



# IMPACT REPORT



## The Prisons Programme

# Street Soccer London

Street Soccer London is a sport for change charity using football to engage with and support young people and adults in South London, empowering them to build positive futures.

Our free football sessions are based on 3 pillars:

- Safe Spaces
- Sense of Belonging
- Trusting Relationships

When we build these with our players, amazing things happen.

Our support is on pitch; free and inclusive football sessions, and off the pitch with wrap around support, educational courses, enriching experiences, and strong partnerships.

Our sessions are open to anyone and we welcome all new players with open arms.



**Feel Safe At Street  
Soccer Sessions**



Youth Programmes support young people aged 9-19 with access to 14 hours of free football a week. We run under 15s and over 15s sessions, as well as a girls programme.

The young people we support are experiencing challenges such as living in poverty, experiencing crime and violence, racism, being at risk of exclusion from school, and seeking asylum.

Adult Programmes support adults experiencing homelessness, those seeking asylum and those with mental health issues, as well as people in the criminal justice system.

**"We feel like we are made welcome, we belong, we are like a family"**

# The Prisons Programme

Since our inception in 2020, we have been working with players in and around the criminal justice system, whether that be adults in prison or young people at risk of gang involvement. We built a strong relationship with HMP Brixton and delivered some football tournaments and one-off sessions inside prison across a 2 year period. We were asked to support prisoners when there had been a suicide in the prison, and staff were reporting really positive benefits to us. So we decided to create a bespoke programme of support and we fortunate to receive funding for 1 year's pilot from The Weavers Company Fund. On our programme we work with a cohort of 10-14, players selected by prison staff, over a 6 week period. 2 days a week we come into HMP Brixton and deliver a football-themed education programme. The programme combines classroom activity, guest speakers and football, taking people out of traditional education settings and using practical tools to reinforce learnings.



**6 weeks**  
OF STRUCTURED SUPPORT  
36 hours per player

**Education**  
AQA ACCREDITED

With Players Graduating and  
Receiving Certificates and Rewards

**Release**  
THROUGH THE GATE SUPPORT  
Supporting players into positive  
destinations and reducing reoffending

Each week looks at a different theme, from communication and teamwork, to positive relationships and respect, all through football and sport. Our Coordinator builds trusting relationships with each player to be best placed to provide 'through the gate' support on release. Relationships on the pitch translate to connections through the gate, and we provide 1-1 support, enrichment experiences, and access to Adult Programme drop-ins.

At the end of every cohort we host a Graduation Ceremony with food, certificates and Street Soccer T-shirts being awarded.

Players achieve accredited education, improved mental health, increased confidence, and help to increase the chances of positive destinations outside prison.





# Year 1 Impacts

**0%**

**Re-Offending Rate  
Post Release**

**46 Players  
Sported**

**7 Players  
Employed**

**POST RELEASE**

**6 Players  
Became  
Mentors**

**ON THE NEXT PROGRAMME**

**33%  
Employment  
Rate**

**POST RELEASE**

**67% Improved  
Attitude & Behaviour**

**ACCORDING TO PRISON STAFF**

**70%**

**Improved Mental  
Health and Wellbeing**

**89%**

**Feel Hopeful for  
the Future**

**62%**

**Engagement Rate  
Post Release**

**62%**

**Improved  
Confidence**

**76%**

**Improved  
Communication Skills**

# Case Study 1



We met A in HMP Brixton in late April 2023. He'd served the majority of his sentence and had spent over 7 years in prison. In this time, he had understandably had a lot of time to reflect and was noticeably motivated to make changes upon release. His passion for physical fitness was something that he'd really focussed on whilst inside and he took the opportunities available to him and undertook a personal training course and a boxing course whilst in HMP Brixton. These experiences helped him to find the focus he needed and settle on his goal – to become a UFC fighter.

On the pitch he wasn't the most confident or experienced footballer but approached the games with a joyful attitude. This was brilliant and his energy was infectious as it had a positive effect on the other participants. In the classroom he carried an air of thoughtfulness and was very reflective. This was a massive contribution to the dynamic of the group and was a great example of why we use the combination of football and classroom, as it affords different people the chance to take the lead and develop their skills.

Our Coordinator Yasin says;

"He's just a great guy! Despite not particularly being a football fan, he approached the programme with enthusiasm, motivation and positivity. His contribution enhanced the course as a whole."

Since being released in July he has remained focussed on his goal and is well on the way towards a career in the UFC. He has been training hard and hoping to have his first fight in early 2024. He has stayed involved with Street Soccer, making the most of opportunities to attend mentoring training and community events. He's been a good example of how someone can make positive changes to their own situation and we're all very proud of the work he has put in.

# Case Study 2



We were introduced to R in the first week of July on our second cohort in HMP Brixton. He readily admits that he wasn't the best-behaved prisoner and staff members in the prison may hold a similar view. His place on the course was in the balance right from the start. Throughout his time with Street Soccer, R has had his ups and downs, sometimes it has been two steps forward and one step back.

As the course progressed, he settled into the routine of attending, was a very positive member of his cohort both on and off the pitch and showed that he is a person of influence who people listen to. He completed the programme and came back onto the most recent cohort in a mentoring capacity and that's where things really started to click for him and he decided to use his influence and status for positive means and acts as a mentor on our programme.

Since we've known R he has spent time on basic and in the segregation unit for things that have gone on away from the course, but this seems to be a thing of the past and he has taken his role of mentor seriously, conducting himself very well.

He has recently started a job on the serverly and received an award for his progress at our last graduation, and another award for being a standout Street Soccer participant over the course of the year, that was presented to him by the mayor of Lambeth.

I think the best way of measuring the impact that R's involvement with Street Soccer has had, is to speak to the staff at the prison. His improvements have been noticeable and one member of staff says; "Yeah he was a nightmare at times and it took time, but I've got to say – and fair play – he's doing good. Makes our jobs a whole lot easier".

R is currently still serving his sentence and will hopefully join us as at our adult sessions upon his release in January 2024.