

CoderDojo Foundation
Dogpatch Labs,
The CHQ Building,
Custom House Quay,
Dublin 1

Hi CoderDojo Champion,

We are writing to you in your capacity as a named Champion or lead contact for a currently verified Dojo in England or Wales to update you on plans for the potential development of a national CoderDojo England & Wales group. We are inviting you to get involved if you would be interested in helping us take this opportunity further.

With the amazing growth of the global CoderDojo community to over 970+ clubs in 65 countries, the CoderDojo Foundation is encouraging the formation of regional and national groups where the movement has achieved scale and there are volunteers keen to help start more Dojos, as well as support existing ones. Examples of existing formal, regional groupings include Scotland, Turkey, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland and Western Australia. Regional groups largely determine for themselves how they are organised, within the framework of a standardised relationship agreement with the CoderDojo Foundation that has already been drafted. This open agreement can be read [here](#).

The initiative to create a group for England & Wales is currently being led by an existing group of volunteers and Champions including Rob Curran (Wilmslow), Johnny Caffey (London region), Ricky Graham (North East region), and Peter Wolf (Ham). They are being fully supported by the CoderDojo Foundation in assessing the interest, benefits, and possible ways forward to create a national group for England & Wales. Further information on this emerging team has been included at the end of this email.

There are presently approximately 90 verified (and presumably active) Dojos in England and Wales, but many major towns and cities have no coverage. We are very keen to grow the movement so that eventually almost all children living in England or Wales may have the opportunity to join a Dojo within reasonable travel distance from home.

In addition, the CoderDojo Foundation is fully supportive of creating some national framework for mutual support of existing Dojos, sharing resources and staging events such as local volunteer meetups, a national Coolest Projects competition and other fun activities. Any involvement by Dojos, champions and mentors in assessing and creating a regional or national group will be completely voluntary and will not affect your Dojo's listing or relationship with the CoderDojo Foundation.

If you are interested in getting involved, or even just being kept informed of developments, we are keen for you to engage directly with this emerging team so that they can better understand the current landscape in England & Wales and, with the full support of the CoderDojo Foundation, ensure that the Dojo community is able to support and shape any regional or national group which might develop as a result.

Please could you respond to this email confirming the name and email of the relevant Champion or Mentor to contact, which we will also then take as your permission to pass your details on to the relevant England & Wales contact. In addition, if you have any initial thoughts or ideas feel free to also share them and we will pass them on. Once we are able to gauge the response from the England & Wales Dojo community we can develop a series of follow up actions to engage with those interested.

Regards,

Company Number: 524255
Registered Charity Number: CHY20812

Directors: James Whelton, Sean O'Sullivan, Bill Liao, Noel Ruane, Una Fox and Cyril Treacy,

The England & Wales team

England & Wales Regional Group – current volunteer team

Rob Curran: As an early pioneer of Dojos in England, Rob has already been representing the Foundation as part of the international CoderDojo Community Committee since 2013. He has also been working alongside other organisations to assess the potential to grow the Dojo footprint within England & Wales, such as the UK Society of Chief Librarians, Hays plc, and Barclays Bank. He has also facilitated the start up of a number of new community Dojos in the North West region.

Johnny Claffey: In London, Johnny has developed strong relationships with a string of prominent corporate, festival and educational sponsors who regularly host Dojos, including: John Lewis Partnership, Thomson Reuters, Daily Telegraph, Mozilla, Web We Want, Over The Air and University College London. New Dojos are in planning with Salesforce, The Institution of Engineering Technology and Ada College. He has also led on bringing the London community Dojo's together into an informal support network, helping each other as well as supporting new start up Dojos.

Ricky Graham: Within the past 2 years Ricky has grown CoderDojo North East from its initial beginnings in 2 prominent venues to now be a cluster of 7 Dojos including Libraries, Learning Centres, and other high profile venues. This growth is forecast to continue in this region and he is now also exploring links with other corporate, social, media, and other technology organisations to help support further growth.

Peter Wolf: In addition to running his own community Dojo in Ham, Peter has been leading on the exploration of ways in which the creation of a regional body for England & Wales might actually be achieved, supporting these other champions in assessing what might be required, how things might be developed, and what is involved in doing so. He is also passionate about ensuring Dojo's are created in areas with no current coverage, as evidenced by his recent focus on getting a verified Dojo in the Bristol and London area through partnership with Ovo Energy.