

# street games case study



## Report Subject: Granville DSC

## Title: Delivering a vibrant and varied (VIVA) sporting offer, Youth Leadership and Action & Communication and Collaboration

*It's a warm summer's evening, we're outside at the back of the school. There are young people everywhere, the air is full of laughing and shrieking, having fun. Playing tennis on the hard courts, throwing basketballs into the hoop, chatting around the table tennis tables, running after the football and looking for the goal, getting a drink from the youth bus, sitting down and chatting, having a well-earned rest from the football.' (May 2014)*

The Doorstep Sport Club (DSC) at Granville School started off as a 'diversionary' youth club session five years ago but has now expanded to become a thriving, vibrant sports session with between fifty to sixty young people attending each week as a result of the partnership between Derbyshire County Council's Multi Agency Team (youth and social workers), South Derbyshire District Council, Sporting Futures and Granville School. The Doorstep Sport Club programme has meant that it has been able to expand its sporting offer to young people on Friday evenings and give the staff and volunteers new training opportunities. Variety is important to the success of the sessions. Young

people can now choose from a much wider range of sports including football, tennis, rounders, basketball, street dance, an indoor fitness gym, cricket and table tennis. The sessions always offer several different sports at any one time so that young people can leave one activity and join another whenever they choose.

*'Yes, we do dance here, you get to learn new moves, different styles of street dance, hip hop and house are our favourites... the teacher is kind and if you're stuck, she'll help you and go through it properly... after dance we'll go to the gym, on the treadmill, sometimes the rowing machine.'*

(Two female participants)

Youth action is at the heart of the sessions as every week young people make decisions about the sports they want to play. At the end of each term, the staff ask all the young people what they want to play next term so that they can make sure that they have the right skills and equipment for the new sports. The next step is for young people to become volunteers and to take on roles and



# Background Facts for Doorstep Sport

responsibilities that they feel comfortable with.

*'I volunteered as a sports leader, getting kids involved...it gets them off the street, gives them something to do, the kids enjoy it quite a lot.'* (Young volunteer)

The advantage of the multi agency approach is that it brings a range of sports and youth (MAT) workers with the right style and approach to run the sessions. The youth (MAT) workers see this session as a positive environment to support their own work with young people and use sport as a way to build confidence, self-esteem, and improve communication skills especially for the young people referred to the sessions by the Multi Agency Team workers.

*'The sport part here is really good...youth work and sport helps with self-esteem, confidence, the young people are in a safe environment.'* (MAT worker)

The sports leaders adopt an informal approach to the sessions with a focus on fun and enjoyment for the young people, giving hints and tips for improving their playing

skills (hidden coaching!) and encouraging different friendship groups to mix with each other.

*'I came last year, a friend told me about it. When we're inside, I like badminton, table tennis and the little football games we do, outside I like tennis and football.... (How does the football work here, girls and boys playing alongside each other, all have good skills, very confident, tackling each other?) Everybody gets along, you know everybody so it's not too hard.... we'll sometimes have just girls only football with a female member of staff, makes you confident.'* (Female participant, member of the youth forum)

And as Sara, the project coordinator, recognised 'they vote with their feet!' The young people, volunteers and staff all agreed that it was a great session to have in their community on a Friday evening.

*'They're here to have fun, it's not coaching, it's showing them the basics to have fun, we encourage them to play but it's on their terms... if they're having fun, they'll come back.'* (Sports coach)

## 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.

