

street games case study



Report Subject: Active East

Title: Young Volunteer Case Study



Ahmed Mumin, 18 - StreetGames Volunteer

Since his first session as a volunteer at the Active East project in the east end of Glasgow in February 2013, it was clear that Ahmed would challenge staff and fellow volunteers to keep pace with him.

Ahmed is a caring individual who displays fantastic leadership skills. Shy he may have been in company, but privately Ahmed possessed a burning desire to learn and to implement that learning for the benefit of all. At the young age of 16, Ahmed was so clear-sighted about his aim of improving himself and sports provision for others, that it was easy to overlook the fact that here was a young man with outward confidence issues.

Ahmed began as a volunteer at the Reidvale Youth 'N' Action project (a partner organisation of Active East). At Active East he created a personal development plan every three months, identifying training, qualifications and awards that he wanted to work towards. Once he secured them,

the training was put quickly into practice.

He completed a cricket coaching course and was soon delivering cricket taster sessions for local youngsters. The same process was replicated when he attended both a Basketball Getting Started course, his UKCC Level 1 Basketball course and an athletics activator course.

The basketball sessions at which he now coaches attract 40 participants every week. This is a purely youth-led session at which Ahmed and three other volunteers plan, lead and run the sessions every Tuesday evening in Glasgow's east end. Such is his thirst for knowledge that Ahmed also volunteers on another basketball session outside the Active East project, in order to broaden his experience and work with different young people.

Ahmed also helps out at local youth clubs. The young people there asked Ahmed for tennis sessions. He immediately approached his youth leader at Active East to organise tennis training.



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His youth club volunteering takes up two evenings each week, running sports sessions and even planning talent show nights.

As well as the sports coaching qualifications, which include handball, Ahmed has completed courses in child protection and - on the Scottish Sport Futures 'Education Through Cashback' training programme - completed modules such as Working with Young People, Conflict Resolution, Communication and Goal Setting.

Another important moment in Ahmed's development as a communicator came when he attended the Brathay Young Leader Development Residential organised by StreetGames in the autumn of 2013. His only previous experience of such events had been on smaller residentials with his fellow volunteers from Active East. Taken out of his comfort at Brathay, Ahmed exchanged tips and learning with his fellow StreetGames Young Volunteers and returned to Glasgow more clearly focused on consolidating his strengths and improving his weaknesses.

In developing his confidence, Ahmed has demonstrated natural leadership qualities within his volunteering peer group. He is also now comfortable volunteering at events across Glasgow, such as the JUMP2IT Basketball, the Tollcross 5k, Emirates First Birthday and the Youth Active Festival which attracted over 600 local youngsters and at which Ahmed helped to lead the dodgeball and badminton events.

It has been a natural progression for him to join Active East's events committee to help coordinate Glasgow-wide

events in partnership with other community organisations.

"Ahmed came to Active East looking for help to find a basketball court for him and his friends to play at," explained Rohanna Irvine, Programme Administrator at Active East.

"One year on and he is planning and leading basketball sessions, assisting in national school basketball tournaments, leading cricket sessions, completing training in a variety of sports and helping at his local youth clubs each week.

"He started as a shy young individual lacking in self-confidence. The journey he has gone on has allowed his confidence to bloom, his self-belief to increase and his leadership skills to be enhanced massively.

"Ahmed has truly applied himself to the Active East programme in every sense. He has a very strong group of volunteers around him who all support each other. When they went on the cricket training course some of his peers struggled to pick the rules up. Ahmed stepped in, helped them with this and after the training went through the rules to make sure all of his peers understood.

"He is so enthusiastic about any volunteering opportunity he is given and he gives everything to his volunteering. Whatever the event, Ahmed wants to be there.

"He listens to the young people and gives them a voice just like he has been given a voice. He is extremely committed and is constantly looking at ways to introduce new things for the young people and the community. I feel



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this is something very special in Ahmed.”

The future is looking bright for Ahmed. At the StreetGames Young Volunteers Awards in 2014, Ahmed won the Personal Development Award, which was designed to find a young person whose commitment to becoming better at helping their peers enjoy sport was absolute. Ahmed has recently become a Grant Maker for Active East – a highly sought after role in which Ahmed and the rest of the Committee will award grants of money to young people to create and provide sporting

opportunities within their local communities.

Ahmed began a degree in Law at Stirling University in September 2014. Ahmed will continue his volunteering throughout his studies, and has recently been given some paid work as an Administration Assistant with Active East, as well as some paid coaching work on the basketball programme – all which will help Ahmed increase his experience and independently pay his way through University.

StreetGames

StreetGames is a national partner of Sport England and a centre of expertise for developing doorstep sport in disadvantaged communities.

The charity supports community based sports projects that deliver sport and volunteering opportunities to young people living in the 20% most deprived wards in the UK.

StreetGames works with National Governing Bodies of Sport to establish and develop links between community and mainstream sport. Recognised by the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Inspire Mark, StreetGames is creating a lasting legacy of doorstep sport in the UK.



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