

LTA YOUNG PERSON'S WELFARE AMBASSADOR ROLE PILOT

The LTA are launching a 1-year pilot of a **Young Person's Welfare Ambassador** role. The introduction of this voluntary role also forms part of our current safeguarding strategy with an aim to:

Provide a young person's voice and perspective to promote safeguarding and welfare at LTA registered venues. The Young Person's Welfare Ambassador will be working closely with the venue Welfare Officer and the LTA to explore ways of further engaging children and young people with a view to removing any barriers to seeking support.

Please find attached a role description for further details.

The Young Person's Welfare Ambassadors will support venue Welfare Officers in their role at the club by:

- Providing additional support in meeting the safeguarding standards by providing ideas and a child's voice to raise safeguarding awareness amongst young people (and thus survey scores) across the venue
- Future proofing the club around safeguarding and welfare, with a focus on digital/social media
- Engagement of young people at the club to ensure safeguarding is understood and embedded.
- Promotion of the club and potential increase in membership

You may recall that in 2022 you helped share a link to a survey for children and young people within your county. This survey was designed to establish children and young people's understanding of welfare and safeguarding topics as part of the LTA Safeguarding Team's commitment to promote the importance of safeguarding at clubs, venues and counties.

Now that the survey is closed, we wanted to share some of the feedback with you and **update you on an exciting project** that this has helped to develop. In total 123 children and young people completed the survey, and the following key messages were identified:

66% of respondents did not know who their Club Welfare Officer was

50% of respondents were unsure or think it is OK for certain interactions with coaches to take place (such as transporting children alone to coaching sessions which could amount to a breach of the coach code of conduct)

It is clear from the results that children and young people need a better understanding of the Welfare Officer role, processes, materials and support available to them around safeguarding in tennis venues. The Young Person's Welfare Ambassador's will also assist the LTA in the development of safeguarding materials for young people.

As this is a pilot programme, we are looking to engage with approximately 25 children and young people aged between 11-25 from across the country. We therefore wanted to ask for your help by letting us know if you are aware of any young people, either directly or indirectly, who might be interested in getting involved in this pilot programme.

These young people may have a keen interest in tennis developments at their club or nationally or perhaps someone who is looking to support their local venue, add something to their CV for college, a future career or UCAS applications, or would simply like to learn some new skills. We would be looking for the young people to be from different types of venue (e.g., small, large, performance etc), and for the venue committee/management to ideally be receptive to working with the LTA (and the young person) on a programme like this.

As part of the LTA's mission to open tennis up, we are keen to engage a diverse group of young people and are looking for children and young people from different backgrounds, genders, ethnicity and disability.

As such, if you know of anyone who you think would or might be interested, could you please let us know **by Monday 13th March 2023**. If you would like to discuss this with the venue and/or the young person first, that is fine although there is no expectation or obligation for you to do this. Enclosed are some additional materials that you can print off or send to them for more information about the role.

To let us know the details of any young people who might be/are interested, please send the following details to YPWA@lta.org.uk.

Name

Age

Club name

Please note, by sharing their details this does not form part of any formal application process and we will contact them to discuss further.

This information has also been shared directly with County Safeguarding Officers.

If in the meantime you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via YPWA@lta.org.uk.