

National Opening Doors to Adult Learners Award Winner

Street Life Soccer, Norwich

Gavin Coe (Norwich City Football Club) – Street Life Soccer Programme is a programme that was written by Norwich City Football in the community and Blue Cat. We came together to decide that there was a need to support the homeless and the vulnerable housed and ethnic minority groups.

Mike Smith Clare (The Blue Cat Initiative) – What we wanted to do was to create a programme that offered engagement opportunities through a love of football. For the first hour people undertake what we call team talk. It's a 30 week course, we offer open college network progression qualifications and they are based on things like personal development and taking part in sport. So, many of the guys that we know have had bad experiences of learning in the past.

Project member – Now, I don't drink, get to see my kids every week and come down and play football, what I enjoy.

Mike Smith Clare (The Blue Cat Initiative) – The guys can undertake training in order for them to run and deliver parts of the programme.

Project member – I've started working with these homeless people now so I've come from actually being homeless to working with them and it's given me a great boost and great confidence in myself that I'm able to put something back into the community.