

The Football Factory

Running since October 2011, the Football Factory aims to provide a diversionary activity for young people on Saturday evenings in order to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and crime within the Park Ward area of Lincoln.

Managed by Off the Bench, based at the Sincil Bank 3G pitches and delivered by fully qualified Football Association Level 1 and 2 coaches, the Football Factory provides young people aged 8 to 18 with the opportunity to engage in a range of positive football based activities, that promote factors including fair play alongside enjoyment.

The sessions, which attract up to 50 young people on a weekly basis and continue to grow, also aim to offer a safe place where they can participate in sport, engage in something positive and not become involved in undesirable behaviour.

By uniting young people from various ethnic cultures and encouraging them to work as a team, the project also promotes community cohesion in the local area.

A high number of volunteers, who may not be interested in playing football, have also been able to get involved and gain new skills and confidence, by assisting with the delivery of the sessions and having an influential role in improving their local community.

Off The Bench is a community interest company formed in April 2011 to address issues of low-level anti-social behaviour and boredom amongst young people and the promotion of community cohesion within Lincolnshire.

For further information on Off The Bench visit www.otblincs.org.uk.