

## Active Futures Programme

This programme will fund **early intervention activities** which will increase physical activity and reduce involvement in Serious Youth Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation in the Cheshire, Warrington and Halton areas.

The Active Futures programme will be delivered in partnership with the [Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire](#) and [Active Cheshire](#).

## Context

This programme has been developed, in part, based on community sport provision data gathered by [StreetGames](#). We recommend all applicants use the data on [this dashboard](#) to support their own knowledge when thinking about target groups. It may also be useful to consider the StreetGames [Theory of Change](#) when thinking about how and why your project will enact positive change in the lives of Children and Young People.

## What will the programme focus on?

**Through sport and physical activity**, this programme will fund projects delivering early intervention and diversionary activities for young people **at risk of involvement** in Child Criminal Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence.

The programme will prioritise projects which:

- Use physical activity to deliver positive outcomes in young people's wider lives. The programme will not prioritise projects which focus on attainment in a sporting capacity.
- Have identified a clear need in an area or group, and can tailor the intervention directly to the children and young people with whom they wish to work.
- Can demonstrate a lasting difference in the lives of children and young people. This could be through improving resilience, aspirations, skills, wellbeing etc.

We are keen to receive applications from organisations which demonstrate a partnership approach in the local community. We encourage organisations to work with other local facilities, venues, and organisations to maximise the community provision which already exists.

## How will it achieve this?

We want to fund projects of up to 12 months that deliver sporting or physical activities which can demonstrate:

- An understanding of the impact of Serious Youth Violence and/or Child Criminal Exploitation. We want to see projects that use a trauma-informed approach/lived experience to help shape and deliver the work wherever possible.
- A clear plan for sustainable work, lasting beyond the lifespan of the grant, or plans for transitional support once the project ends. This could include the upskilling of staff and volunteers for future work.
- A collaborative, youth led process in relation to co-production, delivery, and evaluation.
- An approach which is rooted in local communities and builds trusting relationships with children and young people.

- A clear method of engagement.

## What can organisations apply for?

Applicants can apply for up to £25,000 for costs delivering early intervention work with Children and Young People aged 0-18. All grants must engage Children and Young People through physical activity or sport.

Organisations can apply for **one** of the following two grants:

- **Tier 1 Grants.** These grants will be for **£5,000-£10,000** and will focus on reaching new groups of young people or expanding in to new areas with existing provision.
- **Tier 2 Grants.** These grants will be for **£10,001-£25,000**, and will focus on developing new, targeted provision in areas of high need.

**We are particularly interested in work which delivers in the areas of greatest need, and/or addresses gaps in existing provision, as outlined by the [StreetGames Dashboard](#).** This includes both geographic gaps, as well as gaps in the level of provision offered:

- **Primary:** Provision which is open to all, providing engaging, diversionary activities.
- **Secondary:** Targeted provision for young people who have been identified as needing intervention. These young people may be known to local organisations, and activities may require more formal support and expertise to deliver successfully.
- **Tertiary:** Specifically targeted provision for young people who are notably vulnerable and may have experienced complex trauma. These young people are likely to have already offended, and projects will require high levels of expertise to protect against the risk of additional harm.

## Who can apply?

We will accept applications from any organisation:

- **Which meets our [general eligibility criteria](#) and [grantmaking principles](#).**
- Working with Children and Young People who live in the Cheshire, Warrington, and Halton areas.
- Which has a track record of delivering sport or physical activities for Children and Young People.
- Can demonstrate a track record of working with Children and Young People at risk of becoming involved in Childhood Exploitation and/or Serious Youth Violence.
- Can deliver projects using staff and volunteers with suitable skills, qualifications, and experience in relevant, wider interventions (e.g. Mentoring, Youth Work, Mental Health Support, etc.) in addition to sporting activities.

We will consider applications from partnership bids involving multiple organisations delivering work together, so long as there is a nominated lead applicant and a memorandum of understanding outlining the relationship between the delivery partners.

Funded organisations must be willing to work with the local Police and Crime Commissioner to develop and become a part of referral pathways for children and young people who they have identified.

## Timeline

The programme will open for applications on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024, with a deadline for submissions of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

Decisions will be communicated in late-August or early-September. We expect most projects to run alongside the 2024/25 school year and the 2025 Summer Holidays.

Applicants will be required to submit basic, **quarterly monitoring reports** in December, March, and June.

## Process

Applications will be made via the [Cheshire Community Foundation](#) website.