



StreetGames

The Football Pools Fives Festival Programme 2014



EVALUATION REPORT
CM Research and Evaluation
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For more information on the Programme,
please see **www.StreetGames.org/footballpoolsfives**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of The Football Pools Fives Programme (FP5s)

StreetGames is a national sports charity which was launched in 2007 to achieve our vision: “For the most disadvantaged young people and communities to enjoy the benefits of sport and participate at the same rate as their more affluent peers”.



StreetGames promotes Doorstep Sport as an effective way to reach out and engage disadvantaged young people – this is sport delivered within disadvantaged communities at the right place, in the right style at the right price and at the right time.

In 2013 The Football Pools partnered StreetGames in order to provide a two year funded programme which consisted of the following elements:

- Regional 5-a-side Football competition.
- A National Final at St George's Park, the FA's National Training Ground.
- A series of local festivals to engage 16+ year olds within their own neighbourhood.

- Access to the FA's new small-sided football referees course to provide training and education to the network.

1.2 Delivery of the programme in 2013

During 2013 the programme successfully provided:

- More than 150 neighbourhood festivals involving over 11,672 young people aged 16 years and over.
- Over 110 teams taking part in the 8 Regional football tournaments including two female only football tournaments, involving a total of 2,273 young people.
- A National Finals at St George's Park, the FA's national training ground, in which 16 teams took part.
- One FA small-sided football referees course held in Summer 2013 attended by 14 young people.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.3 Delivery of the programme in 2014

In 2014 the programme continued to build on the success of the first year of the programme and provided:

- 179 neighbourhood festivals attended by 11,863 young people.
- 11 regional FP5s tournaments which were entered by 251 teams, involving a total of 2,030 players aged 16-19 years.
- 21 teams taking part in the National Finals at St George's Park, the FA's national training ground.
- 14 ambassadors in attendance at the events (including Gordon Banks, Graham Taylor, Stuart Pearce, Gareth Southgate, Rachel Yankey and Betsy Hassett).
- Two FA small-sided football referees course attended by 36 young people plus projects have accessed circa 590 training workshops/qualifications from the StreetGames Training Academy.



2. EVALUATION OVERVIEW

2.1 Evaluation Aims

The aims identified for the evaluation in 2014 were to examine:

1. The impact of the programme on the participant's sports (and football) participation habits – for example the extent to which new young people have been attracted, the extent to which the programme has motivated those involved to play more often, stay involved, develop new and existing teams.
2. The impact of the programme on volunteers involved – for example have the events helped them to develop new skills, gain additional experience, qualifications and/or increased confidence etc.
3. The impact of the programme on developing partnerships with those involved e.g. with local football clubs or the FA.

4. The impact of the programme on wider agenda issues, such as health, community safety and community relations.
5. Whether there are any identifiable key success factors that make the events successful?
6. Lessons learnt or suggested improvements for the future.

2.2 Evaluation Approach

The evaluation involved the collation of both quantitative and qualitative data collection.

Quantitative data was collated via:

- a. The StreetGames monitoring system, which collates attendance data
- b. Online Participant Surveys that were conducted at a sample of FP5s events using portable tablets.



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Participant survey data was collated at the events held in: Birmingham, Cardiff, London, Manchester and Swindon

A total of 311 surveys were completed by participants at these five events. Of these 74% of participants were male and 26% female. 53% of participants had previously attended a Street Games event.

Qualitative data was collated via:

a. Visits to seven of the FP5s regional final events and attendance at the finals held at St George's Park.

The regional final events that were attended by researchers were: Manchester, London x2 (Female only event and Male only event held on consecutive days) Newcastle, Leeds, Chesterfield and Swindon. During the visits qualitative data was collated using:

- Observations

- Interviews with participants, project managers and volunteers
- b. Telephone interviews with key stakeholders involved in delivering the regional events
- c. Follow up telephone interviews with a sample of projects involved in the festivals and with a sample of learners who took part in the FA small-sided referee course

The evaluation findings are presented under the six evaluation aims that were identified in Section 2 above



3. EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1 Impact on the participant's sports (and football) participation

As in 2013, the FP5s continued to be very popular with the young participants that took part in 2014. This was apparent both from the quantitative and qualitative data.

Participants who completed the surveys were asked to rate the events on a series of criteria by selecting 'Very good', 'Good', 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory'. The surveys revealed that:

96% of respondents rated the event as 'Good' or 'Very Good' in terms of having fun and on being free.

96% of respondents rated the event as 'Good' or 'Very Good' on providing an opportunity to be with friends.

95% of respondents rated 'being part of a big event as 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

Interestingly, the lowest agreement (84%) was for the criteria 'making new friends'. Even though this is still a very positive finding it reflects the qualitative findings that reveal that the teams who attend the events enter with a competitive aspiration – they want to win the games they play. For this reason some teams prefer to stay with their own team mates whilst the competition is underway. The positive findings from the surveys were mirrored by the comments

made by participants face to face at the regional events. Typical comments made by participants in response to the question 'What do you think about today's event?' were:

'Brilliant'

'Really good.'

'Really glad I came.'

'Exciting.'

'Challenging'

'It's my first time and I am enjoying it. I am sure it will get even better.'



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When asked to explain their enthusiasm for the event participants stated reasons including the event being very well organised and the atmosphere of the event as these example comments indicate:

‘Really well organised.’

‘Good atmosphere.’

‘Good. Likes the music, food, people’

‘Everyone is really friendly.’

‘Everyone really welcoming’

The surveys indicated that the young people who participated in the FP5s intended to stay involved with football and with sport in the future and that participants would like to attend another StreetGames event in the future.

97% of participants stated that they would continue playing football with their team.

96% of participants stated that the event had encouraged them to stay involved in sport.

Interestingly, a number of project managers suggested that, once the players returned home, their teams attendance at the FP5s would have an impact on other young people in their community. They felt that the positive experiences attendees had enjoyed would act as a motivator for others to stay involved in football.

The qualitative findings suggested that

the majority of those who attended the events were very passionate about football and that it was very important to them. Comments from participants included:

**‘Love it.
Live for it.’**

‘Really important. It is one of the things I love the most. I love watching and I love playing. It keeps you fit.’

‘It’s my life.’

Very important. I love playing it and am very passionate about it.’

‘Very important. It’s more of a passion. I have grown up with it.’

‘Very. I want to be a player. I try my best and I work hard. It means everything.’

Some participants played football several times per week whilst others were limited in the amount of football that they could play for various reasons including college and work

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commitments. Some teams were pre-established and played together regularly whilst other teams were put together specifically for the event. One such team, comprised of former college students, took the opportunity to reunite for the FP5s. Often players were involved in playing informal small-sided versions of the game but were not affiliated to eleven-a-side teams.

London Phoenix: A new team developed for the FP5s

This team was made up of young women who were part of club based in Greenwich which has two established football teams who seek engage young women facing significant challenges in their lives. All members of London Phoenix were new to competitive football; the manager chose to bring the young women along to give them experience of playing. She was surprised by the level of competition and wished she had brought some of her more experienced players along because her team struggled against high quality opposition.

Some teams were made up of participants who were not playing regularly but had some previous experience. For many of these young people FP5 reminded them how much they used to enjoy football and rekindled their interest in future participation.

Some players were also made aware of a need to get fitter in order to compete effectively.

'Every tournament makes me want to progress and be more competitive – but not too competitive. I want to have fun.'

The survey results indicated that participants enjoyed the opportunity to play games and be competitive:

95% of respondents rated 'playing matches' and 'competition' as 'Good' or 'Very Good'

94% of respondents rated the event as 'Good' or 'Very Good' on 'improving skills'

The survey findings were supported by the qualitative findings which indicated that the FP5s encouraged participants to improve their skills and reach the standard of other teams in order to compete against them:

'You see the variation in standards. A good team inspires you to try hard'

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Some participants suggested that having the professional ambassadors undertaking skills sessions was also inspirational for young people.

A young woman who trained with Rachel Yankey at the FP5 event in London was very enthusiastic about having had the opportunity to take part in the session, stating that “it was good to know that professionals also had to work on their skills” and that Rachel had taught her “to keep her head up whilst she ran” which she didn’t previously do. Male participants were also positive about the male ambassadors that supported the events.

Both the survey findings and the qualitative findings indicate that the majority of those who attended the FP5s would like to attend a similar event in the future. The survey results showed that:

96% of participants would be interested in coming to another StreetGames festival.

Typical comments from participants included:

‘It’s been fantastic today. I can’t wait for the next one.’

When asked whether they would like to make any comments about the day a number of interviewees took the opportunity to thank StreetGames for the event with comments such as:

‘I would like to say a big thank you to FP5s and StreetGames and thanks for asking us.’

‘It’s very impressive the way that StreetGames do things.’

Case Study: FBB (Kinja FC)

FBB (Kinja) were a team of Muslim girls who attended the girls only final in London. One of the players organised the day having received an email from StreetGames. They attended the same event last year. The girls regularly attend an informal session at Paddington Recreation Ground on Saturday mornings where they are mixed into teams and play against each other. They would usually be put with one or two of their friends in the team. Football is really important to them. The girls said that it provides them with a break from studying.

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The girls were all very enthusiastic about the FP5s event despite having lost every game. They took part in the training session with Rachel Yankey and had also done the football challenges that were available. After the knockout rounds they got a ball and went on the spare court and played informally against London Phoenix who were the other team that struggled on the day.

They felt that the tournament helped them build their confidence and develop their football skills. They said that the pressure of the tournament made them try harder. They were very supportive of their team and the girls made sure that they encouraged each other so that if someone made a mistake they would offer support through comments such as 'Don't be disheartened'. They mentioned that although JJ was the captain they were all equally important in the team because they all had something to contribute. The girls also thought that the opportunity to take part in a tournament was important because it allowed them all to express themselves. The player Mialade said:

'Everyone can score a goal different'

By which she meant that football was a way in which they could all express themselves.

The girls made a very positive impression on others attending the event who were impressed by their enthusiasm and positivity. The manager of the winning team who qualified for the final at St George's made a point of coming over to say that he was very impressed by the girls because they had made their own way to the tournament and because of their positive attitudes. He stated:

'They are what today should be all about.'

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3.2 Impact on the volunteers involved

The FP5s event provides the opportunity for young volunteers to support the events, develop their skills and gain experiences. Some of the volunteers are recruited through the StreetGames network where they may already be volunteering on a regular basis. Other volunteers attend the FP5s events because of their involvement with the individual teams that attend the FP5s.

The survey results indicated that there is an appetite for volunteering amongst the young people who took part in the FP5s as:

54% of participants would like to volunteer or help out at any local sports projects or events in the future while 32% stated 'maybe'.

Volunteers were also interviewed at the FP5s events about their experiences. The responses indicated that they were very positive about both the events and about the experiences the event provided them with. Many of the volunteers felt that they were naturally shy and volunteering at an event had allowed them to develop their communication and social skills. Through volunteering FP5s also provided young people with the opportunity to add team working, organisational and leadership abilities to their skillset alongside increases in confidence and social skills. This experience will enhance the CVs of all the volunteers.

The volunteers suggested that volunteering meant that they had to



undertake whatever task was asked of them and the variety of tasks was useful in developing their skills:

'I have learnt to be there and respond when people ask even if it is simple things like where is the toilet?'

'This has been an opportunity to learn how to fit into the role of volunteer.'

'When you are a volunteer you never know what you are going to be asked to do and that was true of this event. It has been very good experience.'

'I enjoy taking on the different roles and different responsibilities. It's all part of learning.'

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Project managers were also very positive about the opportunities that the FP5s provide for young volunteers. The events provide varied tasks for young people to engage with in a supportive environment. They are also perceived to provide a reward for young people in recognition of the volunteering they have done previously in their own communities.

Many of the volunteers were very passionate about sport and were keen to help ensure that other young people had the opportunity to be engaged in sport and access the positive opportunities that they had experienced. Whilst some volunteers did mention that their experience would help to enhance their CVs, for the majority volunteering at the FP5s was driven by altruistic reasons including giving something back and helping to facilitate other young people's participation in sport.

Importantly many of the volunteers hoped to continue volunteering in the future as a result of their positive experiences of the FP5s as these responses to the question 'Would you like to volunteer at another event?' show:

'Yes. Because it is fun and it is good to enjoy your work.'

'Yes definitely. It's a good day.'

'Yes. I think older volunteers can set a good example to younger people. It has been a good day. Everyone is happy.'

'Yes. It's been a good experience. I have met lots of new people.'

Milton Keynes College: Volunteer case study

A group of volunteers from Milton Keynes College attended the FP5s in London. The volunteers were all studying BTEC Level 3 in Sport and they had undertaken volunteering in connection with their studies. Not all the volunteers were football fans but they felt that the experience of volunteering at the FP5s had been very positive. One volunteer stated:

'I love it. It's one of the best things I have done.'

The volunteers felt that they had developed their confidence through attending the event because they were required to speak to people that they had not previously met. Volunteers explained how they had quickly learnt to fit in to their roles and enjoyed the responsibility of responding to questions from participants. A volunteer suggested that being part of a successful event

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such as the FP5s was very rewarding because they felt part of that success.

Attending an event away from their home town was considered an important dimension of their experience as noted by this volunteer:

‘It’s been a great trip out. New places, new things. It has developed my awareness.’

Some of the volunteers from Milton Keynes had previously volunteered at StreetGames events and all were keen to do so again in the future. A volunteer stated that she was hoping to get the chance to go to the Commonwealth Games with StreetGames. She also said that she always tried her best as a volunteer for StreetGames and ensured she was always on time and enthusiastic in the hope she would continue to be selected for future opportunities. She also hoped that she was a good role model for others through her volunteering:

‘I’ve always done sport and am passionate about it. I’ve enjoyed it so much and I want others to enjoy it too.’

3.3 Impact of the programme on developing partnerships

The StreetGames delivery model is based on adopting a partnership approach with organisations that have a proven track record of working successfully with young people in disadvantaged communities. The wide range of organisations that were represented within the FP5s is testament to these



strong partnerships. The partnership between StreetGames and The Football Pools is an example of the way in which StreetGames seeks to build and sustain partnerships in the long term. The branding at the events clearly reflected the involvement of The Football Pools and this was evident to more than two thirds of participants who completed the surveys:

68% of participants were aware that the event was sponsored by the Football Pools.

The delivery of the FA Small-Sided Refereeing courses offers insight as to how the partnerships are sustained through the FP5s programme as the following example indicates:

FA Small-Sided Refereeing Course: Example

A refereeing course was delivered by an FA tutor in Birmingham. Delivery involved classroom based activities and practical sessions where the young

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people could put their learning into practice.

The course was attended by 22 young people. Attendees were predominantly recruited from the Birmingham Network of Doorstep clubs. Half of those who attended were from the organisation FITCAP (see below) who were the regional finalists in the female FP5s held in Birmingham. Other project attendees were from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Completekidz (see below), Lichfield Positive Futures and Sparkhill police.

The organiser of the event stated that the County FA are keen to engage with a few of the participants in the course to get them involved in supporting local events.

The course was well received by participants. A young male aged 20, who had previously been a StreetGames participant, stated that the experience had been very positive because the course was well organised and enjoyable. His aspirations for attending the course were:

'I wanted to achieve the qualification because I already have the Football Coaching Level 1 and I wanted to add to this and get it on my CV.'



He felt that through the course his knowledge base and confidence to take on the role of referee had grown. He believed that he now had a good understanding of the ways that referees are perceived by different football players and he now knew how to respond to situations that may arise on the pitch. He also learnt rules that he was previously unaware of. The combination of this new knowledge and experience meant that he felt more confident to undertake the role of referee. He was hopeful that he would be able to make use of his qualification in the near future.

Overall he felt that the course had met his expectations in every regard and he would definitely recommend the course to other young people.



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Example Partner Organisations that supported the delivery of the FA Small-Sided Referees Course

Complete Kidz

Complete Kidz is a Community Interest Company that aims to benefit Children and Young People aged 1 – 24 years old, their parents and families in Sandwell, Black Country and Birmingham. Complete Kidz offers an alternative community based approach to education, sport, art and nutrition activities. Sessions are provided in schools during term time and holidays, within their own premises, leisure centres, community centres, health centres, multi-faith centres and schools. The activities are innovative in their approach, encouraging and engaging children, young people, parents and families to adopt a healthy lifestyle, stay safe, whilst enjoying and achieving, positive personal results. Activities include Dance, Fun & Fit, Vigor Boarding, Zumba, Trampolining, Mini Fencing, Rowing to Music, Art, Science, Cookery and Nutrition workshops. Complete Kidz CiC also works in partnership with a number of Primary and Secondary Schools in Birmingham and Sandwell, and are currently developing a new program “In SPIRE” working to improve attendance, punctuality, achievement easing transition.

FITCAP

Located in Birmingham, FITCAP (Fitness in the Community & Active Play) are a Non-profit Community Interest Company working in the local community for the community.

FITCAP provides activities to encourage a healthy lifestyle and get Children & Young People off the streets and also provides training and volunteering opportunities. The delivery staff are from the local community and they meet regularly to plan/evaluate delivery based on their interactions with local people at their sessions. Opportunities offered by FITCAP include: Sports and Leisure, Holiday activity schemes, afterschool and lunchtime activities, outreach work, cookery, volunteering, training and intergenerational work.

3.4 Impact of the programme on wider social outcomes

A number of project managers who were interviewed were able to suggest ways in which attending the FP5s was important because of the impact on wider social outcomes. These included positive outcomes for young people in developing both their personal and social capital, promoting links between communities and promoting healthy lifestyles.



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A key element of the FP5s is that it brings together young people from different communities who would otherwise not meet. The young people get to meet others in their peer group who come from different backgrounds. The offer of the FP5s was seen as very different to leagues that young people may play in where they meet the same teams each week. United by a shared love of football, FP5s enables young people to come together from different communities and enjoy the day as summarised by one participant:

'The whole community can come together to enjoy football.'

It was also apparent that the experience of the FP5s was something that was very unique and highly valued by many young people who had travelled out of their communities to experience a high quality event. Important elements in creating this experience included the venue, the presence of the ambassadors and the level of competition. This experience typically contrasted with the rare opportunities available to young people in their own communities.

The opportunity to leave their community and travel to a place where they did not know everyone was considered as extremely valuable by project managers. Similar opportunities were not common for their young people. Some project managers also

suggested that the opportunity to leave their community for the day and spend it playing football was important for them as project workers. It would develop working relationships with their young people and enhance the work they could do in the future.



The draw of the FP5s is felt by some projects who prepare for the event in advance. A manager from a Positive Futures project in Oxford described how his young people come from many different communities and that a shared interest in football allows these young men to come together. In the weeks leading up to the FP5s more than 45 young men were attending the football training sessions in the hope of being selected to go to the FP5s. The manager stated that the anticipation of the event had created a buzz in the sessions because the event was away from their local community and was a whole day out. He also mentioned that the captain of the team was a regular volunteer and the event enabled his voluntary efforts to be rewarded. The young men that attended were also the ones that had proven that they could behave

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appropriately and therefore the event served as a motivator and a reward for positive behaviour. These experiences were replicated by other project managers as this comment indicates:

‘When they play football they can reach something. It inspires them to work harder.’

Some managers felt that the FP5s were useful in promoting healthy lifestyle choices to young people because the fitness of the teams was challenged by playing several games in one day. Teams were also able to look at other competitors and see the standard at which they played. This facilitated conversations about fitness and healthy living.

Smoking is an ongoing issue for some teams however. A number of project managers suggested that having attended the FP5s this year the team will know what to expect next year in terms of standards and this will motivate them to try harder in their preparation. A volunteer suggested that teams were motivated to improve on their previous performances and if they had done well there was pressure to improve on this in the future.

Another way in which the FP5s impacts on wider social outcomes is through promoting positive behaviour.

Interviewees repeatedly commented on the positive and welcoming atmosphere that was created at the FP5s. This helped ensure that for the most part teams behaved in a positive manner. A project manager at the Manchester event collected litter because he felt it was important that his young people saw him doing this so that they understood that everyone has a role to play in ensuring the success of the event.



Hastings Team: Wider social outcomes case study

As a result of winning their local tournament in Hastings the team progressed through to the London FP5s final. The young men were passionate about their football. They were very impressed by the event in London and by the facilities, particularly because they have no facilities of a similar quality available in Hastings.

The players felt the event was very welcoming but seeing the other teams made them realise they were not as fit as they thought they were.

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Having seen the skills on display in other teams many found themselves wanting to improve. The participants commented that they really appreciated seeing Stuart Pearce at the event. Having grown up admiring him they really appreciated having their photographs taken with him and taking part in the skills session with him.

Some of the players also volunteered in Hastings, coaching primary aged children in football. They felt that it was important for young people to have opportunities to play football in their communities because it provided the chance for them to follow positive role models as this comment from a player and volunteer indicates:

‘Football is good for them. Some kids need a very early lead. Football gives them something to do. 13 year olds follow 18 year olds.’

The project manager for the team also felt that the FP5s were useful in keeping young people facing financial exclusion involved in football.

There are high levels of drug-abuse and petty crime in the communities where his team live. He believed that the event helped inspire his young people to achieve, to develop their social skills and to keep out of trouble.

Chorley Doorstep Sport Club: Wider social outcomes case study

Young people from Chorley DSC attended the Manchester FP5 event accompanied by a member of staff. She felt that the experience of attending had been beneficial for them



for a number of reasons including providing them with the opportunity to play football in a venue that they otherwise would not be able to afford to access. Most of the team would not consider traveling into Manchester ordinarily.

The FP5s event provided the young people with an opportunity to spend the day outside their community. She described how the community that the young people live in has a bad reputation and the young people are often tarnished by this reputation regardless of their own behaviour.



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This said she also noted that some of the players were known to the police and that there had been an incident the previous night which raised issues concerning who would be able to attend the FP5s event.

The project manager said that it was good for her to be able to see how the young people acted when they were out of their comfort zones and in unfamiliar territory. She found that the older players were a positive, calming influence on the younger players. The players had also managed the teams and collectively decided to share the better players across the three teams so that they avoided having a 'dream team' and a very weak team. The project manager felt that these opportunities were very valuable in helping the young people learn to work collectively and for the greater good.

3.5 Key success factors

Experience of StreetGames staff

The team that organise and deliver the FP5s programme are extremely experienced in delivering events within the communities where the finals take place and this is reflected in the quality of the event organisation and how this is experienced by participants. The survey results revealed that:

93% of participants described the 'event organisation' as 'Good' or 'Very Good'

This experience is vital in terms of getting the events organised but it is

even more important in terms of dealing with issues that may arise on the day. At the Swindon final there was an incident with a team who felt they had not been treated fairly and who made their feelings very public. The handling of the situation by the StreetGames staff team was calm and professional and this helped to ensure that this did not spoil the day for the rest of the participants. This type of incident is very rare at the FP5s and therefore it is easy to overlook how important strong organisational skills are in ensuring that they do not happen more frequently.



Choice of venue

The selection and acquisition of the venue for the FP5s is intrinsic to its success. The survey results indicated that:

94% of participants gave a 'Very Good/ Good' response in regards to 'quality of event/venue'.

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Participants comments about the venue included:

'Top notch facilities'

Hosting the finals at St George's park is clearly a very significant element of the success of the programme and this is reflected in the survey finding that showed:

91% of participants gave a 'Very Good/ Good' response in regards to 'prizes'.

StreetGames Reputation and involvement of partner organisations

The qualitative data revealed that many of those who attended the regional events entered because of the excellent reputation of StreetGames. Additionally, a number of team managers stated that they had brought their team to the event because they wanted to support the important work of StreetGames. A project manager summarised the importance of this factor by stating that his young people had come along because:

'They trust me and they trust StreetGames and they would attend any StreetGames event.'



Atmosphere and feel of the event

Comments that have been included in this report highlight how much young people, volunteers and project managers value the atmosphere that is created at the FP5s. Despite being very competitive events participants feel welcome at the FP5s and enjoy the experience regardless of their performance and the outcome for their team.

3.6 Lessons learnt or suggested improvements for the future.

Involvement of more teams at some regional events

Whilst the overall number of teams that were involved in the FP5s was very similar to 2013 there were events where there were less teams than there had been in in 2013 and less teams than were anticipated. At these events research participants were asked whether they had any insight into why this may be the case. Possible explanations offered were:

- Timing of the event with interviewees suggesting that school holidays are an issue for this age range
- Reducing the age range from 19 to

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16 was potentially problematic. If the team does not have a team manager and is reliant on the young people themselves to organise attendance it might be a barrier, due to inexperience or a lack of confidence in leaders. Typically it would be young people aged over 19 that would organise the team to attend.

- Some interviewees suggested that greater use of social media would help secure more teams especially given the prize of travelling to St George's Park.



Involvement of more female teams into the FP5s

The feedback from the girls who were involved in the FP5s was generally very positive. An issue that was raised by a number of interviewees was the aspiration to have more girls teams involved. Many interviewees felt that there was a greater need for opportunities like FP5s for females than there was for males because females

have fewer football opportunities overall. Some managers suggested that female only tournaments often get cancelled because of a lack of teams which meant that the FP5s were even more valued.



Many of the FP5s have the female and male events combined on the same day at the same venue. A project manager at the Manchester event suggested that the female competition was lost in amongst the male competition. He noted that very few females took part in the freestyle activities.



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He suggested that the women's event should be separate to the men's events in order to 'give it the status it deserves'. It is recognised that having female only football events is extremely challenging especially for the age group 16-19. This was demonstrated by the London female only event which took place on the day before the male competition which only managed to secure seven teams indicating that this approach is not without challenges. It may however be possible to grow the existing female events.



Some of the young women interviewed suggested that they feel that some girls stop playing football between the ages of 13 and 16 but then start playing again at 16+ if they are encouraged to. They suggested that recruiting teams through local women's leagues would help in securing more female teams.

Disparity between male and females at the FP5s finals

A number of the interviewees suggested that there should be equity in the structure of the games between male and female teams. The female games were two minutes shorter than the men's games and the goals were bigger. A number of interviewees connected to the female teams suggested, without being prompted, that they would have preferred the games to be the same length and the goals to be the same size.



Greater Availability of Refreshments

The most frequently mentioned suggestion for improvement was that participants would appreciate more refreshments being available. Some of the regional finals took place on very

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hot days and water was in short supply. Other young people found that they had not brought enough food with them for the day and that there was nowhere nearby that they could access affordable food easily. The smoothie bike proved to be very popular at some events, providing quick, affordable refreshment.



Timings of the events

At the events with less teams than expected there were comments made by some interviewees that there was too much waiting around for games in comparison with other events. This was because the lower numbers impacted on the scheduling of the games.

