

Trustee

Recruitment Pack

m13
Youth Project

Open Evening: 5.45pm - 8.20pm, Wednesday 14th October, 2026

Location: Brunswick Church Hall, Brunswick St, M13 9SX

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Youth Project

Welcome from our Chair of Trustees

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of M13 Youth Project.

Beginning in Ardwick in 1995, M13 Youth Project has been serving Manchester communities for over 30 years, building an outstanding reputation for high-quality youth work, deep community roots and a long-term commitment to children and young people. Today, the organisation is recognised nationally for its expertise in detached youth work and for the impact it continues to have on the lives of young people.

What impresses me most about M13 is its unwavering commitment to showing up consistently, particularly in communities where opportunities can be limited and challenges are significant. Through its work, young people are supported to build confidence, develop leadership skills, strengthen their sense of belonging and create positive change for themselves and those around them.

As Chair of Trustees, I have the privilege of seeing first-hand the dedication, creativity and professionalism of our staff, volunteers and supporters. Their commitment ensures that M13 remains a trusted and respected organisation while continuing to adapt and respond to the changing needs of young people.

As we look to the future, we are seeking new Trustees who can bring fresh perspectives, skills and experience to help shape the next chapter of M13's development. Your contribution could help ensure the organisation remains strong, sustainable and impactful for years to come.



Trustees play an essential role in providing strategic oversight, supporting good governance and championing the values that have guided M13 throughout its history. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to an organisation that is making a meaningful difference every day.

We would be delighted to hear from people who share our passion for young people, thriving communities and social justice.

If you'd like to see the fruit of our work for yourself, you are warmly invited to our upcoming Open Evening and Annual Meeting on Wednesday 14th October. Please contact me on trustees@m13youthproject.org.uk for further details.

Dr Matthew Harrison
Chair of Trustees

Message from our Founder

Thirty years ago, I started M13 because I believed something very simple, rooted in my faith that every young person is created in the image of God, our Father: all young people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity; and all young people can love, think, create, reflect, enjoy and make a positive difference in the world. Therefore every young person deserves to have trusted adults in their lives who genuinely care about them, listen to them and nurture this inherent potential.

Moving into Ardwick as a young adult in 1989, I came to appreciate the significant personal and systemic challenges and inequalities that local young people faced as they grew up. So much happened to young people that was out of their control – things that we would now refer to Adverse Childhood Experiences – that were beyond the capacity of family resources and community networks to sufficiently address and heal.

Young people needed safe spaces, positive opportunities and adults who could consistently walk alongside them. What many young people needed was not another programme being done to them, but meaningful relationships built on trust, respect and genuine care.

That belief led to the creation of M13 Youth Project in 1995. We began with a commitment to meet young people where they are – on streets, in parks, on estates and in the places they choose to spend their time. We wanted to create an organisation that would show up consistently, listen deeply and work with young people rather than on them or for them.

Through the years, I have had the privilege of seeing young people grow in confidence, discover their strengths, find their voice support each other and overcome challenges that at times seemed overwhelming. Many have gone on to become volunteers, youth workers, parents, community leaders and role models for the next generation. Those journeys continually remind me of the extraordinary potential that exists within every young person, potential that, to be realised, often simply needs someone who believes in them.

Sadly, the deep-rooted issues of 30 years ago persist, exacerbated by social media and deepening inequality: and so the need for this work remains as important today as it was when M13 began. While the challenges facing young people continue to evolve, so too does their resilience, creativity and capacity to shape the future. Our role is to create the conditions in which those qualities can flourish.

I am incredibly proud of what young people and M13 have created and achieved together through the past three decades, but I'm even more excited about what lies ahead. By becoming a Trustee, you will help safeguard the values on which M13 was founded and ensure that future generations of young people experience hope, belonging, belief and the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for considering joining us in this important work.

Dr Helen Gatenby
Founder, M13 Youth Project



Who we are

M13 Youth Project is a Manchester-based youth work charity working alongside children and young people in Ardwick and Hulme and young dads city-wide.

Established in 1995 by Dr Helen Gatenby in Ardwick, we have built a national reputation for delivering high-quality detached youth work, informal education and consistent relationship-based practice that supports young people and young dads to flourish.

Our work is rooted in long-term trusted relationships. Each year we work with hundreds of children, young people and young dads through street-based detached youth work, group work, community activities, leadership opportunities and targeted projects.

We create spaces where young people feel valued, heard and supported, enabling them to explore who they are, develop their strengths and work together to make positive change.

Our caring approach is informed by the principles and practices of youth work, informal education and trauma-informed practice, underpinned by our open and inclusive Christian value base that emphasises love and justice. We believe all young people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and that each young person can love, think, create, reflect, enjoy, achieve and make a positive difference to their world.



Why M13 matters

Many of the communities where M13 works experience persistent social and economic inequalities.

Young people often face barriers including poverty, racism, difficult childhood experiences, limited opportunities, exclusion and a lack of access to trusted adult relationships.

Our response is simple but powerful: we show up consistently, we listen and walk alongside young people.

The relationship is the work.

Through trusted relationships and informal education, young people develop hope, belonging and belief. They discover their voice, strengthen their confidence and realise their ability to shape their own futures and influence the communities around them.



Our Purpose

We exist to be a consistent, trusted presence in communities experiencing deep-rooted inequality. We walk alongside young people, nurturing hope, belonging and belief so they can flourish and help shape thriving communities for generations to come.

Our Mission

We do this through relational detached youth work and purposeful informal education, working alongside young people to create opportunities to learn about themselves, others and the world, to develop their voice and power, and to work together to create lasting change in their communities.

Our Vision

Our vision is of thriving communities where every young person grows up knowing who they are, believing in their power to shape the future, and passing on hope from one generation to the next.

Our Theory of Change

Young people flourish through trusted relationships, meaningful opportunities and purposeful informal education. As they grow in hope, belonging and belief, they find their voice and develop their power, creating lasting change in their communities and passing on hope to the next generation.

Our Values

We Walk Alongside - We meet young people where they are, building trusted relationships rooted in respect, consistency and trust.

We Care Actively - We listen deeply, notice what matters and create welcoming spaces where young people feel safe, supported and able to be themselves.

We Nurture Hope - We believe in every young person's worth and potential and work alongside them to create a fairer future.

We Give Our Best - We bring professionalism, reflection, honesty and integrity to our work and continually seek to improve.

We Speak Up With Courage - We challenge injustice, amplify young people's voices and use our influence to create lasting change.

For more information visit our [website](#)

Governance and Leadership

M13 is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees who generously contribute their time, expertise and enthusiasm. The board provide strategic leadership, oversight and accountability for the charity. The board meets throughout the year working closely with Helen and the staff team to:

- Set strategic direction
- Ensure good governance and legal compliance
- Protect the charity's purpose, reputation and accountability
- Oversee financial stewardship and sustainability
- Recruit, support, supervise and appraise the Director/CEO
- Manage risk
- Monitor organisational performance and support development
- Oversee safeguarding and champion the voices and interests of young people

As M13 develops its next strategic phase, Trustees will have a significant opportunity to shape the future of a respected and impactful youth work organisation.

Looking ahead

As M13 celebrates more than 30 years of youth work practice, we are undertaking significant reflection and planning for the future.

We are:

- Evaluating our long-term impact
- Researching future need within our communities
- Developing strategic priorities for the next five years
- Strengthening organisational systems and sustainability
- Building on our national reputation for detached youth work excellence
- Expanding opportunities for young people to influence and shape our work

This is an exciting time to join the Board and contribute to the next chapter of M13's story.

M13's Charitable Status

M13 Youth Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, CIO, registered with the Charity Commission, no. 1197730.

If you would like to read more about our Charitable Objects or view our recent accounts, you can do so here on the [Charity Commission website](https://www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

Why become a Trustee?

Trusteeship with M13 offers an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of children and young people in Manchester.

As a Trustee you will:

Make a Lasting Difference

Help ensure young people have access to trusted relationships, opportunities and support.

Shape Strategic Direction

Contribute to the future development of a respected charity with a strong track record and clear purpose.

Use Your Skills for Good

Apply your professional knowledge and experience to create positive social impact.

Develop Leadership Experience

Gain valuable experience in governance, strategic planning and organisational development.

Join a Passionate Community

Work alongside committed Trustees, staff, volunteers and young people who believe in the power of relationships and community.

Support Social Justice

Help tackle inequality and create opportunities for young people to flourish.

Trustee Person Specification

We welcome applications from individuals with a broad range of skills, backgrounds and lived experience.

We are particularly interested in individuals with expertise or experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Previous or current members of M13 Youth Project
- Young person / young dad lived experience / community member
- Parent / carer of M13 member
- Youth work, education or community development experience
- Organisational governance / change management
- Mediation/ coaching/ supervision / line management / performance management

Personal Qualities

We are looking for people who can demonstrate:

- Commitment to the purpose, mission and values of M13
- Genuine belief in the potential of young people
- Willingness to challenge constructively
- Good communication and listening skills
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Commitment to equality, inclusion and anti-oppressive practice
- Understanding of good governance, or willingness to learn

Time Commitment

We anticipate Trustees will contribute approximately:

- Four to six Board meetings annually
- Participation in occasional sub-groups or working groups
- Attendance at key organisational events where possible
- Approximately 2–4 hours per month on average

Trustee roles are voluntary and unpaid. Reasonable expenses can be reimbursed.

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 trustees, staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Trustees are subject to an Enhanced DBS check, as part of M13's safer recruitment procedures.

Race Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

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 governance requires cultural humility, curiosity and a commitment to understanding young people's lived experiences. M13 is committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals who are currently under-represented in charity governance, including people from Global Majority backgrounds, younger adults, disabled people and those with lived experience relevant to our work. The minimum age requirement for an M13 Trustee is 16 yrs.

We believe a diversity of voices, perspectives and experiences strengthens our governance and improves our impact.

How to Apply

To apply, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- Please tell us your name and which part of Greater Manchester you are from
- Why you would like to become a Trustee of M13 Youth Project
- What experience, skills and perspectives you would bring to the Board
- How you connect with our purpose, vision and values

You can answer these questions either by writing them, or through video/audio-note.

- For written responses, we are looking for answers of around 600 – 750 in total.
- For video/ audio responses, we are looking for a video / voice note of 6-7 minutes long

Applications should be sent to:

- Matt Harrison
- Chair of Trustees
- trustees@m13youthproject.org.uk

Relationships matter

At M13, we believe every young person deserves trusted adults who believe in them, listen, walk alongside them and help them discover their potential.

If you share that belief and would like to help shape the future of a charity that has been transforming lives for over thirty years, we would love to hear from you.



Join us at our Open Evening

We would warmly encourage prospective applicants to arrange an informal conversation and visit to learn more about our work before applying.

You are warmly invited to visit us, meet and hear from young people and chat with Trustees at our upcoming **Open Evening on Wednesday 14th October 2026** at Brunswick Church Hall, Brunswick St, M13 9SX.

For more information please email Matt on trustees@m13youthproject.org.uk . We look forward to hearing from you.