



Message from Paul Snape, our CEO

As we mark 10 years of supporting Wolverhampton's young people, I'm incredibly proud of how far The Way Youth Zone has come and the thousands of lives we've been privileged to be part of. For a decade, we've been a place where young people can feel safe, supported and full of possibility, a place that helps them grow in confidence, discover their strengths, build friendships and believe in themselves.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our staff, the energy of our young people, and the continued support of families like yours. As we celebrate this milestone year, we're more determined than ever to keep creating opportunities, raising aspirations and helping every young person who walks through our doors realise just how incredible they can be.

**OUR DECADE
OUR WAY**

THEWAY
An OnSide Youth Zone

2016 - 2026
A decade of impact.
A future of possibility.

21,162

young people have become members since we opened in 2016

394,766

visits to our Youth Zone for moments of fun, learning and connection

Worked with young people from **410** wards

Members came from **650** schools

167,726

Engagements in sports

87,742

Engagements in creative activities

49,596

Engagements in life skills & wellbeing activities

2,927

young people with additional needs

Big Give Christmas Challenge - A Huge Success!

We are thrilled to share the amazing success of our Big Give Christmas Challenge! Thanks to the generosity of individuals, local organisations, our Big Give Champion the Scouloudi Foundation and one of our Founder Patrons, we raised an incredible:

£45,032!!!!

This remarkable total meant we could offer a full month of free festive events and activities for our young people and their families throughout December.

Here are just a few highlights:

- Grinch Junior's Christmas Party – The Grinch caused plenty of mischief, handed out gifts, and made everyone laugh.
- The Way Wonderland – Over 500 people joined us for a festive day filled with entertainment, food, Santa's Grotto, and free hot meals and drinks.
- Advent Calendars – Thank you to Maped Helix for donating stationery advent calendars for all young people, packed by our very own Youth Zone elves!
- SEND Squad Breakfast with Santa – A calm, accessible festive morning for our SEND families.
- Seniors Polar Express Pyjama Party – Hot chocolate, gifts and a cosy festive film night!
- Families Christmas Party, Inbetweeners Christmas Challenge, Christmas Eve Party, and a Seniors New Year's Eve Bash rounded off a magical month!

Thank you to everyone who supported this — you made December unforgettable.



Watch the
xmas video!

New Impact Video
Real Stories, Real Change

Four of our young people bravely shared their experiences at The Way — what life was like before joining, what they've gained, and how it has shaped their lives.

Hear from our
Young People



Celebrating 10 Years of The Way Youth Zone!

On 16th January, The Way officially turned 10 years old!

We marked this milestone with a nostalgic throwback post sharing photos from the early concept and construction, all the way to celebrity visits and memorable moments over the decade.

As we celebrate throughout 2026, we'd love to hear from anyone who attended The Way in years gone by. If your young person — or someone you know — has memories to share, please get in touch! Your stories help tell the journey of The Way.



Coming Up: The Big Birthday Bash - Tuesday 24th February

As part of our 10th birthday celebrations, we're hosting our Big Birthday Bash for patrons, supporters, and partners.

The event will include:

- Tours led by our Young Leaders
- Activities for guests to try
- Stories shared by our incredible young people (three of whom are hosting!)

It's a fantastic chance to shine a light on the young people, youth workers and supporters who make The Way what it is.

PLEASE NOTE: JUNIORS SESSION ON 24th FEBRUARY WILL BE CANCELLED



Cooking in the Teaching Kitchen

With the arrival of Youth Worker Shannell, we've been running regular cooking sessions where young people create delicious dishes to take home or share with friends.

Want a glimpse? [Watch the video here](#)



New Equipment For Healthier Bodies and Minds

Thanks to a government grant, our facilities have had a fantastic upgrade.

In the Gym, we've added an air bike, two stepmills, ski trainers and exercise bikes. These additions expand what our members can enjoy and support healthier lifestyles.

Our art room and music room now have brand new iMacs, drum kit and mixing equipment opening up exciting digital opportunities such as music production and graphic design. We can't wait to see what our young people create.



Inbetweeners - Our Most Popular Monday Yet!

Our Monday night Inbetweeners session (for older Juniors and younger Seniors — Year 10 to age 15) is booming, with a record 114 young people joining us last week!

Each session includes:

- Weekly staff-vs-young-people challenges
- Cooking in the teaching kitchen
- Artwork and creative activities
- Energetic team games in the sports hall, including our new netball session!!!



If your young person is in this age range, it's a great night to get involved - MONDAYS 3-9 PM

Free Minibus Pickups From Local Schools

To make it easier for young people to reach us, we've launched free pickups from selected schools. Spaces are limited to 15 per minibus and are managed by each school.

Current routes and pick up times:

Monday

- St Peter's – 3:00pm
- Villiers Primary – 3:40pm (drop-off 8:30pm)

Tuesday

- Villiers Primary – 3:20pm (drop-off 7:30pm)

Wednesday

- Moseley Park – 3:30pm (drop-off 8:30pm)

Thursday

- Northwood Park – 3:15pm (drop-off 7:30pm)



Interested? Contact your school directly to see if spaces are available.

Seniors' Residential at Brathay Hall



Nine of our Senior members enjoyed a three-night residential in the Lake District, packed with adventure!

Activities included:

- High ropes
- Whaler boating on Lake Windermere
- Gill scrambling
- Canoeing
- Hiking

A huge well done to all who challenged themselves and created lifelong memories.



SEND Activities Every Evening at The way

Did you know that 15% of our members have additional needs? With that in mind, sometimes our Youth Zone activities can be noisy and very busy, so we have created a SEND pathway through every weekday session with three activities across the evening which are a calmer, more chilled environment created for our SEND members. These activities take place in our gym, climbing, art and music rooms.

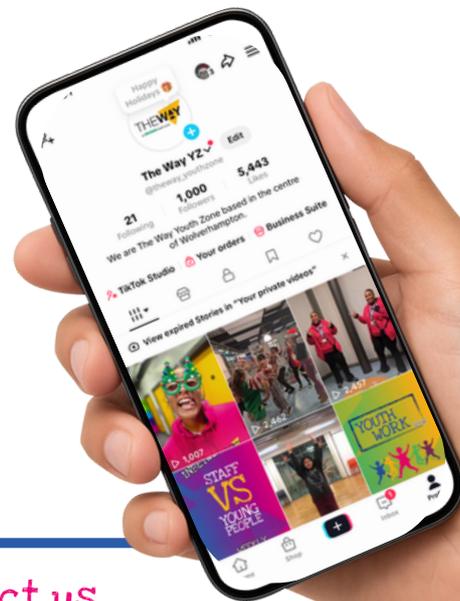
SEND Timetable from March

MONDAY	4-5pm Art Peace	5:30-6:30pm Climb for Calm	7-8pm Mindfulness Music
TUESDAY	4-5pm Fearless Fitness	6-7pm Art Peace	7-8pm Cinema & Chill
WEDNESDAY	4-5pm Art Peace	5:30-6:30pm Climb for Calm	7-8pm Mindfulness Music
THURSDAY	4:15-5pm Fearless Fitness	6-7pm Art Peace	7-8pm Cinema & Chill
FRIDAY	4-5pm Art Peace	5:30-6:30pm Fearless Fitness	7-8pm Mindfulness Music

Follow US on TikTok!

We've been building up lots of fun new content on TikTok — from dance trends to staff vs young people challenges, and clips made by our own members.

Take a look and follow us: [@theway_youthzone](https://www.tiktok.com/@theway_youthzone)



Keep up to date with our Youth Zone

[@thewayyouthzone](https://www.facebook.com/thewayyouthzone)

www.thewayyouthzone.org

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

Contact us

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What's coming up

Weekly Challenges

- Challenge 7 launches week of 9th February.
- Junior Challenges continue weekly with monthly and annual prizes.

New Activities

- Inflatable Football coming to sessions and Holiday Club.
- Junior Girls' Netball every Tuesday at 6pm.

Valentine's Themed Session

- Rose making
- Love song karaoke
- Valentine card making

Sports Tournaments

- Seniors 5-a-side Football – Fri 20 Feb
- Seniors 5-v-5 Basketball – Fri 20 Feb
- Juniors 3-v-3 Basketball – Tues 17 Feb
- Doubles Badminton – Mon 16 Feb
- 1-v-1 Football – 30 Mar

NEW!! Welcome Committee

A new buddy system to support new members, offer tours and gift goody bags — helping every young person feel confident from day one.

If you have a young person interested in taking on some responsibility and play a part in introducing new members to our Youth Zone, speak to Lorenz, one of our Senior Youth Workers or any staff in a blue hoodie.