



Organisational Development, Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Moss Side Fire Station Boxing Club

Based on an active fire station, Moss Side Fire Station Boxing Club (MSFSBC) was founded in 2008 and is run by volunteers. Recently the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) appointed a Business Development Manager to support the club. The Club has a committee of 10 members, including a head and assistant head teacher, who work alongside the 20 coaches and volunteers. On an average week the club has 350 young people and adults attending activities which include boxing coaching and fitness sessions.



MSFSBC is based in the socially and economically deprived area of Moss Side. In the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation, Moss Side was ranked 411 out of 32,844 in England.

The Club are at the heart of a socially and economically deprived community with a high number of disaffected young people. MSFSBC provides a facility that offers an alternative from situations that can result in young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, street crime and gang membership. MSFSBC engage with socially excluded, marginalised and vulnerable groups who are currently underrepresented. The work with adults, schools and targeted groups demonstrates their pride of inclusion for all.

Using the power of boxing, MSFSBC work on making people's experience a positive and potentially life-changing one.

The club opens seven days a week. Monday-Friday every evenings with some afternoon classes for the local University, probation service and schools. In addition to this, MSFSBC take a mobile boxing ring into schools (five in 2017) to recruit new members. This has been extremely successful.

MSFSBC use boxing to engage with individuals from the community, to act as role models and to change attitudes. There are two main reasons many of the members join the club:

Health and fitness: Developed and implemented after personal consultation with the individual, an intense programme of activities covering all areas of physical development takes place alongside a strict nutritional plan. Members, particularly the



younger ones, have taken this very seriously and MSFSBC have seen fantastic results in the increased fitness of beneficiaries since they started.

Sporting achievement: The boxers have attend over 40 competitive events across the country per year and MSFSBC have produced International, national and regional champions. However, this is just where the work begins as the main focus is on sport for all but success does help promote the club.

Members have benefited from: Raised self-esteem, an increase in ambition, a united identity, mentoring, development of life skills, diversionary activities. MSFSBC promote the general health and fitness of members. The impact MSFSBC have goes far beyond this as they help develop important life skills including punctuality, discipline, and respect. MSFSBC raise the expectations of members by promoting positive self-image and esteem. MSFSBC provide an environment that encourages respect for oneself, others, and the community, including a strong anti-bullying policy where members are asked to identify someone at their school who has been bullied and take them under their wing. MSFSBC also broaden the horizons of members and encourage greater community cohesion; as a club MSFSBC offer a united identity for people from a wide range of backgrounds.

MSFSBC have used a number of different services offered by Macc and have found the quality of service to be excellent. We have advertised and recruited new volunteers to support the boxing clubs development, found pots of funding and have accessed workshops to support personal development.

“I would highly recommend the Governance training for committee and trustee members especially if you are a new organisation, going through organisational change or just looking to upskill existing members.”

“Macc have assisted us by delivering a workshop on Roles of Trustees which helped all members understand their roles as future trustees and have helped us advertise and recruit volunteers for key roles.”

“We have seen an increase in volunteers, especially where we have had skill gaps and volunteers also have a better understanding of their roles in the organisation.”

“Macc have played an important role in helping the boxing club develop. They have provided online resources, training and access to new volunteers which has been of great benefit to the boxing club. The service we have received has been first class and we look forward to continuing to work with them.”
Roger Goodwin, Business Development Manager, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

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