

Why is OSF Needed?

It is impossible to be blind to the severe funding cuts imposed by government. These cuts have devastated the many projects presently supporting the development of young disadvantaged people. The professional teams that have been available, until recently, to the many crucial projects in Lancashire and the North West have now been lost.

The need for an organisation such as OSF has never been so great. We can make a significant difference through highly structured sports development programmes delivered into areas such as schools where sports coaching is most needed. The following highlights the need.

- Cuts in school funding for sports will mean that the 92% of young people currently involved in sporting activity will be reduced dramatically if nothing is done.
- In Lancashire the closure of the Youth Inclusion Projects, for example, have severely impacted on the lives of young people.
- Centres for children with disabilities have been shut due to the lack of funding.
- The age of 16, or school leaver age, is said to be the point that people stop playing sport and become 'trapped' within an environment where unemployment is the norm. We believe that organisations such as OSF can keep young people active and healthy beyond this point.
- Many young people will be unable to afford professional sports coaching and take advantage of the personal and social development initiatives.

OSF will be needed to fill this social gap and will seek to form partnerships with Schools, Community Centres, Local Parks and also take advantage of any available land that can be used for coaching.

The Benefits of the OSF Approach

The OSF approach draws directly on sports coaches and professionals with a track record of success in developing innovative programmes of support for young people.

The OSF team draws its inspiration from a nationally respected Chairman of Trustees and is led by a CEO who is active on a daily basis with young disadvantaged people. The OSF approach will, for example, contribute significantly to the:

- advancement of education.
- reduction of young offending.
- reduction drug and alcohol misuse.
- reduction of unemployment.
- provision of recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people who are disadvantaged by reason of their youth, infirmity, disability, poverty, or social and economic circumstances.
- provision of recreational and leisure time activities in the interest of social welfare and designed to improve their conditions of life.
- provision of support and activities, which help develop the skills, capacities and capabilities of young people enabling them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.