

# MANCHESTER FA ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



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# Welcome to our Active Volunteers Programme for 2023/2024 with Manchester FA.

Our Young Volunteers project is designed to increase and diversify our current grassroots workforce. By investing in a small number of young people we hope to establish efficient grassroots volunteers to best serve our accredited clubs.

The young volunteers enrolled will gain a qualification with Active Leaders and then take part in active volunteering by being placed at one of our 2- or 3-star accredited clubs. There are 10 places available for Manchester FA's Young Volunteers and these will be decided from applications submitted to be part of the programme for the season long project.

We will provide tailored training to our accredited clubs, as well as funding, so they are able to support and integrate the young people into their club in the most effective way. The young volunteers will gain the support of a Manchester FA staff member as a mentor as well as help and support from a working club in the community, where they will deliver their project.

They will then engage in a welcome evening designed to introduce the programme and clubs, quarterly calls with their mentor and volunteer group to support them with their project.

Young Volunteers will commit to 25 hours (minimum) of volunteering within a Grassroots Club, with delivery of their project and 25 hours to complete the Active Leaders course. This amounts to commitment of approximately 50 hours over the course of the season during the Young Volunteer Placement Programme.

Volunteers, clubs and mentors will then be invited to a 'Graduation Ceremony' at the end of the season where Volunteers will receive an award for their contribution to the community and share a successful overview of their projects.



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# Welcome to our Active Volunteers Programme for 2023/2024 with Manchester FA.

Projects will be focused across the following areas:



**Refereeing**



**The Youth Game**



**Disability**



**Coaching**



**Women & Girls**



**Marketing and Communications**



**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

These areas align with staff roles and departments of work we have at Manchester FA.

The Active Volunteer Placement Programme will help to give young people valuable insight into the running of a grassroots football club and help inspire and generate the next grassroots workforce. This project gives young people the chance to make a positive impact on their community and learn valuable skills and knowledge alongside delivering a scheme, gaining a qualification and banking 50 hours volunteer work, whilst ensuring sustainability of the grassroots workforce for future generations.



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# 1. MFA X Young Leaders

## About MFA:

We are the governing body for association football in the centre of the city of Manchester and are responsible for the governance and development of football at all levels in the area.

Establishing safe and structured football opportunities for the benefit of all concerned irrespective of age, colour, gender and ability is our aim alongside providing the appropriate structures and systems to enable the association to manage, regulate and promote the game of football within Greater Manchester. This also enables us to assist with the development of the game at all levels, ensuring we are able to increase the quality and levels of participation across a broad spectrum of players, officials, parents and supporters.

Our administrative area overlaps with the Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Liverpool CFAs. According to the Memorandum on Areas and Overlapping of Associations the Manchester FA covers the area 12 miles from Manchester Town Hall.

We are based at the House of Sport, Rowsely Street, Manchester, M11 3FF.

## What is a Young Leader:

Young leadership is the practice in which young people gain skills and knowledge necessary to lead or support projects, reform education or organising community activities.

Having Young Leaders within an organisation promotes the Youth Voice and refers to the distinct ideas, opinions, attitudes, knowledge, and actions of young people as a collective body. The term youth voice often groups together a diversity of perspectives and experiences, regardless of backgrounds, identities, and cultural differences.

## MFA Youth Council:

Manchester FA have a group of CORE Young Leaders that make up our Youth Council. The members form a working group and regularly check and challenge the work that Manchester FA does and ensures that we receive the Youth Voice to take on board a full range of inclusive opinions and direction.



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# 2. Manchester FA

## Youth Engagement Strategy 2023/24

Manchester FA is passionate about working with young people and children to create a safe and enjoyable environment for all.



This strategy will identify our vision and how Manchester FA will plan, deliver and improve the opportunities for children and young people to influence the decisions that matter to them.

### Vision

To provide young people with a voice to influence current and future provision within grassroots football and to inspire, mentor and develop the future football workforce.

### Purpose

Is to ensure young people are actively involved in influencing and developing the current game and designing a future game that meets their needs.

### Mission

To ensure every young person under the age of 18 involved in grassroots football has the opportunity to share their views and ideas.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Via Safeguarding Strategy Group we will provide a report on activity, activations and outcomes involving under 18s.



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# 3. MFA Active Volunteers

The Active Volunteer Placement Programme will help to give young people valuable insight into the running of a grassroots football club and help inspire and generate the next grassroots workforce. This project gives young people the chance to make a positive impact on their community and learn valuable skills and knowledge alongside delivering a scheme, gaining a qualification and banking 50 hours volunteer work, whilst ensuring sustainability of the grassroots workforce for future generations.



## Requirements of YL - What do we need from you?

We need a passionate engaging young person to commit to making a difference within a grassroots club or league. The Young Volunteer will have a project in which they carry out over a season within that Grassroots club in order to complete 25 hours of volunteering. They will also complete an Active Leaders qualification in which the total number of hours they will spend volunteering will amount to 50 hours across the season.

The Young Volunteer will need to have an idea of a project that can be carried out over the season and commit to ensure that project is carried out successfully within the placement. All members of the programme will complete EE Playmaker as part of the course and be given tailored support from Manchester FA mentors to best support their development.

Regular touch points will be built in throughout the season with the Young Volunteers and MFA mentors, with TEAMS channels set up for regular communication, help and support.



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## 4. Manchester FA Clubs

Clubs that host a Young Volunteer will be responsible for making them a welcome member of the club. They should do their best to enable and support the Young Person to carry out their project and ensure they are completing their volunteer hours appropriately. MFA mentors will also be in regular contact with clubs, who will receive 4 x training workshops over the course of the season to monitor the help and support they are providing for their volunteer. There will be quarterly calls with both volunteers and clubs throughout the season to update on progress.



### Welcome Evening

Following the successful recruitment of candidates and clubs, a welcome evening will be arranged for the Young Volunteers to meet their clubs and share an overview of their projects. An induction to the club will be arranged and the projects will commence.

At the end of the season there will be a Graduation Ceremony for the Young Volunteers upon completion of their placement and qualification where they will share the success of their projects and so clubs can also be recognised and rewarded for their help and support.



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# 5. Active Volunteers Qualifications

During the 25 hours completing the Active Leader Qualification, you will complete workshops delivered by MFA staff. The course includes CPR and first aid awareness, basic safeguarding and risk management, preparation, planning, communication, marketing, budgeting, hands-on delivery and CV development.

Each trainee receives printed course materials and a t-shirt. At the end of the course each Active Leader receives a reference, certificate, 10 CPD points and a pin badge.

The remaining 25 hours volunteering will be focused on your Grassroots football project to be delivered within the club you are placed in.



As part of the Young Volunteers Programme, members will have the opportunity to become a qualified football referee. Refereeing is a great way to be involved in football. There are opportunities for everyone. Remain active in the game following injury or retirement. Make new and lasting friends within the game. Play a huge role in ensuring the players enjoy their match day experience.

**TAKE UP THE WHISTLE! BECOME A REFEREE**

There is also an opportunity to complete the Playmaker Course which is the first step into the journey of becoming a football coach. This entry-level football course for volunteers in the grassroots game is open to anyone aged 14 or over. It's completely free, all online and requires no previous football experience or qualifications. Find out more and get started.

**EE PLAYMAKER BY ENGLAND FOOTBALL**



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# 6. Conclusion

**Our Young Volunteer Placement Programme is designed to achieve 10 new young volunteers within grassroots football who will gain valuable on the ground experience delivering a project they are passionate about. Young people will become inspired about the change and impact they can have within a football environment, and this will lead to an increase in the workforce of our clubs in Manchester. MFA will be creating the next generation of competent and diverse volunteers within grassroots football to help sustain the offer that our community provides.**



**Accredited Clubs that accept our Young Volunteers will be inspired by the effect young people can have within their club. Clubs will be able to provide meaningful opportunities to young people in the area and provide access to qualifications they may be unable to afford without the programme. They will receive tailored support and training on how best to train their volunteer, but these workshops will also include transferrable knowledge that they can apply to other areas of their club which may indirectly improve the offer they give to their wider workforce, therefore having a positive effect on the club as a whole. The club will benefit from a different point of view, gain the insight of a young, competent leader and be made aware of the benefits young people can bring to their organisation.**

**The young volunteers will gain several qualifications they may not otherwise have access to or be able to afford which will help to improve and inspire their confidence in support roles within the grassroots community. Paired with the Active Leaders Qualification, it will give young people experience with different leadership styles, planning and preparation of events, marketing, budgeting, practical experience in dealing with communities and working within a team.**



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# 7. Project Examples

Manchester FA young leaders have already had a great start with their own projects. Here are a few example projects they have been working on.

## ZARA - WOMEN & GIRLS FOOTBALL

My school had no girls provision and I have started 2 girls' team yr7/8 and 9/10 with over 20 girls playing football in school. I have also joined the young female coaching group at Manchester FA

## EMMANUEL - GOVERNANCE

Since joining Manchester FA Young Leaders I made my intentions to get experience in Governance and I am the voice of young people at board level. I have joined the inclusion and diversity board, both roles are allowing me to network and gain industry experience. Representing the young people on the board allows me to internally govern and steer the group that aligns our game strategy 22/23

## WILL - REFEREE MENTAL HEALTH

I have been refereeing for over a year and a half now. Through this I have been able to get to know other refs and get to know how much abuse refs can get. As they get abuse it can really make an impact on referees mental health. I feel most coaches, parents and players don't realise the impact it has on the referees after they game. This is why as a young leader I would like to help out on referees mental health by making them more aware that they have somewhere that they can go if they are struggling with their mental health due to refereeing.

## MIA - MEDIA

Joined Young Leaders with a passion for media and has volunteered filming the online stream for county cups. Leading a project filming a county cup final documentary to highlight the clubs through to finals.



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