

YEF Detached Youth Work Project Lead

Recruitment Pack



Salary:	£35,481.60 - £36,348.67 (JNC Points 20-21)
Hours:	35 hours per week (Mon - Fri, 3 evenings per week)
Location:	M13 office & community locations
Deadline:	12 noon, Thurs 8 th October 2026



Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in joining M13 Youth Project.

This is an exciting opportunity to lead M13's delivery of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Detached Youth Work Pilot. As YEF Detached Youth Work Project Lead, you will combine outstanding detached youth work practice with day-to-day leadership of an ambitious programme that will help shape the future of detached youth work nationally.

You will spend much of your week building trusted relationships with young people in parks, streets and neighbourhoods, while developing strong relationships with local residents, community organisations and partner agencies across the project's neighbourhoods. Alongside this, you will lead a small team, coordinate delivery, support reflective practice, oversee monitoring and evaluation, liaise with community groups and ensure high-quality implementation of the YEF Shared Practice Model.

If you are passionate about detached youth work, committed to social justice and excited by the opportunity to make a lasting difference to young people's lives, we'd love to hear from you.



About M13 Youth Project

M13 Youth Project exists because relationships matter.

Every young person deserves trusted adults who believe in them, walk alongside them and help them discover who they are, what they have to offer and the difference they can make. Yet, in the communities where M13 works, too many young people are growing up amidst deep-rooted inequality. For many, trusting and supportive relationships with adults can be difficult to find, and opportunities to thrive are limited.

Our response is simple and radical: we go to where young people are.

For more than 30 years, M13 has worked alongside young people through detached youth work, meeting them on the streets, in parks and in the places where they choose to spend their time. We believe trust is built on young people's terms, not ours. Through conversation, curiosity, fun, informal education and collective action, we nurture belonging, belief and hope, creating opportunities for young people to flourish and shape their own futures.

Our purpose is to be a consistent, trusted presence in communities experiencing deep-rooted inequality. Through relational detached youth work and purposeful informal education, we support young people to develop their voice, discover their strengths and work together to create lasting change in their communities.

Our values shape everything we do

We walk alongside – building trusted relationships rooted in respect, consistency and care.

We care actively – creating welcoming, non-judgemental spaces where young people belong.

We nurture hope – believing in every young person's potential and holding hope through adversity.

We give our best – striving for excellent youth work through professionalism, reflection and continuous learning.

We speak up with courage – standing alongside young people and communities to challenge injustice and create lasting change.

At M13, we believe the relationship is the work. Everything else grows from there.

The YEF Detached Youth Work Pilot

M13 is proud to be leading the Greater Manchester consortium delivering the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Detached Youth Work Pilot, working alongside local authorities, Greater Manchester Police, community organisations and the Centre for Evidence and Implementation (CEI).

The pilot is one of four regional programmes across England and aims to build the strongest evidence to date about detached youth work. Whilst detached youth work has a long history of supporting young people and communities, there is currently limited quantitative evidence of its impact. The pilot will test a Shared Practice Model and the feasibility of evaluating detached youth work through a randomised controlled trial, laying the foundations for future national research.

Detached youth work is a community-based approach that enables qualified youth workers to engage with young people in the public spaces where they choose to spend their time. It is voluntary, relational and strengths-based, with trust built through consistent presence, authenticity and informal education rather than programmes delivered within buildings. The Shared Practice Model places particular emphasis on working with peer groups, understanding local communities, building trust over time and responding flexibly to young people's needs and priorities.

This is an opportunity to be part of a nationally significant project that combines excellent youth work practice with robust evaluation, helping to strengthen the evidence for an approach that youth workers have long known can transform young people's lives.

Who We're Looking For

We're looking for an experienced detached youth worker who shares our belief that relationships change lives.

You'll enjoy being out in communities, meeting young people where they are and building trust through consistency, conversation and genuine care. You'll be equally comfortable modelling excellent detached youth work practice and supporting colleagues to grow through encouragement, reflection and shared learning.



You'll be organised, proactive and dependable, with the confidence to take ownership, make day-to-day decisions and solve problems. You'll be comfortable coordinating people, information and activity, ensuring monitoring, evaluation and reporting are accurate, timely and of a high standard. You'll recognise that good leadership means creating the conditions for others to do their best work, while maintaining high standards yourself.

You'll also be confident building positive relationships with local residents, community organisations, partner agencies and professionals, representing M13 within the Greater Manchester consortium and working collaboratively to support the successful implementation of the Shared Practice Model and the wider research requirements.

Above all, you'll share M13's values. You'll believe in every young person's potential, lead with integrity, humility and hope, and understand that the relationship is the work. You'll be excited by the opportunity to combine frontline detached youth work with leadership of an ambitious project that transforms young people's lives locally while contributing to a national evaluation of detached youth work – helping more young people and communities benefit from high-quality relational youth work for years to come.

Job Description

Job Title: YEF Detached Youth Work Project Lead

Responsible to: Founding Director

Responsible for: Detached Youth Workers delivering the YEF Detached Youth Work Pilot

Hours: 35 hours per week (full-time equivalent 37.5 hours)



The role includes delivery of six detached youth work sessions each week (three afternoon sessions, 4.00–6.00pm, and three evening sessions, 7.00–9.00pm), alongside planning, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, partnership working and operational leadership of the project.

This is an office- and community-based role. When not delivering detached youth work or attending meetings in local neighbourhoods, the postholder will normally be based at the M13 office, working alongside colleagues to support collaborative planning, reflective practice and day-to-day project delivery.

Job Salary

JNC Scale Points 20–21: £38,016–£38,945 FTE

Pro rata (35 hours): £35,481.60–£36,348.67

Contract: Fixed term contract to 31 March 2028, with potential to transfer to other M13 work projects, funding permitting.



Job Purpose

Reporting to the Founding Director, the postholder will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership of M13's delivery of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Detached Youth Work Pilot.

The Founding Director retains overall strategic responsibility for the project and leadership of the Greater Manchester consortium. The postholder will lead M13's operational delivery of the pilot, ensuring high-quality detached youth work, effective leadership and supervision of the detached youth work team, robust monitoring and reporting, and fidelity to the YEF Shared Practice Model and wider research requirements.

Alongside leading the operational delivery of the project, the postholder will model outstanding relational youth work practice, deliver regular detached youth work sessions, support reflective practice within the team, develop strong relationships with community partners across intervention and control neighbourhoods and ensure M13 fulfils its commitments as a consortium partner.

Key Responsibilities

1. Deliver high-quality detached youth work in accordance with M13's values and the YEF Shared Practice Model, building trusted relationships with young people and responding to their needs through relational practice and informal education.
2. Lead the day-to-day operational delivery of M13's YEF Detached Youth Work Pilot, ensuring safe, consistent and high-quality implementation across intervention neighbourhoods.
3. Lead, supervise and support the detached youth work team, including planning delivery, coordinating rotas, managing annual leave and sickness, facilitating reflective practice and supporting staff development.
4. Ensure fidelity to the YEF Shared Practice Model and wider research requirements, supporting consistent delivery and helping maintain the integrity of the evaluation across intervention and control neighbourhoods.
5. Oversee the collection, quality assurance and submission of monitoring, evaluation and reporting information required by YEF, CEI and consortium partners.
6. Develop and maintain effective relationships with young people, local residents, community organisations, statutory agencies and consortium partners to support successful project delivery.
7. Represent M13 positively within partnership meetings, Communities of Practice and other project forums, contributing to shared learning and collaborative working.
8. Identify operational risks, implementation challenges and safeguarding concerns, taking appropriate action and escalating issues to the Founding Director where necessary.
9. Promote reflective practice, continuous learning and quality improvement across the project, supporting colleagues to develop confidence, competence and consistency.
10. Maintain accurate records and ensure compliance with M13 policies, including safeguarding, health and safety, equality, GDPR and organisational procedures.
11. Participate in supervision, appraisal, training and continuing professional development, modelling M13's Purpose, Mission and Values in all aspects of the role.
12. Undertake any other duties commensurate with the responsibilities of the post.

Person Specification

Please explain in your application how you meet the following criteria.

Criteria	Essential / Desirable
1 Recognised Youth Work qualification at Level 3 (NVQ or equivalent), with the ability to think critically, exercise professional judgement and work at Level 6.	E
2 JNC Professional Youth Work Qualification (Level 6 or above).	D
3 Current First Aid qualification and safeguarding training.	D
4 Three years' experience of delivering high-quality detached youth work, building trusted relationships with young people through relational practice and supporting learning through informal education.	E
5 Experience of leading or coordinating detached youth work teams or projects, including supervising, supporting and developing staff, volunteers or students.	E
6 Experience of planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on detached youth work, with the ability to maintain accurate records and demonstrate impact.	E
7 Experience of building effective relationships with young people, local communities, partner organisations and statutory agencies, and representing an organisation within partnership settings.	E
8 Experience of leading or coordinating people, projects or services, managing competing priorities and ensuring work is delivered safely, consistently and to a high standard.	E
9 Sound knowledge of detached youth work and informal education principles, safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion, and the issues affecting young people experiencing racism, inequality and disadvantage.	E
10 Ability to lead by example, make sound decisions, work independently, solve problems and take responsibility for day-to-day operational delivery of the project.	E
11 Strong organisational, communication and digital skills, including confidence using monitoring systems and producing clear reports for a range of audiences.	E
12 Understanding of, or willingness to learn, implementation fidelity, evidence-informed practice and research requirements, including the importance of maintaining consistency of delivery.	D
13 Experience of working within externally funded programmes, multi-agency partnerships or research and evaluation projects.	D
14 Commitment to reflective practice, continuous learning and developing others through encouragement, reflection and support.	E
15 Shares M13's Purpose, Mission, Vision and Values, demonstrating integrity, professionalism, resilience, compassion and a commitment to helping young people flourish.	E

What We Offer

Working at M13 is an opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of young people whilst developing your own practice within a supportive, reflective and values-led organisation. We are committed to investing in our staff, creating an environment where people are trusted, supported and encouraged to develop.

As part of our team, you'll benefit from:

- **35-hour working week (full-time equivalent 37.5 hrs)**, including six detached youth work sessions each week. This is an office- and community-based role, with some flexibility offered in when office work is undertaken where operationally possible.
- **Annual leave:** Four weeks' annual leave plus public bank holidays (pro rata), together with three additional paid 'gift days' over the Christmas closure.
- **Pension:** A 6% employer pension contribution following completion of your probationary period. Your minimum employee contribution is just 1.6%.
- **Flexible Time Off in Lieu (TOIL)** for out-of-hours working, or overtime payments where appropriate.
- **Regular supervision and reflective practice** to support your wellbeing, learning and professional development.
- **Ongoing training and development**, including opportunities to develop your leadership, detached youth work practice and professional skills.
- **The opportunity to play a leading role in the Youth Endowment Fund's Detached Youth Work Pilot**, contributing to one of the UK's most significant evaluations of detached youth work.
- **A supportive, experienced and values-led team** committed to learning together and delivering outstanding youth work.
- **The opportunity to influence the future** development of M13 whilst contributing to the future of detached youth work, locally and nationally.

Safeguarding Statement

M13 is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS check, satisfactory references and M13's safer recruitment procedures.

Race Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI)

At M13, we believe every young person deserves to feel safe, seen, heard, respected and valued. We are committed to building a diverse, inclusive organisation where equity informs how we recruit, lead, learn and work alongside young people and communities.

We recognise that excellent detached youth work requires cultural humility, curiosity and a commitment to understanding young people's lived experiences. As part of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Detached Youth Work Pilot, we are committed to embedding the principles of Race Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) throughout our practice, workforce and decision-making.

We actively encourage applications from people who are underrepresented within the youth work sector, including people from Global Majority communities and people with lived experience of the challenges facing the young people we work alongside. We are committed to equitable recruitment and will make reasonable adjustments throughout the recruitment process and in employment.

How to Apply

- **Application Deadline:** 12 noon, Thurs 8th October 2026
- **Interview Date:** tbc, possibly Fri 16th October 2026
- **Who to contact:** Helen Gatenby, 07973 976925 (or Chineze Oluwasina, 07351 730584), to ask any questions and to arrange to visit the organisation in advance of making an application.
- **How to apply** - please use this [link](#) to apply through Charity Jobs.

This platform enables us to use a 'blind recruitment' process to help ensure fair and equitable recruitment. On the platform, please submit your CV together with answers to the five questions below. Please limit each response to 250 words. We encourage you to draw on specific examples from your own practice, explaining not only what you did, but why you made particular decisions and what you learned.

Applications will be shortlisted against the Person Specification only, so please demonstrate how you meet each of the criteria through your experience and achievements. We welcome examples from paid employment, voluntary work and other relevant experience, and recognise that skills and experience may be transferable from different settings.

We recognise that applicants may choose to use AI to support the writing of their application. However, we are interested in hearing your experiences, thinking and reflections. Your application should accurately represent your own knowledge, skills and experience.



Application Questions:

1. Describe your experience of leading detached youth work. How did you: decide where and when to work; develop the work in response to young people; and ensure it was safe and effective? What did you learn?
2. Tell us about your experience of leading or supporting other youth workers. How have you helped a colleague reflect on and develop their practice and how did you know their practice was improving?
3. Describe a project or service you have coordinated. How did you manage competing priorities, monitor delivery and use information or evidence to demonstrate impact and improve the work?
4. Tell us about a situation where you worked alongside young people, community members and other professionals where there were differing needs or perspectives. How did you build relationships, navigate those differences and achieve a positive outcome?
5. M13 believes that relationships are the work. What does this mean to you in practice, and what interests you about leading a detached youth work project that combines relational youth work with research and evaluation?

We are currently advertising other detached youth worker jobs related to this project. Please check out our website www.m13youthproject.org.uk for more information.