

Rochdale Youth Service Open Award Centre Team

This group operates from Matthew Moss Youth Centre on a weekly basis. It is open to any young person regardless of ability or experience from the Borough of Rochdale who wishes to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award. The project is run by Rochdale Youth Service as part of its wider youth provision in the Borough.

The staff team is made up of a mix of people including paid Youth Service staff, volunteers from across the Borough and young adults who were previously participants and have returned as peer mentors. Countless hours of dedication and commitment from the team provides a seamless programme for young people. All believe in the equality and potential of every young person. They work effortlessly to build an atmosphere of openness and inclusivity that is integral to Youth Work principles and practice.

The team stay away from the comfort of their own homes and pleasure of their families to provide such opportunities for young people on many weekends, overnight stays and multi-day/night residentials and expeditions. Without the support of our volunteers and peer mentors, the Open Award Centre would fail to provide such a provision.

The team goes beyond their working roles to deliver the most of every opportunity so that the young people can experience valuable lessons for life. This has seen a wide spectrum of young people coming together to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. From young people with disabilities, to young people from opposite ends of the economic spectrum. All working together without being defined in boxes, categories or labels in a safe, supportive atmosphere. Wider impacts can be calculated through the many voluntary, third sector organisations, schools and faith based groups throughout Rochdale who have benefitted from having young people volunteer with them as part of their D of E programme.

For further information contact:

Caroline Wolfenden

Head of Corporate Policy, Performance and Improvement – Rochdale Council

Caroline.Wolfenden@Rochdale.gov.uk | Tel: 01796 924 734



People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first

E: comms@councils.coop | T: [@CoopInnovation](https://www.coopinnovation.co.uk) | W: [councils.coop](https://www.councils.coop)