

## BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE, BLACKBURN

### The Project

The new Blackburn Youth Zone development, supported by central Government funding, is a once in a lifetime project that has been designed to broaden the leisure and arts opportunities available for young people in the very centre of Blackburn. Thornton Sports are proud to have played a part in delivering this state-of-the-art facility through the design and installation of an innovative roof top 5-a-side football pitch incorporating their SudsSports combined sustainable drainage and sports surfacing system.

### The Product

The [SudsSport](#) units form a lightweight raft construction for the pitch base that is easy to install and keeps onsite construction programme time down to a minimum. The factory formed nature of the system guarantees uniform quality; furthermore the SudsSports units provide fantastic drainage ensuring that the new sports pitch is available for use even after wet weather. The SudsSports system installed at Blackburn Youth Zone also provides temporary water storage and allows the flow of rainwater from the roof deck into the rainwater gutters and ground level drainage system to be controlled to a rate of four litres per second during intense storm events.

A waterproof membrane was installed over the roof by the roofing contractor before Thornton Contracts' specialist team covered this with a further membrane to provide protection. 85mm thick SudsSports units were then installed to provide a suitable subbase, and finally, a rubber shockpad layer was installed to allow additional shock absorption prior to the final synthetic grass surface layer being installed.

Not only were Thornton Sports able to offer a cost effective, practical solution to what some might view as a logistically problematic project, they were also able to supply and install their own [SoccerTurf 50M](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> generation synthetic grass. SoccerTurf 50M has a 50mm pile height and looks, feels and plays like natural grass. Manufactured at Thornton Sports' in-house production facility at Altham, Lancashire, it uses a monofilament type yarn which is the FA's standard yarn choice due to its excellent durability and performance qualities.



### The Customer

Peter Little, Chief Executive of Blackburn Youth Zone comments: *"The rooftop pitch at the zone gives young people the opportunity to develop a passion which is the most important part of our work. Thornton Sports' innovative design and true professionalism has enabled us to provide a facility with admirable durability to meet our high usage needs."*



### Sponsorship

Thornton Sports were proud to sponsor the 'Big Kick' event which raised over £22,000 for Blackburn Youth Zone. The event which was held at Ewood park saw 12 teams compete, with Northcote being crowned 2013 champions. Thornton Sports are keen to maintain their involvement in an exceptional local project which will benefit the future of Blackburn.

**BLACKBURN**  
**YOUTH ZONE**