



CASE STUDY:

FA Level 1 – In partnership with Black Prince Trust, Powerleague, London FA, Fulham Foundation, and Hillsong UK.

The role of Football Development Officer encompasses many different areas of work. One such area is the need to increase professional development opportunities for the local and wider community. Here at Black Prince Trust and Powerleague, we pride ourselves on our ethos of providing everyone opportunity to live improved, healthier lives; through providing a wide range of physical activities and training/development opportunities. We work within a partnership model that allows for impactful shared working, and therefore sees us work together to positively develop communities.



Working within a partnership model we create, build and maintain relationships with organisations who work in-line with our 6 social outcomes. Social Inclusion, Youth Intervention, Mental Health, Female Engagement, health and Well-being and Employability. As an organisation we were very keen to work with projects that can enhance workforce development at no cost, and with that provide some free places for local community members.

In September; and after discussions with Fulham FC Foundation; it was decided that there was a need for coaching course opportunities within Greater London. After a positive discussion with Charles

Ademeno, Fulham Foundation Inclusion officer. It was agreed that we'd aim to deliver a coaching course that offered a development opportunity to the refugee community. Subsequently we linked up with Football United and Hillsong UK who work closely with refugees throughout London. The information below describes what the Football United project does for refugees in and around the London area, and details the amazing work they're already doing.

Football United provide weekly Football Sessions for young refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

THE NEED Every year, the UK sees between 3-4,000 unaccompanied minors seek asylum in the UK. These young people under 18 years have often travelled for months or years from various parts of the world, many have experienced some sort of trauma during their journey and coming to the UK are facing a unique set of needs and challenges, including isolation, lack of language skills and mental health issues.

THE WHY These young people who are new to the UK often lack the network, language and/or confidence to access regular football sessions or teams. Football United was set up by Hillsong UK's Refugee Response team and stands in the gap by providing a drop-in session where they can feel safe, included and work on their language and confidence levels.



THE HOW We work with trusted referral partners such as the Refugee Council, Local Authorities and accommodation providers. The sessions are run by professional coaches from Hillsong UK and local

partners such as Fulham Foundation FC. We currently run three sessions in areas with high numbers of Unaccompanied Minors, being Croydon, Lewisham and Tottenham.

THE IMPACT Launched in December 2016, Football United has provided a safe space for over 700 young refugees, and currently has a weekly attendance of 100 across the three sessions. Football United many young people have not only developed their football skills but also found friendships, progressed onto local teams and grown in confidence in facing life in the UK.

HOW YOU CAN HELP Our sessions are run through the generosity and support of individuals and organisations. We are in constant need of funding for pitch hire, training material and kit & boots for the young people as they often arrive to the UK with next to nothing.



The importance of partnership work is evident through the delivery of this course. The spaces on the course are free to those who may not usually be able to afford the course fee. I asked Ralph Boer (Refugee Response lead for Hillson UK) to describe how and why the course came about?

The idea behind the course?

“The aim was to upskill our regular volunteers and increase quality of our football sessions for young refugees and give the young refugees themselves a chance to develop themselves in coaching skills but

also develop themselves personally in confidence, understanding of English and UK (football) culture. It will help also help our young people to access employment opportunities as coaches in the future.

The London FA kindly made themselves available for this course and supplied material and tutor for the participants.”

Importance of the course being free?

“Young refugees and asylum seekers have limited funds and they wouldn’t have been able to do the course if they would have to pay the normal fee (of about £175). Making the course accessible to them has been essential for the success of this training. Our volunteers who attended the course give time every week to put on sessions for young refugees and asylum seekers, being able to upskill them in their skills and not having to ask for finance showed that we appreciate their involvement and course in itself could be seen as a reward and appreciation of their continuous support and sacrifice to the project.”

Progression for participants after the course?

“Participants are now better equipped, more confident in leading our sessions. Participants continue to engage in our Football United projects but can also look further to other local teams and opportunities to do coaching and develop their newly gained skills.”

It is evident through speaking to Ralph that the course provided a valuable opportunity to all the participants and as individuals they were able to develop their skill set in line with their future ambitions. See below for interviews with two participants, detailing their reasons for participating on the FA Level 1 course.

Participant interviews:

Why did you want to take the course?

Mohamed Juned Aged 18 “I wanted to learn how to coach and develop as a coach to help others. I hope this course will help me progress as a coach.”

David Edema Aged 31 “I want to learn to be a coach. I’ve learnt lots that I didn’t know. I’ve learnt lots about how teams prepare for games.”

How have you found the course?

Mohamed Juned Aged 18 “I’ve really enjoyed learning about tactics and positioning within the game.”

David Edema 31 “I’ve discovered the importance of planning fun and engaging coaching sessions. I find it easier to learn that way and feel that’s how others learn best. I’ve also learnt that asking participants for feedback is very important.”

What do you see as the next step in your coaching development?

Mohamed Juned Aged 18 “I want to find a team to coach and start my FA Level 2.”

David Edema 31 “I really want to get hands on experience working with a team and apply what I have learnt from this course. I then want to progress on to the FA Level 2 and further.”

Summary:

The course was delivered brilliantly by London FA tutor Colin King. It was evident that he built up a strong rapport with all the participants and structured the course in a way they could all develop individually. The balance between practical and theory workshops ensured that the participants always felt engaged, challenged, and educated. It has been great to see the fantastic partnership work with Black Prince Trust, Powerleague, London FA, Fulham Foundation and Hillsong UK help support the local refugee community access a course that without this support they'd have been unlikely to access. We look forward to continued partnership work that will support local communities in providing career development courses.

Jack Thompson**Football Development Officer****Black Prince Trust and Powerleague**