

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

## LIVERPOOL

### Creating Inclusive Opportunities for British Muslim Families in Liverpool: A Collaborative Approach

#### Background & Identified Need

Through the work of the Youth Sport Trust (YST) Development Manager, a clear local need was identified in Liverpool's secondary schools: schools wanted to provide further support for their British Muslim students and their mums, ensuring they had access to sport and physical activity in culturally appropriate environments.

#### The Role of the Muslim Sports Foundation

To address this, the Muslim Sports Foundation (MSF) brought its expertise in engaging British Muslim communities in sport. As part of this initiative, Sahiba Majeed, from MSF, delivered a continuing professional development (CPD) workshop to participating schools. She shared a best practice example from Jack Hunt School in Peterborough, where OSF funding had been used to support badminton sessions for British Muslim mums and girls.

The initiative in Peterborough was designed to align with existing cultural routines—sessions took place at the same time that male family members attended mosque, ensuring that women had access to activities in a female-friendly, safe, and familiar environment.

#### Developing a Sustainable Local Model

Inspired by this approach, secondary schools in Liverpool saw an opportunity to create a shared model that worked within their own constraints. A key challenge was that school staff found it difficult to commit to running evening sessions on a regular basis due to personal and professional commitments.

To overcome this, schools agreed to a rotational model, where each school would host one session per week on a rotating basis across multiple schools. This collaborative approach:

- Reduced pressure on individual schools and staff
- Ensured families across the city had access to opportunities
- Promoted a networked approach to community engagement

Schools also initiated conversations with the local council and leisure providers to explore how they could further utilise school facilities and secure support for the sessions.

#### Overcoming Barriers & Building Confidence

For many schools, convening a group like this was a new challenge. They lacked wider stakeholder connections and were unsure where to start. The YST Development Manager played a key role in facilitating ongoing discussions, bringing partners together, and supporting the schools in establishing a sustainable network that could drive long-term impact.

#### Key Outcomes & Learnings

- Schools gained confidence in engaging British Muslim families in sport
- A collaborative model was developed, ensuring sustainable delivery across multiple schools
- Schools built new partnerships with community stakeholders, including local authorities and leisure providers
- The project highlighted the importance of culturally sensitive programming in increasing participation

By fostering collaboration and creating culturally responsive opportunities, this initiative is paving the way for more inclusive and sustainable access to sport for British Muslim girls and their mums across Liverpool.