

# Getting Birmingham ready for the Commonwealth Games



04 February, 2019

A leading housing association will help Birmingham get ready for the Commonwealth Games in 2022 by introducing youth mentors in the city.

Accord Housing Association, working in partnership with the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership (BSHP), has secured funding from Clarion Futures, which will allow the organisations to introduce the Community Integration Project.

The project aims to engage with young people aged 16 – 25 to deliver a series of activities and initiatives ahead of 2022 that will help Birmingham – become Commonwealth Games ready – , these will include:

- Creating Young Volunteer roles as part of the preparations for the Games
- Put on celebratory local community events
- Ensure communities are attractive and welcoming to all visitors to the city and remain so as a legacy of the games.
- Utilise and enhance open spaces
- Build team-working and sustained community integration across ethnic and geographical boundaries
- Maximise the economic potential that the games brings to the city for all residents

Clarion Futures is funding the programme by providing Â£10,000 and Accord will work with the organisation to put the programme together.

Futures supports more than 25 community ambassador programmes for young people across the country.

Sara Woodall, Executive Director of Communities at Accord said: âThis is an exciting opportunity for young people to get involved in the build up to what will be a huge event for Birmingham and help the city become Commonwealth Games ready. We look forward to working with our partners to deliver this exciting programme funded by Clarion Futures.â

Martyn Hale, Director of Care & Support for WM Housing Group and Chair of BSHP added: âWe hope that by introducing youth mentors it will help us promote Birmingham as a city ahead of the games and hopefully, like London 2012, create a lasting legacy when the Commonwealth Games come an end.â

Marta Rios, the I will Project Lead from Clarion Futures also added: âWe support ambassador programmes for young people across the country. The benefits of this innovative volunteering programme have been extraordinary for young people and their communities. We are delighted to be working with Accord and look forward to seeing the projects grow and succeed.â

For more information about the programme or to find out how you can be involved please email Natalie Jones, Head of New Initiatives at Accord on [natalie.jones@accordgroup.org.uk](mailto:natalie.jones@accordgroup.org.uk) or call 07974 659182.

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