



## **SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres launch in conjunction with York City Fc Foundation as part of a national FA campaign to offer girls the chance to play**

These are intended to provide girls from in and around York aged 5-11 with regular opportunities to play football. The initiative offers organised sessions in a fun and engaging environment created exclusively for girls. More than 200 clubs have been established throughout England in 2017 and a further 800 are set to launch in 2018.

**YFCF Foundation have been involved in the initiative since it's inception, with a pilot centre launched a year ago and have now added two further centres to their Wildcats offer, making us the largest provider of these centres in the York and wider area.**

SSE Wildcats Girls' Football sessions take place on a weekly basis, either after school or at weekends, and provide a safe environment where girls can try football for the first time. SSE and The FA hope the initiative will inspire participants to engage with football, meet new friends, develop fundamental skills, learn new things and create the foundation for a lifelong love of football.

YFCF Foundation Wildcats Sessions are:

- Saturdays 10-11am at York Sport Village during term time and should be pre-booked via [officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity](http://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity). Equivalent to £2 per session, payable in half termly blocks.

- New from 16<sup>th</sup> April

Mondays 5.30-6.30pm at Easingwold Town FC, Bull Hill, Easingwold – in partnership with Easingwold Town AFC. Turn up and play. Register with the coach and pay £2 per session.

- New from 18<sup>th</sup> April

Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm at York RI, New Lane, Acomb – in partnership with York RI AFC. Turn up and play. Register with the coach and pay £2 per session.

Paula Stainton, YFCF Foundation Manager, “ We are absolutely delighted not only to be able to expand our offer for girls, but also to be working in partnership with two local grassroots clubs and their management committees - York RI AFC and Easingwold Town AFC. These are true partnerships with us working together in every aspect of the centres from coaching to promotion, with a shared goal of getting more girls interested in the game on a recreational basis. ”



‘Easingwold Town AFC really welcomes this initiative from the FA and are delighted about our partnership with York City. We are very much looking forward to contributing our football knowledge, experience and first class facilities to help get young girls in the Easingwold and surrounding areas engaged in football. We hope that by providing them with great and fun coaching sessions it will be the beginning of their life long love of the game.’ said Peter Nottage, Chairman of Easingwold Town AFC.

‘York RI AFC are thrilled to be entering into this partnership with York City. We are excited to be able to combine our skills and experience in girls and ladies football to deliver great coaching sessions for younger girls in the Holgate and Acomb area of York.’ said Kat Richardson, York RI AFC.

Each SSE Wildcats Girls’ Football Centre will be run in conjunction with local County FAs and utilise well qualified coaches.

The initiative is in line with The FA’s Gameplan for Growth, with the target of doubling girls’ participation in the sport by 2020. The strategy for women’s and girls’ football at grassroots level includes initiatives alongside SSE Wildcats, such as FA Girls’ Football Week, York City’s City Girls programme and the girls only teams currently offered by Easingwold and York RI AFC.