

NEWSLETTER



Message from Paul Snape, our CEO

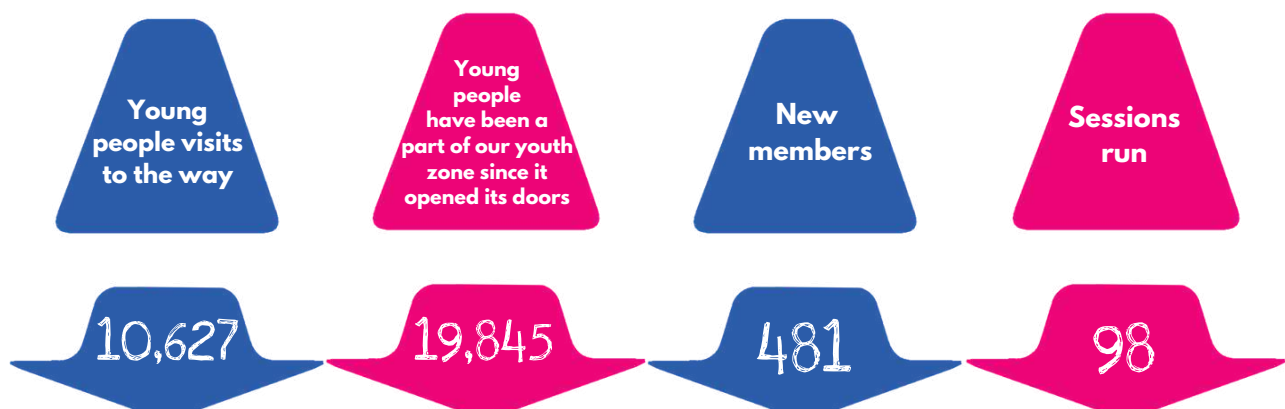
It's been an incredible few months at The Way, and we're thrilled to share some exciting updates with you!

Our Youth Zone is going from strength to strength, with new activities, growing membership, and increasing attendance across all our sessions. We've also welcomed new patrons who are helping us expand opportunities for young people, ensuring we can continue to provide a safe, fun, and inspiring space for all.

This year, our business plan is focused on refining and expanding what we offer to the young people of Wolverhampton. We're not only introducing new sessions and activities, but we're also working closely with local schools and community centres to extend our reach—ensuring that even more young people can benefit from the support, friendships, and opportunities The Way provides.

At The Way, we believe that the Youth Zone belongs to our young people, and we're always keen to hear their thoughts and ideas. Their feedback helps us create a space that works for them—whether that's through new activities, improvements to what we offer, or support for families in our community. If there's something they'd like to see or if you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to listen and make sure we're doing the best we can for everyone.

How are we doing? Jan - Mar 25



Holiday Club Updates

Our February Half-Term Holiday Club was packed with fun and adventure, and we couldn't have done it without the incredible support of NIS Group! When we faced the challenge of securing funding, NIS Group—one of our Platinum Patrons—stepped in to help, ensuring we could keep the cost low at just £5 per child per day.

We've made an exciting change to our Easter Holiday Club. Alongside our Holiday Club Kidz (8-12 years), we've introduced Holiday Club Teenz (13-15 years)—a space where teenagers can hang out with friends, take part in activities, and enjoy great food in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

We understand that older young people may not want a fully structured day, so Holiday Club Teenz offers flexibility and choice, allowing them to get involved at their own pace.

BOOKING UPDATE - Holiday Club Kidz is now fully booked, but we still have a few spaces left for Holiday Club Teenz!



Our Youth Zone in the News!



We've recently welcomed some exciting media visitors to our Youth Zone, including SkyNews and BBC Midlands, who came to speak with our staff and young people about important current issues. Sky News visited and interviewed two of our incredible young people, Jacob and Isabella, who shared their thoughts on the impact of knife crime and highlighted how The Way provides a safe space where young people can engage in positive activities, build friendships, and make informed life choices.



BBC Midlands focussed their report on the 5th anniversary of the Covid lockdown and how young people can improve their loneliness and anxiety levels by keeping active and socialising in safe spaces like our Youth Zone.

Helping Young People Become Leaders

Our Young Leaders Programme is going strong! So far, five young people have completed the programme, and seven more are currently taking part. Every Monday, our Young Leaders meet to talk about their experiences. Then on Tuesdays, they volunteer during Junior sessions, helping staff run activities and learning how to be great leaders.

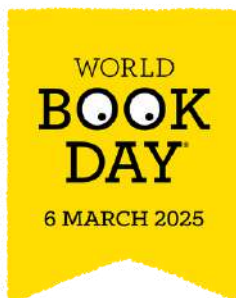
The programme lasts eight weeks. At first, Young Leaders watch and learn from staff. Then, they start leading activities, building their confidence step by step. By the end, they can even shadow a session manager to see what it's like to be in charge.

We're excited to improve the programme for future groups with new funding! We are so proud of our Young Leaders for their hard work. If your child is interested in joining, keep an eye out for more opportunities!



World Book Day at The Way

We celebrated World Book Day earlier this month with some great activities on our Junior session, including a beanstalk appearing in our climbing wall. If our climbers got to the top of the beanstalk they were rewarded with a chocolate coin from the giant!



We also had some great costumes and some amazing creativity in the art room as some of our young people designed their own book covers. Well done to Sam who won the book cover design competition and to Nuntat who looked fantastic as Elphaba!

Come Dine With US: Fun, Food & Energy Awareness!

Our monthly Come Dine with Me sessions have been great fun with some exciting guests recently, including a senior reporter from the Express and Star who made his own video of the experience and posted it on the newspaper's website!

Come Dine With Me is part of a project with Cadent Gas to promote energy saving and carbon monoxide awareness as well as promoting the Priority Services Register which gives vulnerable families or families with children under 5yrs additional support in the event of a power cut.

To find out more about the PSR or if you want to watch our Come Dine With Me videos go to

<https://www.thewayyouthzone.org/our-youth-zone/community/>



Mentoring trip to Laches Wood

Last month, our MAP mentors took 10 young people from our mentoring programme to Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre - and what a day it was!

From axe throwing and archery to high ropes, caving, and even bushcraft with s'mores, they faced their fears, built confidence, and encouraged each other every step of the way.

One young person's carer shared, "He came home and was telling all the adults about his time at Laches. He loved it!"

Every single one of them was a credit to themselves, their carers and The Way - so much so, they didn't want to leave!



Learning to Save Lives: First Aid Training at The Way!

Our young people got hands-on with first aid training this month, learning the basics of life-saving care—because you never know when these skills could make a difference!

A huge thank you to Becca and Niamh from Nuffield Health and St John's Ambulance for running these invaluable workshops. Becca, who is also a parent of one of our junior members - Aoife, generously gave her time for free to share her expertise—what an amazing way to give back!

If you're a parent and have skills or expertise you'd love to share with our young people, whether it's career-related or a practical life skill, we'd love to hear from you! Together, we can open doors to new opportunities and empower the next generation.



50p Entry is back

We have been so grateful to ICG plc who funded our free entry over the winter and City of Wolverhampton Council who supports our free meals for all young people. Sadly, our free entry ends on the 31st March with the entry fee returning to 50p each session from the 1st April. Don't worry! The free hot meals will continue!

Easier to Spot, Ready to Help: Meet Our Blue Team!

We've made it easier for parents and carers to know who to talk to during sessions at The Way!

From now on, our Duty Managers (DM) will be rocking blue uniforms, while our amazing youth workers will continue to wear their signature pink hoodies.

If you ever have a question or need support, just look out for the blue - our Duty Managers are here to help!



We've even presented PC Pete, our local policing contact, with his honorary Youth Zone hoodie! Pete has built fantastic relationships with our young people, always taking the time to chat, support and break down barriers between young people and the police.

We're taking on an epic challenge to support young people - and they're stepping up to join us!



On Saturday 12th April, a team of 40 people made up of Youth Zone staff and supporters from Gough Group, The Student Energy Group, and Blackbrook Academy took on the Snowdon Sunrise Walk, climbing to the summit in the early hours to raise vital funds for The Way.

But that's not all – our young people were so inspired by this challenge that they decided to take part in their own way! In the lead-up to the event, our junior members climbed the height of Scafell Pike, and our senior members took on the height of Ben Nevis – all using our Youth Zone climbing wall.

This challenge was more than just a test of endurance – it was about coming together as a community to support young people and ensure they continue to have access to life-changing opportunities at The Way.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and to those who supported our climbers. Every step, every climb, and every donation makes a real difference. If you would like to show your support, you can still make a donation through our CEO's page, just click the [here](#). To see how they got on, head to our social media channels to see the videos.

A huge welcome to our new patrons!



We are excited to announce that WCC (Wednesbury Car & Commercials) Ltd has joined The Way as a Silver Patron! Their support helps us continue offering young people in Wolverhampton a safe and inspiring space to learn new skills, make friends, and build confidence.

WCC is a commercial vehicle centre of excellence, working nationally with two local sites—WCC Paint Shop in Wolverhampton and WCC Body Shop in Willenhall. They specialise in paintwork, accident repairs, and body building, always delivering high-quality service.

We are so grateful for their support and can't wait to see what we can achieve together for young people in our community!

BSN GROUP

We're excited to share that BSN Group has joined The Way as a Bronze Patron! Their support will help us keep offering amazing opportunities to young people in Wolverhampton.

BSN Group is a leading regional contractor. They have some great plans to raise funds and spread the word about our charity this year.

We can't wait to work with them and make a difference in our community.

A big thank you to BSN Group for becoming part of The Way family! We look forward to working together to help our young people succeed.

Cadent

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our Youth Zone



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Contact us



01902 328290



info@thewayyouthzone.org

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](#)

