

NEWSLETTER



Message from Paul Snape, our CEO

As we welcome the autumn season, I am excited to share some wonderful highlights from our recent activities at The Way Youth Zone. Our Juniors have been busy in our Kitchen Explorers sessions, learning essential cooking skills while having a great time! Additionally, our summer holiday club was filled with laughter and engaging activities, thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers.

Our Seniors have been gaining valuable skills to enhance their future employability through financial workshops. By developing these financial literacy skills, our young people are better prepared to enter the workforce and make informed decisions about their financial future.

There is a considerable amount of work happening behind the scenes as we implement our four-year strategy aimed at securing a stable and promising future for our charity. We are working on new partnerships, new activities and new services to expand our reach within the community, ensuring that we continue to provide meaningful opportunities for our young people.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an integral part of our Youth Zone family. Together, we can inspire our young people to dream big and achieve their aspirations!

How are we doing? Jul - Sep 2024



Summer of Fun at Our Holiday Club!

Our summer holiday club was a resounding success! Over four weeks in August, our young people enjoyed a packed schedule of exciting activities.

From learning circus skills to exploring STEM with Collins Aerospace, there was something for everyone. We had a blast at our sports day in West Park, bouncing on inflatables, and taking on rocket challenges with the Royal Navy.

Our friendly local policing team even joined in the fun, participating in karaoke and friendly matches of pool and table tennis with our holiday clubbers. It was a summer filled with laughter, learning, and unforgettable memories!



We have just received confirmation of funding for our October Holiday Club from City of Wolverhampton Council which means all places will be FREE!!! Booking will open soon through the www.eegu.org website again. Keep an eye on our socials for updates.

Holiday Club: Your feedback

We always ask our parents and carers for feedback at the end of Holiday Club. This is to make sure we are getting our activities right and that everyone is enjoying themselves. Your comments are really important and we use them in our future applications for funding from the Council to try and keep the club as affordable as possible or, even better, FREE! So please make sure you feedback to us and support our applications!

Following the Summer Holiday Club, we saw a record-breaking 100% satisfaction rate, which fills us with immense pride. Here are some of the wonderful comments we received:

"Mixing with others.. Activities. Lunch provided . Safe place .. me and son's dad can go to work."

"The staff make that place what it is. They are great with the kids and with us!"

"My son loves the meals!"

"My two girls have had a blast!"



These comments truly capture the essence of what we strive for at our holiday club. We want to provide a stimulating and enriching environment where children can have fun, learn new things, and build strong social connections.



Youth Zone welcomes Stephanie Peacock, Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth!

We were thrilled to welcome a special visitor to our Youth Zone! Stephanie Peacock MP took a tour of our amazing facilities, learning about the wide range of activities and opportunities we offer to young people in the community.

We were able to share details of our successful Mentoring Aspirations Plus programme. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, this programme provides vital support to children in care, or care experienced.

Through one-to-one mentoring, life skills training, and other resources, we help these young people reach their full potential. We aim to support 30 young people a year through the programme for three years.

It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the positive impact our Youth Zone has on the lives of young people in our community. We are grateful for the support of the National Lottery Community Fund and look forward to continuing our work to make a difference.

Youth Zone on the Move: A Summer of Festivals and Fun!

This summer, our Youth Zone team has been out and about, connecting with communities across the city at a variety of festivals and fayres. We were proud to take part in events like the Same Difference Arts Festival in West Park, where our stall offered free arts activities for visitors including badge-making and mindful breathing sticks.

We also had a fantastic time at the FISExperience, where the excitement was sky-high with BMX, Freestyle Scooter, and Breaking demonstrations. There were also plenty of workshops and activities for everyone to enjoy. Our stall gave away free tattoos and lollipops, and gave us the opportunity to talk to lots of families about our Youth Zone and encourage new members to sign up and join us!

Being part of these events not only allowed us to share what our Youth Zone has to offer but also brought us closer to our local community.



Dream Big Day: InSpiring Our Juniors to Aim High

In June, we hosted a special Dream Big Day for our Juniors, designed to encourage them to think about what they want to be when they grow up and, more importantly, to inspire them to dream big! It was a fun and imaginative day, with many of our young members arriving dressed as their future selves—whether that was as astronauts, doctors, athletes, or entrepreneurs!

The highlight of the day was a special message from Steve Smith, co-founder of Poundland, who kindly agreed to be filmed and share his incredible success story with us. From running a humble market stall on Bilston market to becoming a millionaire businessman, Steve's journey is a true testament to dreaming big and working hard. His inspiring story reminded our young people that no dream is too far out of reach.

We are so proud of our Juniors for embracing the day with enthusiasm and excitement, and we can't wait to see where their big dreams take them!



Themed Months at Our Youth Zone: September is Kindness Month



At our Youth Zone, we love to make each month special by introducing a theme that runs through lots of our activities. This September, we focused on Kindness, and it's been wonderful to see our young people embrace the theme in so many creative ways.

Throughout the month, we've hosted a variety of kindness-centered activities. From making kindness bracelets, mobiles, and stones to playing kindness bingo, there's been no shortage of ways to spread positivity! We've also run workshops to help our members learn about empathy, encouraging them to think about how their actions impact others.

It's been a fantastic month full of heartwarming moments, and we're proud of the way our young people have taken the message of kindness to heart.



BE KIND



COMING UP: OCTOBER WILL BE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Stay Safe This winter: Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide

As the weather gets colder and we rely more on our gas appliances for heat, it's crucial to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly if inhaled.

To help raise awareness about this serious issue, we're partnering with Cadent. We have FREE carbon monoxide detectors available for anyone who needs one. Simply visit our Youth Zone and ask at reception.

If you have any questions or concerns about carbon monoxide safety, our Cadent Champion, Scott, is available to provide advice and guidance.

Don't wait – protect yourself and your family from the dangers of carbon monoxide. Get your free detector today!

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Symptoms

Headaches	Dizziness
Nausea	Loss of consciousness
Collapse	Breathlessness

What to do if you suspect carbon monoxide

Open all doors and windows

Move outside into fresh air

Call the 24 hour National Gas Emergency Service on:

0800 111 999

FREE PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER

We would also like to tell you about the Priority Services Register which is a FREE service.

Who is it for?

Households with someone who:

- Is under five years old
- Have a chronic illness
- Have anxiety, depression or any mental health condition
- Have a disability
- Are blind or partially sighted
- Are deaf or hard of hearing
- Are of pensionable age
- Have a loss or impairment of smell
- Uses medical equipment reliant on electricity or water
- Need documents translated into another format or language
- Temporarily need extra support due to life changes such as post hospital recovery or bereavement.

What are the benefits?

Benefits include:

- Providing you with alternative heating and cooking facilities should your gas supply be interrupted
- An annual free gas safety check
- Network operators aim to provide welfare in the form of meals, drinks, warmth and charging points, as well as receiving priority updates.

Click here for more info



Cadent
Your Gas Network

A Day at Burberry HQ: Our Young People Dream Big

We are beyond proud to share that four of our talented young people had the opportunity of a lifetime to visit the Burberry HQ in Leeds! They spent the day alongside other creative minds from across our youth zone network, showcasing their incredible projects—made possible thanks to the generous support from Burberry.

This unique experience gave them a chance to not only present their work but also to see firsthand how their creativity can take them to new heights. The day was filled with fun activities and we were so proud of our group when they confidently presented to the rest of the young people about their art project. We have no doubt that it will encourage them to dream big and continue reaching for the stars.

We're so grateful for Burberry's ongoing support in making opportunities like this possible, empowering our young people to explore their creativity and full potential.



Family Fun with Calisthenics: A 5-Week Project

Over the past five weeks, our Saturday family sessions have been buzzing with energy as we introduced families to the world of calisthenics. This exciting form of exercise focuses on using body weight for strength training and is not only great for physical fitness but also loads of fun when done as a family!

The project encouraged families to work together, with each session providing a fun and challenging way to improve strength, flexibility, and coordination. Calisthenics offers a full-body workout that helps develop muscle tone and endurance—plus, it's a fantastic way to bond as a family, with everyone cheering each other on to reach new fitness goals.

We've loved seeing families come together to enjoy the benefits of staying active while supporting one another. It's been an inspiring journey, and we hope everyone continues their calisthenics adventures!



An Unforgettable UFC Experience for Our Senior Club Members

We are excited to share the incredible opportunity two of our senior club members had recently, thanks to the amazing support of the UFC. They were invited to an unforgettable night at the Co-op Live Arena to watch the epic MMA fight between Leon Edwards and Belal Muhammed. The event was a thrilling experience, and our members were absolutely inspired by the skill and determination of these world-class athletes.

As many of you know, the UFC plays a key role in supporting the delivery of MMA within our Youth Zone, including a fantastic mentoring project for 12-16 year olds. Martial arts offer so much more than just physical fitness—there's a proven link between practicing martial arts and developing important life skills that benefit both physical and mental health.

From improved cognitive function and muscle strength to better balance, coordination, and enhanced flexibility, martial arts also help young people develop self-awareness and confidence. This is why we're so passionate about providing these opportunities to our members and why we're incredibly grateful to the UFC for their continued support.



Youth Zone Takes on Politics: A Proud Moment on Radio 4



We were thrilled to have some of our younger staff and senior members featured in an interview on Radio 4 recently, discussing their views on politics and the recent general election. It was an incredible opportunity for them to share their thoughts on a national platform, and they did not disappoint!

They spoke passionately and confidently about how disconnected they feel from politics. They highlighted the gap between young people and politicians, emphasizing the need for politicians to engage more with young voters. Their insights reflected the broader concerns of many young people today and demonstrated the importance of making their voices heard.

We couldn't be prouder of how well they represented themselves and our Youth Zone. Their participation in this conversation reinforces our commitment to empowering young people and ensuring their perspectives are valued in society.

Preparing for the Future: Financial Workshops for Senior Club Members

Our senior club members have been getting a head start on preparing for adult life by participating in a series of financial workshops. These workshops are designed to help them gain essential life skills that will serve them well as they become more independent.

The sessions have covered everything from how to set up a bank account and manage their finances, to understanding the main monthly costs of living independently and learning how to budget effectively. These are vital skills for young people, helping them to build a solid foundation for their financial future.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Wolverhampton City Credit Union and MyBnk for delivering this invaluable training.



Bright Beginnings Bash:

Celebrating Our Youth Zone and Building New Connections

We are excited to announce our upcoming supporter event, the Bright Beginnings Bash, taking place on 16th October. This special evening will bring together around 100 guests from the Wolverhampton business community, including long-time supporters and new faces who have recently discovered our Youth Zone.

The event will be a celebration of our amazing young people, with inspiring stories from some of our members that truly showcase the impact of our work. We will also take the opportunity to encourage local businesses to get involved with our charity, whether through donations, partnerships, or offering their time and expertise to support our cause.

We are incredibly proud of everything our Youth Zone has achieved so far, and we can't wait to share that passion with even more organizations from across the city. Together, we can continue to create brighter futures for young people.



Welcoming Star Scaffolding as a Pave The Way Patron

We are delighted to welcome Star Scaffolding as a new patron to our charity! Since becoming a part of our Pave The Way patron programme in April, they've been a fantastic addition to our Youth Zone community. Star Scaffolding has visited our Youth Zone several times, seeing firsthand the incredible work of our youth workers and the difference we're making in young people's lives.

We are especially excited that they will soon be delivering employability workshops for our senior members. Star Scaffolding recognizes that our young people are the future workforce of Wolverhampton, and they are committed to providing opportunities for them to explore their potential.



Exciting News: Progress Schools Joins as Our Latest Pave The way Patron!

We are thrilled to announce that Progress Schools has become a platinum Pave The Way Patron, committing to donate £25,000 a year for the next three years! Progress Schools has been providing alternative education within our Youth Zone for the past four years, creating valuable learning opportunities for young people in a safe environment.

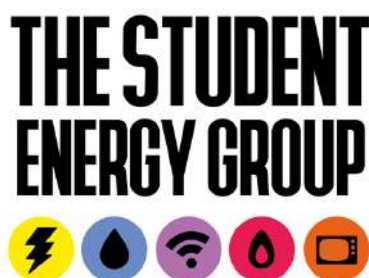
As a patron, Progress Schools will continue to support our mission of providing an inclusive space for young people and ongoing youth engagement initiatives and support for lessons within the Youth Zone.



DID YOU KNOW:

We're incredibly grateful to our generous patrons whose unwavering support makes our work possible. Their contributions are a lifeline to our charity, enabling us to continue providing support and activities to our young people. Thanks to their kindness, we can reach more people in need and make a lasting difference in our community.

We couldn't do it without them.





Visit from one of our Founder Patrons: Jeremy Woolridge

Last month we had a visit from one of our founder patrons – Jeremy Woolridge. We're incredibly grateful for the unwavering support he has given us since the very beginning.

Thanks to Jeremy's vision and generosity, we've been able to welcome over 18,500 young people from the Wolverhampton community through our doors, providing support, encouragement, fun activities and a listening ear.

Jeremy explained, "I'm Wolverhampton born and bred so my heart has always been here. I give to various charitable organisations focussed around young people because I think that that is where help is needed the most. Supporting The Way is very rewarding because I think you do a fabulous job!"

Jeremy's investment in the future of our city is truly inspiring. We're honoured to have him as a part of our youth zone family.

Time to try something new!

We're working hard to bring new opportunities and activities to our Youth Zone.

Here's something new to try from September:

- Combat Club
- Pickleball
- Freestyle dance
- Hip Hop Step
- Footworx
- Indoor cricket



Walking Cricket

As the name suggests, the game is played at walking pace and as well as delivering cricketing skills to players who may not have played for a while, or for new players the format provides a different way of keeping fit and active.

Our walking cricket sessions provide an opportunity for people to socialise and get involved in a more relaxed format of the game.



Fridays
from 4th October
3:00pm - 4:00pm



The Way Youth Zone,
School Street,
Wolverhampton, WV3 0NR



FREE
Come &
join us!

Parking is available on School Street Car Park via the RingGo App available on Apple Store or Android. Sandwich and a hot drink also provided.

For more information, contact carlackasovs@wolves.co.uk or call 07908 101 680.



CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



THEWAY An OnSide Youth Zone



STAFFORDSHIRE
CRICKET



Cadent
Your Gas Network



Values Award Winners

Well done to all of these young people who have demonstrated positive behaviours and demonstrated our Youth Zone values!

Max, Cheyenne, Bronwyn, Clara, Leo, Kayden, Alfie, Lacey-Mai, Tashaun, Triston, Kyle, Louise, Zakariya



A FUN-FILLED DAY FOR OUR MAP PROJECT MENTEES!

Our MAP project mentees recently enjoyed a fantastic outing to the Wolverhampton Adventure Golf at The Mount Golf Course! This trip was a special treat for their hard work and commitment to the mentoring programme

The afternoon was filled with laughter and friendly competition as the mentees navigated the challenging courses. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to bond, have fun, and build lasting memories together before returning to our Youth Zone for pizza!



Keep up to date with
our Youth Zone



@thewayyouthzone



www.thewayyouthzone.org



@theway_youthzone

Contact us



01902 328290



info@thewayyouthzone.org

KITCHEN EXPLORERS: NURTURING YOUNG CHEFS

Our Juniors are having a blast in our weekly Kitchen Explorers sessions! Every Tuesday, these budding chefs gather to learn essential kitchen skills and discover the joys of cooking.

From chopping and peeling to whisking and mixing, our young people are building their confidence and learning how to stay safe in the kitchen. Each week, we focus on a specific skill and a single ingredient, exploring different cooking methods and techniques.



One of our most popular sessions was all about eggs! Our Juniors learned how to scramble, fry, and boil eggs to perfection. They also mastered the art of separating egg whites from yolks, using clever tricks and techniques.

These hands-on experiences are not only fun but also educational. Our Kitchen Explorers are developing essential life skills while having a great time!

