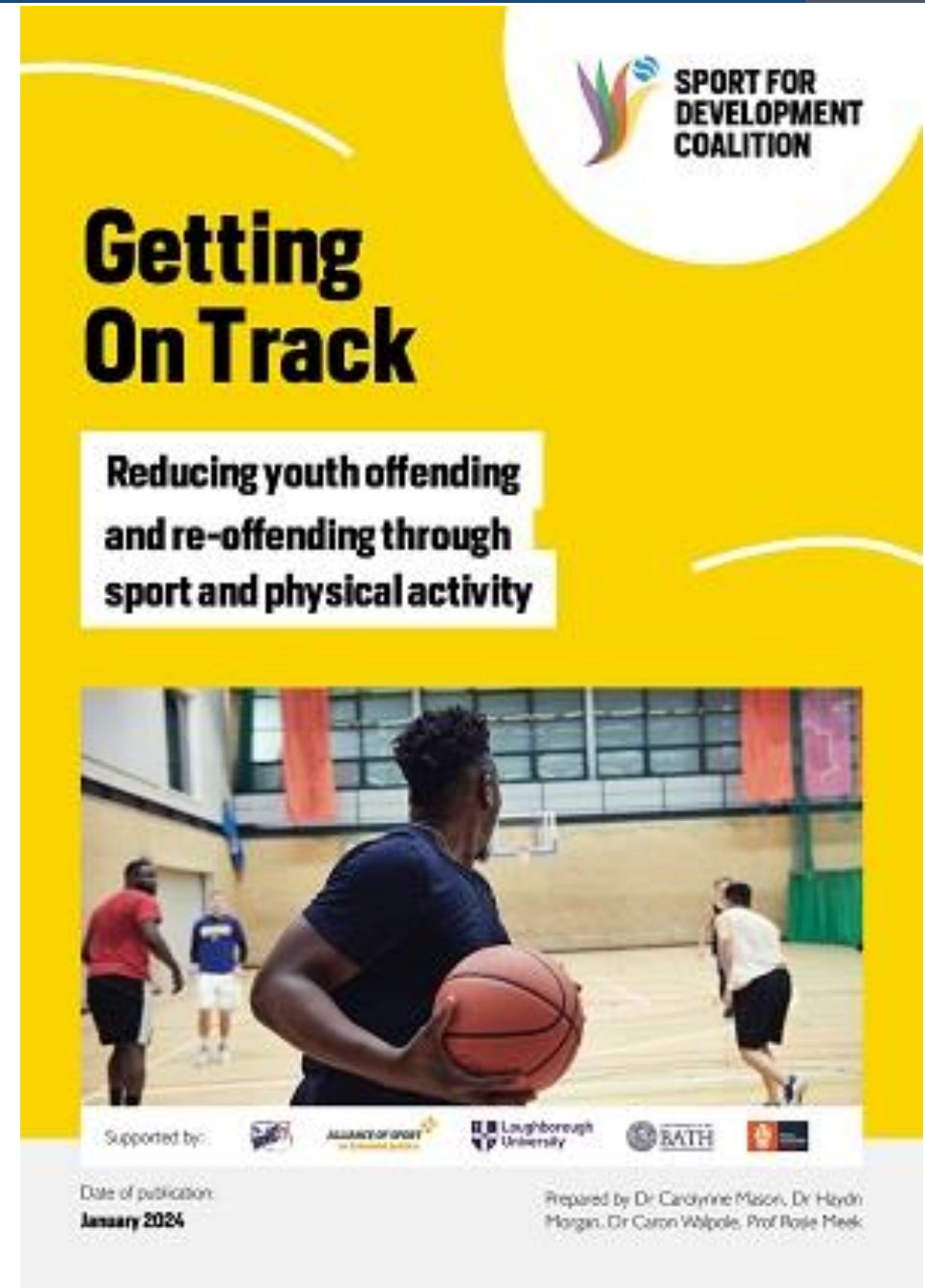


Getting on Track: Reducing youth offending and re-offending through sport and physical activity

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#OpenGoal Shared Advocacy Framework



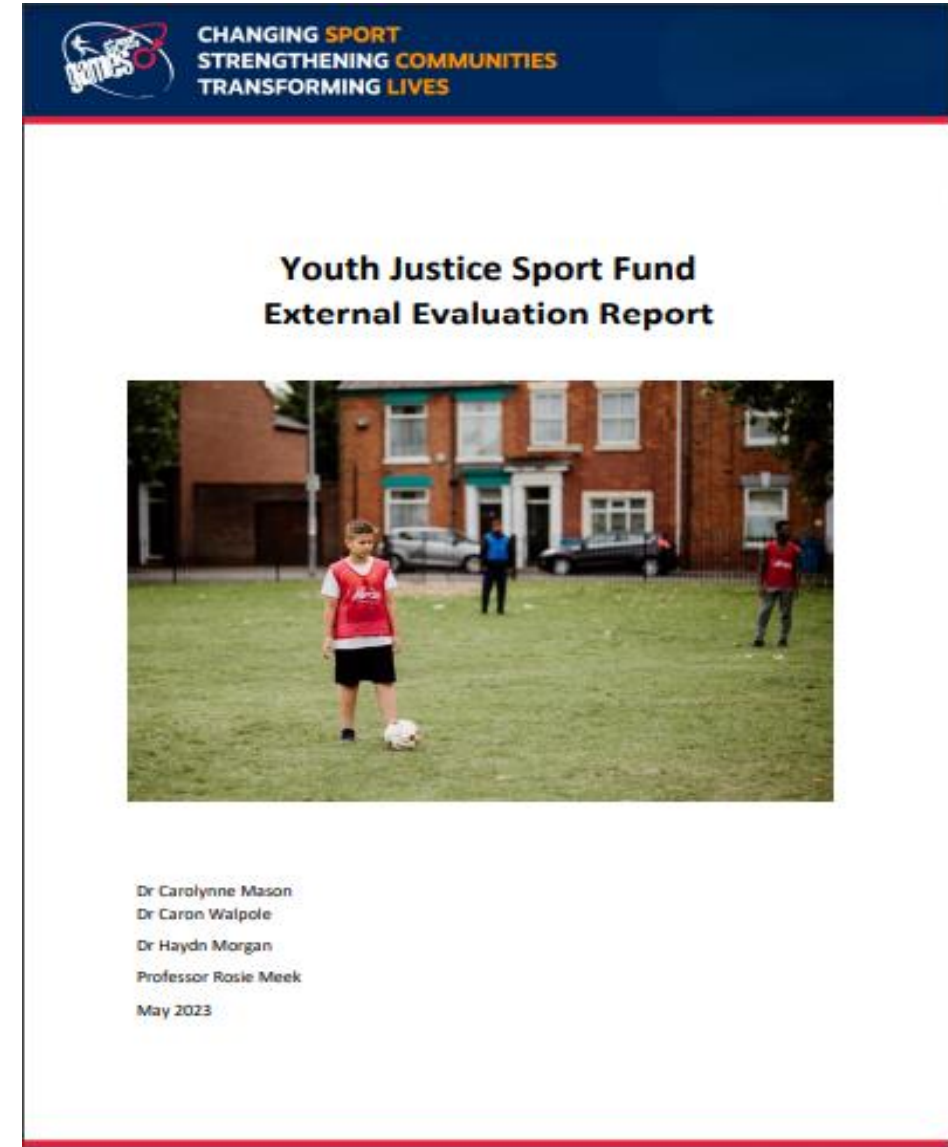
Targeted sport-based interventions delivered by Coalition supporters create significant public cost savings since they produce multiple returns on investment, ranging from improved physical and mental health, to increased educational attainment and employability, and reduced crime and anti-social behaviour.



Informing a series of key recommendations and asks to policy-makers

Overview of YJSF project

- Aims:
 - Support vulnerable young people aged 10-17 through involvement in local sporting activities
 - Build capacity and capability of sport sector delivery organisations to work effectively with local criminal justice partners [including Police Crime Commissioners/Violence Reduction Unit structures]
- £5M MoJ investment for 3 months [January – March 2023]
- Consortium approach
- Supported 220 voluntary and community sector organisations across England and Wales



Methodology

- 218 project feedback surveys
- 172 session observation visits conducted by StreetGames staff
- 8 semi-structured interviews with Regional Project Leads
- 14 semi-structured interviews with local project leads
- Attendance at four Regional Engagement Days

- Two stakeholder round-table events with policy and practice experts

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Invest in the professional development and wellbeing of the workforce and prioritise staff retention**
 - Importance of staff (and relationships) – retention critical
 - Career progression opportunities
 - Addressing training and professional development needs

2. **Utilise trusted specialist organisations to maximise the return on investment**

- Critical understanding of the intricacies of local community need
- Proven use of theory of change
- Child-centred, strengths-based approach

3. **Strengthen partnership working between the youth justice and sport sectors to address inconsistencies and fragmentation in existing structures**
 - Value of consortium approach and shared vision
 - Shared learning opportunities
 - Efficient mobilisation and management of projects

4. **Support and empower organisations to commit to this work in the long-term, to be agile and responsive to identified need, and exercise autonomy in their resource allocation**
 - Short-term funding causes instability and limits impact ('expand and contract')
 - Unpredictability of the operating context requires flexible implementation
 - Autonomy for resource allocation

5. Facilitate the meaningful involvement of beneficiaries and experts by experience

- Beneficiary voice in project design, implementation and evaluation
- ‘Child-first’ approach developed around beneficiary aspirations
- Value of practitioners with ‘lived experience’ and mentoring relationships

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- How do we operationalise the research recommendations?
- Partnerships
- Workforce development
- Meaningful involvement of beneficiaries
- Where/How can youth justice and strategic sport partners combine to support/contribute to operationalising these recommendations?

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