

2 March 2011

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CLOA case studies

Purpose of report

For noting.

Summary

The report below details the work that Leeds City Council is doing to use sport (specifically boxing) to engage with young people in the city to promote healthy lifestyles and life choices. This is one example of a wide range of sports case studies which CLOA, with the LG Group, are sharing across the sector.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the case study.

Action

Secretariat / CLOA Advisory Panel as appropriate.

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CLOA case studies

Sports Development – Positive Futures

“Positive Futures gives young people from deprived areas the opportunity to succeed, to help broaden their horizons and prevent them from becoming excluded from their community. I am proud and delighted to be associated with the programme.”

Lennox Lewis CBE, former World Heavyweight Champion, Boxing

Background

1. Following on from Lennox Lewis’ visit to the Karate for Inner City kids (KICKS) session, Leeds City Council had a lot of interest from young people who wanted to specifically focus on boxing. The Council immediately acted on this to set up the ‘Lennox Lewis for Positive Futures’ boxing sessions at Fearnville Leisure Centre in the east of the city.
2. Project organisers ensured that all those working on the project were Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) tutor qualified and then enlisted the experience of professional boxer Patrick Maxwell. Having the experience of Patrick enabled the session to be structured in a professional manner, and gained the respect and enthusiasm of the young people involved in the project.
3. The sessions are all non contact and focus on technique and fitness. The respect that comes with the sport ensures that young people are focussed for the time that they are with staff. The classes also have positive social benefits, in that self control and discipline is encouraged for young people in all aspects of their lives.

2nd round!

4. The sessions at Fearnville Leisure Centre have been further enhanced with the Council’s own Positive Futures ‘Boxing Academy’. The Boxing Academy works with young people who have been referred to our programme for not being in education, employment or training – otherwise known as NEET. These young people come to Positive Futures for a full day, and work on the techniques of boxing, whilst completing a Great Britain National Boxing Awards (preliminary ABA award).
5. The young people also participate in workshops, which look at nutrition, coaching, first aid and employability. As part of the Boxing Aware, the course also looks at conflict resolution, which helps ensure that participants are given

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information on how to avoid or resolve situations of conflict without resorting to violence.

6. The Boxing Academy has already seen fantastic results in getting young people back into education and dealing with anger management issues. The Sports Development Unit and Positive Futures are committed to using sport as the catalyst with which to engage young people and ensure that they are involved in activities which promote healthy lifestyles as well as healthy life choices.