



COMMUNITY



South Tyneside Council

Partners Pitch in to Secure New Football Pitch

Partnership working is giving grassroots sport in South Tyneside a major boost. A new 3G football pitch will be ready by the Summer thanks to partnership working between the Council and Perth Green Community Association in Jarrow.

The Community Association is a not-for-profit charity incorporated organisation which took over the running of the community centre from the Council when it had to look for new methods of delivery. As a result of the Council putting co-production at the heart of its strategy and volunteers stepping up to the challenge, valuable community assets such as community centres and branch libraries have been protected and are now going from strength to strength.

One of the reasons the Council wanted local people to take over the management of community assets was so they could apply for funding from external sources that the Council was unable to do. This has proved invaluable in the case of the football pitch with the Community Association securing grants including £530,000 from the Premier League, the FA and the Government's Football Foundation and Durham FA to meet the £700,000 costs of the development.

The pitch will be a huge asset to the local community and the Borough as a whole. A wide range of groups, such as local schools and football clubs, are expected to use the facility when it opens in the summer. A range of options such as walking football, disability sports and coaching for children and youths, will encourage people to become more active, improving both their physical and mental wellbeing.

Robert Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: “This is the latest example of investment from our partners, the Premier League, the FA, government and Sport England, improving grassroots facilities across the country. This funding is enabling more people to enjoy the benefits of playing regular sport.”

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