



“Everyone needs security, relationships, and purpose to thrive.”

David Duke MBE, CEO and Founder of Street Soccer Scotland

Street Soccer Scotland

Street Soccer Scotland is a charity and social enterprise using football to create positive change. The power of sport, combined with positive relationships, strong role models and true care creates real and meaningful change in the lives of the people we work with. It builds their confidence and empowers them to make positive changes in their life.

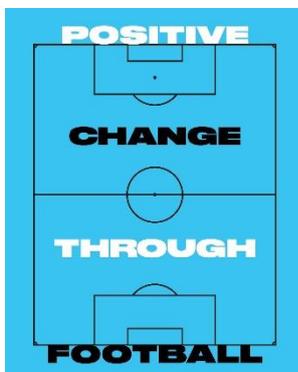
Football is the key that opens the door to strong and positive relationships, supportive networks, and specialist practical and emotional support. Across the threshold, we see a world that is inclusive, caring, and free from stigma; full of hope and opportunity.

The Need

With over 30,000 homeless households in Scotland, and Scotland’s drug-related death rate being over 3 ½ half times that of England and Wales, the problems people are facing are severe. To make matters worse, we are currently experiencing a mental health crisis, with over 800 people taking their own life in 2019. Alongside this is a continued disconnect in communities, leading to increased isolation and exclusion.

Who We Support

Our Players face many challenges including homelessness, poverty, long-term unemployment, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health issues and social isolation. We also support ‘International Players’ who are settling in the UK. Across our programmes we work with people aged 10 and up and are open to everyone.



What We Do

We run 2hour football sessions coupled with ‘wrap-around’ support. Our football sessions could be anything from shooting drills, fitness, and full-contact games to Zumba and boxercise. We run adult drop-in sessions open to everyone over 16 as well as womens-only sessions, our Street45 Programme which has seen a 300% increase in 2020.

For under 16s, we run youth sessions as well as a Schools Programme targeting those at risk of exclusion and care-experienced individuals, focusing on developing life skills and improving employability.

We also run a Prisons Programme, working with 6 prisons across Scotland to combat risks of isolation and homelessness many offenders face upon release.

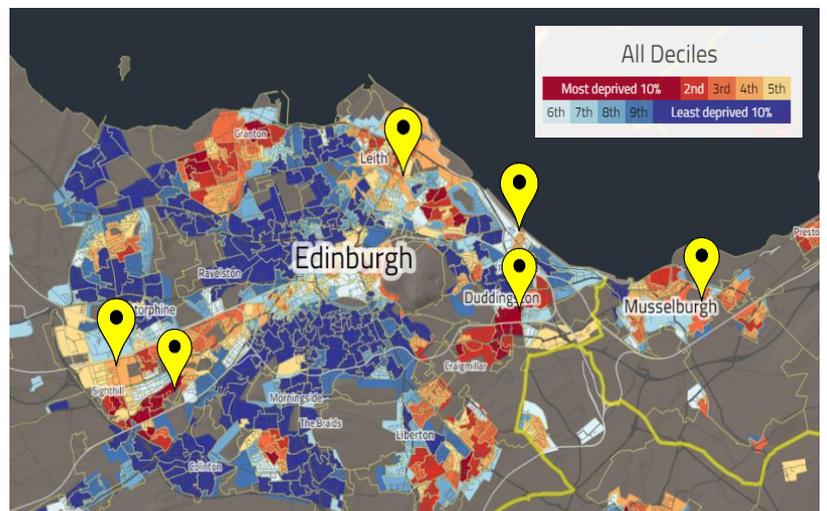
Why We're Best Placed To Give Support

We combat these issues by being a totally inclusive organisation. We provide people with a safe place to come to discuss any issues with someone they trust, to connect with a network of support, and to feel comfortable, knowing they won't face stigma or judgement. Coming to sessions brings purpose and structure to people's weeks, and volunteering gives players an opportunity not only to build their skills, but to give back to the community.

Our coaches are best placed to offer support because the vast majority have lived experience of the issues our players face. We are incredibly proud that many of our staff have come through our player pathway, starting as a Street Soccer player, becoming a volunteer, then a sessional worker and finally gaining employment with us. We are founded on lived experience, and lived experience continues to run right through Street Soccer. This makes empathy our key strength.

Edinburgh

Street Soccer Scotland began in Edinburgh and this is where our largest network of service delivery remains. In Portobello, Leith and East Lothian we run our drop-in and support sessions, as well as a much-loved additional support needs session and programmes in several local schools. Throughout the pandemic, our Edinburgh Team have been supporting our Players and the local community through preparing thousands of hot meals, delivering food and essentials items, and providing 1-2-1 support. They have been running a TeamEdinburgh walking competition to keep Players active and have so far walked over 1000km between them. We have also been supporting Players online, making sure they have phone and data access to stay connected in lockdown and running online support groups, yoga sessions and talks.



£2500 would represent a significant contribution to our work in Edinburgh (we would be delighted to accept Gift Aid). It could cover pitch hire for 10 weeks of sessions when we are able to begin delivering in person again. It could cover volunteer expenses, or over 260 hours of sessional workers' time.

Volunteers are essential to what we do at Street Soccer, helping to bring lived experience even more into service delivery, but also giving volunteers valuable skills and experience, helping to build their employability and confidence. Many volunteers then progress into sessional work for us and into full-time employment. Pitch hire costs will be an essential when we return to in-person delivery, especially given continued social distancing limiting our numbers; this will mean needing more space to support the same number of people.

We hope you feel able to support us and thank you for considering our application.