

## A large, vibrant collage of numerous small photographs depicting various community events, sports activities, and group gatherings. The collage is set against a background of large, overlapping yellow and orange circles. The photos show people of all ages participating in events, posing for group shots, and engaging in various activities. Some photos include text like "WILKIN 70" and "WILKIN".

Annual Report  
2017/18

# "I CAN'T HELP BUT BE INSPIRED"

"Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome to the Wigan Youth Zone family and to this remarkable community. Every day I take great pleasure in walking through the front doors; I am floored by the inspirational young people and staff.

There is great pride within the town and a community spirit that is palpable. Wigan Youth Zone truly feels united with the whole community, as it strives to make a difference in the lives of the borough's young people.

It is incredibly heart-warming to see the value young people gain from this innovative facility. Offering young people opportunities to develop confidence, learn new skills, fulfil their dreams and achieve their goals is integral to our DNA. As you read through this booklet I hope you will be overwhelmed by the impact Wigan Youth Zone has had over the last five years; I know I am.

In order to make our dreams a reality I hope that we can rely on your support in the future whether it is by volunteering, mentoring, fundraising, donating, partnering or communicating our work. Everyone has something to offer and can tangibly add value to this wonderful community asset."



**Anthony Ashworth-Steen**  
Executive Director - Wigan Youth Zone

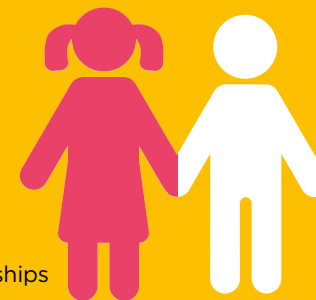


## OUR VISION

To inspire and empower all young people in Wigan and Leigh to fulfil their potential.



- Y**oung person centred approach
- O**pen, inclusive and respectful environment
- U**niversal programming consistently on offer which is inspirational and aspirational
- T**ruly meaningful opportunities for youth voice and empowerment
- H**elping young people to build positive relationships to enable them to reach their potential



Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the last five years of delivering a better future for our young people. We can achieve astonishing results when a whole community unites and shares the determination to make a difference. I am incredibly excited for what the future will bring.



Anthony Ashworth-Steen, Executive Director - Wigan Youth Zone

## GOALS

Our ten primary goals for the next five years are as follows:

For 15% (c6,500) of all young people aged 8-19 (up to 25 with a disability) in Wigan and Leigh to be signed up as a member of Wigan Youth Zone and for an average of 75% of those members to be active on a regular basis (at least once every three months) by December 2022.

Enhance our inclusion offer to give more meaningful opportunities for young people that require additional support. Our aim is for members that need additional support to make up 15% (c975) of our overall membership by December 2022.

Expand our Employability offer to provide opportunities for 140 young people per year with at least 80% going onto a positive destination (apprenticeship, employment or further education) by January 2022.

Young people to be given a more meaningful voice in the direction and strategy of Wigan Youth Zone by December 2018.

To become a chosen provider of the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme in Wigan and Leigh by summer 2019.

For volunteering at Wigan Youth Zone to become sought-after in recognition of the impact people's time has on young people and the array of training opportunities it provides. We aim to have over 100 active volunteers regularly undertaking a commitment (at least once a month) by October 2020.

To develop a new annual communications plan by 2019, which enhances the communication and further embeds the charity as a pivotal part of the communal fabric in Wigan and Leigh.

Ensure sustainability for the long-term through the efficient use of resources, development of a robust income generation strategy and excellent governance by March 2020.

To guarantee that the Wigan Youth Zone facilities are kept to a high standard through a planned and reactive programme of works.

To become an accredited organisation for investment in staff by December 2020.





# A WORD FROM...

**MR MARTIN AINSCOUGH CBE**  
**CHAIRMAN**



Wow what can I say? Five years ago we opened the doors to Wigan Youth Zone and we couldn't have imagined how impactful this community asset would be today. When we first started on our Youth Zone journey, our vision was always to be the biggest and best youth facility for young people. Everyday I am amazed and overwhelmed at how young people from the borough engage with the offer available to them and make the most of the opportunities they are presented with. We will however not rest on our laurels, we still have work to do over the next five years. We must make sure we become sustainable for the long-term and continue to inspire and empower young people in the borough to fulfil their potential. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to deliver five years of fantastic youth provision, here's to the next five...

**MR BILL AINSCOUGH**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**



As we celebrate five years of providing young people in Wigan with a safe and inspiring environment, I am excited about the role Wigan Youth Zone will play in raising the hopes and aspirations of future generations in the town. Having achieved so much already, I have no doubt our offer will continue to enhance and grow, enabling us to reach so many more young people. I am confident we will further embed the charity as a pivotal part of the Wigan and Leigh community, achieving fantastic results for our young people. Well done to our wonderful team for all their support driving success at the Youth Zone, you're doing an amazing job!

**MR DAVE WHELAN**  
**PRESIDENT**



Wigan Boys and Girls Club is everything I ever imagined it would be. I am often humbled when I think of young people from my hometown that are benefitting from this facility. Our goal is for young people in Wigan to fulfil their potential; whether that is finding their dream job or facing their fear of heights up on the climbing wall, to making new friends and growing in confidence. Together we are creating a proud legacy for our town. I am confident that these first five years are just the start of Wigan Youth Zone becoming a pillar within the local community, changing the lives of young people long into the future after we are no longer around. Congratulations to staff, volunteers and supporters that helped make Wigan Youth Zone the success that it is today.

**DONNA HALL CBE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WIGAN COUNCIL**



The Youth Zone is a fabulous part of the Wigan Deal. We have seen a huge reduction in juvenile anti-social behaviour and a massive improvement in aspirational and educational attainment of young people during this period. The Youth Zone works closely with the Council to complement our existing offer for young people through our targeted youth service and providing a fantastic array of sporting, leisure, music, drama and dance provision that the council would never have been able to provide on its own. I see the Youth Zone going from strength to strength. It is at the heart of our offer to young people who deserve the very best provision.

““

The commitment and support we have received from our partners and patrons over the years has been phenomenal, everyone is working tirelessly to make Wigan Youth Zone a success and I could not be more proud to be Chairman of such a worthy cause. ””

Mr Martin Ainscough CBE - Chairman



# WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN

As we celebrate five amazing years of supporting Wigan's young people, here is a look back over the last 12 months of achievements.



## 2017

**APRIL:** New gardening project launches thanks to £5000 donation from The Santander Foundation



Last year we launched an exciting new gardening project at the Youth Zone, allowing young people to grow their own vegetables, harvest them and learn how to make healthy and nutritious meals from their produce. Yum yum...

**MAY:** The BBC's biggest political show comes to Wigan Youth Zone



The arrival of Question Time was a major coup for both the Youth Zone and the borough. Youth Zone members went behind the scenes to find out about the show from its Director, production staff and camera operators - skills some of the kids applied to their very own WYZ Radio shows!

**JUNE:** WYZ wins Fair Play Trophy at OnSide President's Cup



The OnSide President's Cup took place in Carlisle and Wigan Youth Zone was, as always, ready to go into battle against teams from all other Youth Zones. 2017 saw 11 other Youth Zones compete in the incredible event, giving members the chance to meet other young people from different towns, cities and backgrounds. We're proud to say Team Wigan received the Bill Holroyd CBE Fair Play Trophy.

**JULY:** UK Youth funded project, the Change Squad podcast tackles issues affecting young people



A new podcast developed by young people for young people, sparked fantastic conversations on serious challenges facing young people, including drugs, alcohol and self harm. Thanks to funding from UK Youth young people were able to buy new equipment and create podcasts 'on location'.

**AUGUST:** Wigan Warriors Charity Single produced at WYZ



We worked collaboratively with Wigan Warriors to release a charity single in anticipation of the Warriors facing Hull FC in the Challenge Cup Final. The single, produced by our in-house record label Reet Good Records, saw all proceeds shared between the Youth Zone and Joining Jack.

**SEPTEMBER:** Youth Zone welcomes new Executive Director, Anthony Ashworth-Steen



In Sept 2017, we saw the beginning of a new chapter for Wigan Youth Zone with the appointment of new Executive Director, Anthony Ashworth-Steen. "You can't help but be inspired in this role. What I particularly like about the Youth Zone is that it builds communities and gives young people the chance to essentially find themselves." Anthony Ashworth-Steen



**OCTOBER:** 60 young people take part in Wigan's Got Talent competition



Searching for the Youth Zone's most artistic and creative members to perform their hidden talents, we hosted our very own Youth Zone showcase. We were blown away at how fantastic Wigan's talent really is. The grand final saw 10 young people battle it out for the chance to win tickets to ITV's Britain's Got Talent filming and meet the celebrity judges!

**NOVEMBER:** Youth Zone Annual Ball raises over £67,000



Hailed a huge success, our Annual Ball saw over 300 people attend the glitzy event hosted by ITV's Paul Crone at the DW Stadium on 11th November. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, what an amazing contribution to the Youth Zone!

**DECEMBER:** Youth Zone volunteers recognised at Regional Awards Ceremony



Two of Wigan Youth Zone's most dedicated volunteers Sean Dwyer and Imogen Murray, were recognised at the Lancashire Boys and Girls Clubs Association (LABGC) Awards evening, for their dedication to the charity and positive impact on young members.

## 2018

**JANUARY:** Wigan Youth Zone marks National Obesity Awareness Week



As part of their commitment to healthy living amongst young people, staff at the Youth Zone organised events to coincide with National Obesity Awareness Week in January. The team delivered activities such as 'Cycle for your Smoothie' activity, where Youth Zone members had to mix their own smoothies using the Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles 'Bike-Blender'.

**FEBRUARY:** WYZ Market announces record sales for 2017



2017 was another profitable year for the WYZ market stall, raising almost £20,000 for the Youth Zone. Selling discount gym wear, trainers and other sports gear, donated from DW Sports - the stall has been a huge success with all proceeds returned to Wigan Youth Zone to help sustain our offer.

**MARCH:** Platt Bridge Youth Group set to launch



After months of hard work, Platt Bridge Youth Group opened to the public in March. The multi-party project aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve opportunities for young people in the Platt Bridge area. The project is supported by the Youth Zone, McDonalds Platt Bridge and Wigan Council - who have been working together in the area since October 2015.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Local fire services have reported a 50% reduction in secondary fires in the Platt Bridge area recently, which they attribute to our new Youth Group there.



# FIVE YEARS OF FANTASTIC YOUTH PROVISION

The Youth Zone really has been a whirlwind success story that has been made possible by the whole community. We have so much to celebrate from the last five years...

21,140

young people have  
become members



202

Duke of Edinburgh  
Awards issued

4,605



members now engaging  
in physical activity (2017)

Resulting in over

377,596

Youth Zone visits



1,760

girls engaging in physical activity (2017)

70,105



junior  
visits  
over  
5 years

32,120

volunteer  
hours  
given  
over last  
5 years



12,139

visits to  
holiday club  
over last  
5 years



400

young people use  
outreach services  
each month

883

members over the  
last 5 years that  
have accessed  
the Youth Zone  
that have additional needs



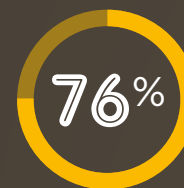
of members  
exercise regularly each week



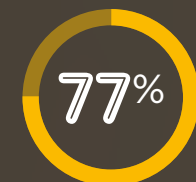
get better marks  
in their school work



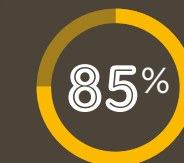
reported feeling more self-confident  
because of their Youth Zone attendance



have improved relationships  
with their families



reduction in anti-social behaviour has been  
reported by the police, attributed to the  
opening of the Youth Zone in June 2013



of young people who complete our "Get  
a Job" employability scheme progress to  
employment, education or training



“

Wigan Youth Zone does so much to support and inspire young people in the borough where I live; changing lives and providing access to new experiences and skills in a safe and fun environment. As MP for nearby Leigh for 16 years, I know just how important facilities like Wigan Youth Zone are to children in the area.

”

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do. Without their commitment and dedication to the Youth Zone, it would be impossible to deliver such a world-class offer for young people. Our staff work hard to make sure volunteers get the recognition they deserve. From celebration events to additional training and support, our aim is to enhance the volunteers' skills, provide opportunities to learn and develop, and of course have loads of fun along the way.



Volunteering at the Youth Zone is so rewarding and fun. I have learnt so much about safeguarding children and have received lots of support and additional training to work in the gym and sports hall. To anyone thinking about volunteering at the Youth Zone... I would say go for it!



Abby Hall, Young Leader at Wigan Youth Zone



# HOLIDAY CLUB

Over the last five years, our Holiday Club has become renowned within the town for providing an action-packed programme of engaging and inclusive activities for young people aged 8-12 years old. The offer has become a vital resource for parents across the borough trying to balance work and family commitments.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**1,522 young people** have attended Holiday Club over the last five years!



“

One of the best memories from our Holiday Club sessions has to be when we were making fluffy slime outside with shaving foam. We had loads left over, which obviously turned into a shaving foam fight with the kids. They ended up chasing staff all through the centre covering us in shaving foam. I remember spending about an hour afterwards washing kids' hair in the girls' room before it went stiff. It was so much fun and you could tell they loved every second of it... that's what it's all about!

”

Hannah Jenkins, Holiday Club Youth Worker



# ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYABILITY

Our talented and imaginative young people surprise us every day with their entrepreneurial and creative minds. Their originality and inventiveness know no bounds and as a result we have had a string of successes from our enterprise and employability programmes.

Our employability programme is the most successful in the OnSide network, supporting over 400 young people during the last five years. We have an astonishing 85% success rate for participants securing employment, apprenticeships and further education.



# INCLUSION

When we first opened to young people across Wigan, it was our belief and commitment that every young person should be able to get involved in the activities they want to, regardless of their ability. Over the years our inclusion team has continued to improve engagement with young people with additional needs. Our vision is to invest, inspire and include all young people.



Opportunities for young people with additional needs to take part in a wide variety of activities in one place, are often few and far between. I love working somewhere that is putting the needs of these young people first and helping them to realise and reach their potential. Wigan Youth Zone truly believes that every young person can - that is what makes it so great.



Andy Nicholls - Head of Youth Engagement

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## DID YOU KNOW?

The Cookie Mad Enterprise team were Greater Manchester Enterprise winners and won the European Public Choice award in Young Enterprise, where they pitched against the most successful independent grammar schools.

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# CREATING LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

Jordan, aged 20

For the last few years Jordan had unsuccessfully been trying to get a job. After a series of failed employment and apprenticeship opportunities, he was referred to our Get a Job course, which gave him the skills and confidence to prepare for interviews, write engaging cover letters and create a standout CV.



After completing the course I managed to get a work experience placement at local company One Stop Hire, which has now resulted in a full time position. I'm really loving the job! I would recommend anyone to take part in the course, it's a great way to help young people get into work. If I hadn't have done the course, I would just be sat at home doing nothing on a daily basis!



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

It is vital that we break down the barriers and understand the issues that affect young people to encourage positive emotional and physical health. Since we re-launched our Girls Room in 2014, not only have we seen female participation increase, but diverse groups have found that the Youth Zone offers them a safe space where they can have the confidence to talk openly in a friendly and non-judgemental environment. .

Individuality is celebrated, openly discussed and instilled in the WYZ culture. From LGBTQ group discussions, mental health awareness sessions, to body image debates, our aim is to promote a positive and friendly environment, where young people can talk, learn and be themselves.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Working with Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food we prepare young people for independent living by equipping them with money management skills and teaching them to cook healthy food within a limited budget.



## MENTORING

The relationship between a mentor and mentee can have a lasting impression on a young person's life. Together they often embark on a journey of self-confidence and empowerment. Our offer for young people to access advice, support and build confidence has, over the years, become a pillar of Wigan's young society.

25 young people are now receiving one:one support, which is making a positive difference to their lives.



After being a member at the Youth Zone for a few years, one of the staff spoke to me about the chance to have a mentor and whether it would be something I would be interested in. At first I was nervous but they were really nice to me. I see my mentor every single week and have learned a lot about being more open, talking about how I feel instead of shouting and being angry.



Jack,\* Youth Zone member

\*Name has been changed for safeguarding purposes

# IGNITING PASSIONS, BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Ethan, aged 13

Ethan heads up Wigan Youth Zone radio station, feeding his passion for all things digital. Since joining the Youth Zone he has been able to take ownership of the radio station and the production of its shows, creating a website and managing social media accounts.



The Youth Zone is the best place for young people to go. It gets me out of the house, where I can see my friends, play pool and take part in sports. In the future I want to do filming and producing and the staff have helped me get experience by managing the radio station, taking part in Question Time and going on trips to the BBC at Media City. I'm definitely not as shy as I was and have made loads of friends. If I wasn't coming to the Youth Zone I would just be sat at home on my Xbox.



# SPORTS

Sport is part of our DNA here at the Youth Zone. A staggering 70% of members exercise regularly each week! The benefits of our varied and exciting offer on members' mental and physical health have been remarkable. Our aim is to create a pathway to healthy lifelong habits that improve confidence, health and social wellbeing.

Over the years we have seen the number of members engaging in physical activity increase from 800 in 2014 to 4,605 in 2017.

## DID YOU KNOW?

WYZ has been chosen to represent England at the DODGE BALL WORLD CUP 2018 in Madison Square Gardens in New York.



# OUTREACH

Since we opened we have walked the streets and parks of the borough, building strong relationships with groups of young people and individuals that might feel disengaged from society. The aim is simple - to make Wigan Youth Zone as accessible as possible, to as many young people as possible.

We work regularly with local police, housing trusts, Wigan Council and other agencies to build sustainable positive results for the local community.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Police attributed a 77% reduction in anti-social behaviour as a direct impact of opening of the Youth Zone in 2013.





# SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

Maddison, aged 13

A sports enthusiast, Maddison is one of our avid climbers but she isn't shy of trying her hand at all types of activities on offer at Wigan Youth Zone.



I was walking by the Youth Zone once and had a look inside and that was it, I've been coming ever since. I try to get involved in everything, but my favourite is climbing as it challenges me every time I go up the wall. It's made a massive difference to my life, it's built my confidence up and I've made loads of new friends. It means a lot to young people who come to the Youth Zone, there isn't anywhere else like this nearby.



# ARTS, FASHION AND DESIGN

Creative expression through arts, crafts and culture is crucial for young people to explore and communicate their personal identity. From 3D animation to creating sculptures out of Heinz Baked Beans cans, the creativity of our members never ceases to amaze us. The Art Zone is one of the more peaceful areas of the Youth Zone, but is always bursting with imagination and innovation.



“

I love coming to the Art Zone. Coming here has made me be confident about the person I am. It's a place I can come to and just be myself and do all the things I enjoy.

”

Youth Zone member, Sian had suffered from bullying which had knocked her self-esteem and confidence in social situations.

# MUSIC + MEDIA

With the rise of digital media, we have seen an increase in popularity in our media and music activities across all ages. Many of our members use music as a form of expression and identity and we actively encourage their creativity to help nurture talent and improve confidence.

One of our biggest highlights from the last five years has been the development of our own record label Reet Good Records. Originated to progress the wave of emerging talent from our artistic development programme, it is now a platform for young musicians and singers to gain valuable experience in our recording studio and become respected as professional artists.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Over 20 young people every week use our recording facilities to create their own compositions with our in-house producers.



# DESIGNING A FUTURE

Owen, aged 17

Owen has been coming to the Youth Zone since it opened and he is a musical superstar in the making. From recording his own records to playing in front of thousands, he has really honed his talent whilst coming to the Youth Zone. Having recently been accepted to the one of the UK's most highly regarded theatre schools, Guildford School of Acting, Owen impressed the admission team so much that he was offered one of 40 places, out of the 2,000 young people that auditioned.



Without the Youth Zone I think my musical career would be non-existent, it's given me the platform and the support network to grab hold of new opportunities and build a future in music.





# DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Dance and performing arts continue to go from strength to strength as our offer develops. Whether we are taking part in Wigan Council's Santa Parade to launching our very own cheerleading squad, WYZ Royals, we are focused on ensuring our sessions enhance young people's skills. Where possible we always try to provide them with tangible outcomes of performance opportunities, accreditation and recorded material.



# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Getting outdoors has an extremely positive impact on the lives of young people. Our residential programme offers new opportunities, broadens horizons, develops team building, collaboration and friendships.

As part of our outdoor adventure offer to young people during the last five years, we have made our Duke of Edinburgh programme readily available to our members, delivering gold, silver and bronze awards. Thanks to additional funding received from partners and patrons we have been able to offer reduced packages so that it is as accessible and affordable as possible for young people.



I remember the pride on the faces of all the staff and Board when our young people performed a special, one-off 'Around Wigan in 80 Years' showcase at our Annual Ball in 2016, to celebrate Mr Whelan's 80th Birthday. They worked so hard to make the performance memorable for everyone there including scenes representing different eras in Wigan's history. It was fantastic to see their efforts displayed with so much passion... it made the night for me.



Kate Rigby, Youth Work Manager

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have issued 202 Duke of Edinburgh awards in total over the last five years.





# NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

Sean, aged 21

Sending goodbye messages to his friends was Sean's way of alerting them that he was struggling to cope and thinking about suicide. With high level autism, Sean often faced challenges with his social skills and lack of confidence. In and out of special needs schools all his life, the Youth Zone offered him an opportunity to express himself in a way he had never done before.

“

I've gone from being the isolated Sean that was always in the house, to this new Sean who goes out all over the place. The Youth Zone has helped open up me to the big wide world. I do have a good future and the Youth Zone has helped me see that future!

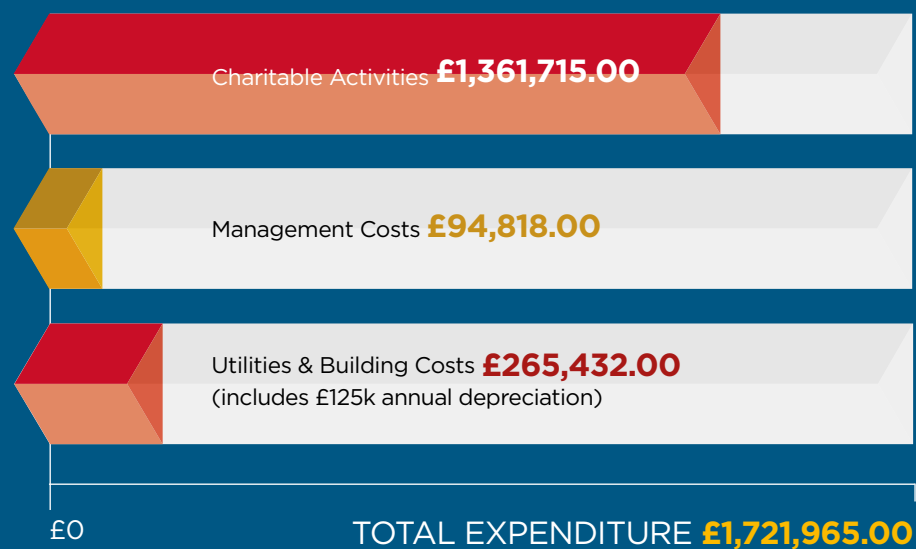
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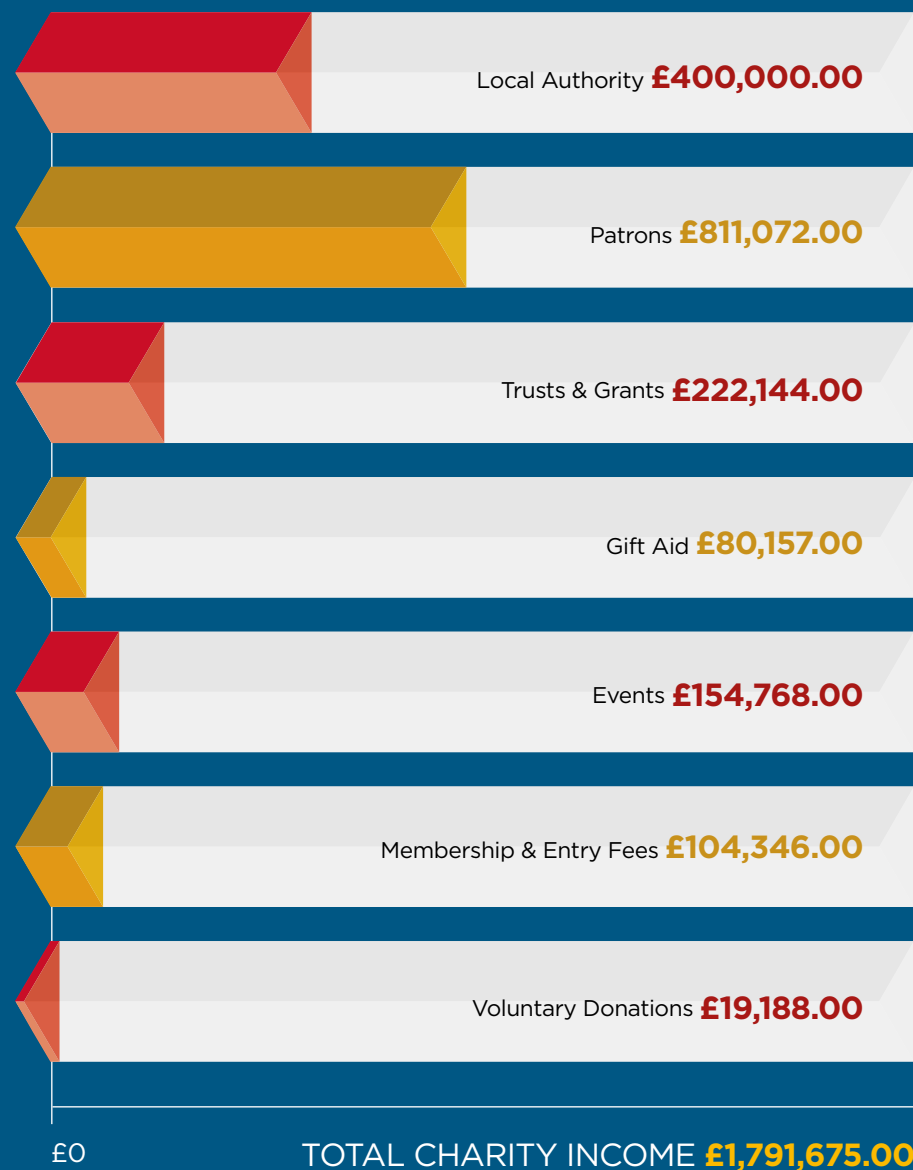
# WIGAN YOUTH ZONE ANNUAL FINANCIALS

April 2017 to March 2018

## EXPENDITURE



## INCOME



## THE BOARD



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

The Board has invested a lot of time and supported the Youth Zone consistently since we started and is incredibly proud of the work done here at the Youth Zone. Reaching this five year milestone would not have been possible without its members' tireless dedication to the young people of Wigan.

A huge thank you to our Board for its continued guidance and support.

## THANKS TO THE TEAM

Behind the Youth Zone is a fantastic team of skilled youth workers, administrators and managers who tirelessly develop and support our offer, with young people at the heart of all their work.

A massive thanks to the amazing staff team past and present, who have made the Youth Zone what it is today!



## 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**

General Enquiries:

[enquiries@wiganyouthzone.org](mailto:enquiries@wiganyouthzone.org)

Fundraising Enquiries:

[sharon.mclaren@wiganyouthzone.org](mailto:sharon.mclaren@wiganyouthzone.org)

# THANK YOUS

Thank you to all those that have been involved in the Youth Zone over the last five years; we are where we are today, because of you.

## Founder Patrons

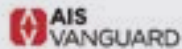
Martin and Judith Ainscough

Brendan & Barbara Ainscough

Dave Whelan



The Lenagan family



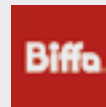
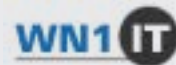
Mr and Mrs Hitchen



Maria and Bill Lloyd



## Gold Patrons



Anthony Hitchen



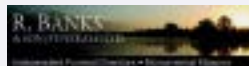
## Silver Patrons



Neil Kay







Geoff Ashton



Derek and Tracy Wignal

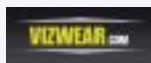


Roberto and Beth Martinez



Steve Hanlon

Lane Smith Consultants



## Bronze Patrons

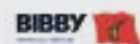
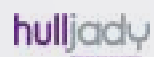
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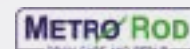
Christine Ainscough



Handelsbanken



Clare Higham



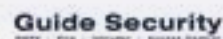
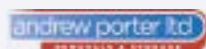
Standards of the Wiend



## Bronze Patrons (continued)



Frank and Margaret Monk



Chris Grey/Edwin Thompson



Martin Ainscough Eagle and Child





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Parsons Walk, Wigan, WN1 1RU | [wiganyouthzone.org](http://wiganyouthzone.org) | Registered charity no: 1134451

AN  YOUTH ZONE