

Case Study

Reco, Ipswich Doorstep Sport Clubs



Reco was initially referred to Suffolk Positive Futures in February 2008 aged 14 to take part in a programme of evening sports sessions. At the time Reco was living in a Suffolk children's home and found himself involved in low level anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

The initial project only lasted for 12 weeks however Reco was enthusiastic about doing more activity and took it upon himself to find out when and where he could access further sessions. Over the past 6 years Reco has gone on to attend hundreds of sports sessions as well as representing the project at local and regional events.

In 2011 Reco started doing some informal volunteering with Suffolk Positive Futures. The project put him forward for a Sports Leaders Award and an OCN (Open College Network) teamwork qualification to give him additional skills to support his volunteering.

The introduction of Doorstep Sport Clubs (DSC) delivered by Suffolk Positive Futures provided the perfect opportunity to turn Reco's informal role into more formal volunteering. With this initiative came access to a whole new set of training opportunities for Reco to work through whilst volunteering at three DSC sessions in Ipswich (a girls only session, a multi-sport session and a football session). In Aug 2014 Reco was put forward for, and successfully completed, an FA Level One Coaching Award.

He has continued to volunteer on the project and has found employment working for a Christian youth charity in Woodbridge. In December 2014 he was also successful in securing paid employment as a sports coach with Suffolk Positive Futures.

Reco now has plans to return to the children's home he was brought up in to speak with residents about his experiences and some of the similar life choices they may be facing.

Project manager Paul Knight said "Reco has been with the project in some capacity for 6 years now and through support from our team of coaches we have seen him grow up and progress from participant, to volunteer, to paid staff member, achieving qualifications and many other personal attributes along the way"

Reco said "I've always enjoyed coming along to Suffolk Positive Futures, right from the first session they welcomed me and encouraged me to do well. I left school without any GCSE's and with very little confidence. I now have qualifications as well as paid employment. I am determined to repay the faith the project has shown in me and continue learning and getting experience."

Doorstep Sport Clubs are designed to provide a vibrant and varied sporting offer to young people in disadvantaged communities in order to grow their motivation and ability to adopt a sporting habit for life. Evidence shows that disadvantaged young people are just over half as likely to play sport as their more affluent peers. There are currently 6 Doorstep Sports Clubs in Suffolk located in Ipswich (4) and Lowestoft (2). Suffolk Positive Futures is managed by Catch22 and is funded by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

