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the standard

Junior football club scores £5,000 funding boost

by STAFF REPORTER

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A SUCCESSFUL Chester junior football club has been given a major cash boost in recognition of longstanding work in the community.

As well as receiving £5,000 from the Football Foundation, Cheshire County Football Association has also awarded Newton Athletic Youth FC the FA Charter Standard Club award for development of grassroots football.

The FA Charter Standard programme, supported by McDonald's, was established to help clubs to improve standards of coaching, administration, player development and safeguarding children. The award is presented to clubs like Newton Athletic who lead the field in promoting best football practice, both on and off the pitch.

Stephen Jones, joint chairman with Bernard Concannon of Newton Athletic, said: "Newton Athletic was formed in 1991 and has built up an enviable reputation over many years of producing football to a very high standard.

"We are very proud of the club's achievement which is without doubt in no short measure due to the dedication of the coaches, managers and committee members who have served the club over the years."

Mr Concannon added: "This award shows to the whole community that



One of the successful Newton Athletic FC sides that will benefit from a £5,000 Football Foundation grant.

Newton Athletic Youth FC is a safe and well run football club who is proud to display the Charter Standard mark of approval.

"These awards will also show any potential sponsors that Newton Athletic Youth FC is well run and a safe and worthwhile place to invest in the children and youth of the area."

Mr Jones said the Football Foundation 'Grow the Game' grant would enable the club to expand

and improve at every level.

"Our newly-appointed head coach Nick Jones started playing for this club at five years of age. This sort of individual development is something we as a club are very proud of and we have been actively encouraging youth and former players to turn to coaching.

"This money will assist us to fund FA courses and qualifications to continue the club's development including creating new mixed

teams and a girls section within the club structure."

Chester MP Christine Russell, who presented the Football Foundation cheque, said: "The Football Foundation was set up by the Government in 2000 because we recognise that for England to have a successful national team you have to invest in facilities and coaching at a grassroots level.

"Funded one third by the Government, one third by the FA and one third by the Premier League, the Foundation is now Britain's largest sports charity and it invests £40 million per year in clubs like Newton Athletic Youth FC.

"I believe professional football clubs have a great deal to learn from clubs like Newton Athletic that are well run and managed, where you encourage and nurture young talent and where you value the contributions of volunteers. As a result they are a real asset to the community."

Senior football development officer Peter Nicholls said: "The Cheshire County FA is committed to raising the standards of football at grassroots level and the dedication and achievements of clubs like Newton Athletic Youth FC make this possible."

Since 2002 nearly 120 clubs representing more than 1,300 teams in Cheshire have achieved FA Charter Standard Club, Adult Club, Development or Community Club status.