

#24.FOOTBALL FOR ALL

YORKSHIRE ST PAULI

2011 - Leeds, England

<https://yorkshirestpauli.com>

All information in this entry is sourced from the link above and contact mentioned in the document.

Topic relevance

INCLUSION / FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION / EQUALITY / FOOTBALL / NETWORK / FEMALE PARTICIPATION

Factor of success POSITIVE SOCIETAL CONTEXT

Type INITIATIVE / PROJECT

Language English

Target population

Refugees in Leeds and Local inhabitants

Further information / Contact

www.yorkshirestpauli.com

www.facebook.com/Yorkshire-St-Pauli-187440421324679/

Twitter@YorksStPauli

Contact, info@yorkshirestpauli.com

Synthesis of the good example

“Football for All” is an initiative from Yorkshire St Pauli, a local football fan club in Leeds, UK - which is providing a weekly football tournament between refugees and members or fans of the club. The club provided a friendly and welcoming environment for people to play football in an uncompetitive manner, regardless of ability, sex, “race”, religion or any other discriminatory factor.

Context and approach

The Yorkshire St Pauli supporters’ club was established in 2011 by fans who met at the Wharf Chambers Co-operative Club in Leeds to watch FC St Pauli matches via a live stream. The German club have built an international reputation for their firebrand approach to politics and left-wing activism, and this spirit is imbued in all of their supporters groups. The Yorkshire branch is one of a few hundred St Pauli supporters clubs around the world, with fans meeting in cities such as Brighton, Glasgow, New York and Athens. Helping refugees has been at the heart of St. Pauli’s efforts for a while. They have developed a relationship with local charity Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS), which works with refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in Leeds. Initially, the Yorkshire St Pauli members raised funds for refugees and encouraged them to come along and watch the St Pauli games, but the refugees were keen to start playing football so the group joined a five-a-side league. With more people keen to be involved, the solution was to play among themselves. Yorkshire St Pauli established a regular kickabout every Sunday, which they called the Football For All project. The supporters’ club covered the cost of the pitch hire, which was heavily discounted thanks to the sympathetic support of Powerleague in central Leeds, and St Pauli helped by providing kit and boots, ensuring that the weekly matches can be inclusive, with money not being a barrier to participation. The popularity of “Football for All” has grown ? with more people finding out about the event through PAFRAS ? and now up to 40 people from a dozen countries turn up each week. With more local people joining the game and paying to play, the club have been able to use their membership fees to fund other initiatives.

Highlights and outcomes

This example shows the positive evolution of the starter initiative: from welcoming refugees to raising funds from the fan club activities, the exchanges between the fans and refugees have resulted to a more inclusive initiative for playing together. It is highlighted that a renowned football club emphasis against discrimination: a huge network of fan club of the Germanic team exist all over the world and have for main goal to stand against discrimination, include refugees into their communities through sport.

Information about project/organisation’s holder

Yorkshire St. Pauli is a fan club located in Leeds, UK - created to share members passion about the German second division football team FC St.Pauli.