

Tired of hanging around: Using sport and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people

Summary video transcript

FIRST KICKZ CONTRIBUTOR:

There's nothing else you can do really when you've got nothing to do – and nothing to do but just hang around.

Voiceover (VO): That young man is from Sandwell in the West Midlands – but the truth is he could be from any one of hundreds of places where trouble tends to start when young people feel they have nothing to do.

SECOND KICKZ CONTRIBUTOR:

Vandalising – drug dealing

THIRD KICKZ CONTRIBUTOR:

Setting fires and that – smashing windows and that.

VO: It could be in Gateshead in the North East for example –

GEOFF ROBSON

RAVENSWORTH GOLF CLUB, GATESHEAD:

One year in particular we spent £42,000 securing the course – fences and razor wire what have you.

LES WINTER

RAVENSWORTH GOLF CLUB, GATESHEAD:

Kids being kids will always find a way through a hole in the fence, over the top or underneath whatever.

VO: Or the London Borough of Havering

PETE WATSON

LONDON FIRE BRIGADE:

We was getting attacked – young people were firing fireworks – throwing cans at us – actually attacking and abusing us.

NIGEL HALL

GROUP MANAGER YOUTH ENGAGEMENT LONDON FIRE BRIGADE:

The amount of false alarm calls and rubbish fires was actually effecting our main duty which is to save lives.

VO: Or in Burnley in Lancashire ...

STEVE RUMBELOW

CHIEF EXECUTIVE BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL:

I think in common with many councils we have particular issues and concerns about anti-social behaviour – not least because our communities tell us that it's one of their top concerns.

VO: And hardly surprising – keeping a young person in the criminal justice system is expensive – typically it'll cost £200,000 by the time they reach 16. Yet helping a young person who's just starting to get into trouble to stay out of the criminal justice system costs less than £50,000. So it's not just local authorities who will recognize these findings from the Audit Commission – across the country there are many different bodies striving to address the problem of kids who are tired of hanging around.

TREVOR MEERS

BOROUGH COMMANDER HAVERING LONDON FIRE BRIGADE:

We don't have a lot of spare cash but we have a lot of resources – a lot of equipment and a lot of buildings so therefore a programme of this nature could be run anywhere really with the right commitment – from individuals and the support of partnership agencies

NIGEL HALL:

The Council were involved right from the start – but the main people from the Council was the Youth Provision Services and the Youth Offending teams – and later on - as the programme developed – the Safer Neighbourhood teams.

ANTHONY SCHIAVO

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION KICKZ REGIONAL MANAGER:

The hook of the professional football club, the badge itself, the attraction of it – it's not just about putting backsides on seats within stadia – it's actually the clubs getting out working in some of our most disadvantaged areas.

ROB LAKE

WEST BROMWICH ALBION FC COMMUNITY DIRECTOR:

Football clubs have huge kudos and street cred with young people and we can use that to work in those areas and we can engage with young people probably better than any other agency.

ANDY HARLE

GATESHEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT MANAGER:

Initially we took a short term solution approach to it – arresting them – sending letters to parents – but it was clear that we had to take a long term approach to this.

COLIN REAY

CHAIRMAN RAVENSWORTH GOLF CLUB:

We went out to all the local communities within the area and the schools and said if you want to join in there are free lessons on a Thursday and Friday night – and the response within weeks was absolutely fantastic.

SERGEANT PHILIP HUTCHINSON

BURNLEY MULTI AGENCY PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM:

They didn't want to go in and play table football – you know play pool – they wanted to go in and have access to computer games, to the internet – and it's pretty much the things that they don't have at home.

LYNNE BLACKBURN

THE PARTICIPATION WORKS:

They looked at a mobile youth facility that could cover the whole of Burnley and it started off as a mini-bus which then grew and spiralled to this what we've got now which is a double decker bus.

VO: Organisations like these will have faced a barrage of funding challenges. Youth leaders can spend a third of their time raising money from more than a dozen different funders – with no guarantees that any funds will be renewed after the initial grant. Yet these are projects that are showing the way.

YOUNG MAN 1:

Really it's like not knowing each other and we've got to work together on this course.

YOUNG MAN 2:

Me and John didn't know each other when we come here – didn't know anyone – we've all just got along – and we're good mates now you know.

YOUNG MAN 3:

And actually like – working as a team is a lot easier than working on your own.

UNDERPASS ARTISTS:

It makes you feel you proud when you come and look at it – that's my work you know

COLIN REAY:

What we've done is not just brought the children but the children's parents into the golf club, into the community and we've taken the golf club out into the community as well – and the good thing about it is that we're creating a better atmosphere all round.

ROB LAKE:

You know a lot of projects are set up and they do great things for 10 weeks – and then it disappears and the young people feel let down. Everything we've said we're going to do with young people we've followed it through.

ANTHONY SCHIAVO:

If we start going into the pounds shillings and pence – it's probably working out at around £1 a young person.

RUSSELL REVILL

MANAGING DIRECTOR TRANSDEV BURNLEY & PENDLE:

Youths have a better relationship with ourselves – we find that there's less anti social behaviour, less damage caused – and therefore we all benefit out of that.

YOUNG MAN:

It gets them off the streets – it's getting them doing something – instead of just sat there causing trouble.

STEVE RUMBELOW:

We see our role as protecting communities but trying to do that in a way that ensures that the perpetrator of anti-social behaviour actually comes through it and becomes a better person.

VO: Better for the trouble makers & better for all of us. If just one in ten young offenders could be helped – the country could save over £113m in a year. The Audit Commission's report reflects what can be done – and what should be done to create things for young people to do – so they don't get tired of hanging around.