



## Covid 19 Funding - Case Study – Hillwood Football Club

### Funding Background

Glasgow Sport was eager to help organisations to sustain themselves and be Ready to Go Again when the Scottish Government route map allowed. This fund was specifically targeted at organisations in the sport and physical activity sector who have a role in enabling and supporting the communities of Glasgow to get and stay active. Organisations could apply for grants up to £2,000 with Hillwood Football Club being awarded £1250 toward their project.

### What we expected to do?

The club planned to provide each of its teams with a "return to football" pack which gave them all the products necessary to get their teams back training. This would allow not only the children who were participating within the club pre corona virus to safely return to training and give them much need contact with their peers during this difficult time The grant was also needed to allow us to open the pitch to the children in the local area to also participate in training with teams without the need to formally join the club and with the help of club volunteers we also managed to open the pitch out with training times to allow community children time for a kick about. This was hugely important to the club as the saddening rise in teenage suicides within the local area, where the loneliness and isolation of Covid had been a contributing factor.



### What we actually did?

- ✓ Each team was provided with a "Return to Training" pack which contained several bottles of hand sanitiser, surface wipes for equipment, masks and gloves.
- ✓ Club commissioned mobile sanitiser stations that can be attached to entrance and exits of each pitch allowing safer community use and safely stored when not in use
- ✓ Training for 14 teams from age 6 to 19 recommenced training, approximately 280 children
- ✓ Community kids have regular safe use of the pitch almost daily with approx 25 kids from various age groups enjoying the use
- ✓ Introduction of a safe academy for younger children aged 2-5 which not only gives the kids exercise in a safe group it also provides the families of reassurances that their children are safe in our facility



## What difference we actually made?

The funding allowed us to provide each team with the personal protective equipment necessary to restart formal training, this in turn gave our players a structure that had been lacking due to the restrictions and also gave parents reassurance that their children were not only participating in their preferred team sport but also they were staying within government guidelines

Our Covid registers provide another level of safeguarding should any child become infected Test and Protect are given the register to comply with government guidelines We initially started off with reduced numbers to comply with government guidelines but are now up to full capacity The Local community children have and continue to enjoy safe use of the pitch which has been a huge welcome resource for everyone The club have managed to restart their academy for 2-5 year olds and again not only are children enjoying safe organised sport, their parents are reassured that their children are safe in these uncertain times



The funding has allowed us to get as many children as possible back to football, organised sport and a safe environment with supportive coaches and volunteers, our Club chairman said,

"To be able to provide this facility safely for all these kids whether they are members of our club or not is both humbling and exhilarating. Kids have gone without so much this year and we cannot ignore the effect this also has on families and parents knowing there is somewhere that their kids can go, exercise and safely enjoy themselves in these very strange times"

A club parent said "My family have had first-hand experience of Covid and its devastating effects so we were naturally worried about our son returning to organised sports, Hillwood have been fantastic, the measures they have put in place, the sanitiser on the gates, coaches having hand gel and ensuring everyone in the team cleans their hands before and after training, wipes for equipment, face coverings and gloves as well as the reassuring information from the coaches has allowed my son a level of normality during the restrictions"

## Challenge and Changes or Learning for the future?

- Sourcing hand sanitiser that was safe for children with skin conditions and effective against Coronavirus has been difficult.
- The changes in restrictions impeded us at times and having to exclude 18-19 year olds which were identified as the most vulnerable age group in our suicide awareness training therefore we changed tactics slightly and started telephone support calls.