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 eight 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 at least 15 sports clubs across the country benefit from delivering a community facilities renovation project, and in so doing, creating great experience for local young people.

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 a deadline of **19th July** for submission of the Expressions of Interest as part the second round of the programme. The overall objective across the two rounds is to develop 15 new VIY projects nationally, and in the first round 8 projects were successful with their application. Details of these projects is provided below.

Background to Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) and the Sports Club Pilot Project

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 community buildings. The initiative is sponsored by Wickes, who provide materials up to a value of £2,000.

Since VIY's launch in 2011, 4,000 young people aged 14-24 (84% aged 14-20) have volunteered at 200+ 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, but who can mobilise their local network to find young people and tradespeople to make the project happen.

The idea, which has stemmed from 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, whist at the same time making a huge impact on delivery through facilities improvements.

Through the programme, VIY will support a club or organisation who can recruit local professional tradespeople and a pool of volunteers to deliver a medium-scale facilities project. Through the model VIY has established, participants are mentored by the 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.

The opportunity

If selected, a sporting club or organisation will receive significant support and resources to develop the VIY model to undertake a major refurbishment or building project. This includes:

<u>Support with the development and planning of the project</u>

Working with the club, VIY will help to develop the idea into a realistic, achievable project, with clear milestones and a project plan.

<u>Creating a structure for managing the volunteers and tradespeople to deliver the projects,</u>

VIY will work with the club to develop a way of getting the most out of the volunteers that have been identified, through providing a structure that rewards and recognises volunteers and ensures that they are valued and achieve real benefit. VIY will ensure the project is supported from their side by the presence of one of their Lead Mentors, as well as a dedicated Project Manager.

<u>Support in providing materials for the project</u>

Through sponsors Wickes, we are able to commit to up to £2,000 worth of building materials to support a project.

<u>Providing accredited qualifications for young people through City and Guilds:</u>

As part of the project, young people achieving the appropriate number of hours experience can gain an accredited qualification. The qualification is a City and Guilds Entry Level 3 Award in Employability Skills, with further specialisation in the chosen skill (for example painting and decorating or plumbing).

<u>Providing opportunities for young people to gain further experience</u>

A key aim of the project is to support young people to progress, for example by undertaking further qualifications or finding work.

What we are looking for

In order to establish a partnership project, we need a club that:

- Is well run and at the heart of the local community
- Is passionate about volunteering and supporting local young people

- Has an idea to improve its facilities that will provide quality experiences for young people to volunteer over a period of a few weeks, with a project ready for delivery in 2019
- Can find 30-40 young people either through its participant base or its networks
- Can find 4-5 tradespeople that are willing to mentor the young people through their volunteering

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, whist 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. A list of projects funded through round 1 is provided at the end of this document, and an impression of a project 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.

If you feel you have the project for us, and meet our organisational criteria, then we want to hear from you!

The 'smallprint'

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, limited company or alternative form of social enterprise;
- Be affiliated to their National Governing Body, if applicable;
- 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;
- Have an agreed child and / or vulnerable adults protection policy (depending on the focus of the club);
- Have adequate insurance covering both the facilities and their operations;
- Be financially sound;
- Be willing for the project to be used in publicity material on the project;
- 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.

In round 2 preference will also be given to clubs and organisations delivering sports that were less represented in round 1. Major sports under-represented in round 1 applications were Gymnastics (0), Rugby League (0), Tennis (0), Sailing (0), Football (1), Boxing (1), Cricket (1), and Martial Arts (1).

The practicalities and process

Any club or organisation that feels it has a great project that would be ready for delivery in 2019, 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 applications in round 2 is **Thursday 19th July 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 August 20th 2018.

Unsuccessful applicants

Based on the experience in round 1, we fully expect there to be more demand than we can accommodate. 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 be offered 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. (Please note that Xander is not available before 5th June).

Lead CSP contacts are provided below:

CSP	Lead officer	E-mail address	Tel. Number
Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport	**Annette Kendrick**	**a.kendrick@LRSport.org**	**01509 564858**
Tees Valley Sport	Martin Jenkins	M.Jenkins@tees.ac.uk	01642 342287 / ext. 8516
Energise Me (Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	Harry Stow	harry.stow@energiseme.org	01962 676 378
Greater Sport (Greater Manchester)	Nick Lowden	nick@greatersport.co.uk	07765 407978
Merseyside Sports Partnership	Andrew Wileman	a.wileman@merseysidesport.com	0151 427 3889
Living Sport (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)	Simon Fairhall	Simon.Fairhall@livingsport.co.uk	01487 841559
Tyne and Wear Sport	Adam Brougham	adam.Brougham@tynewearsport.org	07791 931681
London Sport	Richard Nash	richard.nash@londonsport.org	0796870965

For information about VIY as an organisation, aswell 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.

Appendix 1: Successful projects Round 1

Name of applicant	Postcode	County Sports Partnership	Local Authority	Project description
Croydon FC	SE25 4QL	London Sport	Croydon	Repairs and improvements to Croydon FC's clubhouse are desperately needed to ensure the long -term sustainability of the club. The proposal is for a project to provide new changing rooms and facilities to deliver activities on adjacent playing fields, aswell as helping the club to generate income from secondary spend. The club has been taken over by local charity the Kinetic Foundation, who have a strong volunteering ethic.
Fareham Heathens	gu148ls	Energise - Hampshire and IOW	Rushmoor	A large club with a strong junior programme and volunteering ethic. The club believes that the structured VIY opportunity will engage young people in the significant amount of work the clubhouse needs in order to continue to allow the club to grow. The project involves multiple elements, with the core being the replacement of the outdated and poor quality toilet and changing facilities. The club is an affiliated Club and has achieved the RFU's Club Accreditation.

The Sharks Canoe Club	UB6 0TB	London Sport	Ealing	The Sharks are a large canoe club based in West London and deliver sessions across Ealing, Hounslow and Hillingdon. The project will address the barrier to increasing slalom sessions due to lack of storage by establishing a storage unit in partnership with Rickmansworth Sailing Club, on their land on the River Colne. The site needs clearing and a pre-fab storage unit erected. The club has strong local networks that it can exploit to recruit volunteers and tradespeople.
Houghton-Le-Spring Golf Club	DH5 8LU	Tyne and Wear	Sunderland	Houghton-Le-Spring Golf Club is a historic but forward-thinking Golf-marked and inclusive club based within a deprived rural area of Sunderland. They have 75 junior members and are constantly running initiatives to get more people into the club and the sport, and diversifying their user base. This project is to help improve facilities in the club for young people, aswell as improve the halfway house for the benefit of participants and visitors.
Guisborough Rugby Union Football Club	TS14 7BB	Teesside	Redcar and Cleveland	A well-established club in a deprived area of Teesside that is struggling with participant retention due to the poor facilities at the club, particularly impacting junior players. The Club run 11 junior teams boys and girls from ages 6 – 18 with around 200 junior members. In addition the Club is home to a ladies fitness group and a running club. The Club currently has about regular 65 volunteers across its senior and mini and juniors section from coaches to administrators, first aiders, referees etc. About 6 of these are youth players supporting other aspects of the club. There is a long list of improvements to be made to support the club in its aspiration to grow, and in particular grow female participation. The club is accredited.

West End Rugby Football Club	NE16 5YZ	Tyne and Wear	Gateshead	The club, based in Gatehead, Tyne and Wear, is currently a small club with a restricted offer for males 17+ as it has not had a clubhouse. It has secured a lease on a local facility that was previously a police station and has also secured more than £20K in funding to develop the facility. The VIY project will help deliver the scheme, bringing in young people from the local college to support, aswell as plugging a gap in terms of resources needed to deliver the project. As a result of the project, the club aims to grow the membership from 35 to 150 and introduce younger teams aswell as female activity. The club is an affiliated RFU club.
Coopers Amateur Boxing Club	SO40 3FT	Energise - Hampshire and IOW	New Forest	Coopers Boxing Academy is an emerging, ABA-affiliated club that is in desperate need of facilities support. The club has been operating in a rural barn but has recently managed to secure a lease on a former pub building in the centre of Totten, Hampshire. The new location will allow more young people from Totten to attend sessions, and transport to the rural location was an issue. However, the club needs to convert the building to enable it to house the club. The club has a strong community and volunteering ethos and believes it can secure the young people and tradespeople needed.

Leicester Combat Academy (Wrestling and Boxing)	LE5 5TB	Leicestershire and Rutland	Leicester	Leicester Combat Academy provided Boxing and Wrestling sessions in a very deprived part of inner city Leicester. The organisation has a sport for social change agenda, promoting health and community integration through sport. The organisation has been supported by the CSP to develop its governance and constitution, and has been successful is receiving a £19K grant for gym equipment. However, the centre's facilities are poor and VIY is needed to help make improvements alongside the new equipment. The club is popular locally and is confident of securing young people and tradespeople.
Stockton Cricket Club	TS18 4JF	Teesside	Stockton-On-Tees	The club is a well established,,strong clubmark club based in a deprived area of the North East. The club will work with the local Riverside College to bring in young people to regenerate their dilapidated indoor nets facility. The club plan to use the project as the foundation for other project work involving local volunteers. In addition to cricket being played on site the club also hosts a croquet club and indoor bowls facility.

Appendix 2: Questions and Answers from Round 1

1. Who identifies the young people that would benefit from the volunteering opportunity?

The request is for the club or organisation to find the young people through their networks. They are often participants, friends of participants, family members, or other local people that are brought in by the club. The club needs to explain on the EOI how they're going to find the young people (e.g. they might approach a local youth club, or work with the local job centre), or at least try to if they don't have an immediate market. This is an area that VIY can support if the project is struggling to find enough young people locally, but there needs to be a firm commitment and plan to this element of the project.

2. Who identifies the tradespeople that are volunteering their time?

VIY will have a lead mentor who will support the project on site. However, the request is that the club or organisation finds local tradespeople to support the project on the ground to ensure young people are effectively mentored and the project runs as smoothly as possible.

3. How many young people are needed as a minimum?

We would expect a minimum of 30 young people to participate in the project, with a preferred number of upwards of 40 where possible. We would hope to award City and Guilds accreditations to as many of these young people as possible.

4. Who supports the ongoing management of any local projects?

VIY's lead mentors run the project from the VIY side. There will need to be a day-to-day lead person or people within the club or organisation who is/ are responsible for the young people on site, and who is / are able to take care of points relating to the building, access and so on.

5. Currently we only have a temporary license but are working towards agreeing a 20 / 25 year lease. Does this rule us out?

No. In principle as long as the applicant can secure a long lease with enough time to complete the project next year then this is acceptable. The applicant would need to explain this situation in their application, and also on the basis that the project was of interest then VIY would probably require a commitment to lease letter from the current landowner.

6. If clubs find both volunteers and tradespeople themselves, what are the 'added benefits', over and above the Wickes money?

The grant unlocks more than a normal VIY project. It allows us to commit more mentor time to projects and invest in a wider scope of works. It permits the acquisition of materials and equipment that we might not otherwise be able to afford. It gives us wider opportunity to accredit the project for all young participants, which can be a significant boost to their confidence and employability.

This all enhances the core benefits offered by a VIY project: a space/building being improved, young people gaining invaluable skills and work experience, and a community coming together to make something good happen.

7. Can projects be delivered at the weekends only or do they have to be during the week?

Projects can be delivered at any time, but in general we'd prefer them to be completed over a continued period (e.g. over 4 weeks) rather than in a stop-start fashion (e.g. every weekend for 2 months).

8. Can the VIY project be part of a much larger refurbishment or development?

Yes, this is possible in principle, but it very much depends on the nature of the project and other partners involved. In this scenario it is important to understand what VIY's distinct part of the project will be and the overall benefits VIY will bring, over-and-above resources already committed. For any applicant in this situation, it is vital that you discuss with your CSP lead in the first instance.