



Street Soccer Edinburgh

CASE STUDIES JULY 2021

Street Soccer and Young People Forward

Street Soccer Scotland are one of the partners involved in the Young People Forward project.

The project aims to use sport to improve the physical and mental health, self-efficacy and resilience of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the North of England and Scotland.

6 Active Partnerships and Street Soccer Scotland are working directly with nearly 600 young people and with 42 specialist community organisations to embed sport and physical activity sessions into their programmes. Additional support will also be given to help some of the young embark on a journey out of homelessness.

The project received £600,000 funding from the London Marathon Charitable Trust which was made possible from money donated by Virgin Money.

“The work Street Soccer do, by using football to help those facing a range of life’s challenges, is admirable and I’m delighted to back them as they continue with their good work”

Sir Alex Ferguson

Street Soccer Scotland Ambassador

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Sean Kelly

Sean has a brain injury due to long term health problems and missed a lot of school. He has engaged with Street Soccer for many years at youth sessions attending our Wester Hailes youth session from the age of 12-16.

Street Soccer staff continued contact with Sean and his family while he was unwell and his health improved enough in 2020 for him to return to playing at Street Soccer sessions and he was ready to progress with our employability programme.

We completed an induction via zoom due to covid restrictions. Sean played an active part in weekly mental health zoom calls with Street Soccer and his confidence visibly improved each week. Craig supported Sean to get accepted on the Strachan Foundation Football course at Edinburgh college. He started at college on 23rd January 2021.

We have continued to support Sean and he still attends street soccer when college allows. He is active member of the Street Soccer walking group and has been active in all the walks so far. Once Sean completes his college course we will meet to discuss his next steps.

Cameron Young

Cammy is a regular attender at Street Soccer sessions, his partner had a baby just after he started our employability programme in September 2020. Cammy is the main caregiver for the child as his partner suffers from mental health problems and social work have advised that neither the baby's mum or grandmother can be alone with the baby.

We supported Cammy at Street Soccer during small covid restricted sessions and we worked on online training. Cammy initially wanted to work in admin and we arranged a placement that fell through to the hotel closing for covid restrictions. He then decided he wanted to work in a football related job and considered a scholarship in the USA. We helped him with the interview process but due to the cost and family responsibilities he decided this was not the correct path for him.

Street Soccer then supported him to apply for the Stachan Foundation football course at Edinburgh College and he has been accepted to this course. He has attended induction and starts fully in August. He continues to attend Street Soccer sessions when he can due to his caring responsibilities and we also offer him regular 1-1 sessions. We will continue to monitor his progress whilst he is at college and will offer further support once he completes his course in summer 2022.

Callum Taylor

Callum was first referred by Cyrenians in November 2019. We started working towards a certificate in work readiness and he attended the Street Soccer sessions at Leith Community Centre. Callum's attendance fell off due to ill health and we had agreed for him to restart in March 2020. When COVID restrictions started Callum would not engage with anyone and found it extremely difficult. He did not leave the house for almost a year and was unwilling to engage in zoom calls with camhs, social work etc.

Craig from Street Soccer stayed in touch with Callum's mum Amanda during 2020 and was also involved in Callum receiving a diagnosis of Autism spectrum disorder which his family had tried to do since he was 5 years old. Callum re-joined the employability programme in February 2021 and started to engage in zoom calls with staff and players. His confidence increased dramatically during this time which led to him attending Street Soccer sessions in person once restrictions were lifted. This has helped greatly with his physical and mental health.

Callum indicated he would like to work as a gardener and Craig secured him a placement as a volunteer gardener with Murrayburn and Hailesland Gardening Project 2 days per week. This experience and confidence he has gained has helped him be involved in the Street Soccer/ Scotrail project to improve local train stations. He recently worked and led on planting at Haymarket station and will play an integral role in the forthcoming project at Wester Hailes station. He has also joined the Street Soccer walking group to help with his health and recently completed a 16 mile walk on the John Muir Way from North Berwick to Dunbar.

During recent discussions Callum has said he now feels ready for paid employment and we are now seeking a suitable work placement with a gardener or landscaping company.