



PRO TOUCH SOCCER ACADEMY

"The Bridge & Experience
To Professional Football"





WELCOME

Welcome

In 1998 I set out our vision to improve 'footballing opportunities for young people' living in some of the most deprived communities in Camden, Islington and Westminster. At its heart, was the idea that an organisation should take responsibility for ensuring that young people in these areas were able to access the quality of service and provision that their enthusiasm and, in some cases, talent deserved.



With this in mind, I am delighted to say that a number of key organisations and professional football clubs have since committed themselves to working alongside us in our quest to achieve this vision. In doing so, we have/will provide countless young people with the experience and the opportunities to appreciate football in it's many guises, from it's function as a social tool to it's ability to transform the lives of those that succeed at the highest level. I have witnessed first hand the benefits that our work can/has had on the lives of the young people that we have worked with, the majority of whom are not only a credit to themselves but also to those working with them.

It is hoped that this leaflet will provide you with an insight into what is a relatively new organisation, working for and with the next generation of football loving young people, by providing a holistic approach to football development through: expert coaching, informal education and tailored training programmes, whilst retaining it's overall aim of providing personal, social and professional development for those that are a part of it.

Whether you are a new member or an existing one, I send to you our very best wishes on behalf of the staff at PTSA, and hope that you enjoy your involvement with us.



Our Market Road training complex

Who We Are

The Pro Touch Soccer Academy (PTSA) is an organisation run by local professionals, each bringing with them not only a love of football, but also an intrinsic desire to bring the game to those who will benefit most. The staff and management are highly skilled and experienced in a range of footballing disciplines. Their backgrounds range from Football Association (FA) coaches to qualified youth workers, and from sports industry workers to physiotherapists, providing a broad range of experience as both managers and facilitators within formal and informal educational/social settings. Among the staff are a team of young coaches who, having played at an elite level for clubs such as Arsenal FC and West Ham United FC as well as at international level, are able to offer an invaluable insight into the modern day game, and provide a peer led approach to developing the young people that we work with.

Aim

PTSA has been set-up to deliver two key objectives as part of it's overall agenda. The first, is to help support, encourage and nurture gifted and talented young footballers. PTSA wants to 'bridge the gap' between grass roots and professional football by providing these young people with the support that they need to make a smooth transition from amateur football to relative elitism. The second objective is to work in line with the government drive to ensure that young people are provided with the 5 key outcomes that they see as being most important in their lives, namely to: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and to achieve economic well-being (Every Child Matters 2003). As part of this PTSA are working hard to increase levels of youth sports participation, particularly for those who frequently encounter barriers in accessing existing mainstream provisions in their area.

PTSA is currently working with young people between the ages of 9-16 years, living or studying in one of the three neighbouring London boroughs of Camden, Islington and Westminster. Recruitment to the programme to date has been through a range of channels including: local schools, youth and community groups, specialist services for young people in addition to self referrals. Individual referees have come in the form of school teachers, youth workers, learning mentors, connexions personal advisors, parents, key workers, youth offending team officers, as well as a variety of specialist workers from backgrounds in sexual health, mental health and substance misuse.

Methods

PTSA will work closely with all young people at the academy, working towards each persons individual needs by developing them in areas of weakness and building upon their areas of strength. This will be achieved through an holistic approach to the personal, social, educational and emotional development of the young people that are a part of the programme. Whether it be in the context of informal education around generic issues affecting young peoples lives or in the form of individual one to one support, PTSA will aim to provide the most effective environment for young people to explore what works for them.

From a more elite perspective, PTSA will work alongside professional football clubs, by providing the channels through which teams can approach players that they have an interest in. PTSA will then work in collaboration with the clubs to arrange trials for the individuals, allowing young people the opportunity to exhibit some of the skills that they have acquired during their time at the academy. As part of this process, PTSA will continue to support the individual through regular liaison with club coaching and development staff, as well as providing ongoing support for the parents/guardians of the individuals.



INTRODUCTION



7 Key Working Goals

- Provide excellent training, recreational and match day facilities for all young people that are a part of the PTSA programme
- Provide regular and consistent skill development through coaching and monthly match fixtures
- Provide one to one mentoring
- Provide appropriate career development for all staff in line with the needs of the academy and the young people that are a part of it
- Provide a needs led programme of informal education/training
- Engage young people in positive career development opportunities through the provision of training and national governing body awards schemes
- Implementation of consistent and effective feedback mechanisms for all PTSA programmes of work

CONTACTS

Pro Touch Soccer Academy • 82-84 Cromer Street • London WC1H 8DG
Tel/Fax: 020 7813 3007

Ash Rahman - Academy Director
m: 07732 872 022
e: arahman@protouchsocceracademy.com

Zahid Hossain - Project Manager & Academy Coach
m: 07856 461 040
e: zhossain@protouchsocceracademy.com

