**Expression of Interest**

West Midlands Combined Authority are currently seeking prospective partners from the voluntary and community sector to be included in our application for The National Lottery ‘Reaching Communities England’ fund.

**Intent**

We are looking to utilise The National Lottery funding to support disadvantaged young people to access the Commonwealth Games Volunteering Programme through the Jobs and Skills Academy.

This would be achieved though:

* Providing Community engagement in nominated wards
* Case loading disadvantaged young people to support them through the transition points of the Commonwealth Games volunteering programme
* Supporting young people to transition into employment utilising their Games experience

# **Context**

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) provides a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for the people of Birmingham and the West Midlands. This will include using the Games as a catalyst to accelerate and amplify the delivery of more skills and jobs for local people*.*

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is the lead for the Jobs and Skills Legacy workstream, for the B2022 Commonwealth Games Legacy Programme.

WMCA and B2022 agreed to ‘brand’ employment and skills programmes under the banner of the Commonwealth Jobs and Skills Academy.

**Jobs and Skills Academy**

The Commonwealth Games brings enormous employment and skills opportunities to the region. The Jobs and Skills Academy is a critical delivery mechanism to ensure that these much needed opportunities are connected to young people and unemployed residents.

This will be done by working with partners, such as the B2022 Organising Committee- to create meaningful job and volunteering opportunities and by providing training and support to allow residents to access these opportunities.

**Prospective Partners**

We are looking for expressions of interest from organisations with an experience of working with young people and who already have a presence within the nominated wards.

We are looking to partner with one organisation in each ward, working with a maximum 9 organisations to support the direct delivery.

The intention is to support 100 young people in each ward between Spring 2021 to December 2022.

The wards identified are those of the key Commonwealth Games venues within the West Midlands Combined Authority geography reflected in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Venue | Ward |
| West Park (Wolverhampton) | Park Ward (Wolverhampton) |
| Sutton Park | Sutton Trinity |
| Alexander Stadium | Perry Common |
| Sandwell Aquatic Centre | Smethwick |
| Arena Birmingham | Ladywood |
| University of Birmingham / Edgbaston | Edgbaston |
| Smithfield | Bordesley & Highgate |
| NEC | Bickenhall |
| Ricoh Arena (Coventry) | Longford and Holbrook |

**Expression of Interest Process**

For any queries please email [CWG@wmca.org.uk](mailto:CWG@wmca.org.uk)

For any organisations interested in becoming a partner and being part of the WMCA application could you please complete the attached template and return to [CWG@wmca.org.uk](mailto:CWG@wmca.org.uk) by 2 February.

|  |
| --- |
| **Name of Organisation** |
|  |
| **Organisation Address** |
|  |
| **Key Contact** |
|  |
| **Contact Details** |
|  |
| **Ward Preference** |
|  |
| **Please outline how your organisation currently engages with young people within your community (No more than 500 words)** |
|  |
| **Please outline your experience of supporting young people (particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds) to achieve their goals – No longer than 500 words** |
|  |

Please return completed forms to [CWG@wmca.org.uk](mailto:CWG@wmca.org.uk) by Tuesday 2nd February.