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| Organisation Name | | Reference code |
| Saints Foundation | | 2023-10-YO46 |
| Organisation Address | | |
| St Marys Stadium Southampton Hampshire PO16 8EP Hampshire | | |
| Website Address | | |
| https://www.southamptonfc.com/en/saints-foundation-home | | |
| Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details) | | |
| Charity | Registered Charity Number | Date Registered |
| Yes | 1090916 | 2001 |
| Community Interest Company | Registered Companies House Number | Date Registered |
| No | | |
| Social Enterprise | Social Enterprise Mark Awarded Yes/No | Date Awarded |
| No | No | |
| Grant Summary | | |
| Extension of our Switching Play project which supports young people, referred by the Youth Justice Service, on a 1-1 basis, using sport as a hook to provide mentoring support to steer them away from a life of crime. | | |
| Please describe the local needs that this project will address | | |
| <p>The Saints Switching Play project was developed in response to a series of pressing issues and needs facing the youth of Southampton. Our city's youth offending rate is significantly higher than the national average, with 12.7% of victims and 12.4% of suspects or offenders identified in our area in 2021/22 being under 18 years of age. Furthermore, specific types of crime, such as violent crime, disproportionately involve young people. Local statistics indicate that over 1 in 5 children in our community live in deprivation, a rate that exceeds the national average. These factors contribute to high risks of young people becoming involved in crime.</p> <p>The local Youth Justice Service's strategic plan identifies several key problems to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton's custody rate remains above the national average, with 18 young individuals receiving a custodial sentence in the past year. • Our re-offending rate, at 48%, is 13% higher than the national average, despite improvements in the Priority Young People group. • Our First Time Entrants rate, at 954 per 100,000 young individuals, remains higher than the national average. • 40% of young individuals involved with the Youth Offending Service are not engaged in full time education, training, or employment. <p>The funding we are seeking will enable Saints Foundation to address these critical issues through the Switching Play initiative, working to reduce reoffending and promote positive behaviour through engagement in football and other sports, while providing necessary mentoring and support.</p> <p>At Saints Foundation, the local community is deeply rooted in everything we do and we strive to be inclusive in our approach to project design and development through Saints</p> | | |

Voice - Participants actively help shape the delivery and direction of their individual projects and are consulted with as part of wider Saints Foundation decisions, including our future strategy.

Once a young person is referred to Saints Switching Play, there are 3 stages to participation in practice:

1. Young people who have risk factors for offending were consulted as part of our needs analysis. We asked them what they felt the biggest challenges were that faced Southampton & activities for young people came out strongly. Alongside information from published statistics, stakeholders, the wider community & staff, this information directly from young people informed our decision to offer support in this space, and for peace & justice to form part of our theory of change.

2. We conduct 'Saints Foundation Voice', a series of formal focus groups held throughout the year. Young people who have engaged in Saints Switching Play are invited to take part in Saints Voice to tell us about their experience of the project, how we can improve & what they'd like to see the project do differently.

3. Saints Switching Play is participant focused at its core - whilst the structure of each session is focused on progression of the young person, each session begins with input from the participant around what they would like to do and what they would like to gain from the session. This empowers the young person with an element of control, increasing their commitment and engagement in the project.

In our commitment to participant-led decision making, we have made significant strides in reinforcing the autonomy of the young individuals in the program. A noteworthy example of this practice in action is the decision regarding the location of our sessions. Previously, all Saints Switching Play sessions were conducted within St Mary's stadium. However, upon receiving feedback from the young participants, we decided to let them have a say in choosing the venue. This decision was based on the understanding that a familiar and comfortable environment could further encourage their participation and engagement in the program. Consequently, the sessions are now held in various locations chosen by the participants themselves.

What are the key outcomes that you will be seeking to achieve for young offenders?

Through our Saints Switching Play project, we aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Reduction in Reoffending:** Our primary objective is to lower the reoffending rate amongst the youth we serve. We monitor this through data provided by the local Youth Justice Service, which includes whether and how often the young people we've interacted with have committed offenses, as well as the severity of these crimes.
- **Improved Mental Well-being:** We aim to enhance mental health amongst our participants, which we believe will contribute to a decrease in criminal behaviour. We evaluate mental well-being improvements utilising the SWEMWBS methodology. The CAPRICORN framework, a government initiative, delineates protective factors that mitigate youth offending. Our project, Switching Play, aligns its activities with these protective factors.
- **Increased aspirations:** In their personal development plans, young people are encouraged to set meaningful goals, supporting them to be empowered to make positive changes to the things that matter most to them. Switching Play also works towards school protective factors such as young people achieving a qualification and young people increasing their school attendance.
- **Positive connections:** We facilitate the development of positive relationships between the young participants and adults (in the role of youth workers), who serve as positive role models. The project supports young people to make positive peer groups, often through a transition from the project into other Saints Foundation activities, such as Kicks.

In essence, our methodology is underpinned by a two-phase approach to reducing reoffending. The initial focus is on building trust with a positive adult figure. Once this

relationship is established, we concentrate on improving the young person's mental well-being, using sport as the primary engagement tool. The young people then set personal goals, and the sessions are directed towards supporting the participants in accomplishing these goals, which generally include improving school attendance and achieving pertinent qualifications.

The ultimate objective is to facilitate a positive transition, whether it is integration into community activities like Kicks for sustained positive engagement outside school or progression into employment through initiatives like Saints Works.

What are the key activities you will undertake with this funding?

1. Referral Coordination: We receive a significant number of referrals. Each referral from the Youth Justice System undergoes a rigorous risk assessment process. This key step is essential to ensure we can provide the most effective intervention, considering the unique circumstances and needs of each young individual. It is also crucial to ensure that we maintain a safe and supportive environment for all participants in our programs.

2. One-to-one Mentoring Sessions: These sessions will be held weekly for each participant, using sports as a means to engage while providing mentoring and guidance. Our experienced youth workers will build relationships with the young people in these sessions, enabling conversations around positive options and challenging negative behaviours.

3. Development and Implementation of Personal Action Plans: Each participant will work closely with our staff to develop a personalised action plan aimed at supporting them in their journey.

4. Transition Support to Other Projects: After the 12-24 week intervention (depending on need), participants will transition to other relevant Saints Foundation projects. These include Community Champions, Saints Kicks, Changemakers, or Saints Works. This transition support ensures that participants continue to receive the guidance and support necessary for their development.

5. Program Evaluation: We will undertake continuous monitoring and evaluation of the Switching Play project to assess its effectiveness and refine the program as necessary. This will involve tracking the progress of participants, gauging their engagement, and measuring the impact of the program on their behaviour.

6. Outreach Activities: To ensure maximum impact, we will also carry out community outreach activities to identify potential participants, create awareness, and build stronger relationships with our stakeholders in the local community.

Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?

The successful execution of the Saints Switching Play project is steered by a competent and committed team. The team comprises of:

Pathways Project Manager (Full-time): The Project Manager is responsible for the overall planning, management, and execution of the project. They coordinate with different stakeholders, manage resources, and ensure that the project's objectives are met on time and within budget.

Interventions Coordinator (Full-time): The Interventions Coordinator assists the Project Manager in the day-to-day running of the Switching Play project activities, ensuring that delivery is coordinated at our delivery venues and progress is being achieved towards our KPIs and outcomes. Saints Foundation will allocate 100% of this grant towards the annual salary of this position.

Interventions Project Officers (2 Posts, Full-time): The Delivery Staff are involved in implementing the project activities and work closely with the Interventions Coordinator. They play a crucial role in connecting with the participants and ensuring their needs are met.

How will your organisation continue to sustain this project after the grant ends?

The sustainability of the Saints Switching Play project, post-grant, is underpinned by a number of strategic measures implemented by the five-person strong Fundraising and Partnerships team at the Saints Foundation. With robust experience in income generation, event management, community relationships, and collaborations with trusts, foundations, and corporate entities, the team is well-equipped to sustain the project.

The launch of our new strategy in 2023 focuses on fostering stronger connections with the local community of club fans and businesses in the city, thus diversifying our income streams and rendering us more resilient in the face of financial challenges. The fundraising and communications plan for the 2023/24 season includes capitalising on the engagement of Southampton FC fans at home games, through the implementation of the 'Pennies' micro-donation system.

While we do not receive direct financial support from the club, their provision of crucial resources such as office space and operational assistance is invaluable. Furthermore, we receive funding and support from a plethora of sources, including the Premier League Charitable Fund, the Professional Footballers Association, Southampton City Council, and more. Our collaborations with other charities and organisations, such as Communicare, Youth Options, and Yellow Door, further bolster our sustainability. Despite the financial vulnerability posed by changes in the club's financial situation, our robust fundraising plan and prudent financial management policies ensure we can maintain our project operations. We keep a keen eye on market trends and implement internal controls, such as monthly budget reviews and annual audits, guaranteeing the responsible use of funds.

In conclusion, the Saints Foundation is committed to the long-term sustainability of the Saints Switching Play project. Our comprehensive strategy encompasses income diversification, community engagement, and prudent financial management, assuring the project's continued impact within the Southampton community, even in economically challenging times.

What expertise and track record do you have to be able to deliver this work successfully?

The Switching Play initiative has been operating in its present configuration since January 2022, having previously been functional on a smaller scale from 2018. Between September 2022 and August 2023, we have supported 70 young people through the Switch and Play project.

Our support team has capacity to support 35 participants simultaneously. The preliminary data indicates that during the initial 12-week intervention, there was no recidivism among 70% of the participants. Upon completion of the 12-week period, participants are transitioned to alternate projects, enabling continued engagement and monitoring of outcomes.

Regarding the progression pathways for the young individuals we support, in the second year of the project we collaborated with 69 young people, of which 30 successfully transitioned to at least one positive development opportunity. Here is a detailed breakdown:

- Sixteen participants are now actively engaged with a Saints Foundation youth worker within their school environment.
- Six participants have secured employment within the Southampton Football Club.
- One participant has found employment external to the Southampton Football Club.
- Five individuals have enrolled in Saints Foundation's employability initiative, known as Saints Works.
- Five participants have volunteered for Saints Switching Play.
- Three individuals are participating in community projects led by Saints

Foundation that aim to foster leadership skills.

- Eight participants have continued their involvement with Saints Switching Play. These outcomes are nothing short of remarkable. They transcend the basic goal of "not reoffending," indicating a more profound, holistic change in the young people we support. These results signify a disruption in cycles of problematic behaviour that often ensnare these young individuals. The participants are not merely avoiding detrimental activities; they are actively engaged in constructive pursuits that help build their future. They're gaining employability skills, participating in community projects, volunteering, and improving their education - in essence, they are positively transforming their lives. This holistic progress is the true essence of the Switching Play project: fostering not just behavioural change, but nurturing aspiration, resilience, and positive growth. This project is unique in Southampton, although we collaborate extensively with other local entities. We have become a trusted, go to partner for the Youth Offending Service and Young People's Service to work with young offenders, and achieve outcomes that others cannot. Our approach is not just reactive, but proactive - we work on the prevention of criminal and sexual exploitation, offering constructive alternatives through sports and mentoring. This combination of experience, proven results, and partnership networking sets us apart, making us the most suitable candidate for delivering the Switching Play project.

Explain how the grant will be spent

The generous grant awarded by the Triangle Trust is fundamental to the continuation of our Saints Switching Play project for the next two years. This financial support will be allocated towards our overarching project budget totalling £128,268.80 projected for the next 12 months. Notably, this funding plays a significant role in addressing our forecasted funding shortfall from August 2024, providing an element of long term security for this critical service in the city.

A significant proportion of the total project cost of £83,876.00 is directed towards the salaries of our project staff, which includes a Project Coordinator, and 2 x Youth Workers who are all full time positions.

This funding will contribute towards 100% of our project coordinators salary of £32,356 to include 12% on costs for Year 1 of the project. For Year 2 we anticipate a (3% increase) linked to rise in inflation totalling £33,326 per annum.

The wider project costs, include 10% of our central costs, that are allocated to operational overheads such as marketing, safeguarding, workforce, and monitoring and evaluation.

A further £10,000 is allocated towards venue hire and facility costs, allowing us to secure a conducive environment for our activities, such as the Pound for Pound Gym.

Additional costs include £3,600 contribution towards the Pathways Projects Manager and £3,000 towards travel and transport. £1,200 in hosting competitions and events, which serve as engaging platforms to foster positivity and unity among our participants. Staff training and development is another key area where we allocate £300 towards CPD where we have access to in-kind training provided by the Premier League, ensuring our team is equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver our project to the highest standard.

Will you be working with young people who are already known to local offending teams and already engaged with interventions such as Out of Court Disposals, Point of Arrest Diversion programmes or other YOT Prevention Programmes?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of which YOTs, Police Teams or other services you will be working with and how.

At Saints Foundation, we maintain a direct and active partnership with the Southampton Youth Justice Service but also with the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked

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| <p>team, and the Inclusion and Prevention team. The referrals we receive primarily originate from these organisations and typically relate to compulsory Community Engagement interventions. Each one of these referrals is meticulously assessed by our risk review panel, composed of members from the Saints Foundation Safeguarding Team. To ensure the efficacy of our interventions and monitor progress, we regularly communicate with these teams. Accordingly, we receive essential data, including follow-ups on the young person's behaviour six months post-intervention, such as any reoffending incidents. These stringent measures facilitate our tailored approach to supporting each individual effectively.</p> | |
| <p>If no, please provide details of how you will engage with young people in the community who are at risk of gaining a criminal record.</p> | |
| <p>Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?</p> | |
| <p>Yes</p> | |
| <p>Do all staff have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks? If no please state why.</p> | |
| <p>Yes</p> | |
| <p>Reason why not all staff have DBS checks.</p> | |
| <p>Total funding requested in this application (£10,000 to £80,000 with a maximum of £40,000 in one year)</p> | |
| <p>£65682</p> | |
| <p>Proposed grant start date</p> | <p>Proposed grant duration in months</p> |
| <p>8/1/2024</p> | <p>24</p> |
| <p>How much funding is required each year?</p> | |
| <p>Year 1</p> | <p>Year 2</p> |
| <p>£32356</p> | <p>£33326</p> |
| <p>What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent financial year?</p> | <p>What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?</p> |
| <p>£2213618</p> | <p>£2434832</p> |
| <p>What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?</p> | |
| <p>£100178</p> | |