

Burnley Football Club joins forces with freemasons to help young people at risk of criminal involvement

More young people at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour will be helped by Burnley Football Club in the Community, thanks to a grant from East Lancashire freemasons.

The £19,200 grant will expand the Premier League Kicks programme in Burnley and Pendle. Kicks uses the power of football and the value of sports to help hard-to-reach youngsters aged 11-19 years old living in some of the most high-need areas.

Kicks is one of the League's flagship community programmes and has been delivered by Burnley FC in the Community (BFCitC) since 2014. The freemasons' grant will specifically fund Kicks Plus, which will incorporate additional sports to the established programme, as well as adding new venues to engage young people who have not previously taken part.

A period of consultation with young people living in Burnley and Pendle has established that cricket, dance and boxercise sessions would be welcomed. It is hoped that this will engage more female participants and young people from the BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Young People) and community.

BFCitC delivers its Kicks sessions at times when young people are most at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime; primarily at evenings and weekends. Sessions are delivered, where possible, from venues situated in areas where youth crime and ASB have historically proved an issue. As well as physical activity, Kicks also offers education and life skills workshops, and external agencies work with the young people in attendance.

The grant from East Lancashire freemasons comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.

Neil Hart CEO BFCitC said:

"We're really grateful to East Lancashire freemasons for their generous grant. Our Kicks programme is extremely popular but at present is primarily football focussed, which we recognise doesn't work for all young people. The freemasons' grant will allow us to add new venues and hopefully work with even more participants. We can't wait to get going!"

In Response

"The Province is very pleased that through the Masonic Charitable Foundation we are able to help Burnley Football Club with their outstanding work with young people at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. If these young people can be reached early enough their lives can be turned around. We wish the BFCitC Kicks programme well for the future."