

**INNOVATION PROJECT 2016**

**Sport & Leisure Offer for Looked After Children**

This project will provide new activities for Children in Care alongside direct support to access existing mainstream sport and leisure opportunities. This is in response to consultation with young people in care. The Voice Project (a team dedicated to understanding and promoting the needs of children in care), in partnership with SASSOT and on behalf of Staffordshire's Children in Care Council (CICC), conducted a comprehensive consultation with Children in Care, Care Leavers and Carers to help better understand the leisure needs of young people in the care system.

One of the key themes to emerge from the consultation was the ability and confidence of children in care to socially interact and build relationships needed to engage effectively with mainstream sports opportunities. Participants highlighted that this is often a barrier within many parts of young person’s life including education, employment, training and the independence skills needed in day to day life. Importantly the survey revealed that the majority of the children surveyed would like to do more activity and listed sport as one of the top three activities they enjoy doing.

This project brings together an exciting new partnership of organisations to deliver a tailored sport and leisure offer for young people in care, or that have recently left the care system, and are learning to live independently. The partnership consists of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire County Councils Children Care in Team, SASSOT, 3rd sector sports providers and Staffordshire Public Health. Children in Care have some of the poorest long term outcomes amongst any social group. They are one of the lowest performing groups in terms of educational attainment, they have poorer employment prospects and health outcomes than the general population and are over-represented amongst the homeless and prison populations.

Working collaboratively with these partners we will provide an innovative package of support for this target group that will include sport, leadership training and peer mentoring.

**Becoming a deliverer:**

Sport Across Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent is seeking organisations to help us deliver Sportivate sessions initially in the Uttoxeter, Burton upon Trent and Tamworth areas. We are looking for existing community organisations that have good reach in their local community, have worked with local Police, and have a track record of delivering safe and engaging activities - all sessions should be led by appropriately qualified staff.

SASSOT will support delivers in recruiting participants, by facilitating a link with local team leaders for children in care.

**What SASSOT will provide?**

* Dedicated officer support
* Funding to cover operational costs for activities
* Facilitate links with local Team leaders for children in care
* Training and support where required
* Evaluation materials

**What we expect delivers to provide?**

* Deliver a minimum 12 weekly, sessions (with suitable qualified session leads)
* Delivery will be between July 2016 and end of March 2017.
* Offer an exit route for participants
* Provide a suitable venue and equipment
* Risk assessment and insurance
* Sustainability plan
* Facilitate monitoring and evaluation (Training and support will be provided)
* A commitment to make staff available for essential training

**How to apply:**

If you have any further questions about this Sportivate Innovation project please contact Claire Greenwood cgreenwood@staffordbc.gov.uk or 01785 619258/07772 223015.

**Deadline close of play on Tuesday 17th May 2016.**

Please complete the attached application form and return to Claire Greenwood