

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM JACKIE REDDING, OUR CEO

2022 has been a difficult year for many people and The Way has also had its challenges. We continue to work hard to ensure that The Way is able to be open when you need us and is a safe and fun place for everyone. We know that the next few months will be tough so we are pleased that grants will enable us to offer free entry and a hot meal to all our members throughout the winter period.

We are always keen to hear from you so please do get in touch with your thoughts and comments on what we can do better.

From everyone at The Way we wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

HOW ARE WE DOING? SEP - NOV 22

6470

YOUNG PEOPLE VISITS
TO THE WAY

250

YOUNG PEOPLE CAME
TO OUR OCTOBER
HOLIDAY CLUB

WE HAVE RUN

82

SESSIONS BETWEEN
SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER

312

NEW MEMBERS

A WARM AND WELCOME YOUTH ZONE

This Winter is going to be tough for a lot of families and we are going to do our best to make sure that our young people always have somewhere warm, safe and fun to go.

We're hugely grateful to the St James's Place Charitable Foundation, to Intermediate Capital Group, and to Burberry Plc for their support of our Winter Hunger Appeal. Their incredible generosity is enabling us to provide 600 free hot meals and free entry to the Youth Zone to young people between now and the end of March.

A ROYAL AWARD!

It has been an exciting time for our Mentoring Team. At the end of October, a group of our mentors went to an awards ceremony at the Birmingham Hippodrome to receive their Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE!

This recognized all the hard work and commitment they have put into the Mentoring Programme at The Way since it started in 2017.

Our thanks also go to the Steve Morgan Foundation who provided the funding for this programme.



DESIGN PROJECT WITH THE GRAND

A group of our creative members took part in a project to contribute to the pantomime display in the Grand Theatre. The Aladdin-inspired theme included cushions made with intricate patches sewn by our own young people. Just stunning!



YOUR YOUTH ZONE



KEEPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE - CODE OF CONDUCT

One of our values at The Way is "Together, we will create a safe, positive and supportive atmosphere for all." In support of this, we have two new leaflets – one for members and one for parents or carers – which will remind you of what we expect from our young people and what they should expect from us.

These are available from our website at www.thewayyouthzone.org or in the leaflet stand in Reception.

We are also asking our parents and carers to make sure their details are correct on our system, in case we need to contact you. If you have recently changed address or phone number, please let us know at Reception. Thank you

HOLIDAY CLUB

We had so much fun in our October Holiday Club over half term. 250 young people between 8-12 years joined us across the week to enjoy a full day (8am-4pm) of activities including karaoke, circus skills, rock climbing, football, basketball, and arts and crafts. We even welcomed 12 new members to The Way. We are looking forward to welcoming lots of young people back over Christmas for our Winter Holiday Club.



1000 Club

As a charity, The Way relies on a wide variety of support and donations. We have introduced the 1000 Club which is an opportunity for local businesses to come together to change the lives of the young people in our community.

We would like to welcome and thank the first three member businesses for their contributions – Empowering U, Paycare and Bulleys Chartered Surveyors. We hope to welcome many more over the next twelve months.

Thanks to:



TIKTOK

The Way is returning to Tiktok! Due to some technical difficulties, we have lost access to our old Tiktok account, so instead of battling with the bots to try to get back into the account, we thought we would start afresh!

Our new account is

[@theway_youthzone](https://www.tiktok.com/@theway_youthzone)



Follow Us

We need you! If any of our young people have Tiktok skills, we would love it if they could take on the job of making the videos and take on some Tiktok challenges.



WORLD CUP WINNER

Well done to Harjot, who came first in our Seniors FIFA World Cup Tournament on the Playstation. Well played!

Generation Isolation

In the summer, Onside - our parent charity - surveyed 5000 young people across England, aged between 11 and 18. They were asked how they spend their time out of school, what access they have to youth centres and their understanding of youth services. The results showed us that too many young people are living isolated lives because they are spending more of their free time at home without friends.



So ... we need you to spread the word! Our Youth Zone is a great place to go and can help young people build their confidence, make new friends, learn new skills and to get away from those screens!

The bad news

- 76% spend most of their time at home
- 74% spend most of their time on screens
- 54% report high to very high levels of anxiety in their lives

The good news

- 78% of young people that currently attend a youth centre say it has made a positive difference on their lives
- 72% of that same group say it has given them new skills
- 69% of young people who attend youth centres have far greater social connections because they have lots of opportunities to make new friends



SNOW CAMP GRADUATES

Two of our senior members were celebrating achievements at Snow Camp this month. Maddi achieved level 5 in snowboarding (highest of the course) and Harjot achieved level 2 in snowboarding. Harjot also won the spirit of Snow Camp Award which is voted for by the participants and staff and is awarded to the person who has stood out as having had the best Snow Camp journey. Harjot was so proud to receive this award!

Both have also achieved an ASDAN qualification as part of the 6 week graduate course.

Congratulations to both of them!

MEET INPOWER ACADEMY

We have an exciting new partnership with Inpower Academy to deliver mixed martial arts sessions to our young people two days a week. Mixed martial arts showcases the four main martial arts of boxing, muay thai, freestyle wrestling and Brazilian jui-jitsu. Martial arts has an element which when delivered right can build character and instill values.



COMING UP

Just some of our exciting plans for 2023!



LGBT+ NEWS

The Way Youth Zone is proud to be an Ally of Wolverhampton LGBT+, a charity consisting of a network of organisations, businesses and community groups, which have come together to support and improve local services to the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and those questioning (LGBT+) community in Wolverhampton and the Black Country. We run an LBGT+ drop-in session in the Health and Wellbeing Room every Friday between 6pm and 7pm where young people can come in for a chat or advice.



FOLLOW US



@thewayyouthzone



@thewayyouthzone



www.thewayyouthzone.org



@thewayyouthzone



@theway_youthzone