

An Side Youth Zone

# ANNUAL





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#### 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.

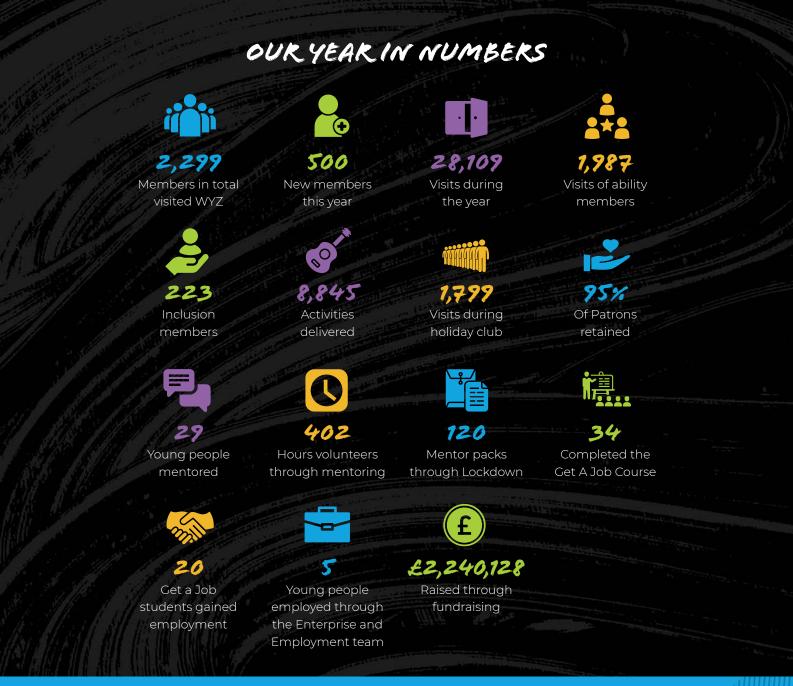


ANTHONY ASHWORTH-STEEN



OURVISION

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



### 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 Councifor looked after children.

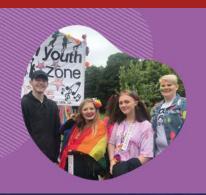
This report provides a brief, but important glimpse of how vital Wigan Youth Zone is to the local community, and I share your admiration of our staff, our members, our wonderful volunteers and of course our vital supporters. Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to change lives in such a positive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



Delivered 200 activity packs for our Junior and Senior Members



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



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



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



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



Provided opportunities for youth voice each week



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



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



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



Delivered 32 care packs on EmpowHER



24 young people on mentoring



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 tumbles with weekly dance zooms. I also got to dance and feature in a music video! "

### PETERMINATION 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 Counc



#### OURPATRONS

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**

















Dave Whelan & Family





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**







































































Daniel Halliday Geoff Ashton

# THE NUMBERS - FINANCIAL FIGURES EXPENDITURE



£83,017 Management Cost

£104,990 Utilities and Building Costs W

£164,389

Depreciation



£983,167

Staffing Costs









# 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.

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www.wiganyouthzone.org