



THE FA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHARTER

The FA's promise to young people aged 16-25

Young people aren't just the leaders of tomorrow. They have the energy, skills and ideas to change football and the wider community for the better today.

The FA wants to establish a culture of involving young people (16-25 years) in the organisation of football. This approach will benefit young people, promote better informed and more representative decision making, and bring through a new generation of volunteers into the workforce across the grassroots game. For this approach to work it needs to be based on genuine youth-adult partnerships.

The FA and its Youth Councillors will also work with its County Associations and our football partners to encourage a similar commitment and approach across the Country.

To achieve this we will consult and involve young people. We will promote the concept and benefits of youth leadership and volunteering within the FA and with our football partners. We will deliver programmes and events created, directed and staffed by young people that demonstrate this commitment.

CONSULT

- Involve young people in our policy-making and governance structures – specifically The FA Council, The FA Inclusion Advisory Board and the FA Youth Participation Committee.
- Build relevant communication channels to talk directly with Young people as to the opportunities available to them.
- Commission research to ensure that our programmes are relevant and attractive to the young people they seek to engage.
- Support the running of a National Youth Council as a key reference point for the FA's work with young people. The National Youth Council will in turn support the operation of County FA Youth Councils.

INVOLVE

- Ensure the young people in our leadership programmes reflect football's diversity by reviewing our recruitment procedures and operating a Youth Forum drawing representatives from a wider range of organisations and backgrounds.
- Offer meaningful and salaried entry-level jobs and apprenticeships at the Football Association.

PROMOTE

- Seek out and share good practice to demonstrate what can be done when young people are meaningfully engaged in the governance, organisation and development of football.
- Work with the football network to provide opportunities for young people to take leadership responsibility in clubs, leagues and other football programmes.

DELIVER

- Use the events we stage (e.g. major tournaments, international matches, Cup Finals, etc.) to provide high quality volunteer staff to the organisers and leadership development opportunities for the young people involved.
- Run an annual FA Leadership Academy, framed and led by young leaders. The Academy will develop the skills of its participants and celebrate their successes in community football.

By adopting the approach and measures listed above we believe we can derive huge benefits to the young people engaged, the organisation of football and health and the wellbeing of wider society.