



CHANGING SPORT CHANGING COMMUNITIES CHANGING LIVES



## West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit – Community Sport Mapping Report

April 2021

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## Introduction

This document provides a summary of the mapping exercise of community sport provision across the 5 Local Authorities of West Yorkshire completed by StreetGames on behalf of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). The picture we build throughout the report will be used to inform the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit approach to using sport interventions as a tool for diversion and desistance at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of need.

## Aims

Through the completion of this mapping exercise, we seek to:

- Provide an overview of the current depth and breadth of youth community sport provision that currently exists across West Yorkshire.
- Identify the level of youth community sport intervention that each organisation currently provides.
- Analyse youth community sport provision in the context of identified vulnerabilities associated with an increased likelihood of involvement in violent crime as a victim or perpetrator.
- Make recommendations on how to successfully mobilise the community sports sector to support the aims of the West Yorkshire VRU.

## Background

### West Yorkshire VRU

The West Yorkshire VRU take a public health approach to violence which seeks to identify the common risk factors driving violence and the protective factors preventing violence. This encourages identification of these factors and implementing interventions across all levels: individual, relationship, community and societal, at the same time, it considers which of these will be universal (aimed at the general population) and which will be targeted to those more at risk. At the heart of this approach is using an understanding of inequalities, disadvantage, the adversity and complex trauma that is experienced by communities and the impact that this has on offending, victimisation and vulnerabilities of particular communities.

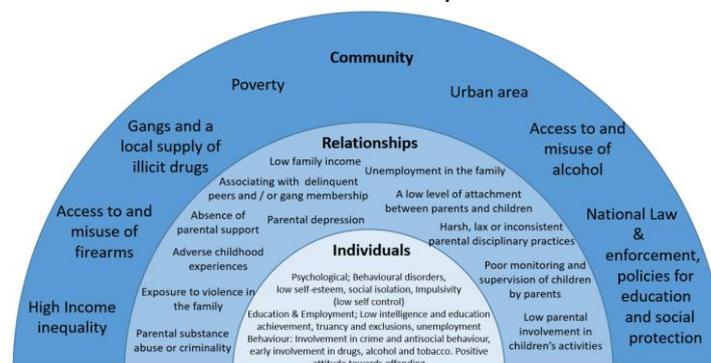


Figure 1.1 West Yorkshire VRU - Risk Factors for Violence.

Recent insight collected through the West Yorkshire VRU Youth Engagement Strategy (Nov 2020) found that 51% of young people were interested in taking part in sport and dance activities (Serious Violence in West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment, 2021) and would like to see more of these opportunities in their local communities. As part of the West Yorkshire VRU response strategy, this mapping activity has been commissioned to fill in the gaps on local understanding and data around the role that community sport organisations play in addressing youth violence and community safety.

## StreetGames

StreetGames are an anti-poverty charity that aims to harness the power of sport to create positive change in the lives of disadvantaged young people, their families and their communities in the UK. It's work includes building evidence and understanding of how sport and physical activity can play a more effective role in tackling youth violence, crime and anti-social behaviour.

StreetGames 'Doorstep Sport' approach bypasses many of the traditional barriers to activity amongst young people in poverty by providing sport & physical activity opportunities in local communities that operate at the right time, in the right place, for the right price and in the right style, by the right people.

The sporting offers that StreetGames and its partners create, help young people to build the resilience and perspective that they need to make good life choices through developing a pro-social identity. Our activities help young people to steer clear from the sorts of anti-social behaviour, violence and crime that blights neighbourhoods, creates community tension and earns some young people an unwanted reputation.

We've demonstrated how the work that we do helps to build social capital and increase community cohesion, instilling pride in a community and encouraging more young people to mix with those from outside of their traditional peer group.

## Community Safety

Communities in which young people lack sporting opportunities are more likely to be the same communities that endure high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. High crime rates are more prevalent where there are high levels of poverty, low educational attainment, and a lack of positive activities, including sport. Doorstep Sport provides alternatives to anti-social behaviour and guides young people away from trouble and into positive and safe activities.

Since 2015, StreetGames has been working with a number of PCC's across the country to strengthen the links and relationships between the Criminal Justice and Community Sport sectors, to build evidence and understanding of how sport and physical activity can play a more effective role in tackling youth violence, crime and anti-social behaviour.

## Theory of Change

Loughborough University, the long standing academic partner of StreetGames have applied the Theory of Change to develop a working model that can be applied to practice. This framework outlines how and why sport can impact on enhancing positive outcomes for vulnerable young people within the context of youth offending and serious youth violence. The Theory of Change is based on academic insight (Safer Together: Creating Partnerships for Positive Change, 2020) and has been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

There are several theories which are useful in explaining how and why positive change occurs in and through engagement in sport. This Theory of Change has drawn predominantly on the social development model as this builds on a number of different theories and argues that prosocial behaviour is learnt and therefore has the same underlying developmental processes as anti-social behaviour. Strong antisocial bonds increase the likelihood of antisocial behaviours whereas strong prosocial bonds increase the likelihood of prosocial behaviours.

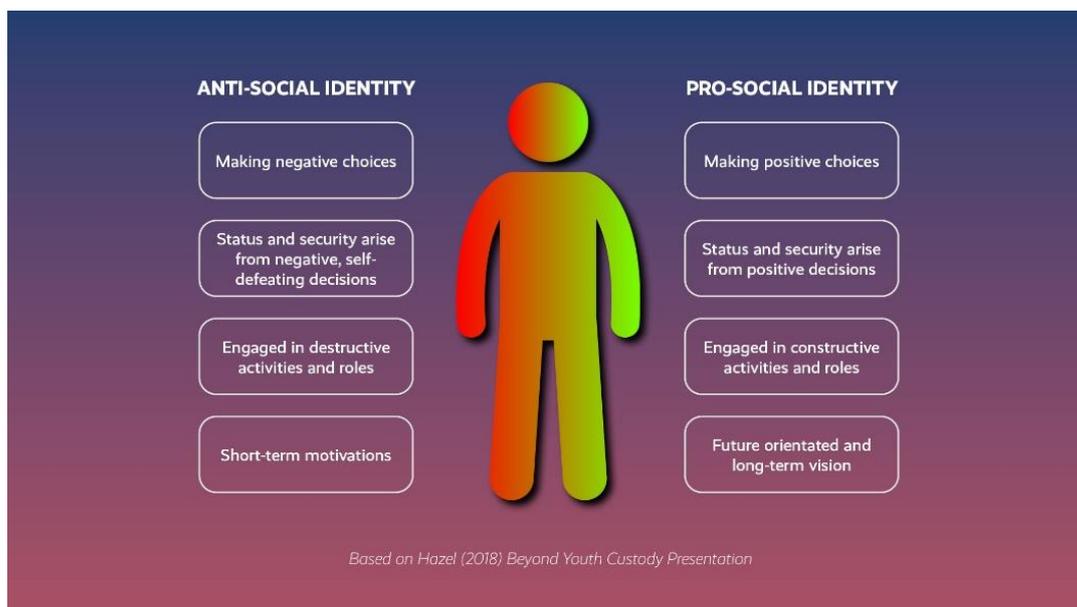


Figure 1.2 Anti-Social and Pro-Social identity model.

The main identified socialization processes involved in social development are: opportunity, involvement, skills development and reinforcement, and positive activities leading to a positive identity. Interventions therefore need to aim to maximise these elements of sport sessions.

Sports-based interventions which operate within the context of serious youth violence can be classified as primary, secondary and tertiary aligning to the public health approach used to define the level of work taking place.

### MATCHING THE NEEDS OF THE YOUNG PERSON TO THE APPROPRIATE SPORTS PROGRAMME

Sports-based interventions which operate within the context of serious youth violence can be classified as primary, secondary and tertiary (in the same way that public health initiatives can be classified).

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TERTIARY
Universal provision that is open to all which provides activities that are engaging and diversionary in nature which contribute to preventing	Targeted approach for young people who have been identified as engaging in behaviours associated with offending. Many of these young people will be known to the Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) or will be referred by another agency. This level of intervention requires more formal support and expertise in order to address the existing behaviours and prevent escalation.	Also targeted and usually focused on young people who have already offended. It is important to note that these young people are often very vulnerable and may have experienced complex trauma as a result of violence, for example, either as bystanders or as gang members. Consequently, these interventions require high levels of expertise and resource to protect against the risk of doing additional harm.

### IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THAT:



Young people's circumstances and needs can change very quickly which requires delivery staff to be able to respond flexibly.



Project staff might not always be aware of the complexities or vulnerabilities of some young people attending their session - particularly when the sessions are open access sport programmes run in the local community.

Figure 1.3 Matching the needs of young people to sport programmes.

The Theory of Change outlines how sport can be harnessed to provide positive experiences for young people and harness pro- social identities.

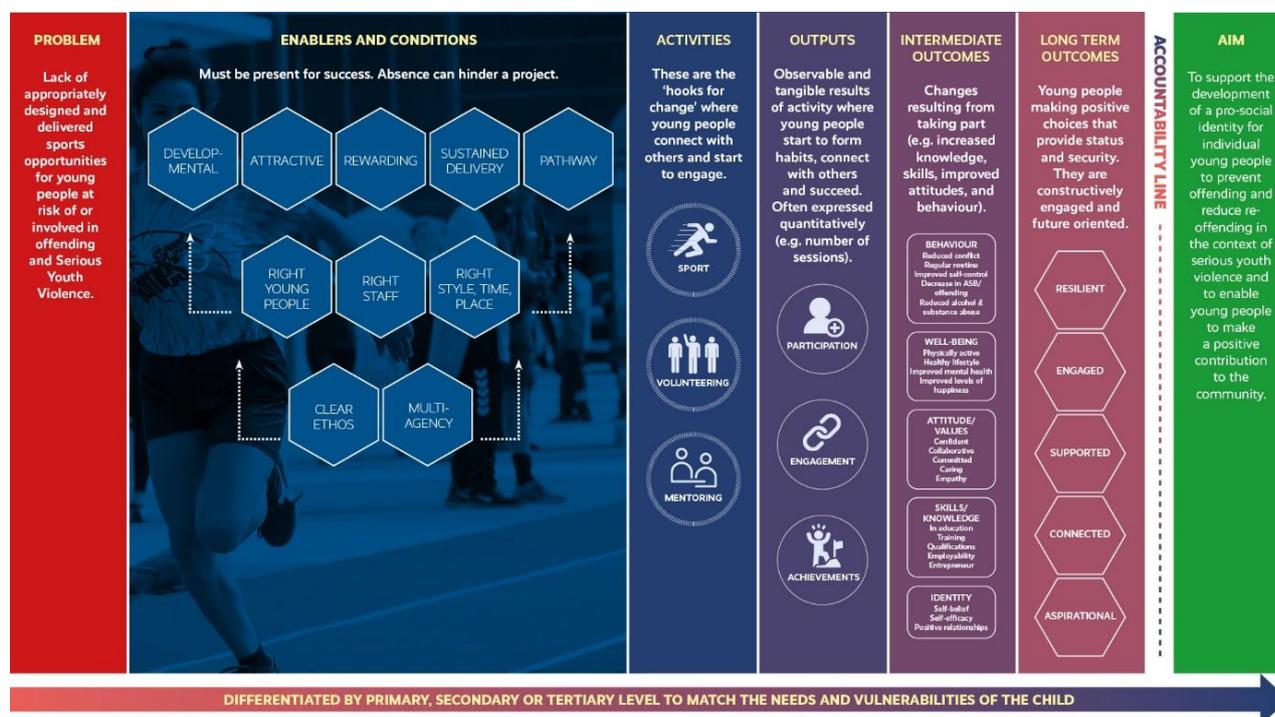


Figure 1.4 – Framework

There are a number of challenges that need to be considered in the context of designing and implementing sports-based interventions.

- Projects must identify potential risks of the sports programme not delivering what has been promised.
- Tackling complex issues such as serious youth violence requires a complex response which involves many stakeholders working to achieve the same aims over a sustained duration.
- Sport needs to demonstrate child-first principles being Inclusive, Participatory and Child-Centred. Diverse and Culturally Aware Authentic engagement with young people requires an empathy and a strong understanding of individuals' cultural heritage and therefore the workforce should ideally reflect the diversity of the young participants.
- Safeguarding in the context of youth offending and serious youth violence is a complex challenge. Whilst LTOs will already have safeguarding procedures in place, secondary and tertiary interventions are likely to require bespoke risk assessment to minimise the potential for harm and unintended consequences for young people, staff/volunteers and the community.

## Data Sources and Methodology

For the purpose of this mapping activity, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations delivering sessions for young people aged between 10 – 25 years old operating in the “Sport for Good” sector have been targeted.

“the use of sport which focuses on improving quality of life, tackling social exclusion, increasing access, preserving the environment, and expanding the pursuit of excellence” (Girginov & Hills, 2008).

These organisations will be termed “Local Trusted Organisations” (LTO), they are all locally managed and funded but vary significantly in terms of size and make up. Very few of these organisations are ‘traditional’ mainstream sports facilities and/or NGB affiliated sports organisations and for many, sport is not the primary purpose. But what the organisations that are most effective at engaging and operating in underserved communities have in common, are that they are ‘trusted’ by the local community, they have ‘permission to operate’. Clubs and organisations that deliver sport primarily to improve individual / team performance and succeed in competition have not been included as part of this mapping exercise as their ethos and operating practices are less likely to be compatible with the needs and vulnerabilities of young people in the context of youth violence.

A community sports system map (figure 1.5) has been developed to display the landscape of the sector in West Yorkshire. All partners included will be invited to contribute towards the mapping exercise, share research and insight, and provide access to existing networks of LTO's to build a broad picture of community sport activity across the five Local Authorities.

The StreetGames Insight and Knowledge team will build an in house survey to be distributed both within the Network and among external partners. DoorStep advisors will work with LTO's from within the StreetGames network to disseminate the survey via email and make follow up phone calls where required. Agenda items will be scheduled in each area network meeting to communicate the purpose of the survey and answer any questions and/or provide additional support and guidance. StreetGames will centrally co-ordinate the distribution of the survey and data collection throughout partner networks via phone and email.

## Community Sport Systems Map



Figure 1.5 – Community Sports System Map

Local and national lockdowns arising from the Covid-19 pandemic have somewhat limited the usefulness to analyse long term trends and data produced prior to the pandemic, therefore we recommend supplementing these with other data sets to provide an indication of the current issue's communities are facing at Local Super Output Area (LSOA) level.

- Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provides a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across West Yorkshire to identify areas of high deprivation.
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a supplementary index of the IMD. It measures the number of children living in income deprived households. This data can be used to determine the level of deprivation directly influencing children aged 0-15 years within each LSOA.
- Universal Credit Statistics (DWP) provides an indication of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on household income in each LSOA revealing areas of growth in deprivation and potential need across West Yorkshire.
- West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit Local Needs Assessment will be used to identify wards in each Local Authority which have high rates of violent crime and termed 'hotspots'.

## Key Findings

### Where is community sport happening?

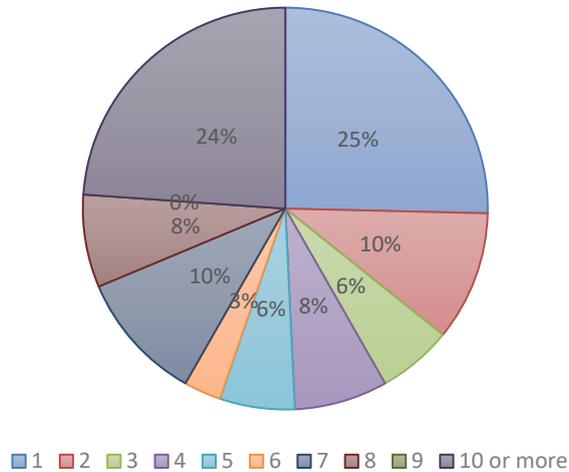
- Data has been collected from 63 LTO's across the 5 Local Authorities.
- Session details have been provided for 156 delivery sites normally operating outside of lockdown.
- There are an additional 193 sessions that LTO's have stated are normally delivered or delivery will begin as lockdown restrictions are eased, however they are currently unable to provide further details. The most common reasons for this were uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions, information is outdated, unable to contact facilities, and lack of staff resources.
- The amount of delivery captured as part of this mapping exercise taking part in each of the 5 Local Authorities is illustrated in the table below.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>%</b>
Bradford	14%
Calderdale	2%
Kirklees	25%
Leeds	39%
Wakefield	19%

Table 1.1 - % of sessions taking part in each of the local authorities.

- The chart below provides an indication of the size and delivery capacity of each organisation. 25% of LTO's operating at present are delivering 1 session per week, we know that most of these deliver at a single site. 24% of LTO's deliver 10 sessions or more each week spread across the Local Authority in which they are based. The size of LTO's and potential reach has implications for session design, capacity and capabilities of staff and effects how long delivery and relationships can be sustained.

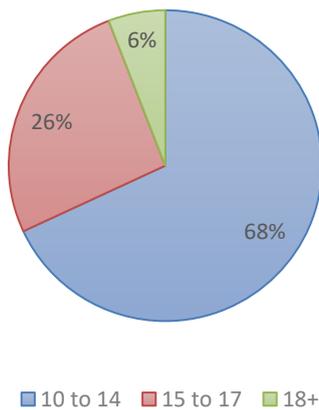
Number of sessions delivered per organisation



Who is taking part in community sport and what are they doing?

- The chart below displays the number of sessions being delivered for each age group. In line with participation levels recorded by the most recent Sport England, Active Lives Survey, there is a significant drop off by age as young people progress through their teen years into their early twenties.

Participation by age



- The average number of girls and young women accessing community sport provision is 30%, 8% of sessions are female only and 8% of sessions are male only.

- The number of children and young people taking part in community sports sessions from an ethnic background is displayed in the table below.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>%</b>
Bradford	70
Calderdale	20
Kirklees	51
Leeds	45
Wakefield	7

Table 1.2 - % of children and young people from ethnic backgrounds taking part in community sport sessions by local authority.

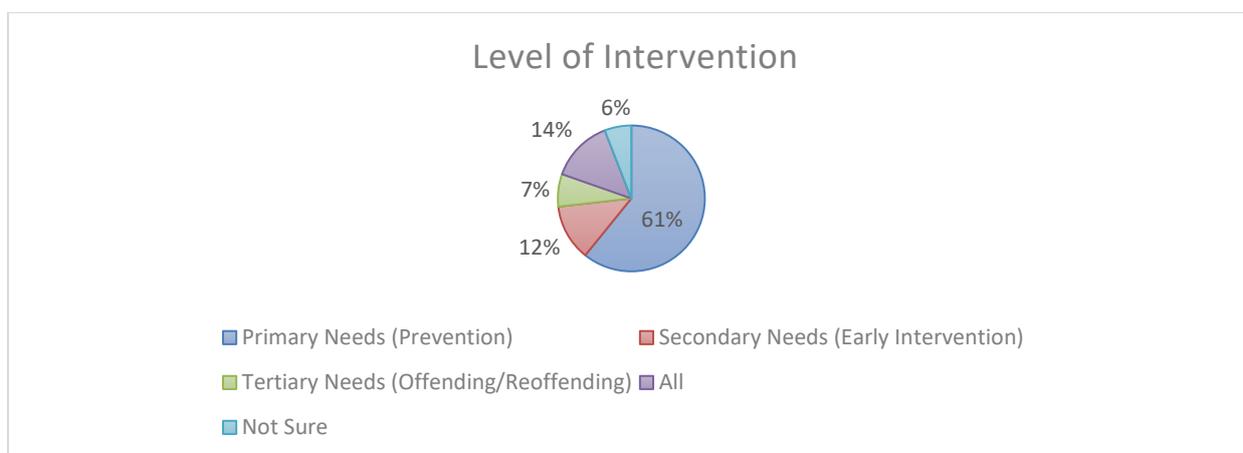
- The different types of sport currently being delivered are summarised in the table below. The type of sport that young people want to engage in varies significantly between each community due a wide number of factors such as cultural background, local traditions, influence of significant others and change in recent trends. Some sports lend themselves better to provide teachable moments and instil discipline such as boxing and martial arts, however achieving engagement by offering the right activity for the young people often outweighs this approach, particularly at primary and secondary level interventions.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>%</b>
Badminton	3
Basketball	8
Boxing	10
Cricket	7
Football	19
Gymnastics	2
Multisports	22
Rugby	7
Netball	1
Table Tennis	5
Other Sport	16

Table 1.3 - % of organisations delivering sport by type.

How has the session been designed and what level of intervention is taking place?

- 47% of LTO's stated that they are currently taking referrals, whilst this appears relatively high, there is likely to be large variance between each LTO's interpretation of having in place an established referral pathway.
- 80% of all provision is open access and 20% is targeted which is comparative to the % of LTO's delivering at tertiary level interventions.
- At least 61% of all community sport provision is primary level. Further investigation is needed to establish LTO's understanding of what components a community sport session could comprise of to optimise the development of a pro-social identity by young people at each of the three levels of intervention.



- The table below demonstrates that a wide range of additional opportunities exist for young people alongside taking part in community sports sessions that contribute towards the development of a pro-social Identity.
- LTO's reported that for 85% of sessions being delivered at secondary level intervention there is an element of mentoring provided by staff/ volunteers. This reduces to 63% for those LTO's delivering at tertiary level.
- LTO's reported that for 80% of sessions being delivered at secondary level there are additional volunteering and leadership opportunities for young people. Similarly, to the mentoring rates above, at tertiary level there is a reduction to 63% of sessions including this component.

<b>Additional opportunities</b>	<b>%</b>
Informal education elements	23
Formal education	9
Mentoring	26
Volunteer or leadership opportunities	26
Opportunities to attend training or get new qualifications	14
Other	2

Table 1.4 - % of community sport sessions that consist of additional opportunities for children and young people.

## What are the characteristics of the communities where sport sessions are taking place?

### Map 1

- Demonstrates where delivery is taking place in relation to the level of deprivation using IMD (2019) classifications at LSOA level.
- 59% of sessions are taking place in areas classified as 1 on the IMD and 27% of sessions are taking place in areas classified as 2 on the IMD (2019).
- 24% of community sport provision takes place in IMD areas classified as decile 3 and above.
- For each organisation plotted on the map, % change in the number of new households claiming Universal Credit at LSOA level has been included.
  - We can see from the data at Local Authority Level that more households with children are now claiming, further compounding the demands in previous areas of high need whilst presenting new challenges in areas of deprivation growth.

Local Authority	Difference in number of Universal Credit Claims from households with a child component between Nov 2019 – Nov 2020
Bradford	9031
Calderdale	2288
Kirklees	5025
Leeds	11,159
Wakefield	5168

- Table 1. – difference in number of households with a child component (single households and couples) claiming universal credit between Nov 2019 and Nov 2020.
- LINK
  - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1MngGP7fEajfsjPDMeQRNIVYnXVcU1IQy&usp=sharing>

### Map 2

- Displays where sport provision is taking place in relation to the level of deprivation using IMD and the subset of data children and young people IDACI.
- 76% of provision takes place in areas 1 and 2 IMD, 65% of provision takes place in areas 1 and 2 IDACI and 63% in areas classified as 1 and 2 on both indexes of deprivation.
- This data is useful to understand the level of deprivation that directly effects children and young people in each LSAO allowing judgements to be made about relative need for those aged 16 years and over in comparison to those aged 16 years and under.
- LINK
  - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1SBhRCd0c56vKP9Rpxc3iyTDw6lzkRPAO&usp=sharing>

### Map 3

- Displays the level of intervention that is being delivered at each site across West Yorkshire.
- 60% of all primary level interventions are being delivered in IMD 1 areas with 21% being delivered in IMD 2 areas.
- 63% of all secondary level interventions are being delivered in IMD1 areas with 21% being delivered in IMD 2 areas.
- 92% of tertiary delivery is being delivered in IMD 1 areas.
- LINK
  - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1AY1EiBud5KA2nQ2SYcOWF-ZmQhLdcU55&usp=sharing>

### Map 4

- Provides a picture of which community sports sessions take place in violent crime hotspots across the 5 local authorities. These have been classified into two groups, yes (Y) to represent those sessions which are being delivered in hotspot areas and no (N) for those sessions which are not being delivered in hotspot areas.
- 22% of session delivery is in violent crime hotspots, of which, 30% is tertiary level interventions.
- LINK
  - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1mwG8axpxvIHuUp9JdP0gzBMZPd4KscgC&usp=sharing>

## Recommendations

1. Establish and operate a regional partnership board, mobilising the community sport sector by bringing together the diverse range of stakeholders to ensure connections and collaborations offer an aligned approach when addressing youth crime and violence through sport.
2. Further understand and evaluate local commissioning of investment for community sport to better prepare LTO's to design, deliver, and measure programmes against the different outcomes.
3. Create a continual feedback loop with the VRU, key stakeholders, LTO's and Young People to enhance partners understanding of the VRU agenda, and inform VRU practice through the insight and experiences of children and young people.
4. Facilitate LTO's development in understanding of best practice when using sport to address primary, secondary and tertiary levels of need/vulnerabilities.
5. Evaluate LTO's ability to deliver the fundamental principles/ key components necessary to meet the vulnerabilities of young people at all levels and support professional development requirements i.e. better understanding of mentoring practice, how to facilitate meaningful volunteering opportunities.
6. Gain further insight into the landscape and methodology of referrals currently being employed by LTO's. Establish clear pathways and best practice to support those LTO's who want to better engage in the referral process and connect to local partners.
7. Further explore the emerging research around the importance of engaging young women and girls in community sport to develop a pro-social identity and provide guidance on best practice in this area.

## Appendices

Loughborough University, StreetGames, Youth Endowment Fund. A Theory of Change. Using Sport To Enhance Positive Outcomes For Young People In The Context of Serious Violent Crime. 2020

Loughborough University, StreetGames, Derby Police and Crime Commissioner. Safer Together Through Creating Partnerships For Positive Change. Sport and Serious Youth Violence. 2020

Loughborough University, StreetGames, Derby Police and Crime Commissioner. Literature Review Summary, The Use of Sport-Based Mentoring Programmes As An Intervention For Preventing and Reducing Youth Offending. 2021

<https://network.streetgames.org/dsip/reports>