NAME: ELLEN JONES

UNIVERSITY NUMBER: 05002516

DEPARTMENT: UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE CARDIFF

CENTRE OF SPORT, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION
Sport as a Diversion from Juvenile Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. A Case Study Analysis of the Guernsey StreetSport Programme.
CHAPTER ONE:
INTRODUCTION
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Anti-social behaviour and youth crime is a serious problem in modern Britain. ‘Anti-social behaviour can destroy communities, with groups and individuals living in fear and those who are able to move away, do so,’ (Home Office, 2000 p.30). Evidently these behaviours have a large impact on surrounding communities and on society as a whole. Although ‘Rebellion of youth has been a social problem to every older generation,’ (Collins and Kay 2003, p.159) the public is increasingly concerned with intimidating youth behaviour. Research from the Home Office highlights anti-social behaviour as a concern with findings showing that approximately one in five people think that anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area (Bolling et al., 2007). According to the Policy Action Team on Anti-Social Behaviour Report (PAT 8 report), the consequences of such actions ‘incurs large costs to a wide range of people, including individuals, schools, local authorities, housing departments and other social landlords.’ (Home Office, 2000. p.5).

The Government therefore is under pressure to find solutions to reduce and prevent the effects of youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Many strategies have been identified to deal with these problems. These include ‘parenting orders, curfews, educational and community initiatives along with a streamlined judicial process,’ (Morgan, 2000. p.5).

Parliament has introduced a number of pieces of legislation to try to address these problems. For example, the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 distributing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) to those involved in such inappropriate behaviour.
It is also important to try to prevent these crimes and behaviours happening in the first place. It should be made clear who initiates the problems and who is subsequently at risk of being influenced to take part.

Methods of prevention can include providing opportunities for disaffected young people to participate in different activities. Utilising sport in these situations is believed to help personal development and simply providing alternative activities for youths to take part in, can take them away from being on the streets. Personal development can include gaining confidence and self-esteem as well as empowerment and social skills. Collins et al. (2003) argued that the enhancement of these personal improvements could also benefit the community, improving cohesion and, subsequently, the prospects of the community. Hendry (1993), (cited by Collins et al, 2003), suggested that youths ‘hanging around’ may have more contact with young people who offend and therefore be negatively influenced by them.

Sport is considered to have a great potential for aid in this problematic area. Sport based programmes are now commonly used in many different areas in an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime.

Examples of these schemes include the Liverpool Football club. They aimed to create a connection between the football club and local communities. After increased support and funding from the government, some of the high-profile footballers entered communities to participate in different activities. During which quit-smoking and anti-drug policies were highlighted (Cameron and MacDougall, 2000).
Kickz Project is a national project involving professional football clubs taking constructive activity onto targeted local estates with high rates of anti-social behaviour (Parrott et al, 2007). Again this project aims to provide young people in constructive activity in attempts to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.2 Investigation Aims

This investigation will look at the problem of youth crime and anti-social behaviour (important definitions of crime, anti-social behaviour and at-risk youths will be highlighted in the review of literature).

Consideration will be given to what youth crime and anti-social behaviour is whether it is a problem and what policy governments have introduced as a means of tackling the issue. It is important, therefore, to consider initially if there is a crime problem, whether youths are involved and whether sport can help. After this, it can be determined whether or not sport-based programmes are particularly useful. Government and local policies need to be understood. These aims need to be clear. Programmes can then be deemed successful or not, depending on their achievement of these targets.

The use of sport as a tool for attempting to reduce and prevent anti-social behaviour will be investigated. This will include a critical analysis of a specific sports-based programme, designed to combat anti-social behaviour and divert youths from crime. More specifically for this research the in-depth nature, plans and activities of the chosen project need to be investigated.

This is a case study of two programmes run by the Guernsey Sports Commission Service; StreetSport and The Bouet Ballers.
StreetSport is a programme which has been running for a year and a half in five week blocks. It involves going out into the community (specifically Les Genats housing estate in Guernsey) providing sporting activities for youths aged between 10 and 19 years old. The youths are picked up in a mini-bus and taken to a variety of facilities to play a range of differing sports/activities as possible.

The Bouet Ballers is a basketball team which developed from a similar scheme in which sport was delivered to youths from another housing estate, The Bouet. Basketball became very popular amongst the participants and the team (The Bouet Ballers) was created. They are now in the Guernsey Basketball league, playing regular matches. A court has also been built on the estate, for youths to practice and play on.

The research will involve a case study of the two projects and whether they have succeeded in reducing anti-social and criminal behaviour. Background knowledge will need to be gained on the processes and aims of the project. This should be related to overall aims in government policy and then through to local policy.

This research will therefore be qualitative and will include the use of this background research, interviews and questionnaires. The semi-structured interview will be with the leader of the sports programme, the Guernsey Sports Commission Officer, and a number of questionnaires will be completed by the youths taking part in the chosen schemes.

Information will be gathered about what they like to do in their spare time (detecting any anti-social behaviour), as well as what their feelings are about the programme and whether or not they enjoyed being part of the scheme. From this it may be possible to assess whether or not participating has an impact on any anti-social behaviour and possible criminal behaviour they get involved in.
The investigation will focus on what the participants felt about their experience and what they have enjoyed. This is important to be aware of so that future projects using sport as a tool for anti-social behaviour and youth crime can be popular among youths, and therefore the positive influence projects provide can be spread to many youths. It will also help to understand the extent to which sport helps.

As far as possible, any positive impacts these programmes have had will be noted. It will be advantageous to collect data on crime rates in the areas chosen, to see any effect on them.
CHAPTER THREE:
METHODOLOGY
3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Purpose of the Study

This investigation analysed the exploitation of sports-based programmes used to deter youths from anti-social behaviour and crime. The StreetSport scheme in Guernsey was formally evaluated to determine the programme's effectiveness. The investigation also looked at The Bouet Ballers team. Patton (2002) claims formative evaluation concentrate on the strengths and weaknesses of the programme, providing suggestions for areas of improvement.

StreetSport is an outreach programme (a programme which is taken to the ‘client’ group rather than waiting for them to initiate contact), which was developed in August 2006 by the Sports Commission Officer in Guernsey. It was originally based in Les Genats Estate (the equivalent of a Council Estate) in Guernsey. The scheme runs for one hour every Monday evening. Local businesses and companies fund it. If appropriate facilities for activities are not available on the Estate a mini-bus is used to take participants to alternative venues. The activities are in five week blocks, after which a match is played against a local team in the practiced sport. The next five weeks concentrate on a different activity and so on. The programme is open to any 10-19 year olds. There is a maximum of 12 participants per session.

The Bouet Ballers is a team which was created as a result of the success of the StreetSport programme. This scheme was originally delivered on The Bouet Estate in Guernsey. Basketball was found to be very popular with this group so specific training sessions were held. After a few games against other teams in the community,
for example, a team from the Fire and Rescue Service, The Bouet Ballers entered the local Guernsey Basketball league.

The original StreetSport programme was developed to engage the youths on the estate with regular physical activity. Initially sessions were held at the estate, in familiar surroundings where friends could join in on the activities together in an informal environment. It is funded by the Lloyds TSB Foundation for the Channel Islands, and is designed and implemented to ‘enhance social inclusion for disadvantaged young people through sport and health-related activities’, (Scoones, 2008). The scheme aimed to encourage personal development, self-esteem, communication and teamwork skills and to discourage youths from anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

3.2 Data Collection

With the nature of the use of a case study, the research is using an inductive multi method approach. The inductive nature is where theory is an outcome of the research (Bryman, 2004). The multi method approach involves two main aspects of research, questionnaires and interviews. This is a triangulation process, where more than one method or source of data has been used in the study of the social phenomena (Bryman, 2004). A case study includes a specific focus on a group or unit. It is beneficial to use a case study when the investigator has little control over events and when the concepts focused on are in real life events (Burns, 2000). In this situation, information about how at-risk youths feel about the usefulness of sport is the ‘theory’ that will be discovered. Therefore a case study is appropriate to broaden knowledge.

The case study was selected carefully. Mainly due to the purposes of the Programme which is to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime within youths (as noted above).
It had to be decided next which type of research to use, quantitative or qualitative. Quantitative research, in broad terms, involves description using numerical data and viewing a deductive relationship between theory and research, i.e. theory driving the research (Bryman, 2004). Because of this the quantitative approach was rejected. In a crude manner, quantitative research is concerned with numbers, whereas qualitative research is concerned with words.

Qualitative research is important in education, social work and community development, (Marshall and Rossman, 1999). It is the ‘broad approach to the study of social phenomenon: its various genres are naturalistic and interpretive, and they draw on multiple methods of inquiry’, (Marshall et al., 1999. p.2). This appears to be highly relevant to the study as, the feelings and views of the participants are the important findings.

Prior to data collection, discussions were held with the Sports Commission Officer in Guernsey, to identify what schemes and programmes had been developed for at-risk youths as a way of reducing anti-social behaviour and distracting them from entering criminal activity. Following these discussions, it was decided that StreetSport would be the best project to investigate, because of its regular sessions. It was also decided that The Bouet Ballers should studied, as the participants were slightly older, this would give the project a broader range. This team was also a product of StreetSport, so any benefits from the scheme could be recognised. After this, the background, aims and purposes of the scheme, the identity of the target client group and what developments occurred, were discussed with the Sports Commission Officer. Random sampling was therefore not appropriate in for this study, as the number of participants was so small.
There are many different methods of qualitative research including participation, observation, interviews and questionnaires. Kalnins (1986) suggests that when exploring social research, it would be favorable to have ‘a combination of direct observation, participant observation, and semi-structured interviewing’, (cited in Marshall et al., 1999. p.136). This is important in order to gain ‘a holistic view and to gather data that would inform the interview process’, (Marshall et al., 1999. p.137). Learning about individuals’ beliefs and views is the intention of the study, so these methods were viewed as most appropriate.

Because of certain time constraints observation was not feasible. Participation was used with the researcher attending a session. But again because of time restraints, the researcher could only attend one session, making this element very reliable. The process of interview and questionnaires was therefore most practical.

It was agreed with the Sports Commission Officer that the most appropriate method of data collection was through a semi-structured interview process (these questions can be found in Appendix A). This process creates a more conversational setting in which, questions may alter depending on the answers given. It enables the researcher to ‘explore a few general topics to help uncover the participant’s views’ (Marshall et al., 1999. p.108). As the interview was used to gain information about the programme leader’s intentions and thoughts on youth and sport, and how a project may help, this was the most productive type of interview.
Questionnaires were decided upon the best method of gaining information from the participants of the programmes. Questionnaires are useful in learning about attitudes and beliefs (Marshall et al., 1999). These questionnaires were designed on SNAP software on the computer. This software helps to design questionnaires, with a choice of fonts, headings and indicating the difference in the type of questions and answer.

When developing the questionnaire, it was ensured there was no technical jargon involved, and clear language was used. This was in order to make sure the questionnaire was fully comprehensible for the participants. The questionnaires contained mainly closed multiple-choice questions, where participants are given a choice of alternative replies. Also a large number of questions required the participants to rate their feelings/agreement of a question. The advantage of this is that it requires little time. Also analysis is made simpler. Each time a choice is selected it can be recorded, and percentages can be calculated. Disadvantages of this method however occur as providing choices may create a bias element to the questions.

A pilot study was carried out (see Appendix B). Because of the small sample size this only involved one participant and communication with the programmes leader (Guernsey’s Sport Commissions Officer). From the information found, a suitable questionnaire was created for the StreetSport participants (see Appendix C) and the Bouet Ballers team (see Appendix D).

The research design followed the Cardiff School of Sport (CSOS) guideline. Informed consent therefore needed to be granted, by the guardian of the participants. They needed to be aware of: what they were going to be asked to do, any risks that the process may entail, any benefits the participants may gain, and the degree of
confidentially confirmed. Approval was given via the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) (see Appendix E).

A questionnaire was completed by each participant. This included 12 participants from the StreetSport programme (for an example of a completed questionnaire see Appendix C), and 4 from The Bouet Ballers team (for an example of a completed questionnaire see Appendix D).

To endeavor to make sure reliability was as high as possible, the questionnaires were exactly the same for each participant. The participants were also made aware that the questionnaires were completely confidential, so any answers they provided would not be passed on to anyone else. Their names were not asked or used.

In attempt to gain the maximum validity possible the participants all answered the same questionnaires, in the same environment. The questionnaires were distributed just after a StreetSport session.

3.3 Data Analysis

SNAP was used in to reference the questionnaires. After the questionnaires were completed, the responses were entered back into the software, which produced statistics for analysis.

Any similarities or major differences in answers were noted.

The answers from the interviews were also compared to those of the questionnaire. This was in order to detect any major contrast in thoughts and feelings of those participating in the programmes and the organiser.
CHAPTER FOUR:
RESEARCH FINDINGS
4.1 Research Findings from StreetSport Questionnaire

12 questionnaires were distributed and completed (raw data in Appendix C). For more efficient analysis, the data has been calculated as percentage rates and absolute response. In the case of open ended questions, the answers were grouped together so that percentage data could again be collected.

The protocol for collection was changed from agreed. The programme’s leader asked the participants the questions, and completed the questionnaires herself, with their answers. This was because the programme’s leader felt some participants did not have the literacy skills to complete the questionnaire themselves.

58% or participants were male. All participants were under 12 years of age and lived on the same Council Estate, (Les Genats Estate). They all attend school, however, two did not attend a main stream school, and one studied a different curriculum to that of her peers because she “does not get on with the other kids” (respondent A, Appendix C). When asked whether they considered they had ever been a victim of crime or not, 42% answered ‘yes’, 25% answered ‘no’, and 33% were unsure, answering ‘maybe’. Figure 1 shows the total number of responses to this question. This shows almost half of those completing the questionnaires felt crime has affected them.
The second section of the questionnaire asked questions relating to the participants’ involvement and attitudes towards sport. 59% felt sport was ‘quite important’ to them, only 8% saying it was ‘very important’ and 33% felt sport was not very important. No-one felt sport was not important at all. They were asked what their favourite activity was as an open-ended question. This was later analysed into percentages of the activities mentioned by the participants. The results showed badminton to be the most popular activity with 30%, next was basketball (25%), followed by futsal (an indoor version of association football) (20%), parachute games (15%) and dodgeball (5%) and ‘other’ (5%) both being selected once.

**Figure 1:** A bar chart to show the answers given to Q5 from the StreetSport questionnaire.
Figure 2: A pie chart to show the percentage of votes per activity from the StreetSport questionnaire. Q11.

Attendance rates showed 67% did not attend every session. The reasons given for absences were due to family commitments (25%), illness (25%) or ‘other’ (25%).

The participants were asked their thoughts about the benefits of playing sport. The results are shown below (Table 1).
Table 1: A table to show what was felt to be the benefits of playing sport. Q14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absolute Analysis</th>
<th>% Respondents</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>No reply</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Most of the time</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Friends</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Sport Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good to do something</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest ‘yes’ answer was for the ‘good to do something’ answer with 67%. Overall the participants felt sport helps ‘gaining friends’, ‘sometimes’ (50%), ‘health benefits’, ‘sometimes’ (50%), ‘better sport skills’, ‘most of the time’ (42%), ‘team skills’, ‘no’ and ‘sometimes’ (both 42%), ‘communication skills’, ‘no’ (50%) and ‘confidence’, ‘no’ (58%).

The participants were asked what they felt motivated them to take part in the StreetSport programme. The most popular answers being ‘friends’ (67%) and ‘something to do’ (75%), (see Table 2).
Table 2: A table showing what motivated the participants to attend StreetSport sessions. Q15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absolute Analysis % Respondents</th>
<th>Missing No reply</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You enjoy sport</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something to do</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most popular activity during their spare time was to ‘meet friends’ (58%). 42% also enjoy ‘watching T.V.’, ‘playing computer games’ and ‘going to friend’s houses’. When asked what activities they felt other people on the estate enjoyed, the results were similar, but one respondent stated that he sees others ‘messing around and building bunkers on the estate’.

58% of participants felt there are no sporting facilities in their area, 8% believes there are, and 33% are unsure. Those who felt there were sport facilities highlighted a single basketball hoop on the estate and the surrounding fields on which to play recreational activities (football and cricket being mentioned).

When asked what they would change about the StreetSport programme, 58% said they would like more activities, 42% would like more teams to play against, 33% would enjoy more regular sessions. Other suggestions made were to get more females attending, and have segregated sessions for girls.
4.2 Research Findings from the Bouet Ballers Questionnaire

4 questionnaires were completed by the members of ‘The Bouet Ballers’ basketball team (raw data in Appendix D). The same method of percentages was used to help with data analysis.

100% participants in the Bouet Ballers were male, with 25% 13-15 years old, and 75% between 16 and 18 years old. 75% do not attend and school and 25% do. Again the respondents all live on the same council estate in Guernsey, (Le Grand Bouet). 0% replied that they have been a victim of crime, 75% reporting they had not, and 25% reporting they might have been.

In the sport section of the questionnaire, participants were firstly asked how important sport was to them. 75% responded ‘quite important’ and 25% claimed sport was ‘very important’ to them. 3 out of 4 had attended every match/session. The one participant who had not, answered ‘other’ when asked what the reason for this was.

![Bar chart showing the rate of responses given to Q9 from the Bouet Ballers questionnaire.](chart)

**Figure 3**: A bar chart showing the rate of responses given to Q9 from the Bouet Ballers questionnaire.
The participants were asked what benefits they feel can be gained from playing sport. A range of answers were noted, and the respondents rated each answer with ‘no’, ‘sometimes’, ‘most of the time’ and ‘yes’. The results are shown below in Table 3.

Table 3: A table to show what was felt to be the benefit of playing sport. Q13.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absolute Analysis % Respondents</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>No reply</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Most of the time</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Base</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Friends</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Benefits</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Sport Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good to do something</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the table shows the most commonly viewed benefit of sport, was equally, ‘health benefits’ (50%), ‘better sport skills’ (50%), ‘team skills’ (50%), ‘communication skills’ (50%), ‘confidence’ (50%) and ‘good to do something’ (50%).

When it came to finding what motivated the youths to take part in the team the results showed that most influence came from enjoyment of sport, and ‘something to do’, both showing 50% answers for ‘yes’ responses.

The participants were asked what they liked to do in their spare time. 100% enjoy ‘watching T.V.’, ‘playing computer games’, ‘meeting friends’ and ‘playing sport’. 50% also replied, saying they like to ‘drink’ also, with one participant adding he likes
to ‘smoke’ in his spare time. When asked what they feel their peers like to do in their spare time (those who aren’t involved with The Bouet Ballers), results showed 100% for ‘watching T.V.’, ‘playing computer games’, ‘meeting friends’ and ‘going to town’, and only 50% for ‘playing sport’. Also noted here, in the choice ‘other’, 75% responded that people they know who don’t participate like to drink alcohol.

Responses to knowledge of sport facilities in their area 50% said there were, 25% there weren’t and 25% said they were unsure. Those who answered that there were sport facilities in their area, highlighted the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre (25%), the Bouet Play Park (50%), and Footes Lane Running Track.

100% of participants responded that they intend to carry on playing basketball.

4.3 Research Findings from Interview

The interview was held with Guernsey’s Sports Commission Officer, who runs the StreetSport programme (transcript from interview found in Appendix A).

It was said that the project has been running for approximately a year and a half. The projects target those who are at risk of being ‘socially excluded’ for financial, crime or drug and alcohol issues. The aims are mainly to provide opportunity for the ‘at-risk’ youths to participate in physical activities, within their own community, as far as possible.

When asked whether she felt the aims have been achieved, the respondent replied that there has been a noticeable improvement in the behaviour of the youths, ‘every week you see them getting better and better, and you see their behaviour improving’. However, because they only have contact once a week, this may not be an improvement that can be sustained.
The interviewee believes that motivation to attend sessions comes from the youths feeling there is nothing else to do. ‘I think they take part because they think they have got nothing better to do’. This is perhaps because of lack of parental support, or difficulty in financing any hobbies.

The drop out of older participants is thought to be caused by other commitments, for example, some with school work, and others finding jobs.

Basketball and parachute games were highlighted as popular activities. It was also noted that an occasional helper is a keen basketball player so coaches basketball in some sessions.

The scheme is privately funded, but often help is offered from other youth programmes, for example, NCH (National Children’s Home), GASP (Guernsey Anti-Smoking Programme) and other alcohol and drug misuse strategies.

The key limitations found were access to facilities (especially in poor weather) and time, ‘trying to get into and indoor facility in the winter has been a nightmare’.

It was highlighted that the policy is to increase the number of sessions, and the number of Estates the programme engages with, ‘my grand plan is to see this happening not just once a week on one estate, but…twice a week on two different estates’. However, at the moment this is difficult, with the lack of staff. More staff and volunteers will be needed before the programmes can be expanded.


[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmselect/cmhalt/486/486ap23.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmselect/cmhalt/486/486ap23.htm)

(accessed 11/02/2007)


NACRO. (2005) *Youth Crime Briefing. Recent youth justice legislation*.

NACRO. (2006) *Youth Crime Briefing. Some facts about children and young people that offend*.


The Guernsey Press (21/11/2007)
