



Crime Reduction through Sport Impact Report 2023- 24

Alex Varran
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Introduction

The Partnership received £115,798 of funding from the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner through Home Office funding to collaborate with Hertfordshire Constabulary and StreetGames on community sport provision for crime reduction in support of the Hertfordshire Serious Violence Strategy between 2023 and 2025.

Project background

The project officially began on 11th January 2024 with a well attended webinar (68 attendees). Following this, the Hertfordshire Community Sport Audit was launched in collaboration with StreetGames, the results of which will allow us to understand whether the current community sport provision for crime reduction is fit for purpose or whether improvements can be made. The initial deadline for participation in the audit survey was mid-February, but this was extended to the end of March due to internal staff changes.



Implementation

A Sport and Violence Reduction Manager has been recruited to provide the momentum to deliver this programme. They are working to provide greater awareness and learning across this landscape, as well as to increase the connectivity between the community sports and youth justice sectors to develop the network and increase stakeholder engagement.

The Community Sport Audit has been completed by 85 organisations across the county, and StreetGames used this data to map all current community sport provision and create a visual representation of the community sport sector at a regional level, framed through the public health approach (primary, secondary, tertiary). Results from the mapping and gapping audit will evolve into a strategic analysis tool (a dashboard) which will then enable the Board to identify opportunities and shortcomings, which can be addressed locally through a multi-agency approach. Following a Data Playback workshop scheduled for July 2024, the newly relaunched Herts Crime Reduction through Sport Board will use the dashboard to inform delivery and identify where new partnerships, collaborative work between community sport and multi-agency partners, new training opportunities and funding are best placed.

To keep reaching out to new partners and raising awareness of this work, the Partnership intend to host a Sport for Good workshop as part of the University of Hertfordshire's Festival of Ideas – an exciting showcase of innovation that is sure to inspire! The workshop, 'Sport for Good: Harnessing the power of sport to create a safer society' will be a thought-provoking debate about the diverse ways sport can be a catalyst for positive change, and discussions will be led by a panel of experts as well as the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.



“The Partnership is excited to be leading on this work and will seek to further develop and embed the county Strategic Sport and Violence Reduction Board. It is hoped that embedding community-based sport and physical activity as a viable and effective option will bring about an improvement in individual, community, and social outcomes.”

Partnerships

12

Organisations were represented at the first Board meeting

85

Organisations completed the Hertfordshire Community Sport Audit

Outcomes and Benefits

- The Partnership now sit on the Herts Youth Criminal Justice Management Board meaning that there is a joined up approach to sharing the work with other key stakeholders from this sector.
- The Herts Crime Reduction through Sport Board is now an official sub-group of the Herts Criminal Justice Board – Intervention & Prevention sub-group.
- Following the Hertfordshire Community Sport Audit, the Partnership is now in contact with more than 80 organisations that work across the primary, secondary, and tertiary space associated to sport as a vehicle to reducing and preventing criminal behaviour.
- Discussions are underway with Academics from the University of Hertfordshire to explore how we can work together to deploy a credible and robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

Key Learnings

It was suggested at the first Board meeting that a representative from Public Health would be a good addition to the membership, so this is being actioned.

Even though the project is aiming to use various data sets, it should not be assumed that the organisations involved can share the data easily due to data sharing agreements that may be in place. Likewise, getting someone from that organisation to provide that data in a suitable format is also important and needs to be clarified from the beginning.

Next Steps

1

Review the responses gathered in the Hertfordshire Community Sport Audit via the dashboard created by StreetGames.

2

Identify and support the commissioning of pilot projects as well as workforce development opportunities.

3

Host a 'Sport for Good: Harnessing the power of sport to build a safer society' panel workshop at the University of Hertfordshire's Festival of Ideas Event in May 2024.

Conclusion

Excellent progress is being made with the Crime Reduction through Sport work, particularly with the recruitment of a Sport and Violence Reduction Manager and the relaunch of the Herts Crime Reduction through Sport Board which gives this work a greater platform from which to make positive changes across the Hertfordshire community.

The data gathered via the Community Audit will help shape this work as the project moves into the next phase, which will involve identifying and supporting the commissioning of specific pieces of work. A Data Playback session, scheduled for early July, will allow colleagues from StreetGames, Hertfordshire County Council and the Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership to present the information gathered in the audit, as well as discuss the dashboards that have been recently created and layered with data from sources including Hertfordshire Constabulary, which will help steer the Hertfordshire Crime Reduction through Sport work over the coming months.

All the partners involved continue to be supportive and plan to attend the next Board meeting scheduled for July 2024.



