# Communities and Environment Awards for Excellence 2019

## Ade Adebayo

### Nominated for Volunteer of the Year

Reason for nomination:

Ade has been volunteering at Halton Library Coderdojo since November 2018, and in that time has made a real difference to the club.

Ade is incredibly generous with his time. He comes in several hours early each fortnight, either to prepare or to run through his ideas with the Librarians. He spends hours each week coming up with session plans that will challenge young coders. He tests each idea, creates how-to guides, examples, and multiple options for different ability levels. Ade's knowledge and experience means that he's able to come up with ideas for coding challenges that no-one in the service would think of. On one occasion he created a Morse code session using BBC Micro:bits in which children coded their Micro:bits to communicate with one another in code, a challenge none of our coders had encountered before. He is also able to support our more advanced coders and work with them to make the session plans more challenging and appropriate for their needs. In this way he provides an exceptional experience to our customers.

Ade has a can-do attitude that makes him a valuable member of the team and a real support to the Library staff. He is always willing to go above and beyond, and is able to adapt quickly to unexpected situations. On one occasion Ade was left to deliver a Coderdojo session alone with only five minutes notice, due to unavoidable issues with the rest of the team. Though he was not supposed to lead this session and had no plan available to him, he thought quickly and delivered a fun, informative session that gave the attendees plenty of creative opportunity.

In addition to volunteering on Thursdays at Halton Library, Ade has volunteered additional hours at special one-off coding events at Central Library. He has been willing to give up entire Saturday mornings to support events such as the Family Code:Hack, and has proved a valuable and enthusiastic member of the team at these events. He approached families and asked if they needed any help and worked with them to develop their projects, and even stayed afterwards to support the tidy up. Ade has been described by members of the Digital team as 'fantastic', 'wonderful' and 'impressive', and has been discussed across the service as an exemplary volunteer.

Not only has Ade provided amazing digital access and support for children at Halton and Central Library, he has also achieved a lot in his personal life. When he started volunteering with us Ade was less confident of his skill set and what he brings to the table, and was uncomfortable making suggestions for improvement. In the last six months his self-confidence has grown massively, and he now leads on sessions entirely devised by himself. He is confident in approaching people, whether that be as the leader in a small session, or in a massive family event.

Ade is a fantastic volunteer who makes the digital provision at Halton Library inestimably better. Through his knowledge, enthusiasm and confidence he provides a fantastic service to our customers, and his confidence journey and willingness to support the team is inspirational. All of the above demonstrates not only his ability to work as a team for Leeds, but his ability to treat people fairly and to be open, honest and trusted.