

LFC And England International, Trent Alexander-Arnold Becomes Patron Of Mandela8

LIVERPOOL, MERSEYSIDE, ENGLAND, October 4, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Liverpool charity, Mandela8 have announced Liverpool FC and England international, Trent Alexander-Arnold as their newest patron.

The West Derby-born, twenty-one-year-old has played for both his boyhood club and his country at various levels, making his senior debut for LFC in 2016 and for the England first-team in 2018.

He has won both the PFA Young Player of the Year and the inaugural Premier League Young Player of the Season awards, has twice been named in the PFA Team of the Year, and most recently helped end Liverpool's 30-year league title drought by winning the 2019–20 Premier League earlier this year.



Trent Alexander-Arnold poses with his PFA Young Player of the Year trophy

The announcement comes as Mandela8 - the organisation behind the new Nelson Mandela memorial in Princes Park – are preparing their next 'Roots and Wings' community programme, designed for young people who lack positive role models and are at risk of criminal exploitation or violent crime.

Over 12 weeks, participants in the programme will be guided through possible solutions to prevent them re-engaging with crime and violence, building their resilience and strength to 'say no' and not get involved in situations that could put them at risk.

Alexander-Arnold was recently the subject of a documentary by local model and filmmaker Rubi Deschamps, in which the "Liverpool lad whose dream came true" spoke of his childhood, his school life, and growing up under the spotlight.

Speaking on the responsibility he feels as a role model for young people, Alexander-Arnold said:

"I've got a big platform; I know a lot of kids look up to me. It's not just about being a role model on the pitch. I want to be someone who feels as though I've made a change in the way that people think. If I get through my career and I haven't done that, then I'd see that as a failure on my part."

"The Roots and Wings programme and the work that Mandela8 does for young people in Liverpool will give kids a chance at avoiding the kind of pitfalls that are so easy to fall into if you don't have the right guidance at that age. It's why I'm delighted to become not only a supporter of the programme, but also patron for Mandela8".

The young people taking part in the Roots and Wings programme live in areas of high deprivation, where fear of crime is not unusual, and are frequently disengaged from school and at risk of permanent exclusion. This can lead to them becoming socially and economically excluded in their communities.

The programme includes restorative justice practices and aims to find enduring solutions to prevent the young people from becoming involved in crime and violence and will support them to recognise consequences, understand cause and effect, reduce naivety and increase their resilience and strength.

It will also support cultural change around the acceptability of carrying weapons and help them not succumb to peer pressure in order to develop into young leaders of the future.

Chair of Mandela8, Sonia Bassegy said: "We feel blessed that Trent wants to join Mandela8 as a patron; so many young people need role models like Trent to give them hope and aspiration. Life is really tough for young people currently, and has been for some time, so to have a positive, successful young role model to work with us is truly significant for our young people."

More on Mandela8 and the Roots and Wings programme can be found [at mandela8.org.uk](https://www.mandela8.org.uk).

Notes to Editors

About Mandela8

Mandela8 is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its initial vision is to see a permanent

artwork that functions as a unique performance, conversation and contemplation space established at a Toxteth Liverpool 8 heritage site, to celebrate, commemorate and pursue the legacy of Nelson Mandela's outstanding achievement for humanity.

The project will help to conserve and widely share existing historical and contemporary heritage, support community development and cohesion, produce a series of creative commissions and collaborations, with widespread community and educational engagement and participation.

This work will be located on an exceptional site of Heritage significance, a man-made island in the ornamental lake in Grade 2 listed Princes Park (Joseph Paxton, Architect). In the unique setting a great artwork will contribute valuably to the experience of this place for the communities of Liverpool, many of whom have been involved in the development of the ideas and designs, whilst also becoming a significant and renowned landmark for the City.

Nelson Mandela's importance to Liverpool is well documented, and in Toxteth, the area known as Liverpool 8, Mandela was, and remains, a highly significant role model.

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