



Message from Paul Snape, our CEO

I'm thrilled to be officially introduced as the new CEO of The Way Youth Zone. Since January, I've had the pleasure of getting to know many of our fantastic young people and working alongside our dedicated team.

Together, we've been busy developing a new and exciting new three-year strategy. This plan promises a range of innovative projects and activities designed to further support your personal growth and development. We'll be sharing the details soon, so stay tuned!

In the meantime, I'm delighted to highlight some of the fantastic things happening at the Youth Zone. We're continuing to serve FREE delicious hot meals thanks to the City of Wolverhampton Council's continued amazing support, we celebrated our 8th Birthday in style with a huge pyjama party for our Juniors and our fantastic family sessions are welcoming more and more of the community through our doors every Saturday.

I'm so excited to get stuck in and continue to provide a fun, safe and supportive space where all of our young people can thrive!

How are we doing? Jan - Mar 2024

Young people visits to the way

10,193

Young people have been a part of our youth zone since it opened its doors

18,233

New members

773

Sessions run

81

Free hot meals continue

We were delighted to announce that, thanks to the amazing continued support of the City of Wolverhampton Council, FREE hot meals will keep being served to all our Youth Zone members! That's right, for just 50p, young people get a fun, safe space to hang out, lots of activities and a delicious meal at The Way!

It is so important to us that there are no barriers to young people accessing the facilities and support that our Youth Zone provides, whatever their background.



A warm welcome to our new CEO!

We're thrilled to announce the permanent appointment of Paul Snape as the Chief Executive Officer of our Youth Zone!



Since January, Paul has been serving as our Interim CEO, and during this time he's not only gotten to know many of our young people but has also spearheaded the development of our exciting new three-year strategy.

The new three-year strategy, developed collaboratively by Paul and our team, promises a range of projects and activities to further engage young people in their personal growth and development. We'll be sharing more details about this plan in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Get connected! Our new website launches April 15th!

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand new website on Monday, April 15th!

This exciting development is designed to make it easier than ever for you to stay connected with everything happening at The Way.

Amazon boosts our creativity!

We had some exciting visitors to our Youth Zone in February. Ambassadors from Amazon joined us to have a look at our amazing building and hear about all the work that we do.

Not only that, they brought £1000 of supplies for our art room, including embroidery kits, acrylic pens, air dry clay and loom bands!! A huge thank you to Amazon for their generosity!



Hitting the road: youth zone members learn bus skills for independence

In February, some of our Seniors took part in a training session with NX West Midlands and Transport for West Midlands to help them to travel more independently.

This training from the Behaviour Change Hub not only promotes independence and life skills, it increases the confidence in young people and helps them feel safer in their communities.



Eight Senior members of the Youth Zone were collected by a NX West Midlands bus and driven to the Wolverhampton bus station by driver Richard, to learn about how to keep safe, how to purchase tickets and how to find the correct bus service for your destination. Most importantly, they were taught how to catch the bus to our Youth Zone!

Senior creatives get hands-on with SFX makeup



In January, musician Kupid and make-up artist Kiahna ran a fascinating workshop for our Senior members about careers in the creative industries. It gave our young creatives a chance to explore special effects make-up and create some jaw dropping looks.

SFX makeup can lead to a variety of careers in theatre, film, theme parks and even medical simulations. It was great for our young people to get some hands-on experience and learn more about the industry.

Family fun takes flight! Join our Saturday Squad!

Our Saturday sessions are going from strength to strength! Every Saturday, we create a selection of activities around a fun theme. From teddy bears to dinosaurs, book bonanza to circus skills, every theme has activities for all ages and abilities.

SEND Squad

10am to 12:30pm is reserved for our SEND Families with a calm, engaging session that is full of fun! Also, every fortnight there is a SEND cricket session in the sports hall delivered by the Lord's Taverners

Saturday Squad

1pm to 4pm is a busier, livelier session with lots of fun for the whole family!

School's out, fun's in! Huge Success for Holiday Clubs

The past three months have been a whirlwind of fun and learning at our Holiday Clubs! With an average of 60 young people joining us each day, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, it's safe to say the programme has been a resounding success.

We understand the challenges of keeping children entertained and engaged during school holidays. That's why we offer a variety-packed programme filled with exciting activities, all under the supervision of our caring and qualified staff.

The feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Here's what some parents had to say:

"Well organised with good activities to keep the children entertained. Staff were friendly and professional."

"My child is always active in The way, never bored :) Our whole family loves the way"

"My child loved holiday club at the way, he enjoyed every minute. The staff are amazing and the activities are creative, fun and varied"



SEND Cricket: Develop skills, make friends at fortnightly sessions

Did you know we run fortnightly SEN Cricket as part of our SEND Squad sessions on a Saturday morning between 10am and 12:30pm? Delivered by the Lord's Taverners and Staffordshire Cricket, this is a fantastic opportunity for your child to:



- Develop their cricketing skills in a fun and inclusive environment
- Make new friends and build confidence
- Enjoy some quality family time together

No experience needed! Our sessions are designed to be accessible and enjoyable for all abilities.



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Empowering young people through cricket



STAFFORDSHIRE
CRICKET

Happy 8th Birthday, The Way!

We had a blast celebrating our 8th birthday back in January! And what better way to mark the occasion than with a giant pyjama party for all our amazing junior members?

150 young people joined us for an unforgettable night of fun, all decked out in their cosiest PJs.

Jelly and ice cream fueled the fun, while balloons and a rocking disco kept the party spirit high. We even had a karaoke stage, where our talented members belted out their favorite tunes!

The energy and enthusiasm of our young people make The Way such a vibrant and safe space for everyone. Seeing their smiles and hearing their laughter is the best birthday present we could ask for.

We are so incredibly proud to have each and every one of you as part of The Way family!



Supporting young carers at The Way

Last month, we were delighted to welcome the team from Wolverhampton Young Carers to our Youth Zone! They set up informative "pop-up" sessions to chat with our young people and raise awareness about the support they can provide to young carers.

Young carers are truly remarkable. They take on significant responsibilities at home, caring for family members with a physical disability, mental health condition, learning disability, substance misuse, sensory impairment, or any long-term illness or condition.

But it's important to remember that young carers are still young people. They deserve time to relax, have fun, and pursue their own interests. That's where our Youth Zone comes in and the Wolverhampton Young Carers Team can help.

Wolverhampton Young Carers provides a vital support network for young carers, offering them a chance to connect with others in similar situations, access resources and information, and most importantly, have a break.

If you are a young carer, or you know someone who is, you can get in touch with the Wolverhampton Young Carers Team at

wolverhamptonyoungcarers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
or call 01902 553409

Keep up to date with our Youth Zone

@thewayyouthzone

www.thewayyouthzone.org

@theway_youthzone

Contact us

01902 328290

info@thewayyouthzone.org

Wolverhampton Community Lottery

So far this year, we have raised £156 so far through the Wolverhampton Community Lottery. For as little as £1 a week, you can enter the draw for £25,000.

There is also an additional chance to win an iPhone 15 Pro Titanium if you enter before 27th April.

With 60% of the ticket price donated to our charity, it's a win-win!!!



www.wolverhamptoncommunitylottery.co.uk

Living our Values

Each month, we receive lots of nominations for our Values Awards.

We have had some brilliant examples of the positive behaviours within our Youth Zone and it has been a tricky decision each month to choose the winners.

If you haven't seen our winners so far, have a look at our Instagram or Facebook pages where we post the winners every month.

Here's just a few of our young people who have received Values Award certificates over the past three months.



Did you know....

Parents/carers can nominate staff, volunteers and young people for a Values Award too? Just go to:

www.thewayyouthzone.org/our-values/