

Organisation Name	Reference code	
Accrington Stanley Community Trust	2023-05-YO01	
Organisation Address		
Stanley Sports Hub, Thorneyholme Road Accrington Lancashire BB5 6BD England		
Website Address		
www.stanleytrust.co.uk		
Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)		
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered
Yes	1139575	2010
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered
No	7369852	2010
Social Enterprise	Social Enterprise Mark Awarded Yes/No	Date Awarded
No	No	
<b>Grant Summary</b>		
Our Champions programme will support care-experienced young people in Hyndburn with criminal convictions to transform their lives by empowering them to lead healthier, positive and safer lives through the development of essential skills, increased confidence and self-esteem and improved employment prospects.		
<b>Please describe the needs that this project will address</b>		
We have experience of working with young offenders through our Champions programme and as such have built up a strong level of understanding of the key issues and challenges that young people in Hyndburn with criminal convictions face when it comes to trying to turn their lives around. Some of the young people we will be looking to engage with and support will have missed out on considerable chunks of schooling and education (especially through the impact of COVID-19) and as such will have gaps in their qualifications and learning which may be affecting their life chances. We know that many young people with criminal convictions also have a lack of confidence and self-esteem when it comes to putting themselves forwards for employment opportunities, and also can need extra help with regards to social and communication skills to ensure that they can present themselves in the most positive manner. Young people here in Hyndburn with criminal convictions can often have complex and unstable lives, including their home situations, something that this project and work needs to be able to account for and take into consideration, so as to help ensure young people remain on a positive track and are not derailed by issues going on at home or around them. Poor mental health and wellbeing can and does affect many young offenders, especially those who have issues with substance misuse and alcohol. This is perhaps the key aspect which needs to be addressed, as poor mental health has a negative impact and effect on all aspects of an individual's life and without helping the young people to become more resilient and better able to deal with stress, anxiety and setbacks then the project is unlikely to achieve the		

intended outcomes or impact. As our project has a specific focus on providing support to young people with experience of the care system we also need to be aware of the specific issues and challenges facing this cohort, who are at a significant disadvantage with regards to many of their peers when it comes to support and stability at home. Children in care and care leavers are statistically over-represented within the criminal justice system:

Children in care and care leavers account for less than 1% of the general population (DfE 2013), yet are vastly over-represented in the Criminal Justice System:

- Over 25% of the adult prison population has previously been in care (Berman, G. and Dar, A. 2013)
- 49% of young men under the age of 21 in the criminal justice system have spent time in care (HMIP 2011)
- 27% of young men in custody have spent time in care (HMIP 2011)
- 33% if we look specifically at 15 - 18 year olds (Kennedy, E. 2013)
- 61% of girls in the 15-18 age group in custody have spent some time in care (Kennedy, E. 2013)

There appears to be a strong statistical relationship between childhood trauma, offending and re-offending rates. Offenders with a care experience represent between 25% and 50% of the Criminal Justice System population. This project seeks to start to make a positive impact on this depressing situation by developing a better understanding regarding the specific issues and challenges facing care-experienced young offenders in Hyndburn.

On leaving care and making the transition to adulthood, the support young adults receive - or, too often, fail to receive - is critical to future life trajectories, in particular for those who experienced trauma, neglect, abuse, fear and torment in childhood. This is equally as vital for those care leavers departing from a custody setting.

Offenders with a care experience are often released to poor and unsuitable accommodation with few support networks, and undergo very limited (if any) assessments of emotional well-being, attachment and related issues. Many may have poor social skills, a fragmented educational record and little or no functional skills for the labour market.

### **What are the key outcomes that you will be seeking to achieve for young offenders?**

Our project will make a measurable and sustained impact in the lives of some of the most vulnerable and at-risk children and young people in Hyndburn. It will provide these children and young people with access to a 'trusted adult' who will take the time to get to know them and understand their situation, whilst working with them to develop the skills, confidence and resilience to navigate challenging situations and circumstances. The project will ensure that these children and young people get access to the right support at the right time, that they always have someone available to speak with and provide information, advice and guidance at crucial points in their development. The project will show these children and young people that there are organisations and trusted adults who are there for them, who have their best interests at heart and who have the correct mix of skills and experience to bring out positive character traits and skills in the children and young people. Regular access to high quality, inspiring sport and physical activity will be on offer to all participants to enable improvements to be made in both physical and mental health and well-being as well as the positive life skills that can be developed through sports participation. Each participant will be supported to co-develop their own personal development and transition plan, which will feature input from partners with specialist expertise as and where required.

Our project will be focused on achieving the following outcomes for young people caught up in the criminal justice system:

- Improved mental health and well-being
- Increased resilience
- Improved self-esteem and confidence
- Improved physical health
- Improved daily routine
- Reduced involvement / reliance on substances / alcohol
- Gaining new skills
- Gaining new qualifications (English and maths if needed)
- Participation in work tasters / placements
- Increased interaction with local employers
- Progression to positive outcomes (employment and / or employment with training)
- Sustained positive employment or return to mainstream education

The 3 main changes we want to make in the lives of the children and young people supported through this project are:

1. For them to be more confident and optimistic, to have higher levels of self-esteem and increased aspirations for their own lives
2. For them to have improved physical and mental health and wellbeing and to have gained a greater understanding of how to better look after themselves and stay safe
3. For them to be more socially connected by having improved relationships with both trusted adults (our mentors) as well as those who are important to them in their lives (family, friends, teachers)

We believe that by supporting children and young people in this way we will significantly reduce re-offending rates and support the vast majority of participants to transform their lives.

#### **What are the key activities you will undertake with this funding?**

The key aspect of support which we will undertake through this funding is the provision of 1:1 mentoring support for young people in Hyndburn with convictions. Our programme will blend together sport, mentoring and personal development in a holistic, child-focused manner which helps participants to develop a range of effective defence mechanisms against involvement with youth crime and leads them towards positive, healthy, pro-social futures.

Each individual child and young person will have their own unique set of circumstances and challenges and we will look to develop bespoke support packages for each individual, with our mentor working directly with the child / young person to co-develop an approach which they feel comfortable with and which offers the right help at the right time.

Many of the children and young people we will be looking to support are not currently attending school or college on a regular basis, they lead chaotic home lifestyles and have little in the way of parental support or positive role models to listen to and learn from. Many will have an elder family member who has already been in prison and / or involved with serious crime / violence. If children and young people feel that no one is there for them, that they don't have access to a 'trusted adult', then the lure of criminal activity can be too strong to overcome - our project seeks to avoid this situation by providing access to trusted and positive adult role models.

Our project will provide holistic support to young people which will help them to make positive and sustainable changes in their lives which will lead to positive outcomes.

Our support will include:

- Educational gap analysis and catch-up support
- Mental health and wellbeing support, including the development of effective coping skills and strategies to build up resilience
- Healthy lifestyle workshops, including drug and alcohol misuse awareness support
- Regular access to sport and physical activity
- Communications skills workshops
- Employability support
- 1:1 Mentoring support throughout the project

The key starting point with each young person will be an in-depth analysis of their own personal situation, how they have ended up in their situation (offending / criminal record), how they view the situation, what they want to achieve, what they see as being the key barriers they need to address and the help and support they want. This in itself will take place in different formats and over different timescales for each individual as we fully recognise that for this to happen and be the start of a meaningful journey then there needs to be the development of a positive, trusted relationship between our mentor and the young people in need of support.

**Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?**

We will cover the project management costs associated with this project as our contribution, with our full-time Head of Community Engagement allocating 10% of his work role to ensuring that the project receives all the scrutiny, oversight and support required to succeed.

Our Head of Community Engagement is experienced with regards to management and oversight of similar projects and will ensure that the community intervention coaches receive full support and assistance to carry out their job roles safely and effectively.

**Will you be working within the prison estate?**

No

**How will you engage with YO? (Through HMPs or YOIs or in the community)**

We have Community Intervention Coaches based within the custody suite at Greenbank Police Station in Hyndburn. We are part of a multi-agency approach to reducing youth offending in Hyndburn and have effective referral pathways in place with a range of agencies.

**Would you describe yourself as a Sport 4 Development organisation?**

Yes

**Please tell us about your Sport 4 Development projects or approach**

We run a huge variety of sports projects, some which are traditional sports participation projects and many others which adopt a sport 4 development approach. Most relevant to this application are our Champions project which provides community intervention coaches within Greenbank Police Station and the large number of diversionary programmes we deliver such as Kicks.

**How will your organisation continue to sustain this project after the grant ends?**

During the project our staff will work with each project participant to co-develop a progression route and pathway that best meets the needs and interests of that child or young person.

We are never about short-term interventions, always looking at how we can keep links with young people and ensure they remain involved with positive activities and through

our own programmes and those on offer through key partners we are confident we can sustain the engagement with these groups of young people far beyond this initial 2-year delivery period, helping to ensure that the positive behaviour change is maintained and further developed.

Where relevant we will also be signposting young people to local sports clubs so that they can benefit from and get involved with team sport, as we know that this can also be a really effective defence mechanism against the risks of involvement with youth crime and negative activity.

We are also confident that through the successful 2-year delivery of this programme that we can engage sufficient local partners to sustain and further expand the programme through our ability to show the social return on investment provided by the positive outcomes delivered through this work. We will also work with a range of partners of Accrington Stanley FC to access appropriate CSR support and budgets to further develop this project in the long-term.

**What expertise and track record do you have to be able to deliver this work successfully?**

We have built up a high degree of organisational knowledge, skill and understanding with regards to how best to use sport 4 development approaches to support young offenders to make positive lifestyle changes which in turn lead to reductions in re-offending and the transformation of young lives.

Our Champions project is helping to make positive changes in young people's lives that are in police custody. Based primarily in the custody suite at Greenbank Police Station, Hyndburn; we deploy designated Community Intervention Coaches who work to offer opportunities to local 10-25 year olds who have found themselves in or at risk of offending behaviour. Alongside nine other Lancashire football Community Trusts and working in a collaborative, multi-agency approach, we aim to best support those young people who have wound up in custody and are now ready to turn their lives around.

After introducing the programme, our coaches work with the young people in the community to support them through positive interventions and inspire them to reach their personal goals. These interventions aim to get the young person into education, training or employment and also provide support to reduce barriers as required, such as; substance misuse, addiction and housing.

Working with a Champions coach is voluntary, confidential and does not influence any criminal proceedings. Young people can reconnect with Champions after being released from prison.

Champions is a Lancashire Violence Reduction Network programme aimed at reducing re-offending within local 10-25 year olds who have been taken into custody.

Through the delivery of this and other programmes we have gained a strong level of understanding of the issues facing children and young people in Hyndburn, including those who are care-experienced and use this to help ensure our projects are co-developed and designed to provide the wraparound support which is needed.

We have highly qualified and skilled youth mentors in place, who have been trained in trauma-informed approaches to supporting young people and who regularly access CPD and wider learning opportunities with a view to further developing and refining our own approaches to best supporting the needs of children and young people on our programmes.

Some of the key aspects of learning that have come across through previous delivery of similar youth-focused projects are detailed below:

- The importance of using the right staff
- Having the right local information / intelligence
- Having clear referral pathways in place
- Involving key local partners in both promoting the project and creating awareness
- Building stronger links with the police and local authorities
- Developing the programme in line with feedback from the young people
- The importance of recording key project data

**Explain how the grant will be spent**

Our funding request focuses on the following items:

£25,000 p.a on staffing - 2 x part time Community Intervention Coaches  
 £10,000 p.a. project costs budget covering activities, equipment and facility hire where required  
 £5,000 p.a. on project resources, marketing and evaluation costs

We will provide project management as our contribution to the project, with our full-time Head of Community Engagement overseeing and providing support to the 2 new Community Intervention Coaches.

**Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?**

No

**Do all staff have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks? If no please state why.**

Yes

**Reason why not all staff have DBS checks.**

**Total funding requested in this application (£10,000 to £80,000 with a maximum of £40,000 in one year)**

£80000

Proposed grant start date	Proposed grant duration in months
---------------------------	-----------------------------------

01/01/2024	24
------------	----

**How much funding is required each year?**

Year 1	Year 2
--------	--------

£40000	£40000
--------	--------

What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent financial year?	What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?
---	---

£927887	£1293941
---------	----------

**What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?**

£503167