

YOUNG PEOPLE KEPT ON THE PITCH AT SOUTHMEAD RUGBY CLUB AFTER RECEIVING A BRISTOL YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

THE IMPACT

The rugby initiative at Southmead Rugby Club has been renewed with a Bristol Youth and Community Action (BYCA) grant, enabling them to continue to provide free sporting activities to the local youth, giving young people in the area a constructive outlet.



THE STORY

Established in 1984, it has been Southmead Rugby Club's mission for just under 4 decades to keep young people out of the criminal justice system by offering them a constructive outlet. Through lockdown the local area was faced with a spike in anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues, and so Southmead Rugby Club made a bid for a BYCA grant to further increase the youth provision for children and young people in the local area. The BYCA grant was coordinated by the Avon and Somerset Police and the High Sheriff, who allocated a grant of £300 to the club. This has been used to alleviate the ASB problems by getting more young people on the rugby pitch and away from situations in which ASB might occur.

"Running a Rugby Club appears to be trying to finance a bottomless pit! Southmead Rugby Club is based in the local community for the community and was originally started as a diversionary activity to keep young boys and men out of the criminal justice system. Rugby has alleviated the problems, giving young people something constructive to occupy themselves with."

– Geoff Williams, President, Southmead Rugby Club

This match was made in a collaboration between the Avon and Somerset Police and the Bristol High Sheriff's Fund before the AskingBristol project had been founded. The story was an initial inspiration for the project, particularly in the handling of 'Things', and has been posted as an example of the kinds of matches that AskingBristol aims to facilitate.



Southmead Rugby Club is for 4-16 years old from the local areas. It was setup in 1984 as a diversionary activity aimed at keeping young people out of the criminal justice system. It is sited next to the Greenway Centre in Southmead.

<https://twitter.com/southmeadrfc>