




## **Case Study: Hyde's Lions FC – Football Development Strand**

 Pictured: Hyde's Lions FC captain lifting the Under-16 league trophy following the team's 2024/25 championship victory in the Walsall Junior Youth Football League.

This case study presents real outcomes from community-based delivery by Vocal Rogue® CIC. Participant details and images are used with informed consent.

### **I. Introduction**

Hyde's Lions FC was one of the teams delivered through the Football Development strand of the wider Development Programme created by Vocal Rogue® CIC.

Based in Wednesbury, the teams consisted of an 18-player squad working with young people aged 14–16. The Football Development strand provided structured football training, mentoring and positive role models designed to support personal development, teamwork and confidence building.

Through consistent training, guidance and clear expectations around behaviour and commitment, Hyde's Lions FC provided young people with a supportive environment where sport became a pathway for growth both on and off the pitch.

### **II. The Challenge**

When the players first joined the team as Under-15s, many were still developing confidence, communication skills and self-belief. Some struggled with discipline or lacked structured activities that encouraged teamwork and responsibility.

Young people growing up in many communities can face pressures and negative influences that can make positive development pathways harder to access. Without consistent opportunities, guidance and positive role models, these challenges can affect motivation, behaviour and long-term confidence.

The Football Development strand recognised that structured sport could act as an effective prevention approach, providing stability, mentorship and a sense of belonging for young people during a critical stage of their development.

### **III. The Programme**

Hyde's Lions FC participated in a structured two-year football development pathway, beginning at Under-15 level and continuing through to their Under-16 season. Players trained twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, alongside competitive matches on Sundays. This consistent schedule helped create routine, accountability and discipline within the team environment.

The programme provided:

- Structured football coaching and development
- Mentorship and positive role models
- Opportunities to build teamwork, communication and leadership
- Clear expectations around responsibility and commitment
- A safe and supportive environment for young people

Football acted as the engagement tool through which wider life skills such as resilience, respect and confidence were developed.

### **IV. Development and Progress**

Across the two-year programme, clear progress emerged within the team. Players who initially lacked confidence began communicating more openly with teammates and coaches. Relationships strengthened across the squad as players worked together toward shared goals.

Attendance and engagement remained consistently strong throughout the programme, demonstrating the players' commitment to both training sessions and matchdays. Parents also reported noticeable improvements in their children's behaviour and wellbeing.

Many observed positive changes in:

- Confidence and communication
- Attitude and behaviour
- Physical fitness and wellbeing
- Responsibility and teamwork

The programme helped create a strong sense of belonging and pride among the players.

### **V. Achievement**

After two years of development, dedication and teamwork, Hyde's Lions FC achieved a major milestone when the team were crowned Under-16 Champions in the 2024/25 season of the Walsall Junior Youth Football League.

This achievement reflected the players' commitment, resilience and teamwork developed throughout the programme.

### **VI. Measurable Outcomes**

The Hyde's Lions journey produced clear and measurable outcomes:

- 18 players consistently engaged across the full two-year programme
- 100% of the squad progressed into college, further education or apprenticeships
- Strong attendance across weekly training sessions and competitive fixtures
- Parents reporting improvements in confidence, behaviour and wellbeing among players

These outcomes demonstrate how structured sport can provide both opportunity and early prevention support for young people during key developmental years.

## **VII. Parent Feedback**

The team's success was celebrated by families and supporters who had followed the players' development throughout the season.

One parent shared the following message following the league victory:

"Hydes Lions FC collecting their medals for being the league winners – well done lads, smashed it! Big thank you to the managers and coaches for all their hard work and support throughout."

Moments like these reflected the strong community support surrounding the team and the positive impact the programme had on the young people involved.

## **VIII. Conclusion**

The journey of Hyde's Lions FC demonstrates the powerful role grassroots football can play in supporting young people's personal development.

Through structured coaching, mentoring and teamwork, the Football Development strand of the Vocal Rogue® Development Programme helped guide these young people through an important stage of their lives, building confidence, discipline and belief in their potential.

Their success represents not only a sporting achievement but also clear evidence of how community-led programmes can create meaningful opportunities and long-term positive outcomes for young people.

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