

NEWSLETTER



Message from Paul Snape, our CEO

As we kick off another exciting year at The Way, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what we've already achieved and what's ahead. I couldn't be prouder of everyone who played a part in our Bright Beginnings Bash back in October. It was truly a privilege to showcase our Youth Zone, the incredible work of our dedicated youth workers, and, most importantly, the amazing talents and spirit of our young people. They all did us proud and reminded us why we do what we do.

Looking ahead, we have some fantastic fundraising plans lined up to help us achieve even more in 2025. First up is the Snowdon Sunrise Walk, where a team of us, including myself, will be taking on the challenge of reaching the summit of Snowdon in time to watch the sunrise. It's set to be an unforgettable experience, and I hope you'll join us in supporting this effort.

This year is packed with opportunities to grow, and we're focused on reaching even more young people, offering a wider range of activities, and building stronger connections with organisations across Wolverhampton. Together, we can make 2025 our best year yet for the young people who rely on us.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's make it a year to remember!

How are we doing? Oct - Dec 2024



Free Entry and Hot Meals This winter!

We're delighted to share some fantastic news! Thanks to the continued support from City of Wolverhampton Council and additional backing from ICG, we're able to offer **FREE ENTRY** and **FREE HOT MEALS** for our young people until the end of February. This initiative ensures that every young person can continue to enjoy our activities and have a warm, safe, and fun place to go during the colder months.

We're also making it easier for families to join in! On Saturdays, we've reduced the cost of adult meals to just £1, so everyone can enjoy a delicious hot meal together.

We're so grateful for the support that makes this possible and look forward to welcoming you to The Way this winter!



Our First Bright Beginnings Bash Success!

On 16th October, we welcomed over 100 guests from local organisations to celebrate the incredible work happening at our Youth Zone. The evening was about shining a spotlight on our young people, who shared their journeys and talents, showcasing the powerful impact our charity has on their lives.

We were so proud of our young members who helped us to host a spectacular evening. Some of them stepped up to give our visitors tours of our Youth Zone and spoke confidently about what they love about The Way and why it is important to them. A special shout out goes to Junior member Issis and Senior member Kyle who hosted the evening's entertainment and even grilled our CEO and Chairman about their future plans for our Youth Zone.

We've had lots of interest from organisations across Wolverhampton on how they can support us, which is great news!!





A Wonderful Way Wonderland!

Christmas might feel like a distant memory now, but we want to take a moment to say a huge thank you to everyone who braved the terrible weather to join us for our Way Wonderland on 7th December.

An incredible 500 of you came along and made the day truly special. From getting involved in all the festive activities, meeting Santa, and winning fantastic prizes in our tombola and raffle, it was a day to remember!

A special shout-out goes to our talented senior members, Kira and Ethan, who wowed us with their amazing singing. We also want to thank our young leaders, Ryan and Elsie, who were the perfect Santa's elves, spreading cheer and helping throughout the event.

The festive atmosphere wouldn't have been the same without the beautiful music from the Black Country Brass Band. Your performance was the perfect touch, so thank you!

Finally, a massive thank you to Wolverhampton business NIS, one of our incredible charity patrons. Their generous funding made it possible for us to provide free hot meals and drinks during the event as well as for our Christmas parties.

Juniors Shine on Residential Trip to The Pioneer Centre

Just before Christmas, 12 lucky Juniors had an unforgettable 3-day residential trip to The Pioneer Centre in Shropshire. They took part in exciting outdoor activities such as high ropes, archery, and laser tag, pushing themselves to try new things and step out of their comfort zones.

It was amazing to see their confidence grow with every challenge, and the friendships they formed made the experience even more special. For many, staying away from home was a big step, but they embraced it with enthusiasm, had an incredible time, and represented The Way Youth Zone brilliantly throughout the trip.

We're so proud of their adventurous spirit and can't wait to see how they bring their newfound confidence into 2025!



Celebrating Mentoring Success

Our mentoring team recently enjoyed some well-deserved downtime with their mentees, celebrating the amazing effort our young people have been putting into improving their wellbeing and developing essential life skills.

They had a fantastic time on trips to Hollywood Bowl and Wolverhampton Adventure Golf, creating fun memories together. Our dedicated mentors work hard to support young people, helping them build resilience, better understand the world around them, and feel confident discussing any issues they might be facing.



Improvements to our Youth Work Team

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates to our Youth Team that will bring even more energy and variety to our sessions!

These changes mean we can develop even more activities for our young people to enjoy. You might notice some new faces leading sessions throughout the week.

Kay, previously our Arts Coordinator and Families Lead, and Katie, formerly our Junior Club Lead and Holiday Club Coordinator, have stepped into new roles as Youth Service Managers. They will oversee all sessions alongside our fantastic team of four Senior Youth Workers – Jead, Lorenz, Scott, and Lauren – who will take the lead during evening sessions. While Kay and Katie will still be around during sessions, our Senior Youth Workers will often be your go-to points of contact for any queries.

With this expanded team, we're excited to bring even more fresh ideas and fun-filled activities to every session. We can't wait for you to see all the amazing things we have planned!



Kay



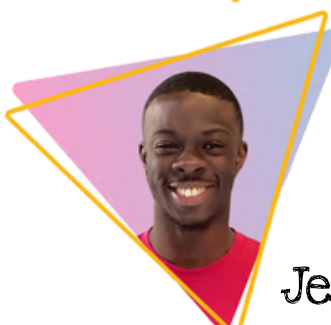
Scott



Lorenz



Katie



Jead



Lauren

Cooking sessions are hotting up

Things are hotting up in our teaching kitchen! With cooking sessions available regularly on our sessions now, our young people are becoming more confident in the kitchen, trying new ingredients and tasting new flavours.

If you have a young person who is interested in becoming the next Jamie Oliver, make sure they come along to one of our sessions!



Monday (Seniors) - Healthy Eating Club, learn some quick and easy ways to make healthy snacks

Tuesday (Juniors) - Tasty Creations Tuesday, learn to make family friendly meals

Wednesday (Seniors) - Midweek Munchies, learn to make satisfying meals with simple ingredients

Friday (Seniors) - Cooking club / Friday Fakeaway (once a month), learn to make your favourite takeaways in a healthier, budget-friendly way

Family sessions going from strength to strength

Our SEND Squad and Saturday Squad sessions on Saturdays are going from strength to strength!



Our weekly SEND Squad sessions are becoming more and more popular, thanks to the exciting themes we offer each week. From Wizarding Weekend and Snow Day to Outer Space, Super Safari, and Under The Sea, there's always something new to enjoy. It's wonderful to see our SEND families spending quality time together in a safe, calm environment, having fun and making new friends.



Saturday Squad, our lively family session, is also thriving, with 150-200 people joining us each week. There's a wide range of activities to enjoy, and our café is open all day to keep everyone fueled up. All young people can enjoy a hot meal for free, and we're thrilled to have reduced adult meals to just £1—making it even easier for families to enjoy a fun-filled Saturday together!



Climbing is back!!

We were thrilled to reopen our climbing wall at the start of November! We know how much our young people missed it, and we're so happy to have climbing back on the schedule. Safety is always our top priority, and without a fully qualified Climbing Wall Manager, we couldn't safely operate the wall.

Now, with Mark as our dedicated Climbing Wall Manager, the wall is open every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and every other Saturday. We're also working hard to train more staff so that climbing can be available during every session in the future. Thank you for your patience and support—we can't wait to see more young people enjoying this fantastic activity!



Our Seniors Go Behind the Scenes at WCR FM!



A big thank you to WCR FM for giving some of our senior members an amazing opportunity to visit their studios! During the visit, our young people enjoyed a fascinating tour of the facilities and even got to experience a live radio recording session.

The experience was truly inspiring and has sparked a newfound passion for podcasting and radio among our young people. We're so excited to see where this enthusiasm takes them and can't wait to share their future creations with you!

Nerf Wars: A New Favourite Activity!



We're thrilled to share that Nerf Wars has quickly become one of our most popular activities! Every Tuesday, with the help of the Wolves Foundation, our sports hall is transformed into an action-packed Nerf Wars arena, filled with excitement and energy.

If your young people want to get in on the fun, Nerf Wars runs every Tuesday from 6-7:30pm. No booking is needed—just turn up, grab a Nerf blaster, and enjoy an evening of action and adventure!

Arts Award is back at The way!

From 4th February, join us for a fun and creative 10-week programme where young people can explore new artists, experiment with different art forms, and create their very own masterpiece!

What's in store?

- ✦ Discover the arts all around you
- ✦ Dive into different art forms
- ✦ Research and learn about an inspiring artist
- ✦ Share your creative journey with others

And the best part? Everyone who completes the programme will receive a certificate from Trinity College London!

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to unleash your creativity.

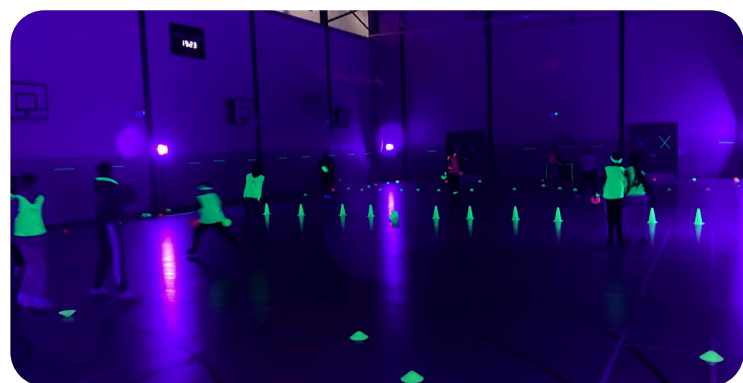
Juniors - Tuesdays 4:00 - 6:00

Seniors - Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:00

If you want to sign up, email [Kay.Aldridge](mailto:Kay.Aldridge@thewayyouthzone.org) or when you're in the Youth Zone, speak to the youth workers in the art room.



Happy 9th Birthday to us!!!



We had a great time at our 9th birthday party on the 16th January. 150 Junior members joined us for a UV disco and lots of other fun activities. We had a Wicked movie night in the Health and Wellbeing Room and birthday biscuit decorating in the Rec Area.

Since we opened our doors 9 years ago we have had 19,300 young people benefit from our Youth Zone and we have exciting plans for this year to bring lots more into our sessions.

HER Voice: Empowering Girls Every Monday

HER Voice is a safe and supportive space where girls can come together to share their thoughts, ask questions, and listen to one another. From building self-confidence and forming friendships to discussing important topics like periods and staying safe, this is a place where every voice is heard, valued, and celebrated.

We'd love for your young person to join us and be part of something truly empowering. HER Voice runs every Monday from 4:30-5:30pm—no need to book, just come along and be part of this inspiring group!



Exciting Fundraiser: Sunrise Snowdon Challenge!

We're thrilled to share details of an inspiring fundraiser happening soon! A dedicated team of 40 people from various Wolverhampton organisations—including our amazing patrons, Gough Group and The Student Energy Group—will be taking on the incredible challenge of climbing Snowdon. But this isn't just any climb—it's an 8-mile round trip under the stars, aiming to reach the summit just in time to witness a breathtaking sunrise.



Representing The Way, our very own CEO, Head of Fundraising, and Corporate Partnerships Manager will be joining the challenge. This is no easy feat, and we'd love your support to help encourage them on their journey.

If you'd like to sponsor our team and contribute to this exciting event, please visit our fundraising page:

[Support our team](#)



Every donation will make a difference and help drive us towards creating even more opportunities for the young people of Wolverhampton. Thank you for your support—it means the world to us!

Welcome to Our New Patron: AF Blakemore & Son!

We're delighted to announce that AF Blakemore & Son, one of the UK's largest family-owned businesses, has joined our Youth Zone family as a Silver Patron with a fantastic donation of £12,000. Their support will go a long way in helping us provide essential activities and services for the young people of Wolverhampton.

Support from businesses like AF Blakemore & Son is vital to our mission. Their generosity ensures we can continue to offer a safe, inspiring space where young people can build confidence, learn life skills, and create brighter futures.

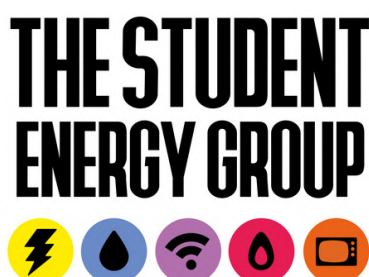
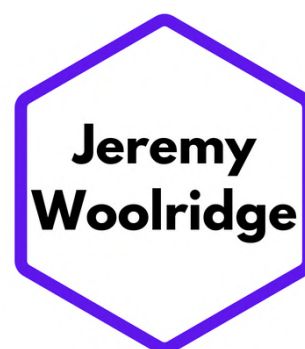
Please join us in giving a warm welcome to AF Blakemore & Son—thank you for believing in the power of young people and for helping us make a lasting impact in our community!



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.





Energy Saving Tips for Families This Winter

As the winter months bring colder temperatures, we know that keeping warm while managing energy costs is a major concern for many families. Thanks to Cadent Gas, we've put together some helpful energy-saving tips to help you stay warm without worrying about high energy bills:

- **Use a Slow Cooker or Pressure Cooker:** Slow cookers and pressure cookers use less energy than conventional ovens and can be great for making hearty meals.
- **Microwave When Possible:** Microwaves use less energy than ovens, so try using them for reheating or cooking smaller portions.
- **Cook with Lids On:** When cooking, use lids on pots to reduce cooking times and save energy.
- **Turn Off Appliances When Not in Use:** Even if they're not in use, they still draw energy if plugged in.

We're also pleased to let you know that at our family sessions, we regularly give away slow cookers to help families cook more energy-efficient meals and hand out carbon monoxide alarms to keep everyone safe at home. Join us at one of our upcoming family sessions to learn more about energy-saving tips and take home some great resources!

Cadent

Your Gas Network

Do you have children under 5 yrs?

Do you have a disability?

Do you have anxiety, depression or any mental health condition?

You could be eligible to sign up for the Priority Services Register. This is a completely free service, designed to make it easier for those who need a little extra help in the event of a power cut.

Benefits include providing you with alternative heating and cooking facilities should your gas supply be interrupted and providing welfare in the form of meals, drinks, warmth and charging points if there is a power cut.

To find out more or sign up free, go to:

Cadent Gas PSR



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our Youth Zone



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