

# street games briefing paper



## Report Subject: StreetGames & Network Rail

## Title: Rail Life programme 2012-13 - Programme Summary

### Background

During 2012-13 StreetGames and Network Rail worked in partnership to create a new sports-based educational programme for 11-16 year olds living in disadvantaged areas experiencing high incidences of rail crime/anti-social behaviour. The resulting StreetGames Rail Life programme aimed to develop new projects providing new sporting opportunities and it was anticipated that the projects would:

- Engage staff and volunteers in training sessions focused on delivering effective anti-railway crime education to young people
- Train local coaches and volunteers about issues of rail crime and anti-social behaviour thereby enabling them to deliver in local schools promoting new sporting opportunities and providing information on the dangers of rail crime
- Create new weekly sessions of doorstep sport and one off events and tournaments, targeted in areas with a history of high levels of youth railway crime



- Provide a variety of sports for disadvantaged young people including football, basketball, streetdance, bmx, tennis, table tennis, athletics, badminton.

### StreetGames Rail Life Programme Development

Underpinning the programme was a bespoke training package and an educational resource pack (Toolkit)



# Background Facts for Doorstep Sport



developed by Sole Events in collaboration with StreetGames and the Network Rail Community Engagement Team. Training of 3 hours duration was delivered to staff and volunteers locally in ten locations and an additional offer of three hours training from the StreetGames training academy was also taken up in some locations. Within the Toolkit staff had access to a Presentation, Quiz, DVD, CCTV and Video clips.

Accompanying the toolkit was a USB stick containing all of the documents and resources linked to the toolkit. Both the training and the toolkit were valued by recipients. Staff and volunteers in ten locations developed projects individualised to their local area and they were encouraged to utilise the resources in the way that best suited their project and to develop new resources. The projects were delivered between Autumn 2012 and Spring 2013.

## Summary of projects

Ten pilot projects were developed across England and out of these nine projects engaged with the evaluation and are reported on within this document. The projects had a wide geographical spread and included a diverse selection of delivery approaches and a variety of partners in order to deliver the project. A summary of the projects can be seen on the next page.



# Background Facts for Doorstep Sport

**Table 1.0 - Summary of locations, delivery partners and delivery approach during project**

Location	Delivery Partner	Summary of Delivery Approach
West Midlands	Maddisons	A traditionally dance based project that has used the network rail project to diversify its activity and develop new sports targeting primary schools.
The Wirral	Birkenhead Tennis Club	A sports club setting (tennis) engaging with a variety of primary and secondary schools, using network rail to expand existing offer and develop reach to a wider audience of young people in local parks / green spaces.
Slough	Britwell Youth Club	A traditional volunteer youth club setting, engaging with up to 90 young people, used network rail project to strengthen existing offer and provision on Britwell estate.
Gloucester	Active Connections	An authority wide provision, using network rail sessions to target ASB and rail crime by young people in a variety of deprived areas.
Bristol	Sole Events	The trailblazer of network rail projects engaging with a variety of approaches to send Rail Life message to Year 8 school pupils across Bristol. A variety of sport related sessions delivered across venues in Bristol, working with the Police, BTP, schools and other partners.
Thanet/ Margate	Sport 4 NRG - Thanet Council	Engaged a wide range of community partners in the set-up of the programme (police, youth service etc) to ensure a wide ranging programme
Leeds	The Beck Youth Centre	Developed a programme of "Rail Champions"- a team of young volunteers to design activity and discuss the project and introduced new young people to the activities in schools and community sessions.
Sheffield	Active Sheffield	Used their community sports programme and mobile football activities to target their activity to communities in four parks near to rail lines at times when ASB is highest.
North Tyneside	North Tyneside StreetGames	Used young volunteers and coaches to deliver sessions in primary schools and community settings in partnership with local police, safer estates teams and youth service.

## Impact of the StreetGames Rail Life programme

### Programme Delivery and Milestones

In keeping with the StreetGames approach each of the projects developed its Rail Life project in response to the local context. The projects utilised their skills, resources and local partnerships in order to develop a range of local projects. Generally the more formal the setting the more formal the delivery and vice versa.

#### Active Sheffield

In Sheffield 20 sessions were delivered in four parks located near railway lines using inflatable football pitches. The sessions were targeted at 8-16 year olds males as risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. Volunteers and staff used the sessions to talk informally about rail safety issues and promote safety messages.

The quantifiable achievements of the ten projects included:

- 10 new projects were created
- 5,405 participants were involved in the programme
- 526 new community sessions took place
- 20 new tournaments and events were delivered
- 63 schools were reached
- 129 young people were recruited as volunteers and trained as new coaches

Consistent with the aims of the programme a wide range of sports were delivered across the projects namely football, table tennis, basketball, cricket, multisport, dance, tennis, cheerleading, dodge ball, street golf, athletics, obstacle courses, sledging (winter months), cycling and boxing.

#### Bristol Sole Events

The project was delivered by Sole Events - a trailblazer company working with StreetGames and Network Rail - using sport and physical activity as a diversionary approach to anti-social behaviour on or near the rail lines in Bristol. The Rail Life information has been delivered to 95% of the secondary schools across Bristol in either morning assemblies or Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) timetabled lessons. The project specifically targeted Year 8 cohorts of pupils the target age range most at risk of engaging in rail related crime and anti-social behaviour. During the sessions pupils were informed about the activity sessions on offer and encouraged any of the young people to engage at any venue. The activity sessions took place in a variety of outdoor settings across Bristol. A meeting place is agreed and at the start of the session the Project Leader and the Young People agree the outcome for the session, usually with a majority vote (i.e. What they want to do/where)

## Impact on young people

Those involved in delivering the StreetGames Rail Life programme believed that the programme had been effective in engaging young people in disadvantaged areas in both sport and in the educational programme promoting rail safety messages. Where projects gathered direct feedback about the impact of the programme, young participants reported that they had learnt a lot about rail safety:

- 'I enjoyed it because I have learnt lots of stuff I did not know.'
- 'People should walk away from the temptation'
- 'I shouldn't follow mates and get in trouble'
- 'People should leave stuff where it is and not trespass'
- 'I won't go on the tracks now'
- 'Get your mates to do something else'
- 'We didn't realise how much the fine was'
- 'We know there's other things we can do instead of messing about and hanging around near the rail lines'
- 'I enjoyed it because I have learnt lots of stuff I did not know.'

Interviewees believed linking sport / activities to a topic that young people may not initially be interested in was a powerful way to gain access to young people and to promote rail safety messages.

Some projects were able to link this programme to local ASB priority areas and engage local police officers in their projects through outreach work and this was believed to be an effective way of ensuring that the rail safety messages were heard by the target young people.

The young volunteers who helped deliver the programme were also positive very positive about their experiences.

- 'I've just really enjoyed it to be honest.'

Young volunteers were able to adapt resources to be more relevant to their local area and in order to ensure that they were able to offer engaging sessions for the young participants. The young volunteers felt that their engagement had helped to ensure that the safety messages were communicated more effectively than if only adults had been involved in delivery.

- 'When adults design it - it doesn't sometimes fit into the kids criteria so I think it's good that we make our own to fit.'

Staff and volunteers in the programme were keen to continue with the work and some felt that there was opportunity to develop the projects in the future.

- 'There is loads more we can do with this project.'



# Background Facts for Doorstep Sport

## StreetGames

StreetGames is the only national charity dedicated to developing sport with disadvantaged communities. Our mission is to 'Change Sport, Change Lives and Change Communities'.

StreetGames is creating networks at national and local levels to strengthen the commitment to doorstep sport, as well as seeking significant funding to make the StreetGames projects sustainable. StreetGames' ambition is to link new doorstep sport with sports clubs, National Governing Bodies of Sport programmes, local authority services and health projects.

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