

HERTFORDSHIRE
YOUTH JUSTICE
SERVICE



EMPLOYABILITY &
SPORT COACHING
SKILLS
PROGRAMME

PATHWAYS

through Sport



Setting the Scene

Evidence suggests that sport has a relatively large impact on keeping children safe from involvement in crime and violence (YEF, 2025). Sport can:

- Positive peer relationships
- Social and emotional development
- Physical and mental health
- Motivation and self-regulation
- Reduced exposure to negative influences



Pathways Through Sport

Purpose: To fill a gap in current provision – NEET and YJS and develop a programme aligned with the Crime Reduction Through Sport Agenda

Target Group: Children aged 16-18 who are NEET and open to YJS

Aims:

- Inspire and equip participants to explore future careers in sport, coaching, or personal development
- Obtain employability qualifications and experiences
- Foster pro-social identity shifts, including positive self-image, respectful communication, and community contribution
- Build independence through development of practical life skills
- Strengthen and develop local partnerships

Programme Overview

- 12-week programme – staggered timings getting earlier every 4 weeks:
- Two 2hr sessions a week:
 - Sport & Coaching Development
 - Life Skills & Employability
- Journals – to support identity development and tracking growth
- Delivered from either Stevenage Young People's Centre or Stevenage Football Club premises, depending on the session content
- YJS provided travel support to children to enable them to participate even if they live outside of Stevenage and North Herts.
- Funding secured through Home Office, Serious Violence Duty Funding via the Herts PCC

Partnerships

- Forever Young People delivered two workshops on resilience, emotional intelligence and achieving personal goals.
- Herts Sports Village delivered a First Aid training session
- National Youth Agency (through Natwest) delivered a session on budgeting and financial literacy
- Services for Young People supported delivery of employability skills
- HertsMind delivered a session on coping with change

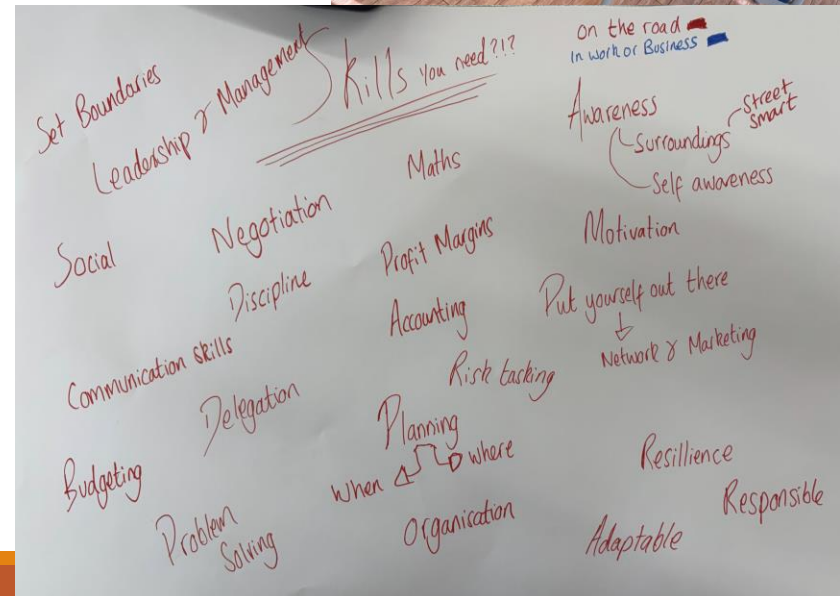


EE Play Maker

- Free, entry-level online course created by England Football to help anyone take their first steps into supporting grassroots football.
- Aimed at those with little or no previous experience, skills and confidence development.
- Five core modules:
 - Creating Safe Environments
 - Understanding the Player Experience
 - Connecting with Players
 - Organising Football Activities
 - Keeping Football Fun



Voice of Child





meeting new people and knowing what job to apply for.



I've learnt budgeting skills and how to save my money and first aid skills, able to use defibrillator.

I have improved myself and helped me to keep going. Learned how to write my CV and find a job. Also, I liked working with the football club.



I've met new people and made friends, I have become more confident and I hope it will give me a job.

I enjoyed the resilience session, it gave me a push and good advice. Also, enjoyed the first aid session.

Data & Projected Outcomes

- 4 children are on track to complete the programme
 - 3 children are aged 17 and 1 aged 18
 - 50% (2) of the children attending have SEND
 - 2 of the children attending are care experienced
 - 3 children are of White ethnicity, and one is of Black African ethnicity
- Certificates & Qualifications On Track to Achieve:
 - Emergency First Aid Awareness
 - NatWest Thrive
 - EE Playmaker by England Football
 - City & Guilds Introductory Award in Employability Skills (Entry 3)
- Exploring exit pathways with a view to get all participants some coaching experience volunteering with football clubs in Hertfordshire for them to put their new skills to use.

Thank you

- We welcome more opportunities for children who have experience of the criminal justice system (tertiary) to have access to ETE opportunities and sports activities to help them achieve positive change and keep themselves and communities safe – across the county.
- This programme would not have been possible without the grant funding and staff from across Youth Justice and Services for Young People delivering this in addition to their usual work.
- We would like to thank all our partners, especially Services for Young People for allowing us to make use of the Young People's Centre for majority of deliver, free of charge.