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Kick London now working in 24 schools!

Kick London is engaging with more schools and specialist units as word spreads about the fantastic work our coaches are doing amongst the children and young people across South and West London. Around three and a half thousand young people a week are coming into contact with Kick London as we work in schools, academies and community projects.



..... and in 6 Pupil Referral Units!

The skills and abilities of our coaches to work alongside young people with special needs and to build relationships with them is truly amazing. In January we started work in the Bromley PRUs and continue to work in the Croydon PRUs, in 2 of which we are running the Nationally recognised Sports Leaders Award scheme.

In addition to Bromley and Croydon, Kick London is also working with young people at the Oldfield unit in Richmond which is a support service for children with behavioural and emotional difficulties. Since last December Nathan has been going in once a week to deliver a football session. It's been a challenging but exciting opportunity for Kick London to be a positive role model for the boys which attend the unit. When Nathan started he was only getting one or two out of five or six boys for the session as the boys struggle to work together. More recently it has been very encouraging as 5 of the boys have been coming out every week, working together in teams and on their own! The ability of our coaches to form relationships and build trust through their attitudes and example really is having a transforming affect on these young people.

The reputation of Kick London is spreading to other schools and London Boroughs and currently we are in negotiations with more schools and two other Borough's PRUs which we hope and pray will lead to more opportunities to *"Transform young people's lives"*.



Double congratulations to Sammy! Sammy Deing comes from Grenoble in France and has been with Kick London as a gap year student for almost a year. Sammy came to Kick London to develop his English and his football skills. On Sunday 15th February Sammy was baptised at New Life Christian Centre in Croydon and it was great to see his parents there for the occasion. In addition he has also passed his FA level 1 coaching qualification and is now taking the level 2 course. Sammy's football skills and English are so good that he is now taking the lead in some coaching sessions!

Finance continues to be an issue....

Whilst Kick London is financially sound for the present, the Board is concerned about the future financial sustainability particularly as one of our significant start up grants will cease at the end of July. This grant enabled us to employ our first full time employee in Croydon and its loss will present a challenge to replace it. Even the weather conspired to hit us financially, as the week's lost work due to snow cost around £2000 in lost income!

We have recently made application to two National trust funds for a significant development grant but unfortunately our applications have been rejected.

Given this difficult financial climate, the Board very much commends this matter to your thoughts and prayers. If you feel that you are able to help in any way by either making a gift, increasing or starting a regular donation or possibly helping us find a benefactor or support a grant application, please do get in touch with us.

Kick London seeks to serve the young people of London in their schools, churches and community and, through the work of qualified trained coaches, seeks to transform Young People's lives with God's love through football

Our Academies: Richmond, Shirley, Addiscombe, Brentford, Streatham.



During the week before half term this was the view towards Spring Park school playing field where we were due to hold a holiday club during half term week in February - the worst snow in 18 years! Nevertheless, as you can see below what a difference a week makes and the holiday club went ahead as planned. Over 30 young people turned up over the 3 days and had a great time learning and practising their football skills.

Our academies continue to develop and at Spring Park in Shirley the hand-over to West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church is almost complete.



At St. Mildred's Academy in Addiscombe we have recently undertaken a publicity campaign and a leaflet drop of 800 leaflets in local schools and churches.

Our Richmond Academy continues and is hoping to train some new coaches in the near future. Developments are continuing at Brentford and Streatham and launch dates will soon be set for the start of these 2 new academies.

Discussions are underway with churches in Orpington, Warringham, and Surbiton and we are working closely with Kingston YFC 'Oxygen' on a housing estate in Kingston.

Networking news

Many good contacts have been made over recent weeks with both National organisations, Local Authorities and other voluntary organisations. In particular Kick London has made contact with an organisation called '**More than Gold**', www.morethangold.org.uk, which seeks to bring together churches and other organisations to serve the 2012 London Olympics. Later this month (March) a small team from Kick London will be visiting East London to take part in an evening of 'Thinking Allowed' where the subject will be 'Football Fever'. We hope and pray that these contacts will enable Kick London to establish a presence in East London as part of the run up to the Olympics and our vision of being in every London Borough by 2012.



Next month Kick London will be leading the sports programme at **Spring Harvest**, Minehead during the Easter holidays as we did last year. We have been told that last year was the best sports programme ever! We have set our own standard—now we have to maintain it!

Last month Tom Rutter, Development Officer, joined a group of football coaches on a trip to South Africa, organised by **Ambassadors In Sport** (AIS), to train local church based football coaches as part of the South African churches' engagement with the World Cup 2010.

We continue our working partnership with AIS in May when Kick London and AIS will be running the "**London Churches' Football Tournament**" at Regent's Park on the 4th May, Spring Bank Holiday. The tournament attracts almost 100 teams of 5-a-side and 7-a-side men's, women's, youth's and children's teams making a great day of football festival. If you are interested in putting in a team or just visiting call Mark or one of our coaches for more information.

As a Registered Charity, Kick London is dependent upon the financial support of its supporters and friends. If you would like to financially support us in our vision to transform the lives of young people in London, please do consider a monthly donation, one-off gift or setting up a legacy as part of your will.

*Please contact **James Lowther, Kick London Treasurer, 10A The Vineyard, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6AQ** and do remember if you are a tax payer to complete a gift aid declaration so that we can maximise the benefit of your gift .*



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of

