Marcus' Story

Upon moving to Manchester, Marcus wanted to contribute to the community he now lived in and give back some of his free time through volunteering. After finishing his PhD at university, Marcus found a job that provided training in coding, an area that had always been of interest to him.

Our Salford CVS volunteering portal offered him a way to research current volunteering opportunities in this area and in March 2023, he registered for an IT role with Sovereign House, utilising his new knowledge to support young people in learning how to code.

Marcus joined the Sovereign House team in May and, after finding his feet as a classroom assistant for a few weeks, he took over the role of IT Tutor from someone who was leaving. This allowed him to get a feel for the role and to get to know the students before taking the lead himself. Coming from a background in teaching adults, he found the transition to working with small groups of teenagers relatively easy.

I followed up with Marcus in April 2024 to find out how his first year of volunteering had gone. He was really positive about his experience, which allowed him to not only help support students to develop but also made him personally feel more invested in the community. Rather than death by PowerPoint, he made the lessons more engaging by creating coding puzzles for them to attempt themselves which moved them on 'leaps and bounds'.

"My volunteering experience has been so rewarding. The students are fantastic, and the small class size allows me to spend time with them as individuals and provide that extra support. I always come away from class with a spring in my step"

Our volunteering portal is a good first step to learning about different types of opportunities in your local community.

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