



SPORT ABERDEEN NAMED WINNER AT PRESTIGIOUS UK AWARDS FOR SUPPORTING CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH SPORT

We were delighted to be named as a **winner** at the ukactive Awards 2021, a UK wide awards ceremony celebrating the active lifestyle sector, which took place virtually in August.

The SPACE (Support Physical Activity for Care Experienced) project, a partnership project between Sport Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council, scooped the award for 'Developing and Supporting Communities during Covid-19'.

SPACE is an innovative project which uses the positive benefits of sport and physical activity to help care experienced children and young people reach their full potential through bespoke interventions.

The project operates in partnership with Virtual School Aberdeen to help care experienced children access opportunities they may not otherwise be able to. These opportunities include boxing, cycling, horse-riding and accessing local greenspaces alongside free-of-charge membership to our citywide fitness venues.

Graeme Dale, Sport Aberdeen Head of Sport and Active Communities, said:

"I am absolutely thrilled that the SPACE project has been recognised at a UK level and this achievement is really a testament to the hard work and determination of everyone who works to make this project so successful.

"The impact that SPACE has had on young people, improving physical and mental wellbeing through sport and physical activity, has been incredible and with wider recognition it is my hope that we can continue to grow and develop this initiative and reach even more children and young people across the north-east alongside our partners, Aberdeen City Council."

Councillor Jenny Laing, leader of Aberdeen City Council at the time, added:

"As a council we are proud to be a partner in the SPACE project, which has harnessed the city's sports and leisure offering as a way of helping care experienced children young people reach their full potential.

"Exercise and activity – whether that's participating in team games or accessing green spaces – can greatly enhance physical and mental wellbeing, and this brilliant initiative could not have been more timely. Staff at the council and Sport Aberdeen, along with community supporters, thoroughly deserve to be recognised for their efforts."

