



From left, Warren Palmer, Paul Strank and mascot Haydon

Dons supporter raises £930 for charity

Dons supporter Warren Palmer made no mistake in his half-time penalty challenge at AFC Wimbledon on Saturday – and his exploits raised £930 for charity.

Warren, who attends High Path Community Resource Centre, was helped towards the penalty spot by Andy O'Brien, Outreach Worker at the South Wimbledon centre, before beating goalkeeper Paul Strank with a cracking strike.

More than 4,000 supporters watched him do it at the Scunthorpe match and Warren is aiming to top £1,000 after adding in generous donations.

All proceeds raised will be donated by High Path to the Paul Strank Charitable Trust.

AFC Wimbledon manager Neal Ardley invited fans from High Path to watch a first-team training session just days before the challenge with Warren taking part in a warm-up.

Neal said: "It is a great relationship. I often see Wimbledon fans from High Path at games and it brings so much joy to them. That is what football clubs are about."

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'How many lives would a

BY KIRSTY PURNELL
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A report by Green Party Assembly Member Sian Berry has revealed the average council has slashed its youth budget by 44 per cent since 2011/12.

London's Lost Youth Services shows that a total of £39million has been lost from youth budgets across London in the past seven years.

The report shows that since 2011/12, £2,499,000 has been cut in Lambeth, £1,494,000 in Lewisham, £1,188,226 in Southwark and £2,103,039 in Wandsworth.

Berry said her report is designed as a call to action from the Government, which she believes needs to provide councils with funding for youth work.

The *South London Press* spoke to youth projects across South London about the impact of youth funding cuts on services and young people.

The 106-year old Salmon Youth Centre in Old Jamaica Road, has lost four youth workers in the past four years.

Salmon has never relied exclusively on council funding, but director Sam Adofo explained getting less money from the council means it is harder for his organisation to obtain grant funding.

"The council money is like a vote of confidence for outside funders," said Sam, who has been a youth worker for 30 years.

"Our total income has dropped drastically in the past five years. We need more workers.

"We rely heavily upon apprentices,

who are subsidised."

Sam explained that Salmon is now less able to deliver in-depth and intensive support to the young people most in need.

"The gateway is via our open access youth clubs. Out of these, you might get to know about young people having serious difficulty in other areas of life, like criminal activity or mental health.

"But we don't have the resources to do the follow-up intensive work. We need more workers."

Asked about the link between cuts in youth services and increase in knife crime, Sam said: "I am very careful about using cause and effect. "But youth workers offer advice, counselling, listening and facilitate anger.

"If you take that away then the external support they need is greatly reduced. I think that definitely has an effect on the violence on the street.

"In the past we used to know where the gangs were, who they were. We even knew before something was going to happen. We don't have that in-depth knowledge anymore.

Triangle Adventure Playground in Oval lost all of its funding from Lambeth council in 2017.

There was a gradual reduction from 2012, but since March last year, they rely upon donors and grant funding to stay open.

It needs £70,000 a year to keep their seven-days-a-week provision open to children and families.

Chairman of Triangle Jim Clancey said:

"We have no complaint with the council. We knew full well that they couldn't afford to keep funding us.

"They have statutory duties and they gave us fair warning.

"But we've had to cut our hours. We open every day during the holidays and after school in term time. We've had to trim that.

"We've got a lot of single parents who bring their kids here and they say without us they couldn't go to work. We perform a serious function."

Jim believes the surge in street violence will force the Government to give more money to youth services.

He said: "The funding has to come back. The pressure on Government to do something for youth funding is massive.

"Not far from where we are there are people with guns and knives. If the young people stay with us they are safe.

"I turn on the TV and I see that someone has been shot or stabbed and I hold my breath and shut my eyes and pray that it's not one of our kids."

Lambeth Action for Youth offers career advice, mentoring, enterprise guidance and a multimedia project – all on a shoestring.

But it cannot afford to employ staff and desperately needs more funding so it can deliver interventions in schools.

Founder Terone Williams is convinced there is a correlation between the spate in youth violence and cuts to youth services.

"The cuts in funding have brought a devastating change. The reason I say devastating is because the number of teen stabbings and shootings have increased dramatically in the last three years.

"The cut in youth clubs is a big cause. They don't have the youth workers to be a positive influence in their life. They end up on the street with gangs.

Terone is fearful of what could happen if the government doesn't change its youth funding agenda.

He said: "The next generation will be like a lost generation because they don't have people who believed in them.

"Young people are dying every week. Look how many lives we could save by employing a few youth workers. It's sad."

A council spokesman said: "The amount Lambeth as a council spent on provision for young people was among the highest in London in 2011-12 and, despite the cuts, it remains among the highest.

"However, it can be difficult to compare service budgets across boroughs as they do not always include like for like.

"For example, some councils may include spend on early intervention



Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey



Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey



Council of Governors elections 2018

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This spring, Council of Governors elections are to be held in the following constituencies:

- Patient – 5 seats
- Public – 6 seats
- Staff (clinical) – 3 seats

Nominations are now open and will close at 5pm on Friday 4 May.

If you are a member we will be sending you information about how to stand for election via email or in the post over the next few days.

If you are **not yet** a member and/or would like to stand to become a governor please visit our website where you can join free of charge by completing an online form www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership or by contacting our Membership Office at members@gstt.nhs.uk or 020 7188 7346.

To stand as governor or vote you must be 18 years or older and be a member of the Trust in the constituency you wish to represent.

Key dates:

Nominations: 11 April – 4 May
Voting: 22 May – 15 June
Election results: 19 June

few youth workers save?'

Council leader calls for action on crime

The leader of Lambeth council, Councillor Lib Peck, joined a cross-party group of MPs and council leaders at City Hall this week to discuss the rise in violent crime in London.

Addressing the Home Secretary Amber Rudd and the Mayor of Sadiq Khan London, Cllr Peck called on the Government to put in place a long-term vision for tackling violent crime and its root causes.

Cllr Peck said that prevention must be at the heart of efforts to break the cycle of violence and cited Lambeth's recently-adopted youth violence strategy as a blueprint for what the Government should do.

Learning from projects such as in Glasgow, Lambeth's approach involves fundamental changes to the way the council, community, police and charities work together to protect the community with the aim of delivering targeted, effective early interventions.

Cllr Peck also has warned that the Government cannot protect the public on the cheap – and that the £40million of funding announced by the Home Secretary this week is nowhere near enough.

Cllr Peck said: "It's clear that cuts to officer numbers have contributed to increases in serious violent crime. Eight years of austerity has stretched the police to breaking point, with thousands of front line officers lost from London's streets."

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Above, Lambeth Action for youth and, right, Triangle Adventure Playground

of NEET work within that figure.

"We have reduced spending on open access services since 2012. However through the success of our Early Adopter Programme – which enabled non-for profit organisations to take over management of our youth and play provision – we currently have five youth centres and 13 adventure playgrounds open and are working with the local

community to increase that latter number to 14 in time for the summer. Some of these are still supported by Early Adopter Grants, but the majority are sustained by the hard work of the voluntary sector.

"The council provides grants of £705,000 annually to deliver provision aimed at vulnerable young people and an additional

£99,000 for summer activities.

"We provide support via the Young Lambeth Co-operative to help sustainability within the sector and to identify alternative funding opportunities.

"We're working on a proposal to use monies from the Community Levy on building projects within Lambeth to further support the children's voluntary sector."



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