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For immediate release

New sports leaders make an IMPACT

A group of young people have scooped sports leadership qualifications as part of a scheme to reduce antisocial behaviour and get them active.

Leicestershire Youth Offending Service's IMPACT Project worked with 10 young people in Newbold Verdon to deliver the course over a 12 week period.

IMPACT workers, who work on the ground in a bid to address antisocial behaviour, spoke to the young people to see what would keep them occupied in the village following a referral from the police.

The 11-17 year-olds took part in activities such as football, kwick-cricket, rounders, dodgeball and football rounders after telling workers they were interested in getting involved in sport.

Claire Oldfield (14) of Newbold Verdon, who took part in the course, said: "I really enjoyed doing the sports leader course because it was fun and I learnt to share responsibility. I liked teaching the younger kids."

Joe Orson, Leicestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, said: "My congratulations go out to everyone who has achieved these qualifications.

"Sport plays an underlying role in reducing antisocial behaviour. Not only is this helping young people to stay healthy but it is bringing communities together and strengthening relationships between young people and adults.

"The work delivered by the IMPACT team has not only helped to reduce antisocial behaviour in the village but has helped the young people achieve some qualifications and a skill that can be used in their community."

PC Jonathan Shaw from Leicestershire Police said: "The positive activities provided by the IMPACT team over the summer period in Newbold Verdon have undoubtedly helped in reducing incidents of anti social behaviour."

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For more information about Leicestershire Youth Offending Service, which is run by the County Council, visit: www.leics.gov.uk/youthjustice

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