CORE MEMORIES FUND

COMMUNITY CIRCLE APPLICATION PACK



hello@youngmerton.org
074 6315 0520
www.youngmerton.org



YOUNG VOICES + COMMUNITY WISDOM = COLLECTIVE CHOICES

Young Merton is looking for **15 people from across Merton** to join our **Community Circle** and help decide how we distribute our new **Core Memories Fund** for local young people.



The Community Circle will bring together people of different ages, backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. Combining young people's voices with the lived experience and local knowledge of people who understand their needs, ambitions and barriers.

Together, you'll help us decide where the money goes.

You don't need to be a grant-making expert. You don't need to work for a charity. And you don't need to have sat on a panel before.

We want people who know and care about their community, have ideas about what local young people need, and are willing to listen, ask questions and contribute to shared decisions.

YOUNG MERTON

ABOUT YOUNG MERTON

Young Merton is the **infrastructure organisation behind Merton's youth sector**. We bring together the people, organisations and partnerships supporting young people across the borough.

We believe that when the people supporting young people are connected, championed, cultivated and catalysed, young people have a better chance to thrive.

Our vision is a **Merton where no young person's future is limited by luck, postcode or circumstance.**

You can find out more about us at **www.youngmerton.org**

ABOUT THE CORE MEMORIES FUND

The Core Memories Fund starts with a simple belief: every young person deserves the chance to have experiences they remember for the right reasons. Moments of joy, connection, discovery, creativity, adventure and belonging.

We've created a local fund to support our members in making these experiences possible - **helping young people build independence through positive childhood experiences**, develop trusted relationships with adults, and have a meaningful voice in shaping the opportunities available to them.



BY THOSE WHO KNOW, FOR THOSE WHO COME NEXT



Traditional grant funding often relies heavily on written applications, with decisions made by people who may not have a deep connection to the communities they're investing in. **Our Core Memories fund is deliberately doing things differently.**

We think that funding should be a collaborative process, shaped by people who know their communities best. So, we've developed the fund's initial design alongside Merton's voluntary sector, listening to organisations about the barriers created by traditional funding and exploring what could work better.

We are passionate about young people having a central role in deciding which proposals receive funding. But we don't think they should have to make those decisions alone. They are part of communities of people with their own knowledge, relationships and lived experiences - from the nan helping to raise six grandchildren, to the dad who is a governor and knows the local schools inside out, or the local barber who's spent 20 years listening to conversations in his chair.

This is where the Community Circle comes in. Bringing young people together with people who know their communities, understand their needs and care about their futures. Together, they will bring different perspectives, challenge assumptions and make decisions rooted in the realities of life in Merton.

YOUNG MERTON

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We want the Community Circle to **reflect the different people and communities that make up Merton.** We welcome applications from anyone who:

- is aged 16 years old or over
- lives, works or attends school/ college in Merton
- can read and discuss information in English
- is comfortable asking questions and sharing views
- is willing to listen to different perspectives
- cares about the experiences and opportunities of local children and young people

You don't need formal qualifications or any experience of how grants work. **Your lived experience and knowledge of your community are what we value most.**





WHAT CAN WE OFFER YOU?



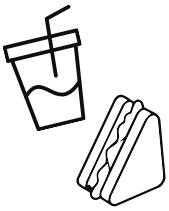
Payment at London Living Wage (which is currently £14.80 per hour)

Flexible shift options that work around you





Training in your role and ongoing support throughout



Refreshments during all shift



Connection to other community members

Access to power and local decision makers



YOUNG MERTON



READY TO APPLY?

We want the application process to be as accessible as possible.

Just tell us about yourself, using **the questions on our short form**, in whatever format works best for you - writing, audio or video. If you need help applying or would like to talk to someone before applying, email **hello@youngmerton.org**

If you are selected, you will need to commit to an in-person meeting at a local community venue roughly **once a month**, mainly on a **Friday**, between **5.30-8.30pm**. Not every Community Circle member will need to take part in every meeting and we will give you plenty of notice.

You will also need to attend a training day, to help you participate confidently. We'll cover things like the fund's purpose, how to assess applications, making fair and consistent decisions, confidentiality and conflicts of interest.