



Volunteer It Yourself – Sports Club Project Pilot

Introduction

Volunteer It Yourself, working in partnership with County Sports Partnerships (CSP), is offering sports clubs and organisations in seven CSP regions the opportunity to pilot a new national volunteering and facility development project.

Funded through Sport England and sponsor Wickes, the project will see 15 sports clubs across the country benefit from professional support in renovating their facilities to improve their offer to their local community.

We want to pilot the project in the following regions:

- London
- Greater Manchester
- Merseyside
- Leicestershire & Rutland
- Tees Valley
- Cambridgeshire
- Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- Tyne and Wear

We will work with these eight CSPs, chosen strategically against a number of criteria, with an initial deadline of 5th April for a first set of Expressions of Interest. If needed, a second round will take place in spring / summer in order to achieve the target of 15 high quality projects across these areas.

Background to Volunteer It Yourself (VIY)

VIY combines volunteering and DIY by challenging young people aged 14-24 to learn trade and building skills, on the job, by helping to renovate and repair youth centres and other community buildings. We provide the full package, including materials up to a value of £2,000 courtesy of project sponsors Wickes.

Participants are mentored by professional tradespeople, who also volunteer their time, and can gain vocational skills accreditations as well as access to further training, work placement and apprenticeship progression opportunities beyond VIY.

Since VIY's launch in 2011, 3,000 young people aged 14-24 (84% aged 14-20) have volunteered at 150+ VIY project sites across England and Wales, supported by 350+ skills mentors (professional tradespeople). Outcomes include 80% of all participants achieving a City & Guilds skills accreditation and 30% of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) participants progressing to employment or further training. 64% of



participants also report increased confidence levels across seven key softer skills linked to employability. 22% of all VIY participants have also repeat volunteered on multiple VIY projects.

The VIY Sports Clubs Project

This project is about expanding VIY's services to grassroots and community sports clubs struggling with facilities in need of repair/improvement. The idea, which has stemmed a partnership between VIY and London Sport, has been prompted by the increasing number of approaches received by VIY from grassroots and community sports clubs wanting our support. It's also about using the power of sport and the appeal of sports clubs as fun environments to attract and retain more young people to volunteering and social action, whilst at the same time making a huge impact on delivery through facilities improvements.

The opportunity

If selected, a sporting club or organisation will benefit from a team of young volunteers and professional mentors dedicating their time for several weeks to help realise a significant renovation project that will have major impact. They will also benefit from free building materials from sponsors Wickes, up to a value of £2000. If you feel you have the project for us, and meet our organisational criteria, then we want to hear from you!

The criteria

This opportunity is available to well-established, financially-sound, not-for-profit organisations who are affiliated to their Governing Body (if appropriate), and have strong governance.

In order to ensure that we choose the right projects to support, we have established the following criteria:

- The club or organisation must be not-for-profit and fully constituted as a Community Amateur Sports Club, charity, community interest company, or alternative form of social enterprise;
- The club or organisation must be affiliated to their National Governing Body, if applicable;
- The club or organisation must have security of tenure in the form of a freehold or leasehold on the facility proposed for the project, and must be secure for at least 5 years;
- The club or organisation must have an agreed child and / or vulnerable adults protection policy (depending on the focus of the club);
- The club or organisation must have adequate insurance covering both the facilities and their operations;
- The club or organisation must have governance procedures with a governing committee or board of trustees;
- The club or organisation must be financially sound, with at least one year of audited or independently verified accounts available to view;
- The club or organisation must be willing for the project to be used in publicity material on the project;
- The club or organisations must be able to provide a referee through either their National Governing Body or Local Authority;
- Preference will be given to clubs that have achieved their relevant sport's club quality standard (e.g. Clubmark or Charter Standard);
- Preference will be given to clubs or organisations who are located in, or whose members or participants are drawn from, areas that fall within the 30% most deprived in the county (as defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation). See <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> to understand how your area is defined against deprivation criteria.



What we are looking for

For this pilot we are looking for medium-sized non-structural projects that can take place this year (ideally sooner rather than later) and will make a significant, clear and demonstrable impact on the club or organisation's sporting offer and volunteering.

By medium-sized, whilst we remain flexible about the exact scale and nature of the project, we expect a project to last for more than a month and provide significant volunteering and mentoring experience for a team of young people. An impression of a project of this nature within a sporting environment can be accessed through the following link, which showcases the project VIY undertook with Portico Vine Rugby League Club near St Helens:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1ejkEErYGk>

As you will see in the Portico Vine example, we also want the project to present a range of opportunities for young people to learn on-the-job skills linked to the City and Guilds Accreditations we offer, especially within the trades of carpentry and joinery, painting and decorating, plumbing and tiling.

The practicalities and process

Any club or organisation that feels it has a great project ready to go, and that meets the criteria of the scheme, is encouraged to apply via the [Online Application Form](#) (click on hyperlink to access)

The deadline for submitting your application is Thursday 5th April 2018 at midnight.

Following the deadline, we will shortlist projects from across the eight regions and undertake a visit immediately. We hope to notify successful projects by May 18th 2018.

Unsuccessful applicants

We fully expect there to be strong demand for what is a limited opportunity, so even if a project is unsuccessful then do not give up hope that we can work with the project in the future.

Any application not shortlisted will be sent a letter confirming that the application was unsuccessful, and providing an indication as to why this is the case and whether the project could be successful in the future. For projects shortlisted that are unsuccessful, you will receive a phonecall where we will feed back why your project was not one of the final supported projects.

Further information and support

Projects are encouraged to liaise with their County Sports Partnership in the first instance. The national project is being managed by Xander Beck (Xander Beck Consulting) on behalf of Volunteer It Yourself. If you have a query that cannot be answered by your CSP, then you can contact Xander on xander@xbconsulting.co.uk or 07956 493 773.

For information about VIY as an organisation, as well as previous and current projects, you can visit the website at <http://www.volunteerityourself.org/>

Guidance on the application form

The online application form contains guidance notes throughout, so if completing the form then please refer to these as you work through it.

