



# WIGAN YOUTH ZONE

ISSUE

NO.4



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 17





**MR DAVE WHELAN**  
President

Looking back over the past 12 months, I have been humbled to see what young people have achieved with our support and encouragement. Every day here at Wigan Youth Zone young people are learning, improving skills and building confidence, we invest in their lives and in turn, in Wigan's future.

A particular highlight of mine – and a project close to my heart – was the re-launch of the Wigan Youth Zone Market Stall this year, allowing young people with an entrepreneurial flair to get involved in a working stall on Wigan Market. The stall has managed to raise £17,882 in the past 12 months for the Youth Zone charity, an amazing start to the project. I'd like to thank Adidas, Nike and Under Armour for their support and special thanks to Wigan Council for their donation of the stall rent-free.

I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved at Wigan Youth Zone, we genuinely are changing lives and supporting the dreams and aspirations of Wigan's next generation. A huge well done to all the staff, volunteers and supporters who have helped make this happen.



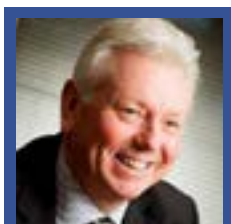
**MR BILL AINSCOUGH**  
Vice-President

This review celebrates the Youth Zone's achievements over the past 12 months, of which I am extremely proud to say have been numerous.

2016 saw the launch of the mentoring project, a fantastic new programme which allows the Youth Zone to develop and improve its support for members, offering advice and one to one support for young people who need it. Also this year, we've seen 71 young people complete our Get a Job employability course and sent over 200 young people on fantastic residential trips outside the Youth Zone.

On top of this, we have continued to improve the sustainability of our fundraising here at Wigan Youth Zone. Throughout the past 12 months, the Youth Zone has delivered many fundraising events, raising a total of over £330,000. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to our supporters, staff and volunteers – who give time and money generously to our annual events calendar.

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDERS



**MR MARTIN AINSCOUGH CBE**  
Chairman

Another year has passed here at Wigan Youth Zone and once again I am truly inspired by what our supporters, staff and volunteers have managed to achieve.

In the past 12 months, the Youth Zone has been visited over 84,000 times by young people and almost 6,000 8-12 year olds have attended our holiday club programme throughout the school holidays. In addition, we've developed our new mentoring programme offering one-to-one support to those in extra need and have invested in our inclusion team with 'The Den', a quiet area here at the Youth Zone for members who need a calming environment. The Youth Zone never stops developing, always working to improve the offering for our young people.

None of this would be possible without the enduring support of our patrons, staff and committed volunteers. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who've invested in the Youth Zone over the past 12 months and all they've helped us to achieve. Long may it continue.



**CLLR JOANNE PLATT**  
Wigan Council's Cabinet  
Member for Children and  
Young People

As Wigan Youth Zone's 4th year draws to a close, I can't help but be overwhelmed by the continued success of the facility. The Youth Zone charity, as one of our key community providers, continues to work proactively with council services and other partners to ensure that all our children are safe and happy.

I've been particularly pleased to see The Venue, the Youth Zone's older teen provision go from strength to strength. Last year over 7,500 15-21 year olds came through its doors to enjoy weekend entertainment, college drop-in sessions and hang out in The Venue. The Youth Zone are offering a positive alternative for young people of this age group, looking for somewhere to go in their spare time.

Wigan Council are proud to continue to support Wigan Youth Zone and its young members and we look forward to seeing what the next 12 months will bring.

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# OUR IMPACT

*Wigan Youth Zone is so much bigger than the sum of its parts, every year the charity's impact stretches further - whether it be with additional buses to extend our outreach programme or furthering the support we offer to members with our new mentoring programme, increasing the Youth Zone's impact.*

In the past 12 months, the Youth Zone has continued to be a hive of activity for the younger generation of Wigan and we're glad to say that the number of members attending and regularly visiting the centre has remained strong. Don't just take our word for it though - here are some of our results over the past twelve months;



## OUR VISION

*Our vision is to develop and improve our model to ensure that all young people in Wigan and Leigh achieve their full potential.*

## OUR OUTCOMES





# LAST YEAR A

## APRIL 2016

### President's Cup!

The Onside President's Cup was held on April 9th 2016, over 250 young people attended from Youth Zones all across the country, taking part in a host of creative and sporting challenges. Medal winners were decided after a series of non-traditional games and activities including dodgeball, rowing, gym and graffiti challenge. To make the day even better for our members, we walked away with the Junior Cup!



## JUNE 2016

### Wigan Youth Zone Chairman is awarded a CBE

WYZ Chairman, Martin Ainscough, was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2016 for his charitable work over many years, including his investment and continued support of Wigan Youth Zone. Young people showed their appreciation with a special card made for the occasion.



## AUGUST 2016

### Wigan Pride @ WYZ

Wigan Youth Zone hosted the official after-party of the LGBTQ event, Wigan Pride, for all 12 - 19 year olds on Saturday 13th August. The event was a huge success with hundreds of young people attending the Youth Zone to get involved in our lip-sync battle, the 'Colour Run' party hosted in The Venue and a headline performance by X Factor star, Lucy Spraggan.



## APR16 MAY16 JUN16 JUL16 AUG16 SEP16

## MAY 2016

### WYZ Market Stall Opens!

As part of the Enterprise element of our Get a Job Course, Wigan Youth Zone employability students opened the Wigan Youth Zone market stall in May 2016, selling sportswear and clothing to the general public. The stall has continued to develop since and has become a firm favourite with shoppers at the Market - a huge thank you to Wigan Council and Founder Patron, Mr Dave Whelan who made our young entrepreneur's dreams a reality!



## JULY 2016

### Prince Harry visits Wigan Youth Zone

Prince Harry was in Wigan to offer his support for projects that promote sports as a means for social development. His local tour finished here at the Youth Zone and he was bowled over by the fantastic activities and facilities on offer for young people. Prince Harry took a tour of the facility and met with hundreds of young members!



## SEPTEMBER 2016

### The Reet Good Beer Festival Returned!

September 22nd - 25th saw the return of the fantastic Reet Good Beer Festival, a huge music, food and drink festival held to raise funds and community awareness for Wigan Youth Zone. In its second year, the festival promised to be bigger and better and certainly delivered - over 2300 people attended the festival over the weekend, enjoying live music throughout each day and a host of ales, beers, ciders and new for 2016 - prosecco!



# VOLUNTEERS

*Once again our volunteers have done us proud, always at the heart of what we achieve here at Wigan Youth Zone. Volunteers give their time up on a weekly basis and make it possible for our young members to have fun in a safe, supportive environment.*

This year we welcomed a new Volunteer and Training Manager, Sue Shearer, Sue had previously volunteered with us and as such knows first-hand what a huge debt we owe to the army of people who give their time generously every single day.

As of March 2017, we had 76 active volunteers on our books and we've also recruited 10 young leaders in the financial year. This year we've also expanded our training for staff and volunteers, offering a Youth Work Level 2 qualification in collaboration with Wigan College and person-centred training with Embrace.

Also in 2016, one of university student placements, Lydia Boland, won the UCLAN's University Volunteer of the Year Award. Another fantastic achievement from our team of volunteers.



# AT A GLANCE

## OCTOBER 2016

### Mentoring Scheme Launched

In October a long-standing ambition of the Youth Zone was realised and the Youth Zone mentoring scheme was launched. Throughout the 4 years we have been open, many young people have come to the Youth Zone looking for help from some of our trusted staff. The mentoring programme was launched in October to formalise this and offer guidance, advice and one-to-one support to members who we feel need it most. The scheme is going from strength to strength with 12 mentors now working with our young people.



## DECEMBER 2016

### WYZ brings Christmas to those who need it most...

On Sunday 18th December, Wigan Youth Zone held their Annual Christmas Dinner, a fantastic event for families that deserve a Christmas to remember. This year was our largest yet, with over 200 people attending the event. As always, support for the event was immense with present donations and volunteers coming from patrons and the local business community. On the day, families enjoyed a 3-course Christmas meal with all the trimmings, a visit from Santa and even reindeer!



## FEBRUARY 2017

### Annual Boxing Dinner Raised £30,000

Our 4th annual boxing event was held at Wigan Youth Zone on February 10th, a fantastic evening of sporting excellence, dinner and entertainment was delivered to almost 300 of our patrons and supporters. The event was a huge success with over £30,000 raised on the evening itself, supported by Leigh ABC, DW Stadium, JW Lees and Wily Fox Brewery.



## OCT16

## NOV16

## DEC16

## JAN17

## FEB17

## MAR17

## NOVEMBER 2016

### Wigan Youth Zone Annual Ball raised £64,000

Almost 300 people attended Wigan Youth Zone's glitzy Annual Ball, held at The DW stadium on 26th November. The Fundraising dinner showcased an evening of Las Vegas-themed entertainment with a headline performance from Broadway Legend, Louis Hoover and a performance from WYZ members celebrating the 80th birthday of Youth Zone Founder Patron, Dave Whelan.



## JANUARY 2017

### House of Lords Visit

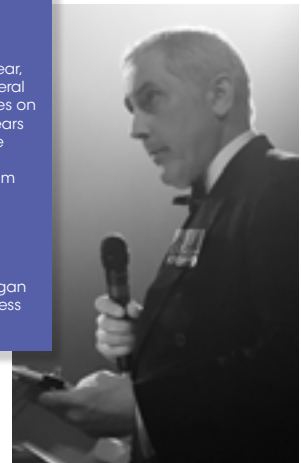
Jacob, a young member from our Enterprise Team, was asked to speak at the House of Lords in January as part of the Onside Young Ambassadors Programme; on the back of a fantastic speech he delivered at the London Onside Launch at the Guild Hall. Jacob outlined his fantastic experience at the Youth Zone in his speech and along with other members enjoyed a VIP tour of the House of Lords and House of Commons Chambers by Lord Mendelsohn.



## MARCH 2017

### A new Chapter of the Youth Zone begins...

At the end of the 2016/17 financial year, the Youth Zone said goodbye to General Manager, John Harker MBE as he takes on a new challenge elsewhere after 4 years at WYZ. John has been a driving force behind the Youth Zone since its very inception, ensuring a consistent stream of fundraising to keep the Youth Zone doors open and that our offer was continually developed. The team will continue to deliver high quality youth provision and build on the fantastic foundations John has laid here at Wigan Youth Zone. We wish John every success in his new venture.



IN MARCH 2017, VOLUNTEERS DONATED

A RECORD BREAKING **1,067** HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO THE YOUTH ZONE

Apr 16 Paul McNamara  
May 16 Ryan Winstanley  
June 16 Brittany Bird  
July 16 Thomas Wright  
Aug 16 Daniel Palin  
Sept 16 Helen Jackson

Oct 16 Danny Halliwell  
Nov 16 Andrea Marshall  
Dec 16 Paul McNamara  
Jan 17 Julie Camblin  
Feb 17 Lydia Boland  
Mar 17 Nicola Owen

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



# HOLIDAY CLUBS

*Throughout 2016, our Holiday Club team continued to offer high quality youth provision for almost 13 weeks of the year to 8-12 year olds during their school holidays. It takes a huge staff effort to manage and coordinate safe activities for 10 hours a day throughout all the school holidays and our team continue to do this year-in, year-out.*

The Holiday Club this year remained fresh and exciting for the thousands of young people who attended, every week taking on a different theme. Themes for this year included Ghostbusters, Dr Who, Record Breakers, Alice in Wonderland and Festivals.

Day trips continue to be a popular addition to our Holiday Club provision, this year our outdoor team have taken groups of 8 – 12 year olds to the Lakes, Yorkshire, on beach trips and throughout Lancashire. Activities on our day trips have included kayaking, map-reading, power-kiting and mountain-climbing to name but a few.

# 5,582

YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED  
OUR HOLIDAY CLUB  
LAST YEAR



# INCLUSION

*Our Triple A (Access All Areas) Inclusion team continues to provide additional support to young people who may experience barriers and difficulties when accessing the activities on offer at Wigan Youth Zone.*

Many one-off events have been hosted at the Youth Zone throughout the year by the team. In March WYZ held Just Join In Games, the series of events brought hundreds of young people from a range of mainstream and specialist schools to the Youth Zone for a host of totally inclusive sports and games for all including boxing, curling, dance and athletics.

The Triple A team also co-managed the All Ability 'Carnival Chaos' Open Day on August 7th, in partnership with Embrace, Wigan Parent/Carer Forum and Hop, Skip and Jump. The event was designed to remove barriers here at the Youth Zone, show our offering and that of other inclusive local services. Over 500 people attended the event and enjoyed a wealth of activities.

Another development for our Triple A Team this year was the launch of 'The Den', a quiet area of the Youth Zone complete with comfortable sofas and sensory lighting. The Den is a perfect space for Youth Zone members looking for a calming environment or a space to talk.

# 10%

AROUND 10% OF THE YOUTH  
ZONE MEMBERS HAVE  
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT  
NEEDS. OUR TRIPLE A TEAM  
ARE THERE TO HELP THEM  
ACCESS ALL AREAS OF THE  
YOUTH ZONE PROVISION



# ENTERPRISE & EMPLOYABILITY

## ENTERPRISE

The Youth Zone Enterprise Projects are a fantastic way for young people to get involved in business, right from the innovation of new product design right through to pitching their product to market. Each year new entrepreneurs rise to the challenge here at the Youth Zone and design fantastic new products with passion and enthusiasm – and this year has been no exception.

After success in last year's Youth Innovate competition, both the Cookie Mad and Like Clockwork teams have been continuing to push their product to market. John Roberts, supporter of the Onside network and founder of AO, has continued to support the products and has allocated five members of AO staff to each of our Enterprise teams. The teams will meet in Spring 2017 to discuss opportunities such as pitching to B&M Bargains and Dunelm Mill.

### Crafty Kiddies

New kids on the block in 2016 were the Crafty Kiddies team; a fresh group of young people came up with the product as part of the new enterprise project.

The Crafty Kiddies bag has been designed by Youth Zone members with some help from our business supporters, Attain. The bag is a fantastically simple idea – a children's craft bag that comes with a set of fabric crayons, children draw designs on the bag and if they like the design they iron it to make it permanent, alternatively they wash the bag to change the design.

Crafty Kiddies now has its own website, packaging and marketing collateral – ready to be sold to the masses!

## EMPLOYABILITY

Another fantastic year has passed in our Employability team; even more young people have graduated our Get A Job Course and transitioned into positive destinations, whether it be work, education or training.

Our team have expanded this year to meet the demands of our young people, additional team members include an Employment Broker and Talent Match Coach – these additional staff are here to help support young people into positive destinations with funding support from Talent Match (Big Lottery), the European Social Fund and Procure Plus.

Our employability course itself has also had a makeover introducing an advertising element to the enterprise part of our course; students learn about creating mood boards, identifying target audiences and their objectives. Also new for 2016 is the B-Tec Level 1 6-Credit Award in Work Skills, which is now offered as part of the Get A Job Course, improving young people's CV writing skills and work placement learning.

We've had some fantastic work experience opportunities and company visits throughout 2016, students have toured and worked in many local businesses including Premier Inn, Rijo 42 and Adactus to name but a few. Costa Coffee has also supported the course with a commitment of 5 jobs, ring-fenced exclusively for our students when their new coffee shop opens in 2017.



# 40

### DID YOU KNOW?

WIGAN YOUTH ZONE RUNS A WALKING BUS SERVICE FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ATTEND THE YOUTH ZONE JUNIOR SESSION BUT HAVE NO MEANS OF TRAVEL. ON AVERAGE, 40 YOUNG PEOPLE USE OUR WALKING BUS SERVICE EACH MONTH



## CASE STUDY

### Ibrahim Mohamed

"I am 20 years old and I am originally from Sudan. I moved to the UK when I was 17 years old and couldn't speak English, so I attended college to improve my English speaking skills. I finished at Wigan and Leigh College last year gaining really good results and a better understanding of the English language.

After leaving college I was unemployed and had never had a job before so went to Wigan Job Centre for further guidance, it was here that I learned about the Get a Job Course at Wigan Youth Zone.

After an induction onto the course, I attended initial sessions helping me write a really good CV, and after this gained knowledge about interview techniques and customer service skills whilst on the Get a Job course. I have also gained a Level 2 qualification in PEARL (Personal Employability, Achievement and Reflection for Learning).

As part of the course we went on a residential trip, where we took part in activities such as stand-up paddle boarding and mountain biking which I really enjoyed. We went to Keswick where we had to cook our own breakfasts, dinner and tea, my team cooked enchiladas!

An important part of the course was the 2-week work experience placement each student had to complete, mine was at Premier Inn. I completed the placement which went really well, the staff were really positive towards me and they have since offered me a permanent position working 20 hours per week.

If it wasn't for the Get A Job Course at Wigan Youth Zone I wouldn't be where I am now. I'm really enjoying things and am motivated – so looking forward to building some experience and a bit of a future for myself!"





## SPORTS

*Our sports team continue to introduce positive, engaging and fun sports for our members to get involved in – keeping a fresh programme of activities running and developing a pathway into healthy lifelong habits via our Try, Train and Team principles that aid participation.*

Tons of new sports have been introduced this year – one of which is fencing. Inspired by the success of the Rio Olympic team, we have regular fencing sessions being held at the Youth Zone and delivered by an external organisation. Also new for this year is the launch of our futsal league, open to all 9-16 year olds throughout Wigan and beyond, 21 teams have played in the 4 leagues over a 12 week period – with a Wigan Youth Zone team in each league.

New sport launches like this are fantastic as not only do they add to the variety of sporting activities on offer at the Youth Zone – inspiring participation – but also help us build links within the local community and reach young people previously not connected to WYZ.

This year, the sports team will be focusing on a large scale judo event scheduled for 2017, inter-Youth Zone monthly competitions, boccia sessions in collaboration with our Triple A Team and fundraising for the New York Dodgeball World Cup – which we hope to send our WYZ dodgeball team to in 2018.



## OUTREACH

*Our outreach team's vision is simple – to make Wigan Youth Zone accessible to a wider map of young people and allow our positive work to reach into the community and have an impact outside our doors.*

2016 was another fantastic year for the team with over 3,674 Visits to the Youth Zone in 12 months via the Outreach programme and 226 new members joining WYZ as a result of the programme.

Our work in the community was also vast. Throughout 2016, the outreach team were heavily involved in the Platt Bridge area – the team started off engaging with youths in high anti-social behaviour hotspots there and now have managed to build a firm sessional base at John Tiernan House, where young people can get involved in activities. This is a result of a long journey of meetings with council leaders, local charities and other stakeholders – it is a fantastic example of the Youth Zone working alongside local organisations to build sustainable positive results in our local community.

Other areas of work include Mesnes Park, where our outreach team continue to improve anti-social behaviour, liaising with local authorities and keeping parents informed of the risks of the area. The outreach team are also working at a youth group set up at Shakerley Community Centre, where we've seen some consistently good engagement numbers.



## ART, FASHION AND DESIGN

*The Art Zone at WYZ continues to be a firm favourite with Juniors and Seniors alike, new sessions this year have included animation, printmaking and even puppet design!*

As part of the Arts Council England funding, the team have also had many visits from schools from around Wigan – booking visits to see our Art In Focus wall. The Art in Focus wall, launched this financial year, features original pieces of artwork by famous artists displayed alongside work from our very own members.

In August 2016 our team took 18 young people to Ornside Mill in The Lakes for the arts residential trip – a weekend filled with creativity. The theme for the weekend was 'Festivals' and young people made homemade bunting and lanterns as well as joining in on team-building exercises.



## MENTORING

*In 2016, the Youth Zone launched a brand new mentoring programme, the main aim of which was to offer assurance to young members and support them with the challenges that come along with day-to-day life.*

As it was the first year of the project, 2016 was focused towards mentor recruitment and building guidance, training and procedures that will underpin the programme. The Mentoring Co-ordinator who manages the project has managed to recruit a large number of mentors in the project's 1st year and identified young people to match them with. We are already seeing positive results in the young people who have joined this programme, which we can attribute to the relationships built with their mentors.

Mentoring will continue in earnest in 2017, recruiting further and offering guidance, support and further training so those young people who are yet to be matched with a mentor can also benefit from this project.





# DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS

*Our dance and performing arts programme has gone from strength to strength with new sessions being introduced throughout 2016.*

The WYZ cheerleading company 'WYZ Royals' have been rehearsing hard throughout the year, in 2016 they were divided into two groups - one group of beginners and another advanced level for those who wish to compete and try stunts and tumblers. The team also designed their own uniform which was printed this year and have developed their own 'cheer track', a bespoke piece of music exclusively for the Royals!

Our Performing Arts Academy (APAA) have continued to wow audiences throughout 2016/17, with a fantastic performance of Midsomer Night's Dream in 2016 and this year's annual pantomime, 'Troll Tales of the Mild, Mild West' which is a story based on Three Billy Goat's Gruff, written by our Performing arts staff and performed by our APAA members in December.

# GIRLS ROOM AND HEALTH & WELLBEING

*Our Girls Room continues to offer our female members a positive and friendly environment where they can talk, learn new things and simply be themselves.*

The Girls Room underwent a major transformation in summer 2016, with a redesign and complete makeover. Young people were involved in every stage of the design process, having an input on colour scheme and layout. The room looks refreshed and now reflects the massive popularity of the 'Salon Zone'!

A massive part of the offering in our Girls Room is the awareness and issue-based targeted work we can deliver here - this department offers a space where young girls can talk openly and discuss everything from self-confidence and body image, through to sexual health.

Awareness workshops and discussions in the past 12 months have included the 'Work it Out' LGBTQ group in partnership with Brook, 'Time to talk, time to change' mental health awareness sessions and a number of visits from the Drug and Alcohol Team.



# REC AREA

*As the first space you walk into at Wigan Youth Zone, the rec area is at the heart of all we do - a vibrant and lively area that welcomes all young people when arriving at the Youth Zone.*

Summer 2016 saw the Rec Area's Olympics Event descend on the Youth Zone. In line with the Rio Games, our rec team delivered a programme of Olympic-based activities for all those attending the Youth Zone, tying in with the other departments to bring the theme to life. Activities over the event included decathlon, target games, rowing competitions and an Olympic quiz!

Reintroduced for 2016 has been theme nights in the Rec Area - themes this year have included army night, hawaiian weekend and funfair madness. The theme nights bring an extra boost to our senior sessions; promoting general participation and increasing cohesion for all teams - helping young people get involved in new activities and Youth Zone areas.

# SKATE PARK

*An ever popular area of the Youth Zone, whatever the weather, the Skate Park is a magnet for our young people.*

For the Skate Park team, this year was all about helping our riders with one-to-one coaching sessions on our monthly programmes, allowing members to focus on more specific areas of their riding and improve their skill set.

New for 2016 was the launch of our Skate Park Tournament, here at the Youth Zone in April 2017, the tournament was sponsored by local bike shop, Alan's BMX and allowed our members to compete as well as meet semi-professional riders who came along to perform and judge the competition.



## GYM

*This year, our gym team have been focusing on getting as many young people as possible through the gym doors, promoting taking part in daily exercise and a healthier lifestyle for our members.*

2016 saw the introduction of some new weightlifting equipment into our gym area, which has led to a spike in participation, working with British Weightlifting and with funding from Sportivate, we've been able to put 2 staff members through Level 1 and 2 of the British Weightlifting Qualifications. The Youth Zone team hopes this will lead to an official affiliation with British Weightlifting, and in turn, some great exposure for the Youth Zone's gym.

Many young people have visited the gym this year from local sports groups, Hindley ARLFC under 9's have completed their pre-season training at the gym and the team have hosted Warrington Youth Zone's future members, one of the members from Warrington commented;

"We can't wait for the Youth Zone to be built and to be able to move into a facility as great as this one!"



## CASE STUDY

### CHANTELLE'S STORY

*Chantelle started attending the Youth Zone in 2013 when we first opened and what a success story it has been. When she first attended the Youth Zone, Chantelle lacked self-esteem but with the support of a structured fitness programme, diet and motivation over the first year here, she has seen real positive changes in her health and confidence and has lost 23kg!*

Bullied because of her weight Chantelle had become depressed, this had an effect on her diet and state of mind and she turned to comfort-eating as a release for the problem. The gym Staff monitored her progress and results on a weekly basis throughout her journey and the fact that she could see her results kept her motivated and focused, it gave her a much needed release from her normal everyday life.

Chantelle regularly attends the club and 3 years on is still slugging it out week in, week out. This month she attempted a personal best lift on the bar of 115kg.

*"Becoming a member at Wigan Youth Zone and joining the gym changed so much for me in such a positive way."*



## MUSIC AND MEDIA

*2016 hailed the re-launch of WYZ Radio by our music and media team, young people have undergone in-house training on how to use the radio studio desk, control music, mic and sound levels as well as presenting and production skills training from our Music and Media Team Manager, Nikki – who has worked in radio for a number of years.*

Also set up in 2016 was a partnership with local radio station, Wish FM. The station hosted members of the Youth Zone for a tour of their studios in August, young people who attended received presenter training, advice on building radio brand and identity, rehearsed and recorded radio jingles and were even interviewed live on air!

Wigan Youth Zone's resident record label, Reet Good Records continues to develop home-grown artists, with over 20 young people every week using our recording facilities to create their own compositions with our in-house producers. This year young people have worked on a host of new marketing materials for Reet Good Records and the team launched a free Christmas compilation album, introducing young people to song-writing.



# 31

THERE ARE 31 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO REGULARLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WYZ RADIO PROJECT, LEARNING AND DEVELOPING MEDIA SKILLS WHICH THEY CAN USE IN LATER LIFE!



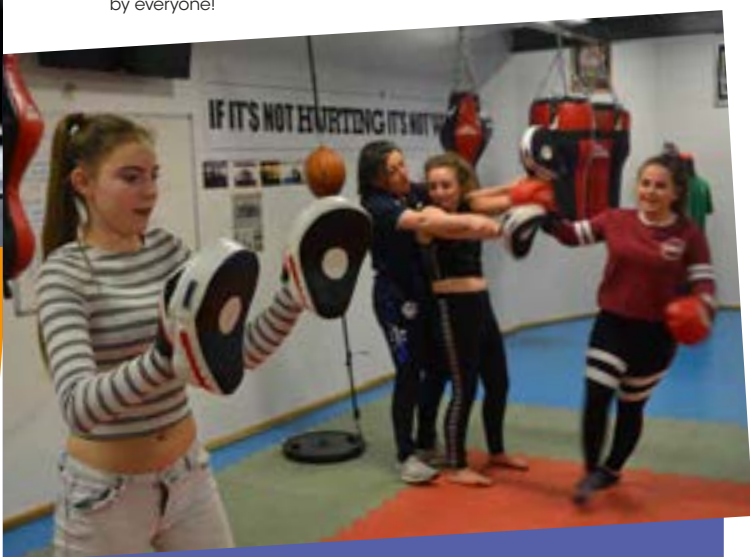


## BOXING GYM

*With over 1200 visits, our boxing gym has been extremely busy this year. The team continue to create an environment that is welcoming for everyone – whether they are brand new to the sport and would like to take it up as a form of fitness or just wish to progress in a more serious way and box professionally.*

The boxing gym continues to deliver judo sessions and recently held a British Judo Association competition at the facility. Over the last 12 months we have also seen plenty of personal developments amongst our boxers, we now have 10 'carded' boxers who have had amateur fights, with more to come in the future.

Another focus of the team in 2016 was female participation in the boxing gym, a new girls-only session has now been introduced every Thursday for our Senior Members – ensuring the area and sessions can be enjoyed by everyone!



## FOOTBALL

*The football and MUGA pitch team have made real improvements to our offering over the past 12 months.*

June 2016 saw the introduction of a new WACT (Wigan Athletic Community Trust) Football Officer, who will focus on engagement in football and usage of the multi-use pitches here at the Youth Zone – in collaboration with our partners, Wigan Athletic.

'Kicks', a huge new project was launched in collaboration with WACT on Wednesday and Saturday evenings here at the Youth Zone. The project has been a great success in engaging young people in football with many players who have attended going on to play for the Youth Zone Kicks Team all across the country.

A successful re-launch of our girls-only football sessions and an increase in local sports teams using the pitches meant participation numbers on the Muga pitches (Multi-Use Games Areas) have risen over the past year. Also our football programme has improved vastly with a lot more choice for our members.



## CLIMBING & OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

*Key this year for our climbing and outdoor adventure team was staff development, allowing our team to offer a wider base of knowledge and additional skills.*

Our team have undergone some additional training and qualifications this year including the Climbing For All Training, which helps our team deliver fully inclusive climbing sessions and a Climbing Fundamentals Level 2 Course that gives our staff additional tools to keep activities engaging and fun.





# THE VENUE

*The Venue celebrated its first birthday this year and what a first year it has been. Since the appointment of new management, we've seen the weekly attendance levels increase significantly and a steady base of older teens regularly coming along to our events every weekend.*

Working collaboratively with Wigan and Leigh College this year, The Venue team have set up weekly college drop-in sessions where students from the college across the road can come along to The Venue at lunchtime, enjoy the music, pool tables and buy milkshakes, snacks and drinks.

We've also been working alongside The Old Courts in Wigan, to produce a calendar of weekly events that 15 - 21 year olds can enjoy every weekend evening. Events over the past 12 months in The Venue have been diverse and exciting, including Battle of the Bands Competition, Rock Night, Live Zumba and Open Mic nights to name but a few.

The Venue continues to build a following amongst older teens locally and provide a dynamic and exciting calendar of events to bring them in every weekend.

**Over the past 12 months, almost 8,000 young people have attended The Venue!**



## DIGITAL SKILLS HUB

This year we've worked with many organisations to try and build a network of trainers able to use The Venue's Digital Skills Hub. Wigan Council committed to using the venue for courses such as Smoking Cessation Sessions and Basic Digital Skills. We've also had commitment from the Brathay Trust and Accenture. The Digital Skills Hub is a fantastic and central space that can be used throughout the day and night, our focus throughout this year is to ensure it is used to its full potential.

A working party was launched in 2016 to discuss the Skills Hub progression, the party consists of representatives from WYZ staff, our board and our skills partners. The team will continue to meet Bi-monthly to push the usage of the hub.

# FUNDRAISING



*Fundraising over the last 12 months has remained buoyant but has required a great deal of focus and dedication. The budget target of £2.15 million was achieved and we have managed to remain sustainable, operating slightly under the projected budget figures whilst enjoying another year of successful outcomes.*

Without the support of the Local Authority, our patrons and the local business community, the Youth Zone couldn't exist. These influences help provide not just financial contributions, but also innovation, local awareness and the ability to network. All are strategically and financially important to the future of the Boys and Girls Club (Wigan Youth Zone).

We will look to build on these foundations and encourage on-going funding from existing supporters and engage new supporters to help us achieve our aims. In addition we will continue to remain focused on managing our funds astutely in order to remain secure and sustainable during the next financial year and longer term. As we continue to extend our services and reach out to more young people in Wigan and Leigh, the need to generate increased and sustainable funding is ever more critical.

Patronage has played a key role in our fundraising this year due to our investment in this area and appointment of a new Patron Development Manager. This year we've seen 27 patrons come on board to support the Youth Zone, which equates to around \$95,000 of funds.

A new element of our patron development plan is the 'Seeing is Believing' dinners, these dinners allow existing patrons to invite contacts that they feel would be interested in investing in our charity to learn more about Wigan Youth Zone. The evening showcases the Youth Zone with performances from young people and a tour of the facility, these events have been hailed a huge success so far with the first event in September resulting in 11 new patrons.

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Once again our events calendar has delivered a fantastic stream of funding for the Youth Zone and raised awareness throughout our local business network and community. Every event requires vast and significant effort and investment from our staff, patrons and supporters – we continue to be overwhelmed by the support received and could not manage the events without it.

## WRENNALLS HALL CLAY SHOOT

The 16/17 Fundraising Events Calendar kicked off with our Annual Clay Shoot held at the idyllic waterside retreat of Wrennalls Hall. We had 22 teams enter the shoot in April 2016, enjoying a full day of shooting, lunch and drinks. The event helped raise over £13,000 for the Youth Zone.

## THE MERE CELEBRITY GOLF EVENT

On July 5th, we hosted our annual golf fundraising event at The Mere Resort and Spa in Knutsford for almost 400 guests. The event included an exclusive Q&A session with Sir Alex Ferguson and a stand up performance from comedian Jason Manford. The event was supported by Under Armour, Intersport, IKO and Roofing Consultants Ltd and managed to raise a fantastic £92,000 for work done here at the Youth Zone.

## REET GOOD BEER FESTIVAL 2016

September saw the return of Wigan Youth Zone's largest event, the Reet Good Beer Festival. The festival is a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for the Youth Zone but equally to raise awareness amongst local families and the general public.

The beer festival required an epic amount of time and resource and once again our WYZ staff team and local supporters delivered. Over 2000 people attended the beer festival over its 4 day period – enjoying the large array of beers, ales and lagers but also new additions to the festival of a Prosecco and Cider Bar.

The beer festival relies heavily on sponsorship from local business – once again we thank the local business community who continue to support this event and dig deep for Wigan Youth Zone.

## ANNUAL BALL

Our Annual Ball was held on 26th November at The DW stadium and welcomed almost 300 people to the glitzy event. This year's theme was Las Vegas and guests enjoyed entertainment from Broadway legend Louis Hoover as well as some fantastic performances from Wigan Youth Zone members. The event raised £64,000 for the Youth Zone in just one evening.

## ANNUAL BOXING DINNER

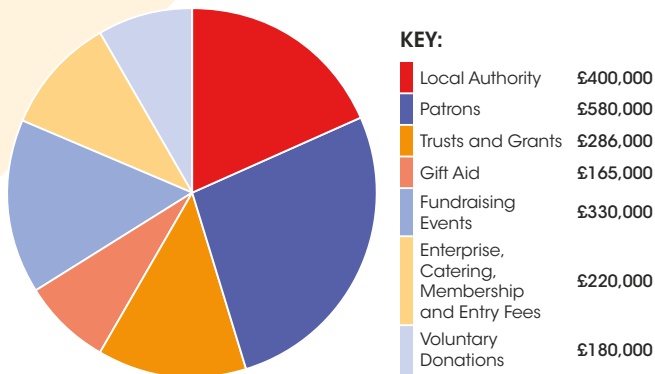
The final event of our 2016/17 financial year was the Annual Boxing Dinner, which was held at Wigan Youth Zone at the beginning of February 2017. Over 300 people from across Wigan and beyond attended the event, enjoying 13 bouts with representatives from Wigan & Leigh Boxing Club, the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Boxing Teams. The fundraising dinner was a great success, with a total amount raised over the evening of £30,000 from ticket sales, prize draws and our luxury auction.



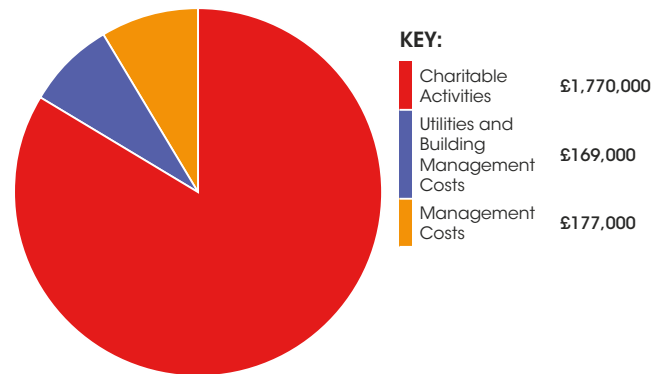


# FINANCIALS

## Income £2.16 million



## Expenditure £2.11 million



## GRANTS & TRUSTS (EXTERNAL FUNDING)

*As a Wigan based local charity, the income Wigan Youth Zone receives from grant giving organisations and trusts is essential. Moving forward this source of income will play a more critical role in helping us to extend and strengthen our offer to the thousands of children and young people we engage each week from our communities across Wigan and Leigh.*

During 2016-17 we successfully secured a number of grant and trust awards that have been instrumental in developing and improving our existing provision. In addition to this our new grant awards have funded innovative projects that have responded creatively to our ever growing membership base and to young people's needs, interests and skills.

### New projects have included:

- **Someone to talk to – funded by The Deal (Wigan Council) and Garfield Weston:** These projects are providing mentoring support for vulnerable young people at a period of transition or difficulty in their lives. Each young person is offered weekly one to one mentoring support for a 12 month period, all underpinned by recruitment, training and management by our Mentoring Coordinator.
- **Gardening Project – funded by Santander Foundation:** This project involves young people cultivating a large strip of unused land around the perimeter of Wigan Youth Zone and creating their own small allotment plots. The plots will be used to teach gardening skills including growing vegetables and flowers, harvesting and learning how to cook healthy meals from home grown produce.
- **Veteran Families Project – funded by Armed Forces Covenant (LIBOR) Fund:** This is a 2 year project that is being delivered across 7 Youth Zones including Wigan Youth Zone. Each project will support the social development and wellbeing of Service Families and ex-service children. The project will provide a key worker to undertake an individual needs assessment and design an appropriate package of support and opportunities with each family. This would include helping ex-service children to effectively engage in open access sports, arts and outdoor activities, as well as a range of targeted services such as mentoring.
- **Talent Match:** 'Talent Match' is a Big Lottery funded project being delivered by the employability team at the Youth Zone. The project aims to tackle youth unemployment in girls aged 18 - 24 by offering one to one support throughout their journey to employment.
- **The European Social Fund** invested in our Get a Job course in 2016. This project aims to support and secure young people back into education, employment or training via our employability course.

### Continuation projects from funding we received in 2015/16 including:

- **Procure Plus continues to invest in our Get A Job Course,** supporting young people with positive employment outcomes. Throughout the course, our team have tracked 48 students into positive destinations and are continuing to monitor their progress at the 6-month mark when in employment, to improve sustainability.
- **Art Zone – funded by the Arts Council England:** Our 3 year project has achieved amazing outcomes during 2016 with the development of an art gallery at Wigan Youth Zone, showcasing work by local young people alongside professional artists. The project is also developing relationships with schools and local community groups, giving them access to the exhibitions here at the Youth Zone.

*Thank you to all our grants & trust funders, the projects and activities they have supported are making a real difference to children and young people.*





# PARTNERS AND PATRONS

## PARTNERS



## FOUNDER PATRONS



Bill Ainscough & Family



Brendan & Barbara Ainscough

Anthony Hitchen

Bill & Maria Lloyd

## GOLD PATRONS



## SILVER PATRONS



Derek & Tracy Wignall

Lane Smith Consulting Ltd

Geoff Ashton

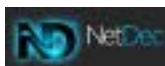
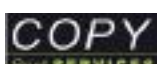


Steve Hanlon



Roberto & Beth Martinez

## BRONZE PATRONS



David Moorcroft

Frank & Margaret Monk

Christine Ainscough

Clare Higham

Chris Gray

Martin Ainscough

# OUR PEOPLE

## STAFF

General Manager – Janine Blythe (Interim)  
Youth Work Manager & Safeguarding Officer – Kate Rigby  
Youth Work Manager – Chris Chamberlain  
HR & Office Manager – Lisa Potter  
HR & Systems Administrator – Daniela Obeada  
Events & Fundraising Manager – Stuart Campbell  
Volunteer & Training Manager – Sue Shearer  
Communications Manager – Jennifer Dry  
Finance Officer – Steph Ainscough  
Reception Team – Leanne Cross, Chris Dean, Wendy Melling, Sinead Watmough, Stephanie Barton, Tanya Sharrock  
Senior Club Manager and Head of Sport – Ryan Powell  
Junior & Holiday Club Manager – Deb Freeman  
Facilities Manager & Health & Safety Manager – Steve Horne  
Events & Room Booking Administrator – Sharon McLaren  
Catering Manager – Dave Newsam  
Venue Manager – Andy Nicholls  
Business Ambassador & Board Member – Bernard Edmunds  
Patron Development Manager – Teresa Moksa  
Grants and Trusts Manager – Karen May

## LEAD YOUTH WORKERS

Junior Holiday Club Team Leader – Diane Winnard  
Sports Hall – Ian Gaskell  
Health & Fitness Suite – Mike Wills  
Girls Room – Hayley Russell  
Outdoor Adventure & Duke of Edinburgh – Mark Daly and Chris Quigley  
Art – Catherine Bryan  
Indoor & Outdoor Rec – Andy Nicholls & Jay Wrench  
Outreach – Mike McCurdy  
Music & Media – Nicola Varley  
Enterprise and Employability – Greg Wynter & Sikander Ali  
Triple A – Andy Sampson  
Performing Arts & Dance – Kerin Morris  
Mentoring – Genna Banks  
MUGA and Football Officer – Dave Philp  
Targeted Youth Worker – Beth Jones

## THE BOARD

*Our board's primary responsibility is to govern in the charity's best interest, contributing their time and individual expertise.*

The board have invested a lot of time and supported the Youth Zone consistently since we've started, they are incredibly proud of the work done here at the Youth Zone and the fantastic support received from our dedicated patrons, corporate partners, funders, trusts and staff – all of whom have played a part in this success story.

*A huge thank you to our board for their continued support and guidance.*



## GET IN TOUCH

Wigan Youth Zone is open seven days a week so you should always be able to get hold of one of our team.

### Main Reception

01942 612 061

### Partnership Queries

Teresa.moksa@wiganyouthzone.org

### General Enquiries

enquiries@wiganyouthzone.org

### Grants and Trust Queries

Karen.May@wiganyouthzone.org

### Fundraising

stuart.campbell@wiganyouthzone.org

WE'RE SOCIAL Find us on  

Wigan Youth Zone, Parson's Walk, Wigan WN1 1RU

Registered Charity No: 1134451



## COME JOIN US...

**OUR FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IF IT WASN'T FOR OUR DEDICATED TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS.**

If you are interested in volunteering at Wigan Youth Zone, drop an email to Sue.Shearer@wiganyouthzone.org