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Teenagers get Bulls' help to tackle future

Youngsters on a Bradford estate are being given the chance of a better future thanks to a project involving the Bradford Bulls.

The Super League champions and the Holme Wood-based Positive Futures project have come together to organise a course for teenagers.

The 12-week Try project, which is being launched next Wednesday at Odsal, will offer seven 14 to 16-year-olds from the estate lessons in subjects including team building, drugs awareness and job searching.

The scheme is being funded by the Positive Futures project and the Challenge Cup winners have offered their Odsal facilities for classes. Positive Futures is a national body which offers young people the chance to improve their futures through sport and physical activity.

A base was set up in Holme Wood after the estate was identified as an area with high problems of crime and drug use.

Amanda Jackson, Positive Futures project co-ordinator in Holme Wood, said: "What we are trying to do is give these youngsters a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We want to take them away from an area of high drug use and crime and help them to build up their confidence and teach them how to get on better with other people.

"As well as taking part in many different courses, these youngsters will spend a day with the Army, go on a four-day adventure trip to the Lake District and spend a day training Bradford Bulls players."

It is estimated the cost of the course will be £7,000 with the Positive Futures scheme being funded by the Home Office.

"From our perspective this project is great as it is a chance for young people to build up their esteem and self-confidence through sport," said Chris Rostron, of the Odsal club.

"Having sessions up at Odsal will take these youngsters out of their usual environment and get them involved in a range of activities."

The project is also being supported by the Safety First youth training team, based at the Sedbergh Centre in Odsal, which will provide staff to help with sessions.

