

# Operation Black Vote & Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Civic Leadership Programme 2021

## Programme Outline

### **Introduction: Greater Manchester's Civic Leaders**

Operation Black Vote in partnership with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is delighted to launch a unique Civic Leadership Programme to nurture Greater Manchester's future leaders. The aim of the project is to address the deficit of communities facing racial inequality in all areas and at levels of civic and public life.

Building upon the unprecedented success of Operation Black Vote's award winning Shadowing Schemes – MP, Magistrates, Councillor, National Assembly for Wales and Parole Board – this project aims to help tackle the under representation of communities facing racial inequality in many areas of civic and public life and also demystify the functions of key public institutions.

### **Programme aims and objectives:**

- To gain invaluable experience of life as a Public Appointee
- To give participants the opportunity to explore their chosen areas of public life
- To obtain a variety of transferable skills and the confidence to use those skills to consider become a civic leader
- To equip participants with both the knowledge and the confidence to speak to others about civic engagement, and how they may get involved
- To improve the representation of communities facing racial inequality in areas of public life throughout Greater Manchester
- To give Public Appointees the opportunity to gain greater understanding of different aspects of the diverse communities they seek to serve.

### **Who is eligible?**

We are looking for 30 dynamic individuals from communities facing racial inequality, aged 18 upwards, with an emphasis on 18-30 year olds who live or work in Greater Manchester with a keen interest in positively contributing to their community. Any barriers to digital inclusion or caring responsibilities will be addressed if you are successful in gaining a place on the Programme.

### **What does the programme comprise of?**

The programme will be based in Greater Manchester and comprise approximately 6-10 non-consecutive days over a six month period. (Number of days will vary from a minimum of 6 days to a maximum of 10 days dependent upon the number of areas of public life you wish to observe).

Individuals will participate in a mixture of observation and training sessions across four areas of public life. Candidates may choose between 2-4 areas of public life from the following areas:

**Education:** School Governors  
**Policing:** Safer Neighbourhood Panels  
**Criminal Justice System:** Magistrates

**Health:** Health Boards within the Greater Manchester NHS Partnership  
**Voluntary Sector:** Trustees  
**Local Government:** Councillors.

The initiative will focus on giving participants first-hand knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of Board Members, Trustees and other public appointees and an insight into the systems and procedures of public bodies. Our aim is that upon completion, this leadership programme will equip and motivate participants to engage in public life. Participants will also be encouraged to become Community Ambassadors, explaining and promoting the benefits of civic engagement and encouraging others to become involved in community affairs. The Programme will also give Board Members and public appointees an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of communities facing racial inequality. OBV view this process as essential to involving communities facing racial inequality in the wide scope of activities within the decision-making process.

### **The Process**

OBV in conjunction with GMCA will select a total of 30 men and women to participate in the Programme. Candidates will comprise a mix of people from communities facing racial inequality.

Participants will follow a programme devised by OBV that allows a unique perspective of the work in up to four areas of public life: School Governor, Safer Neighbourhood Panel Member, Magistrate, Health Board Member, Trustee and Councillor.

**Participants will attend observation and training sessions that will allow them to become familiar with:**

- How each area of public life works
- Roles and responsibilities of being a Public Appointee
- The process and procedures of each area of public life
- Benefit to the community of each area of public life
- How Public Appointments are made.

**The Programme also includes a learning seminar looking at areas such as:**

- Developing leadership techniques
- Presentation and public speaking skills
- Importance of civic activism
- Issues regarding race, equality and representation of communities facing racial inequality.

### **Requirements of Applicants:**

- Applicants must be 18 years or older (with an emphasis on 18-30 year olds)
- Must demonstrate a genuine interest in community affairs
- Must be able to commit between 6-10 working days to complete the programme.  
(Number of days will vary from a minimum of 6 days to a maximum of 10 days dependent upon number of areas of public life you wish to observe).

### **Is there a fee?**

No. There is not a cost to participate on the programme, as OBV are keen to promote the benefits of engagement in civic/political life within communities facing racial inequality.

Travel (to and from the venue) and food costs (up to £5.00 per day) will be reimbursed for observation sessions and learning seminars if they are conducted in person.

### **What happens when the Programme has finished?**

OBV's Shadowing Schemes and Leadership Programmes have received numerous awards for their ability to inform and inspire. Many graduates have become Councillors, Magistrates, School Governors, with others creating political history as political firsts.

Our aim is that upon completion, this Leadership Programme will equip participants with the skills and motivations to engage in public life. All participants who successfully complete the Programme will be invited to a graduation event and awarded with a certificate.

In addition, participants will join OBV's Alumni programme, which will provide assistance, support and networking opportunities to further develop your civic aspirations.

### **What is the next step?**

If you are interested in becoming a future civic/political leader within Greater Manchester, complete the application form and return it to OBV by **midnight on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.

Applications can be obtained by:

Web: [www.obv.org.uk](http://www.obv.org.uk)  
Email: [obvschemes@gmail.com](mailto:obvschemes@gmail.com)  
Tel: 0208 983 5430

Please note that interviews will take place online from **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**. Candidates will only be required to attend one of the interview dates.