

Funding Challenges

"Our main challenge is always financial as we never charge any person who attends our sessions/events due to the impoverishment within our community catchment area, therefore as a non-profit we rely solely on the small grants we can secure. Also, as all our coaches are dedicated volunteers it is hard to maintain the numbers required to deliver our unique Short Football sessions twice weekly, as they involve far more than just coaching, due us having to assemble/disassemble the portable Short Football Stadiums which can take over an hour per session."

"There are a number of challenges as we live in one of the most deprived wards of Sheffield. Parents are unable to pay subscription fees as most are unemployed or single parent families. This ultimately affects the number of sessions that we can deliver. The academy has only 2 part time workers and a number of volunteers who support as they are able to. If we were able to raise funds, we could employ additional trainers and subsequently support the local children far more effectively."

"This grant has contributed to the sustainability of our club for sure, the money we saved on having to spend on football nets as a result of this funding was reinvested in other areas such as core running costs, contributing to our club sustainability."

"Our club would not have the people with the correct qualifications to run the organisation. It would likely have had to fold as we didn't have the funds required to support the young volunteers."

"We are continually concerned about the lack of volunteers and the loss of participants from activities due to the pandemic. Parents and skaters have lost access to facilities and as a result engagement with the sport. Major facilities remain closed and the costs of accessing the facilities that remain have increased and are now very expensive. Skaters with additional needs have been disproportionately impacted as they have a greater need for volunteers and qualified coaches and access to quieter sessions."

"COVID has had a significant impact as this meant we were closed for spells whilst still incurring some costs, which reduced our reserves. We cannot totally rule out another strain or spike in local rates causing further closures to health & fitness services in the near future.

Another major obstacle is the multiple deprivation suffered by the surrounding areas where our 'audience' live and the social as well economic barriers which can prevent youngsters from wanting and being able to engage in healthy recreation such as kick boxing, boxing and jujitsu which we provide.

Thirdly rising inflation mean that a Charitable Organisation like ourselves will be subject to significant rises in our running costs which could impact on the standard and scope of our provision in the coming years."

"We continue to face challenges of finding new and sustainable sources of income. The young people we work with have been massively impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, and the economic effects on their families. They require more support and care, particularly around their wellbeing, and with practical barriers to engagement (e.g. travel costs)."