme

We run a Scholarship Programme in partnership with Stanmore College. Stanmore College provide the education component of our Scholarships, the Scholars undertake BTEC and NVQ courses.

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

In partnership with Stanmore College we run a development squad. The development squad is made up of approximately 45 college players from the local area. The participants undertake various educational courses from A-Levels to NVQ's and represent Stanmore College in the National Colleges League. Next year we will be expanding the programme to approximately 50 players from the local area in an effort to keep the young people engaged in sport and education. During the programme so far we have had 4 players progress to the scholarship programme and many more have represented the county and some have even played international football.

SPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

We are now delivering Football coaching sessions and Multi sports/skills sessions in seven primary schools in Harrow, in those seven schools we are delivering nine different sessions with some schools having more than one session in the week. In these sessions we are delivering weekly to an average of 90 engaged pupils with 110 signed up. These sessions are contracted until July 2013.

Between the Trust and Harrow School Sports Partnership we have now delivered three tournaments at the Hive Football Centre where we have attracted over 30 different schools in the Harrow Borough. The tournaments have engaged 350 young people of different sex and ethnicity. It has given them the opportunity to compete for their school and make new friends in a fun and friendly environment.

We have also just signed up with Hatch End Secondary School and St Josephs Primary School in Harrow to deliver a whole day Multi Sports at the Hive for their school sports week/Olympic week. This again will engage a huge number of local young people in healthy lifestyle activity.

DISABILITY SESSIONS

We currently have one main disability session in Harrow. This is a Mental Health and Well Being session with the Bridge Support Group. They have a football training session once a week which attracts eight to fourteen men aged between 18 – 40 years old. They compete in matches once a month in a North West London League held at Brunel University. They won their division this season and have now been promoted to the top league. There is a report out from the NHS – Mental Health which shows how regular physical activity is really helping these people try and lead a normal life. The bridge contributed to the report stating that the work Barnet FC have done with our attendees has really helped with their confidence and willingness to participate in everyday activities. We are currently awaiting outcomes on several funding bids to start other disability sessions. We are also currently working with a deaf football team to support their development as a club and also to develop individuals within the club as coaches so that they can in turn deliver coaching sessions to children who have a hearing impairment.

CSPAN

We are now officially a partner of the Harrow CSPAN Working Group. Membership to the Harrow CSPAN will enable us to work with partners to help to improve the health and well being of the population of Harrow by

Widening access to opportunities for sport and physical activity

Bringing together and aligning partners existing priorities and targets within one joined up local action plan, based upon the needs of local communities and ensuring clarity in roles and responsibilities

To increase the numbers of volunteers involved in sport and physical activity

HOLIDAY PROVISION

We offer Holiday Course provision at The Hive and are looking to be providing weekend and evening sessions by January 2013. We are currently in discussion with Harrow Sports Centre to offer holiday, weekend and evening provision in that part of the borough as well by Christmas 2012.

EVENTS AT THE HIVE

During the last few years The Hive has hosted some of Football's top names, the international teams Sweden, Egypt, Montenegro have all trained at the Hive, along with Palma FC.

The Hive Football Centre, were very proud to host not only the UK heats, but also the World Final of the Nike Chance event. With 100 players invited from 40 different countries, the event was held over 2 days in January 2011, and was judged by Arsene Wenger, Gus Hiddink and Paul Hart. With only 8 players being selected to join the Nike Academy, the competition was fierce. Matt Johnson, Global Marketing Manager for Nike Inc said "This facility was first class and we look to be working closely with The Hive again in the future."

The Kickz Regional Cup was held at the Hive. This brought together 250 young people aged 12 – 18 years old from Kickz projects from across London and the South East. Kickz aim is to "build safer, stronger, more respectful communities through the development of young peoples' potential", getting to youngsters who had previously proven difficult to reach and guiding them towards a range of healthy and constructive activities.