



wigan youth
zone

An **OpenSpace** Youth Zone

ANNUAL REPORT



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT ONLINE

INTRODUCTION

This year's Annual Report showcases the impact of Wigan Youth Zone's response at the outset of the pandemic, providing a vital lifeline for many young people and their families in our community. However, we have not done this alone. The overwhelming spirit of our community has provided a strength that has pulled our team and the people we support through the last 12 months, making our contribution so much more valuable.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each and every person that has given their time, a donation or a kind word. It means more than you will ever know.



ANTHONY ASHWORTH-STEEN
Executive Director



RICHARD AINSCOUGH
Chair

OUR VISION

To inspire and empower young
people in Wigan and Leigh
to fulfil their potential

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



2,299

Members in total visited WYZ



500

New members this year



28,109

Visits during the year



1,987

Visits of ability members



223

Inclusion members



8,845

Activities delivered



1,799

Visits during holiday club



95%

Of Patrons retained



29

Young people mentored



402

Hours volunteers through mentoring



120

Mentor packs through Lockdown



34

Completed the Get A Job Course



20

Get a Job students gained employment



5

Young people employed through the Enterprise and Employment team



£2,240,128

Raised through fundraising

NIKKI VARLEY

It does not take much imagination to recognise the incredible difference that Wigan Youth Zone has made during the pandemic to the quality of life of the local community. It is, however, hard to appreciate just how traumatic the last 12 months have been for many, and in turn, just how invaluable is the provision that Wigan Youth Zone provides.



Our admiration for those selfless people who are providing the support is surely beyond words: it is simply priceless! We are so proud to have been able to add even further to our offer for young people this year, from a dedicated well-being team providing 1-1 holistic support for young people, to our inclusion team ensuring we are removing barriers to access the youth zone for young people with additional support needs and ensuring a level playing field for young people, and our dedicated group in partnership with Wigan Council for looked after children.

This report provides a brief, but important glimpse of how vital Wigan Youth Zone is to the local community, and I share your admiration of our staff, our members, our wonderful volunteers and of course our vital supporters. Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to change lives in such a positive way.

WIGAN YOUTH ZONE CLOSED ITS DOORS FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN, BUT WE DID NOT STOP...

Even before the onset of the pandemic, young people were already at risk of falling through the cracks in society and therefore when Covid-19 struck, it made existing issues more acute or triggered new issues in others. Young people were at their most vulnerable when services for them had to close and therefore Wigan Youth Zone played its part in supporting as many young people in Wigan and Leigh as possible.



We adapted quickly to create a Virtual Youth Zone within days of the first lockdown being announced where we were able to offer remote support via one-to-one and group video calls, check in on the phone and host engaging online activities amongst other things. Take a read through this snapshot report on ways in which we supported thousands of young people



“Virtual Youth Zone has given me an escape from everything that’s going on and has given me something positive to focus on and the daily challenges keep me occupied and able to develop my skills.”

Courtney H, Aged 16

WHAT DID WIGAN YOUTH ZONE DO DURING LOCKDOWN?

Within 72 hours of the lockdown being announced, our creative and talented team launched our ‘Virtual Youth Zone’ to provide open-access and universal content for all young people and their families to engage with. Operational seven days a week, young people can engage with our pre-recorded and live activities which cover a variety of topics



Over 550 Activity packs delivered



Over 805 calls home to our members



We helped 629 Vulnerable Members (looked after or on free school meals) with face to face sessions on 8,700 sessions



Hosted 4 holiday clubs for our most vulnerable members that saw 1,799 members

With over 151,012 Engagements with young people during lockdown Wigan Youth Zone continues to provide a vital role within its community. From ensuring young people don't go hungry to dedicated outreach support, the Youth Zone continues to embed its offer within the fabric of the borough. During the early peak of Lockdown in April, May and June, we:



Ran 188 one-hour interactive live sessions and 85 video activities that collectively attracted 84,929, likes, shares and comments



Provided opportunities for youth voice each week



Delivered 200 activity packs for our Junior and Senior Members



Hosted over 210 Zoom Sessions with 10 – 15 young people attending each one



Set up a reactive email and text support service for young people to reach out to a youth worker



Called home 591 of our members to check-in with them



Had a total Instagram reach of 16,6444 with engagement at 7928



Facilitated a total of 1,220 conversations online conversations with young people



On Facebook our reach was 640,000 with engagement of 81,000



Delivered 32 care packs on EmpowHER



24 young people on mentoring



Ran EmpowHER targeted group work for vulnerable young women four days a week



Ran 225 one-to-one Mentoring sessions for our most vulnerable members



RUBY C, AGED 13

“During Lockdown I missed my friends at Wigan Youth Zone so much, but with the help of the Virtual Youth Zone I was still connected to my favourite youth workers and my friends had the opportunity to practice cheerleading and tumblers with weekly dance zooms. I also got to dance and feature in a music video! “

DETERMINATION AND POSITIVITY

Youth workers are part-teacher, part-social worker, part mental health professional and much more. For many young people we are an extension of family. It is our duty to help them achieve the future they deserve. Through grit, determination and positivity we have come through the last 12 months and will be stronger for it.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Board at Wigan Youth Zone, I'm so proud of the way the Wigan Youth Zone team has pulled together to provide a vital lifeline for young people and their families during the unprecedented times. The team is continually adapting its offer to be able to support and respond to the changing needs of our young people and our community. With a key priority to ensure young people and staff are safe, the team has done an exceptional job in offering a structured and targeted programme that continues to give young people somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to. Thank you to everyone that has supported Wigan Youth Zone this year.



GRAHAM DOUBLESDAY

Wigan Council Representative Board Member and
Head of Targeted Youth Support Service at Wigan Council

OUR PATRONS

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank all of our Founder Patrons and Patrons for their extremely generous support over what has been an incredibly difficult year.

OUR PARTNERS



FOUNDER PATRONS



Brendan & Barbara
Ainscough

Anthony
Hitchen & Family

Bill Ainscough
& Family

Bill & Maria
Lloyd

Martin & Judith
Ainscough

PLATINUM PATRONS



Brendan & Barbara
Ainscough

Bill & Helen
Ainscough

Richard & Amy
Ainscough

Martin & Judith
Ainscough
Charity Trust

Dave Whelan
& Family

GOLD PATRONS



Anthony & Alison
Hitchen and Family

The Edwards Family
Charitable Trust

SILVER PATRONS



Roberto & Beth
Martinez

Derek & Tracey
Wignall

BRONZE PATRONS



BRONZE PATRONS continued



Daniel Halliday

Geoff Ashton

THE NUMBERS - FINANCIAL FIGURES

EXPENDITURE



£83,017

Management Cost



£104,990

Utilities and Building Costs



£164,389

Depreciation



£983,167

Staffing Costs



£78,946

Delivery Costs



£6,545

Fundraising Costs



£1,421,054

Total Expenditure

INCOME



£425,000
Local Authority



£371,354
Patrons



£1,409,590
Trusts and Grants



£103,762
Gift Aid



£7,342
Events



£13,454
Membership and
Entry Fees



£19,144
Voluntary
Donations



£7,698
Raised through
charitable activities



£2,357,606
Total Income
(inc. £262 bank interest)

NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND TOGETHER

As we welcome the laughter and excitement of young people back into our Youth Zone, we will continue to stand strong and be their biggest advocates regardless of any challenges society may face. We will help prepare our young people for their future challenges.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT ONLINE**



wigan youth
zone

An **Arts Council** Youth Zone

Wigan Youth Zone
Parson's Walk,
Wigan WN1 1RU

01942 612061

Registered Charity Number 1134451

www.wiganyouthzone.org