

#51. THE DENIS LAW LEGACY TRUST



Photo credit: <https://bit.ly/2GYNQ44>

Theme(s): Partnership, Inclusivity, Stakeholder involvement

Type of initiative:
Active Parks, Public Squares

Year: 2006 - till present day

Location:
Aberdeen
United Kingdom

Owner: The Denis Law Legacy Trust

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Source: <https://bit.ly/2GYNQ44>

DESCRIPTION

All activities listed in the StreetSport programme are free of charge to participants and consist of a mobile pop-up sports area being erected in a car park or estate during peak times of anti social behaviour. The mobile pop-up is transported between venues by a van. Since 2006, The Denis Law Legacy Trust have worked with a range of stakeholders in order to access and provide provision in over thirty five areas within Aberdeen City. These locations can be seen here: <http://streetsport.org/locations/>. The overall aim of the activities is to reduce instances of youth crime and anti-social behaviour; promote health and wellbeing and encourage inclusivity through sport, physical activity and creative endeavour.

SUCCESES

Like minded volunteers who believe in the same kind of outcomes have been a real success of the StreetSport programme. As mentioned previously around 35% of the volunteers are local people from the community. Further to this, the partnership with Robert Gordon University has also provided a number of student volunteers, who are all studying for degrees that are not sport related. To date, the StreetSport initiative has engaged over 15,000 young people within the last three years, and the levels of ASB first witnessed are declining within these communities. A further evaluation of the impact of the project over the last ten years can be accessed here: <http://streetsport.org/impact/>.

The creation of the steering group with the main partners listed previously has opened a lot of doors for the StreetSport initiative. This partnership has developed a method called the 'Storm Report', which provides a visual representation of where, and at what times calls of anti-social behaviour is being made to Police Scotland. This method has allowed The Denis Law Legacy Trust to easily identify communities and specific streets or parks that need diversionary activities.

The measures of impact are notable, and in some instances The Denis Law Legacy Trust have helped to reduce incidents of youth crime and complaints of anti-social behaviour by over 50%.

CHALLENGES

Due to the nature of the audience The Denis Law Legacy Trust is working with, behavioural issues with the young people (who are at risk of or are committing anti social behaviour) has consistently been a challenge throughout this programme. All volunteers and staff have been, and continue to be, trained in various courses such as child protection and first aid in order to prepare them for the reality of these sessions. This also includes on hand development and learning from more experienced staff members. As of writing, The Denis Law Legacy Trust are looking at designing a specific in-house volunteer training programme to address this challenge.