

Opportunities for Young People



Hi, my name is Jack and I'm a Co-op Colleague Member from Macclesfield.

I've worked for Co-op for 5 years and I'm a Team Leader at Prestbury Co-op. My favourite Co-op own-brand product is Sea Salt and Chardonnay Vinegar Crisps, and the reason is simple - they taste amazing.

Picking up a bag offers something for members like me to treat themselves, whilst also doing good and giving back to my community, which is even better.

Being just 21 years old myself, I was particularly interested to learn more about the support Co-op offers young people.



I visited Co-op's support centre in Manchester and met with Mahalia from the Co-op Young Members' Group, and Becky from the Community and Member Participation Team.

I was given a tour of the building and saw a model of the new Co-op Live arena. I heard about how - as well as being an incredibly sustainable venue - it will offer job and apprenticeship opportunities to local young people.

It was particularly interesting to learn about Co-op Young Members' Group (CYMG) - a group of young members aged 16-25 who regularly work with Co-op to make sure that young member voices are being included and heard.



I also heard about the Peer Action Collective (PAC), a group of 10 to 25-year-olds working together to help young people live a life free from violence. This is an incredible project delivered in partnership with Co-op, the Youth Endowment Fund and #iwill Fund, and it's funded thanks to Co-op Members.

Young people are recruited to join PAC as peer researchers. They go out in their communities to listen to the voices of other young people and the causes and issues of youth violence. They turn what they hear into action through local projects led by those young people, with the aim to make their communities safer and fairer places to live.

The biggest impact on me is knowing that Co-op are wanting to help young people through projects like this, so they can have a say and make a difference themselves.



Learning about the CYMG and PAC and the work they do has encouraged me to use my membership card even more as I know it is helping to provide so much support for young people, and that's something I care about a lot. It also epitomises what Co-op is about, caring for people in the community.

Every time I swipe or scan my membership card, I know I'm getting some amazing products that taste as good as anything else I could buy, but even better, I'm also helping someone in my community, the people I speak to every single day.

Thanks for reading!

Jack