

To whom it may concern,

This is not a proposal, this is just a short introduction to the work we are currently doing within the area at Urban Boxing Gym. Unfortunately, the current building space we are utilizing does not meet the requirements for the work we want to do within the community.

Work with Young People

On our team is a qualified youth worker who lives in the local area of Eyre's Monsell. We all share a concern about the lack of youth provision in the area. We have been made aware of the recent closure of the Magpie Youth centre, and it saddens us to know that following the recent building works carried out to the basketball courts and the new lighting system that has been put in, this space is now attracting young people but for the wrong purposes. We wondered if this space would be available for us to have exclusive access to turn this into a community boxing facility. We are also aware of the increase in levels of ASB and knife crime within the area and would like to introduce the young people to after school boxing clubs. We would teach them discipline through a specifically designed program, respect not only for themselves but for their community, and offer them a safe space and a sense of belonging. In a community gym they will be surrounded by positive role models, that will support, nurture and challenge them to grow to become active citizens that care about where they live.

Our youth worker is also linked to Enstruct Training which is an alternative provision for young people that have been excluded from mainstream school due to social and emotional issues. We are currently working alongside them and their students and have just rolled out a new "Anger Boxing Program" Developed to introduce them to the sport of Adaptive Boxing to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. The young people are learning the art of adaptive boxing which includes wheelchair and blind boxing techniques. The program aims to reduce exclusion, stress and aggressive behavior and is run alongside their PSHE lessons which educate them around issues of identity, masculinity, respect, diversity and discrimination.

Aims for the future to support education

We would like to work with all the schools within the local area to prevent exclusion, share information that might be helpful to recognize needs within the area and engage in interagency work with local police and services to pool resources and funding to work together to build a more inclusive community. This would be done by firstly introducing afterschool clubs to the area, which we will aim to promote throughout the schools and eventually develop the anger boxing program further to support schools to prevent exclusion. At Urban Boxing we feel that a whole community approach is required to tackle the social issues within the local area. Young people require a safe place to go where they know there are people who genuinely care about them. Working alongside the schools and with the local police force we are sure we can make a difference so that the residents of Eyres Monsel feel safe again. We are also aware that a tougher approach to some of the levels of violence, antisocial behavior, and knife crime is required. We are confident that the services we deliver will provide this in a disciplined and controlled structured environment through the sport of boxing.

Yours Sincerely,

Colin Wood – Adaptive Boxing Organization