



19/20



wigan youth zone

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

Our vision is to inspire and empower young people in Wigan and Leigh to fulfil their potential.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to give young people in Wigan and Leigh aged 8-19 (up to 25 with a disability) the freedom to discover themselves in an innovative, safe and social environment and to support their transition into adulthood.

OUR VALUES

- 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 the youth voice and empowerment
- H**elping young people to build positive relationships to enable them to reach their potential



2019 - 2020 TIMELINE

APRIL 2019



Wigan Youth Zone hosted the 2019 President's Cup for the second time since 2015. WYZ welcomed 14 Youth Zone teams from around the country, which amounted to 482 young people and staff taking part in the event, making it the biggest ever event in the history of the President's Cup!

We are delighted to report that Wigan Youth Zone came second overall and our inclusion team won!

MAY 2019



Wigan Youth Zone hosted a free community family fun day event on the 12th of May to celebrate the end of a fantastic 12-month Heritage Lottery funded UK project called 'Round Wigan', which explored music, fashion and dance from the 1950s to the 1980s.

JUNE 2019



The Reet Good Fest - an annual fundraising event - built on the success of the 2018 event which surpassed both the previous year's and the estimated income with over £29,500 being raised for the young people of Wigan and Leigh; a fantastic achievement.

Wigan Youth Zone's very own Street Dance crew won first place at the 'UK Stand Out Dance Competition'!

Wigan Youth Zone also saw the return of the Organised Noise Event which is an event that allows the opportunity for young people lacking confidence to sing to a small crowd in a calm and encouraging environment.

JULY 2019



Sports enthusiast Maddie who's been a member at Wigan Youth Zone since it opened was shortlisted at the Northwest UKFast Award for the "inspiring young sporting hero award". Maddie said, **"if it wasn't for WYZ I would not have taken part in these activities or even thought about participating in most of these sports. Wigan Youth Zone is creating so many opportunities for me"**.

Wigan Youth Zone hosted a five-a-side football tournament where a total of nine businesses enjoyed a day out of the office at the Youth Zone to compete for the prestigious Wigan Youth Zone Cup which was taken home by CG Professional. A great day was had by all and the event raised £1934.30 for the Youth Zone.

AUGUST 2019



Holiday Club ran throughout the summer and was well received by our Junior members and their families. We had 2900 visits - an average of 100 young people a day - which was one of the highest within the OnSide network. We also piloted day trips which were very popular.

The summer can generally lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour in the borough so we put a proactive programme in place for Seniors who were most likely to engage in negative behaviour. The programme engaged the young people in a number of ways - all with the desire to give them experiences they would remember and take them out of their comfort zones. The trips included; a music residential, an outreach residential, a waterpark residential and a 2-day snow camp and were well received by the young people.

Wigan Youth Zone's very own GLOW and EmpowHER members organised and hosted a Wigan Pride UV after-party at The Venue. The event was a huge success with a large number of young people both members and non-members in attendance!



SEPTEMBER 2019

Over 50 runners pounded the pavement for Wigan Youth Zone in the annual 10K which took place at the heart of Wigan Town Centre. Part of the cavalry included members from Wigan Santander Bank, Scott Rees, Attain, Great Minds Property and Launch Events as well as several Wigan Youth Zone members of staff.

The month finished on a high as Martin Ainscough, our former chair, was awarded with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the North West Charity Awards 2019 for his charitable support with specific emphasis on everything he achieved with Wigan Youth Zone. At the same event, Wigan Youth Zone was a finalist in the category of North West Charity of the Year for the second successive year.

OCTOBER 2019

The Annual Ball showcased the very best of Wigan Youth Zone's talent with special acts throughout the evening – the event raised a staggering £75,000 at the DW Stadium.

The Halloween events were very successful both in terms of attendance and the positive experience the young people had. During Halloween week, we had over 1600 visits to the centre and ran bespoke Junior and Senior Halloween events featuring our Hotel of Horrors scare maze. We were very proud of the experience we gave to our young people at Halloween and once again, the feedback from the young people was excellent.



NOVEMBER 2019

Wigan Youth Zone took 100 young people and staff members on a road trip all the way to London for the Onside Awards at the Royal Albert Hall! Wigan's very own Abu Hashim won the 'Believe and Achieve' award! Talented young people from across the country took to the stage on the 17th November and performed alongside world-renowned artists to an audience of thousands and HRH Prince Harry - the evening also saw fantastic performances from The Script, with their smash-hits 'Superheroes' and 'Hall of Fame', and John Newman with 'Love Me Again'.

Wigan Youth Zone won the award 'We're Backing Wigan' at the Wigan Business Awards in recognition for all we do for the local community; we were absolutely thrilled with this award which demonstrates the value the community place on our work and recognises the hugely positive impact we have.

We were finalists at the prestigious Children and Young People Now awards evening which was held in London. Across all the categories they received around 600 applications and we were one of nine charities that were shortlisted for the keynote award of the evening, 'The Children and Young People's Charity Award'. To be a finalist was an incredible achievement and fantastic recognition of our work.

DECEMBER 2019

It was a non-stop festive feeling at the Wigan Youth Zone in 2019 as the Youth Zone held their annual Family Christmas Dinner, a fantastic event for families that deserve a Christmas to remember. The support for this event is always overwhelming, with presents and food parcels donated from volunteers, patrons and local businesses in the community.



This year we supported over 220 people.



JANUARY 2020

In the month of January Wigan Youth Zone accommodated 8270 visits to the centre; the busiest January on record. A particular highlight was Hate Crime Awareness week where we ran a number of programmes throughout the Youth Zone designed to make young people question what they say, why they say it and the harm it can cause others. In the Girls Room there were a number of specific sessions and in other parts of the building there were awareness raising activities or information.

In January, Wigan Youth Zone secured a new partnership with MSA Chorley which offers free Muay Thai Classes to senior members. Muay Thai is a fighting style developed in Thailand, also known as the "Art of Eight Limbs".



MARCH 2020 HIGHLIGHT

On Sunday 1st March Wigan Youth Zone held the second-ever Inclusion Cup, with the aims of engaging young people with additional needs and disabilities in sports. 6 Youth Zones from across the country brought down a total of 70 young people with additional needs/disabilities – these young people engaged in 7 different sporting activities. A massive congratulations to Warrington Youth Zone who were this year's Inclusion Cup winners 2020!

Within 72 hours of the lockdown being announced, our creative and talented team launched our 'Virtual Youth Zone' to provide an open-access and universal online offer for all young people and their families to engage with.



FEBRUARY 2020

February saw a new event added to our calendar, Boogie Bingo! The fundraiser was a complete success and extremely popular as DW Stadium witnessed over 250 bingo fanatics play bingo with a twist, all for a good cause.

It was organised by Lines Henry Ltd and raised over £7000.

February half-term Holiday Club was a resounding success with 460 attendances – an increase of 38% compared to the year before. They joined in our activities whilst we transformed the Youth Zone into the Wild Wild West where they took part in sheriff shoot outs, tepee making, digging for gold, the great jail break out and the all-important end of week hoe down show down fancy dress festival.

KEY STATS AND FACTS



10

New patrons
this year



18

Young people
were mentored



17

Young people got
a job as a result
of Get a Job



330

Young people with
additional needs
supported per month



2,480

New members and
a total of 5620



84,790

Visited Wigan
Youth Zone



57,821

Activities
delivered



55

Volunteers donated
2500 hours of time
to WYZ



£139,297

In 2019/2020 was
raised through
fundraising events!



£402,532

Raised by our patrons
in 2019/2020



4,827

Visits to
Holiday Club

“Wigan Youth Zone is a fantastic example of the community coming together to support the next generation. The team work tirelessly to provide engaging programmes for the young people of Wigan and Leigh. It’s an invaluable facility of the town - I’m proud to be associated with this project! ”

Mr. Roberto Martinez



“Wigan Youth Zone provides endless opportunities for the young people of the Wigan and Leigh communities. The state-of-the-art facilities are a brilliant springboard for the future of our next generation of superstars. ”

Mr. Shaun Wane

A message from Wigan Youth Zone's

CHAIR

Richard Ainscough



It has been a very productive and successful year for Wigan Youth Zone across all parts of the organisation which is something that the Trustee Board and I are very proud of, being the first year in post for many of us.

The work with young people has continued to be exceptional both in terms of the programmes on offer and the impact which it has on the lives of our members – something which has been verified by external researchers. In the past twelve months we have had a total of 5,620 members who collectively made 84,790 visits to the centre. Our total attendance in the 2019 calendar year increased by over 2,000 from 2018, and we also had our highest ever attendances on record in the months of October and November in 2019 then again in January 2020 which speaks volumes for

the continued quality of delivery seven years after opening.

The success at the Youth Zone have been recognised locally, regionally and nationally by different award granting organisations for our work. Locally, we were thrilled to win the 'We're Backing Wigan Award' at the Wigan Business Awards for the impact we have had in the local community. Regionally we were delighted that one of Wigan Youth Zone's Founders, Martin Ainscough, won the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by

the North West Charity Awards for all his philanthropic efforts; at the same event we were shortlisted for the "North West Charity of the Year" for the second year running. Nationally, we were delighted to be one of nine charities shortlisted for the keynote award of the evening 'The Children and Young People's Charity Award' at the prestigious Children & Young People Now Awards. All of these accomplishments demonstrate the excellent work that we are doing in Wigan is being recognised across the sector.

In 2019 we had external researchers evaluate the outcomes Wigan Youth Zone was having on its members and I am pleased to report that these were significantly positive; these have been communicated via our impact document which can be found on our website although we have included some of the findings in this report.



Of social value delivered for every
£1 invested in Wigan Youth Zone



Per pound goes directly to supporting
young people in Wigan and Leigh

From the findings, we have been able to calculate our social impact (using the HACT social value calculator) and we can report that our social value is 2.17 meaning that every £1 invested in Wigan Youth Zone generates a social value for the community of £2.17. Furthermore, if we were able to accurately measure some of the

other datasets such as increased confidence we estimate that the social value would raise by a further pound. Additionally, we ran an analysis of where every pound spent at Wigan Youth Zone goes and can report that 82p in the pound goes directly towards supporting young people in Wigan and Leigh, 14p goes towards raising the next pound and 4p goes on good governance – an impressive breakdown.

Behind the scenes, we have fully inducted eleven new Trustees (three were previously on the management committee, but not Trustees) and together we have conducted a rigorous internal audit of the charity to understand whether there were any significant issues which needed to be rectified. I am pleased to report that there were no serious findings and we have started working on the small number of areas which we felt could be strengthened such as the implementation of some more robust systems or reporting mechanisms – all designed to take the charity from excellent to exceptional. We have been keen to support the organisation with the infrastructure to increase the efficiencies of the operational team such as the implementation of a new HR system and the appointment of a new IT provider.

One of the key objectives for the Trustees is to work towards the financial sustainability of the charity. To this end the Trustees have approved an ambitious plan designed to bring the charity to a break-even

position in three years. In order to achieve this we have supported additional resource being added to the Fundraising Team which oversees the retention and recruitment of Patrons, grants and trusts funding and our events programme. We are cautiously optimistic in our expectations of the time it will take to recruit new patrons and secure higher levels of grant income, therefore we have approved a deficit budget in 2020/21 and made prudent assumptions regarding deficits in the subsequent two years. This, twinned with a programme of capital expenditure, is an investment of £900k over the three years.

All these plans were written and approved in a pre-Covid-19 world and we are in the process of understanding the impact it is going to have on the charity in the short, medium and long term. It is the absolute desire from the Trustees not to reduce our award-winning offer for young people, recognising that they need our services now more than ever. Notwithstanding this, we will need reasonable certainty that we can do so without putting the charity in financial-risk however we are currently in a healthy financial position and are confident that with increased grant income and more streamlined expenditure we will be able to weather the financial storm which is heading towards all charities in these unprecedented and exceptionally difficult times.



A message from Wigan Youth Zone's

FOUNDERS

Bill Ainscough, Martin Ainscough and Dave Whelan

“It is hard to believe that it has already been a year since we stood down as Trustees of Wigan Youth Zone!”

Despite not being involved in the day to day operations, we are very proud that this remarkable charity continues to go from strength to strength; the sheer volume of activities and outcomes Wigan Youth Zone has achieved for young people in this borough is nothing short of exceptional. The most recent impact report neatly summarises the accomplishments since the doors opened seven years ago, needless to say

we are delighted that our vision has become such an effective reality. As businessmen we are also very pleased to see the return on investment in terms of the social value that the Youth Zone provides to the community. We have proven that investing in young people pro actively is more than just philanthropy, it delivers long-term value for the community.

When establishing the Youth Zone it was our mission to ensure that the charity was here for generations to come, but we know this will only be possible with the established support of the local community. Over the past year the community – local businesses and individuals/families alike - have continued to rally for the Youth Zone which we have been thrilled to see; the future of Wigan Youth Zone is the responsibility of the many, not the few. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community for embracing this

wonderful charity – their support is both needed and most welcome.

Finally, we would like to recognise the endeavours of the new board of Trustees and the Senior Management Team in ensuring that the Youth Zone has continued to deliver outstanding services to young people right the way through the Coronavirus pandemic. Through their leadership and with the continued support of the community in these difficult times we are confident that Wigan Youth Zone – and more importantly the young people – will prevail.”

SPORTS

Sport, fitness and wellbeing is at the heart of Wigan Youth Zone and therefore our sports offer gives members the opportunity to try new sports, play competitive sport, make new friends and learn new skills.

The Sports Department continued to introduce positive, engaging and fun sports for all of our members to get involved in. The Sports Hall has seen some new additions to the timetable such as the partnership with MSA Stockport hosting a weekly Muay Thai training session. Muay Thai is the national sport and cultural martial art of Thailand which has resulted in a popular and fascinating addition to the timetable! Our programme offers a variety of sports that are fully engaging for either individuals or as part of a team.



STATS AND FACTS

How many times young people:



Boxed in the boxing gym

978



Climbed the Climbing wall

4,092



Visited the skate park

5,330



Visited & used the fitness gym

7,955



Danced or performed in the dance room

4,185



How many times girls participated in physical activity

19,620



Visited the sports hall

9,997



Took part in outdoor related activities

18,606

FOOTBALL

We launched our new futsal programme on a Sunday evening which has been very successful with over 50 people at the launch and a regular group of 35 attending thereafter. Additionally, we started a new female team which have entered into a league; 14 young people are engaged in the training and matches.

This year we have seen numerous examples of the amazing relationship and collaborative work between Wigan Youth Zone and Wigan Athletic Community Trust (WACT) who have delivered sports sessions at the Youth Zone's four floodlit multi-use pitches on a weekly basis, as well as supporting various other events including:

- The relaunch of WACT Multi-sports hosted on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Sports Hall for inclusive sports for all abilities.
- Senior Girls Football team where a group of 14 female members actively got involved and competed in numerous football games.
- Wigan Youth Zone supported Sports Relief this year and held a week event with sporting and fitness activities throughout the Youth Zone. At the end of the week we finished with a finale event hosted by WAFC Football Officer with the aim to raise £600!

WIGAN SCHOOL GAMES

Wigan School Games was held at the Youth Zone with a total of seven local schools taking part. Over 70 young people were involved in the sporting programme; a number of who were first-time visitors to the Youth Zone and became members.

PRESIDENTS CUP

The President's Cup is the only regular annual event which brings young people together from across the Onside Youth Zone network and is a firm favourite for the young people who have the chance to compete, have fun and socialise with peers from different backgrounds to share a unique experience. In 2018 Wigan Youth Zone won the cup for the first time in the history of the competition which was a very special moment for all our young people, staff and supporters.

In April, we hosted the 2019 President's Cup, our second time hosting the event since 2015. We welcomed 14 Youth Zone teams, which amounted to 482 young people and staff, from across the network to take part in the event, making it the biggest ever President's Cup!

The teams took part in 6 challenges including wheelchair basketball, hockey, climbing, fitness, dancing and arts, but there were plenty of mini activities also on offer throughout the day including air hockey, pool and zap-a-mole.

The shining factor of the day is always the way young people from different communities come together to make new friends and enjoy themselves in a safe environment with a spectacular atmosphere, although the event is a competition so there has to be a winner! This year, for the 2nd time in 3 years, the winners were The Way, Wolverhampton Youth Zone who took home the main trophy as well as the Senior and Junior competition trophies.

The Hive took home the Bill Holroyd Fair Play Award, while débutantes Future Youth Zone won the incredible dance off.

We won the Inclusion competition, which saw dozens of young people with additional needs take part.



DANCE & PERFORMING ARTS

Dance and Drama in “Studio 3” is more than the exploration of different ways to make a shape or learning a series of steps to music; it is a way of moving that uses the body as an instrument of expression and communication.

Through dance, our members learn teamwork, focus, and improvisational skills. Studio 3 is a place for our members to pour their creative energy out into the world and to express themselves.

STATS AND FACTS





UP TOWN FUNK DANCE

The Dance Studio was full of laughter, smiles and some serious dance moves on the 18th of February 2019 for the #eyuptownfunk event! In partnership with Wigan Council and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles we hosted a flash mob like event for over 20 care homes within Wigan and Leigh. After showcasing a variety of talent that the Borough has to offer, including our amazing dancers and singers from Wigan Youth Zone, we ended with a group choreographed dance which everyone got involved in!



SARAH COLLINGE CASE STUDY

Sarah has been a member of Wigan Youth Zone for over 5 years and has been a dedicated Dance Studio member since day one. Sarah is now 19 and ended her time with Wigan Youth Zone in September 2020. Sarah is someone who fully appreciated everything Wigan Youth Zone had to offer. Sarah dedicated herself to dance and performing arts which has lead Sarah to do performing arts at college and she has been accepted to a handful of higher education courses in London.

A letter to the key worker

"Basically I have got into Mount View University! (Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts is a drama school in Peckham, south London). I am writing because without Joe and the Dance Studio at Wigan Youth Zone, I really don't think I would have got in!

I can't put into words how amazing and inspiring Joe has been these last three years. He has really helped me get there, it means the world to me how much effort Joe has put into my performing arts career, and I want to thank Wigan Youth Zone for everything and your time, effort and commitment to me. I never

wanted to sing in front of people or act in front of people, but I did it with the help of Joe. We had such a fun time and it really did help!

Thank you so much for pushing me in everything I do, because this has really helped me get where I am today. Because honestly I don't think I would be doing the career I have today. If I had still been in dance and Joe hadn't walked into the Youth Zone, I probably would have stopped going and I would have never ever done musical theatre for a career.

It's mental how people can change your life. I can't believe it, I want to thank you for everything."

ART ZONE

The Art Zone is one of the more peaceful areas of the Youth Zone but has continued to burst with creativity this year. It's a place where new friendships are formed and new skills are developed.

Young people unleashed their creativity and developed their skills with a range of Arts and Crafts such as drawing, textiles, painting, photography, and sculpting.

The Art Zone itself went under hammer and paintbrush this year with a new revamp and also gained a new member of the Art team, Alex whose main focus in art is ceramics. This has brought a more specialised approach to clay work in the art room.



“

The Art Sessions at Wigan Youth Zone has helped Rosa when she was struggling. She really enjoys the interaction with the Art Youth Workers and it has greatly helped to reduce her social anxiety. Rosa particularly enjoyed the embroidery which she hadn't done before, painting onto t-shirts and bags, henna art on mannequins and designing sugar skulls which she has never done before!

”

LYNDA KENNEDY

A parent at Wigan Youth Zone



AROUND THE WORLD

The 'Around the World' project funded by Wigan Council is a celebration of music, art and dance from around the world. It's a collaborative cross-arts project between the Music, Art and Performing Arts departments.

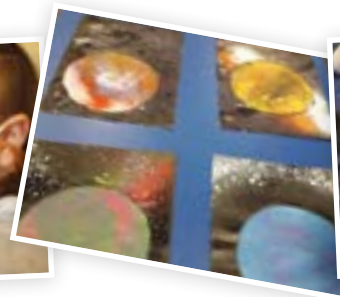
Prior to lockdown, we created art works based on different cultures from around the world. We started our new ongoing Art Programme with Wigan and Leigh College's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) group as part of our Around the World project. This 10 week program will help improve the confidence in writing, speaking and language skills with students from all over the world! In one of the creative sessions ESOL students created prints that represented their culture.

HOME SCHOOL ART FROM HOME

'A new found confidence'

One of the highlights of 2019 has been the Art departments Home School Art Group. The group was formed 4 years ago after a parent contacted Catherine, Wigan Youth Zone's Art Coordinator, asking if she would be interested in running a class as (at that time) there were no art clubs running in Wigan for young people educated at home.

The group is formed by young people aged 11-16 and each individual has their own reasons as to why they don't attend mainstream education. For some it was a choice made by their parents from day one and they have only ever been home educated and others in the group have attended school then decided home school was a better option after being bullied or suffering with low confidence and anxiety.



My children have really enjoyed coming to the group. They have enjoyed the fact that there is a wide variety of art skills that they have had the opportunity to experience whilst improving their art skills. I think that the group is really important for the Home Ed community, as at present there are very few activities for Home Educated youngsters available that aren't organised by parents. Having this group also gives the youngsters the opportunity to gain some independence in travelling to the group."

Catherine says that for her one of the nicest parts of the group has been to see how new friendships have been formed and to see the confidence of the young people grow as well as seeing their art skills develop.

When the group was first set up, even though the members were encouraged to stay on and get involved in other

aspects of the Youth Zone they were too shy at first. The past year has been a great turning point as they have now started to stay on and enjoy the rest of the facilities in the Youth Zone. Sarah also explained that how coming to Wigan Youth Zone has been great socially for her children:

"My children have also found that a lot of the children who come to the Art Group and Youth Zone are different to the ones which attend their regular Home Ed groups so it has expanded their social circle."

SARAH MYLER

Mother of Scarlett, Logan and Sofia

Creating spray paint planets has been a highlight for Scarlet, Sofia and Logan.

MUSIC & MEDIA

Whether it's the snarl of a drum, the confidence on karaoke or the skills of a lyrical genius, the Music and Media room is open every day as part of Senior and Junior Club sessions.

This is a creative space for our members to let their creativity run wild – young people can learn guitar, join in with open-mic sessions, get song-writing advice and even record their own records via our very own label, "Reet Good Records". The Music Room has been extremely busy this year with new projects such as Sound Creators and Confidence Karaoke.



STATS AND FACTS



320 Young
people who paid

779
visits



100
Recording
Sessions



2 Members
recieved over

15,000
listens on spotify



SOUND CREATORS

The Sound Creators project is targeted at young, female carers, using music to help improve their wellbeing. Choosing to focus on young mums, Wigan Youth Zone workers attended a Jigsaw Homes sheltered housing unit, holding weekly sessions. Providing childcare with a range of musical toys for the babies, the participants were initially unsure but as the weeks went by, got a lot from the sessions.

One individual was particularly quiet in sessions, but having found out she sang 'Riptide' to her little boy to get him to sleep the group learnt the simple chords and played along together - she even ended up singing along in front of the group, which required a lot of courage! Other favourites included learning nursery rhymes, such as 'Twinkle Twinkle' on the Boomwhackers and decorating 'Make your own Ukaleles' with tiny handprints and personal messages. Highlights of the sessions definitely included the way the babies were enthralled with all of the musical instruments, leading the mums to take a greater interest and interact with their children.



CONFIDENCE KARAOKE

Confidence Karaoke is held in the music room, every Thursday and is a closed door session aimed at taking those who love to sing and encouraging them, in a supportive environment to improve their confidence. 'Organised Noise' is the culmination of the hard work of the young people in these sessions, with individuals performing who would have never thought they were previously capable, in a reassuring and relaxed setting.



When I attended confidence karaoke I feel like I am part of a supportive family! Everyone who attended never failed to make me smile. When I first attended I had lost all my confidence and thought I would never perform again on stage but with the help of the Music Room Youth Workers I am now able to perform on stage doing the thing I love most. They have given me so many opportunities and I am so grateful for this session.



GEMMA UNSWORTH

A regular at confidence karaoke

MENTORING

BBC Children in Need Mentoring Programme.



In 2019 we were delighted to be awarded a Children in Need grant to run a mentoring programme which supports young people from Wigan and Leigh. Our mentoring programme is aimed at young people living in the borough aged 8 to 19 years of age. The programme builds relationships with members and offers guidance and advice on a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations – ultimately, our mentors give young people someone to talk to when they need it most.



STATS AND FACTS

The Mentor – “I’ve really enjoyed being a mentor it’s an opportunity to help support a young person be who they want to be, it will change your life as well as theirs”

LOUISE WRIGHT

The Mentee – “Ever since I started doing mentoring it has changed my life. I have done so many fun things, and love having someone to speak to and laugh with”

ZOE LEE – AGED 10

22

Mentoring relationships started during the first year of this project



OVER 510

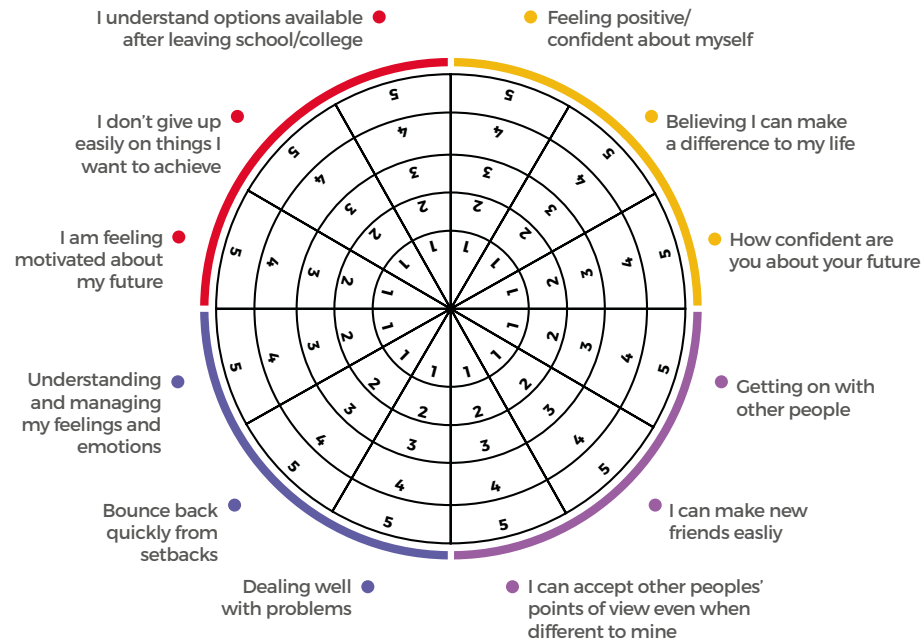
Mentoring sessions delivered since April 2019



OVER 25

Mentors have taken part in the Mentoring Programme

OUTCOME WHEEL



The Outcomes Wheel is designed to measure where a young person places themselves across the different areas. We carry out this assessment at the start, middle and end of the programme.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Always / Extremely true | ● CONFIDENCE |
| 4 | Often / Very true | ● SOCIAL SKILLS |
| 3 | Sometimes / True | ● EMOTIONAL SKILLS |
| 2 | Not very often / Slightly true | ● ASPIRATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS |
| 1 | Never / Not at all true | |

MARVELLOUS MENTORING



14 year old 'Member M' was first referred to the mentoring programme by a member of staff who thought she would benefit from the one to one support offered by this service. The young person had some serious issues around self-esteem and self-confidence and it was thought that by having a mentor she would be able to make progress in this area.

The mentoring relationship started on the 8th of August 2019 with 26 sessions that had seen the mentor and mentee visit the Sea Life Centre, take a trip to the Theatre and a visit to Chill Factor where Member M enjoyed several hours of indoor skiing.

"I signed up for mentoring in August 2019, Mentoring has helped me become so much more confident. I really enjoyed the trips especially when Hannah and I went to the Aquarium. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is struggling with mental health, because it has helped mine." Over the course of the relationship the Mentor also focused on future aspirations with the mentee doing lots of work around career options and research in to relevant jobs.

Using the outcome wheel Member 'M' showed steady improvement across all areas for the 6-month duration of the programme. Out of 5, her average score started at 2 then moved up to 3 for the mid-term assessment and finally reached 4 for the final wheel which is an incredible and steady improvement.

MEMBER M AND HANNAH

This particular member has chosen to keep her identity anonymous.



OUTREACH

Wigan Youth Zones Outreach offer expands every year with the aim of making Wigan Youth Zone as accessible as possible to as many young people, regardless of where they live around the borough as distance to the centre can be a barrier for some young people and their families.

Outreach focusses on promotion and recruitment for Wigan Youth Zone, accessibility to the centre and building relationships with young people in the community. This is executed in various ways such as traditional outreach work of walking the streets in different areas of the borough, meeting young people and inviting them into the Youth Zone for a free taster session. Wigan Youth Zone also runs a number of sessions in Platt Bridge and Shakerley with activities for members who are in danger of becoming detached from youth provisions.

STATS AND FACTS



How many young people have visited the Youth Zone through outreach mini bus

3,994
VISITS



How many young people have engaged in Outreach

478
YOUNG PEOPLE



The Outreach mini bus has drove over

6500
MILES



How many young people have signed up to be a member due to outreach

25
New Members

91
Renewed due to the outreach programme



CASE STUDY

Since August 2016, Max has been using the free Outreach buses to visit Wigan Youth Zone. When first attending, he was very quiet with low self-confidence but his participation in a residential trip at the start of 2017 sparked something. When returning to Wigan Youth Zone the following week, Max tried new activities and has never looked back.

“With being exposed to a great opportunity in 2016 through Outreach, Wigan Youth Zone unlocked so many indescribable chapters in my life, ranging from helping my friends in the radio, jamming out in the music room and improving my drawing skills in art.”

Over the next three years Max expanded his participation, visiting Wigan Youth Zone twice per week as well as making the most of our collaborative project with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles at Howe Bridge and even heading over to Shakerley to join our satellite group there. With his growing confidence, Max was able to talk about his problems and his low aspirations became evident.

“In the darkest years of my life being socially inept due to being mentally abused through bullying, my anxiety grew worse, however at WYZ I was able to express myself as much as I wanted. I was able to talk to Mike McCurdy about all my issues and he provided some great advice and improved my mental health more than he realised. Then I met Hayley Rutter who also helped me a lot, I felt as though a huge weight has lifted off my shoulders.”

With regular encouragement, Max changed his approach to school and his results slowly changed for the better. With every test or exam came a report to the Outreach team of how he was doing and he has continued to improve, moving up through the sets at school and looking forward to future GCSE success. Regularly playing word games with staff, his English skills dramatically improved and his confidence bloomed along with his social skills.

“Then I met some of the most amazing people in my life; including my girlfriend. And thanks to the youth zone I managed to overcome every obstacle thrown at me, my grades and work ethic has improved noticeably. In conclusion I have no regrets of coming to the Youth Zone”.

Max now takes every opportunity to get involved in whatever is going on from residential to winning several darts competitions in the Youth Zone.

RESIDENTIALS

A total of 156 young people from Wigan Youth Zone have taken on new experiences and conquered epic challenges as we celebrate a record number of trips hosted this summer at the Youth Zone.

In total, 19 trips were held over the summer six week holidays. From battling the elements with snow camps to venturing in extraordinary exhibitions - with museum trips and visits to the Sea Life Centre.

As part of our Holiday Club offer - we hosted two trips every week for Holiday Club members and (thanks to Snow Camp charity funding) we were able to take senior members to the Chill Factor in Manchester to Ski for just £10 per person!

The OnSide Youth Zones network came together to host members from six different Youth Zones including Wigan Youth Zone for a residential trip to Wales.

Our outreach team went further afield to the Lake District for more outdoor activities whilst our seniors have taken part in abseiling and climbing activities topping off a brilliant summer for Wigan Youth Zone.

STATS AND FACTS



156
YOUNG
PEOPLE



19
CHALLENGES



6
WEEK SUMMER
HOLIDAYS

MAKING NEW FRIENDS IN THE OUTDOORS!

We took a group on an adventure trip to the Eric Wright residential waterpark centre in Coniston with the aim of engaging 20 members who would not normally mix within the Youth Zone setting. We organised activities that we cannot offer at the Youth Zone and the setting of the waterpark residential centre broke down barriers between the members, as none of them had stayed in a stately home before. All members were outside of their comfort zone for the entirety of the weekend.

The group went on activities throughout the weekend including gorge walking, wind surfing, kayaking, canoeing and high ropes courses. We had evening activities which gave the members more time to bond with each other and structured the down time with games of hide and seek and dance offs in the main room.

The members on this residential forged new bonds over the weekend and some have continued to build friendships and socialise within the Youth Zone on a regular basis.



ENTERPRISE & EMPLOYABILITY

The Enterprise and Employability room offers “Get a Job” employability courses to 16-24 year olds looking for their first steps into the working world, as well as support to members who show entrepreneurial flair with the ‘Young Enterprise’ programme.

This year the Enterprise and Employability team have seen the young people of Wigan and Leigh cover things such as CV writing, interview techniques, team work skills and mock interviews.

STATS AND FACTS



Enterprise projects
made a total income of
£3,421.91



Mocktails and Dreams
make a total income of
£2,015.81



30
Young people
completed the
Get a Job course



17 

Young people have
come out with Jobs

3 

Young people are in further
education and training



TENNER CHALLENGE CASE STUDY

This is a four week challenge where young people have to research and decide on a product or service to invest their 'tenners' in, they then have to source materials or products, prepare sales pitches and plan selling events. They also have to think about how they are going to promote and sell their product/service. Once the 4 weeks are up, young people decide how to spend or donate their profit, and pay their £1 legacy contribution to young enterprise.

Megan & Alex showed an interest in the tenner challenge and met every Monday evening in the Enterprise Room to complete the tasks set out online. They are both shy young people, but they came to life when working on what their product was going to be. The process started by mind mapping lots of different ideas and they came to the decision to make letter keyrings and their company name was "Initialize That"!

Alex is a keen graphic designer and in less than 24 hours after deciding on what they were going to do had designed the logo ready for their business.

"I really enjoyed the tenner challenge because it helped expand my knowledge in business and build up my confidence when selling the products we made"

Megan and Alex made over £60 from selling keyrings which they donated to Wigan Youth Zone.



CODERDOJO

Coderdojo was another new venture in the Enterprise Room which is a volunteer-led, community based programming club for young people aged 7 - 17 where you can learn to code, build a website, create an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.

GIRLS ROOM



EMPOWHER

The Girls Room offers a safe space for young people to drop in and have a chat with each other and the youth worker that is on session.

Depending on the topics of conversation, the youth worker will facilitate a free-flow conversation for the young people. If there are any recurring themes then the youth worker will pro-actively run sessions to give young people a safe space to explore a range of topics such as healthy relationships (including sexual conduct), drugs and alcohol awareness and online safety.

One of our aims is to engage young people in a variety of issues-based programmes in the hope that they will want to make a

difference in their lives, the lives of their peers and the wider community. Caitlyn Pearce who is a regular attendee in the Girl's Room and EmpowHER (funded by UK Youth) participant said, "I really enjoyed EmpowHER as I made lots of new friends and I learnt plenty of new skills - I definitely recommend others to take part in the programme. During the programme I definitely developed". We were delighted therefore that EmpowHER participants took the initiative to plan and run programmes on the theme of "each for equal" on International Women's Day.



Over

10,000

Visits in the Girls Room in the last year



3

Cohorts Completed



160

Young females took part

110

Young people learned First Aid

STATS AND FACTS



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

On March 7th, Wigan Youth Zone celebrated International Women's Day by running programmes in line with the theme #eachforequal - representing that each one of us can help create a gender equal world. Eight of our EmpowHER members took it upon themselves to host an event at Wigan Youth Zone celebrating all things women. The girls hosting the event made 'herstory' by hosting a jam-packed schedule at the Youth Zone for both Juniors and Seniors including a colour run, live performances, photo-booth, purple clothing and festival hair and make-up. They also arranged debate provoking challenges for every area in the Youth Zone to promote and educate equality for all. Caitlyn Pearce who lead on this event said,

“For International Women's Day we hosted and planned a celebration to make people more aware of female rights! We ran many events in the evening such as cake sales, sports, female staff achievements and a balloon drop. ”



GIRL'S ROOM IS NOT JUST FOR GIRLS!

Despite the name, the Girl's Room is regularly attended by both girls and boys! There's a particular group of male seniors who would attend the Girl's Room every single day which they all benefited from. The lads would usually use the other facilities the Youth Zone has to offer first but then come to the Girls Room for a place to chill out and listen to music.

Over a few months the group became really engaged in activities and important discussions such as Social Media, Body Image and Racism. The boys actively shared their opinions and ideas which were very mature and open minded. The lads started choosing the Girl's Room over other areas of the Youth Zone as it became a place where they could feel like themselves.

They befriended a large group of girls and there was such a mixture of personalities but they were always so accepting of everyone and the first to challenge any kind of discrimination or inappropriate behaviour that the group received from others who may view them as different.

"I think the Girl's Room is one of the most essential places in the Youth Zone. Because it's just a place for when you get overwhelmed or stressed you can go to chill. Girls can do hair and makeup and all that stuff. And for lads they can listen to music and just chat. The Youth Workers in the Girl's Room are always there to talk to you. To reassure you or even to just get your mind off something to make you laugh and smile."

This group has often been so supportive and encouraged each other to talk about feelings and mental health. They have really broken down the stigma of male mental health and will encourage others outside their friendship group to do so.

FUNDRAISING

We have had an exciting year of fundraising events which has seen the return of Reet Good Festival and the newest addition to our fundraising events, Boogie Bingo!

The income we receive from the fundraising events is essential for both young people and the community, as it helps us to deliver more activities which help us continue to offer young people in Wigan and Leigh somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to, seven days a week.

We are always overwhelmed with the support and generosity we receive through all of our fundraising events. Here's a snapshot of all of our events this past year!





Curry Night

(May 2019)



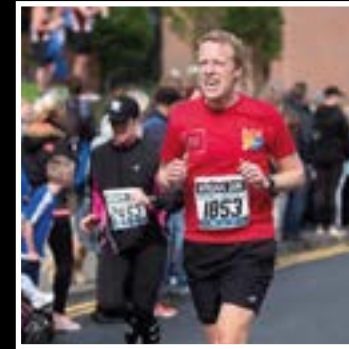
Reet Good Festival

(June 2019)



Charity Golf Day

(September 2019)



Wigan 10K

(September 2019)



Tour De Youth Zones

(October 2019)

Business Breakfast

(June 2019)

5-a-Side Football Tournament

(July 2019)

Business Breakfast

(September 2019)

Annual Ball

(October 2019)

Patrons Evening

(November 2019)





Curry Night

(November 2019)



Business Breakfast

(December 2019)



Boogie Bingo

(February 2020)



Curry Night

(February 2020)



Business Breakfast

(March 2020)



A MESSAGE FROM LYNSEY KENDALL

Head of Fundraising



Since joining Wigan Youth Zone as Head of Fundraising in July 2019, I can honestly say I have been overwhelmed and humbled with the huge generosity of our loyal patrons, supporters and the wider Wigan community. It only solidifies how much Wigan Youth Zone and the work our team does mean to the people of Wigan and Leigh. I am so proud to be part of the team at Wigan Youth Zone, our youth workers,

who go above and beyond daily to raise the aspirations of our young people and make dreams a reality.

On behalf of the Fundraising team and as local girl myself, thank you to everyone who has helped support Wigan Youth Zone over the past 12 months and for your encouragement, support and belief in our work.





BOOGIE BINGO

Wigan Youth Zone's first fundraiser in 2020 was hosted by Lines Henry Limited which raised over £7000 with over 250 bingo fanatics playing bingo with a twist, for a good cause.

The fundraiser event was an astounding combination of a fun, live show and a serious game of bingo that took place at the DW stadium.

It was a smash hit event and will be returning to the Wigan Youth Zone fundraising calendar in the future.



REET GOOD FESTIVAL

The Reet Good Festival returned in 2019 and it was a huge success; raising over £29,500 of much-needed funds for us at the Youth Zone. These funds allow us to continue providing our services to the young people of Wigan and Leigh.

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of our amazing sponsors who supported the event and to all the guests who came throughout the weekend of entertainment.



ANNUAL BALL

The Annual Ball showcased the very best of the charity's young people with special acts throughout the evening and raised more than £75,000 in the process.

The evening had an 'Around the World in One Night' theme beginning in Las Vegas with performances from Dance Group, Project Impact, and singer Georgia Linde. The guests then sailed across the Atlantic to Paris with a contortionist performance by Connor Reeve followed by singer Gemma Unsworth performing 'Les Mis'. At the end of the evening, the performances headed back to the States for a dance rendition all the way from New Orleans by Xpress.

The Annual Ball was another successful fundraising event which showcased what Wigan Youth Zone is all about. The performances from the young people were exceptional, the stories moving and the generosity from supporters inspirational.

HELLS KITCHEN

Our programme in the Training Kitchen was significantly enhanced and has proved very popular with our members.

Up until lockdown we were offering seven opportunities each week including; Junior, Senior and Inclusion baking and Senior cooking. On average, we were working with more than 80 young people each week not including additional visits to the Training Kitchen by our Holiday Club participants which would increase this average during the school holidays. In order to facilitate the increased number of sessions, four staff members obtained a Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene qualification.

We have further enhanced the partnership we have with Jamie Oliver's Ministry of food which helps our members learn cooking skills, experience new food experiences and taste the unknown in an eight week cooking course. Wigan Youth Zone member Dylan Cunliffe actively took part in the Ministry of Food programme said,



“ I really enjoy the cooking experiences as I have never cooked before. I enjoyed learning how to make nice meals and having a laugh with friends. The Youth Workers leading the session was amazing because they made it fun and got the information across to us clearly. ”

A group of young people visited the Headquarters in London and we are signed-up to the “Bite Back” campaign which aims to look at the whole food offer within the Youth Zone to ensure it is as healthy, tasty and affordable as possible.

YOUTH VOICE

The Youth Voice Forum has been very active since being established just over 18 months ago with the representatives keen to articulate the needs of the membership to the staff team and to the Wigan Youth Zone Board.

Three trustees work with the Youth Voice Forum in addition to the member of our staff team and they are invited to join the Board meetings once a quarter to discuss a particular topic.

In addition to presenting to the board, the young people have been involved in a number of initiatives such as running of surveys and focus groups to garner feedback on what improvements the members would like to see at the Youth Zone – for example when we were painting the Youth Zone we asked for their input into the colours.



“

Since we joined Youth Voice, about a year ago, we have really enjoyed being a part of a team. Youth Voice has been amazing and lots of fun. By being a part of this incredible team it has provided us with multiple opportunities to improve and develop our skills for the future. Youth Voice gives us young people a voice and a chance to be heard. By having to complete tasks, create presentations and mood boards it gives us responsibilities which will help us in life. Whilst completing tasks, we send formal emails and confer with board members about our ideas. During our weekly meeting as Youth Voice the staff and other members make everyone feel at ease and comfortable when sharing your opinions and ideas on any topic. There's no judgement and we love being a part of a team ran by supportive and helpful staff members.

”

ABBIE PARKES-HOLDEN & MAX COLLINS

VOLUN-TEERS

At Wigan Youth Zone we are passionate about our links with the community and the people of Wigan and Leigh.

We regularly recruit volunteers who work in our centre across all departments who give up their time to work with our young people. We believe strongly that all our staff and volunteers should receive the best training and personal development and as such all our volunteers have access to a range of training and development. We hold regular volunteer celebration evenings as an opportunity to say thank you to our amazing army of volunteers!

Brittany has been volunteering for us for 5 years and as a result of her learning and development of her skills and experience at Wigan Youth Zone, Brittany has recently gained her TLAN (Teaching Learners with Additional Needs 14+) qualification.

"

My lifelong passion for art has made me realise that art can give so much to the community. I am a caring and patient individual who is good with working with children as well as working with adults with additional needs. I wanted to become a volunteer to help young people discover and express themselves creatively within a safe, welcoming environment. Art has made me realise that it can help to express how you may be feeling if you cannot find the words. As a volunteer I would use these skills as a way of helping young people to communicate through creativity.

I have enjoyed volunteering at the Youth Zone, as it has helped me to step out of my comfort area and approach new levels of experience, working within the community. It has helped me to gain confidence and skills as well as the trust and support of the young people I have worked with. Seeing them enjoy producing works of art, made me feel proud that they have grown in confidence.

The skills I have developed while volunteering, has been to plan and deliver my own sessions when needed and making sure to work within the expected timeframe and parameters. I am able to

take control of my sessions and spend more time with those who need a little extra help. It has helped me to get to know and understand the young people and determine what they enjoy.

Volunteering at the Youth Zone is especially important, in terms of building confidence, getting to know the young people that you work with and giving them a safe, warm environment to do what they love. It helps with teamwork, building new friendships and being able to trust one another as well as staff/volunteers. I wish to continue volunteering at the Youth Zone, so I can continue to understand young learner's needs and abilities and to help them expand on their skills.

Since starting, I have had support and guidance from Catherine. Catherine has helped me to grow in confidence and to gain creative skills, through working with new mediums, crafts to being able to run my own sessions. She has been a huge inspiration for me to be able to continue working with young people as well as helping me to continue to develop my own skills, both as a volunteer and an individual.

"

BRITTANY BIRD

BERNARD'S WISH

Our team and young people were deeply saddened by the passing of former board member, Bernard Edmunds, who died on the 28th of August 2019 after a long term battle with an incurable brain tumour.

Bernard served on the Board at Wigan Youth Zone for five years and during that time became a stalwart of the charity.

As well as passionately driving the organisation's strategy, Bernard became a pioneer for fundraising on behalf of Wigan Youth Zone with his ever-lasting enthusiasm and dedication – he raised thousands of pounds for the Youth Zone.

Bernard helped to organise the Youth Zone Team at the Wigan 10k, running the race himself in 2017 alongside Martin

Ainscough. He also supported many of our larger events, comparing at the Reet Good Festival and quarterly Business Breakfasts, as well as helping source speakers from his network of contacts.

Bernard and his family also regularly supported the Youth Zone through personal donations; most notably sponsoring Jaguar Jeff, the Youth Zone's mascot, in 2018.

Bernard continued to go above and beyond for the Youth Zone even after his terminal diagnosis. Fronted by Bernard himself, the 'Bernard's Wish' appeal raised £25,000 to support our members with additional needs through various fundraising activities. Just before Christmas in 2019, Wigan Youth Zone unveiled a special plaque in recognition of the Youth Zone's appreciation for Bernard. The event was attended by over 40 of Bernard's friends and family.



ACCREDITATIONS

Over the past 12 months Wigan Youth Zone has received regional and national recognition for all of the outstanding youth provision by major award-giving organisations. This demonstrates the value that is placed on our work and has contributed towards the heightening of our profile in both the youth work and business communities.

NORTH WEST CHARITY AWARDS 2019



Winner Lifetime Achievement Award,
Martin Ainscough



Finalist North West Charity of the Year

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE NOW AWARDS 2019



Children and Young People's Charity Awards

WIGAN BUSINESS AWARDS



We're Backing Wigan Award



Small or Medium Enterprise
of the Year Award

CERTIFICATIONS



Disability Confidence

SPECIAL THANKS

Our patrons are invaluable to the success of Wigan Youth Zone, without them we simply couldn't offer the vast array of activities we do for young people, 7 days a week. An investment in Wigan Youth Zone is an investment into the community here in Wigan and any donations given from our patrons go towards life changing work.

PARTNERS



FOUNDER PATRONS



and The
Lenagan
Family



Martin and Judith Ainscough
Dave Whelan and Family
Bill and Maria Lloyd



Bill Ainscough and Family
Anthony Hitchen and Family
Barbara and Brendan Ainscough

PLATINUM PATRONS



Martin & Judith Ainscough Charity Trust
Brendan & Barbara Ainscough

Dave Whelan & Family

GOLD PATRONS



Anthony & Alison Hitchen and Family

The Edwards Family Charitable Trust

SILVER PATRONS

CMR Restaurants Ltd

Derek and Tracey Wignall

Roberto and Beth Martinez

BRONZE PATRONS

Geoff Ashton

Frank & Margaret Monk

Daniel Halliday

FINANCE

STATS

For every 1 pound invested in Wigan Youth Zone



82p

Goes straight to
supporting the young
people of Wigan and Leigh



14p

Goes into raising
the 1 pound



4p

Is spent on good
governance

EXPENDITURES

From 2019/2020

Office Costs	£109,095
Utilities and Building Costs	£158,766
Depreciation	£161,938
Salaries and Other Staffing Costs	£1,132,035
Delivery Consumables	£133,810
Fundraising Costs	£80,088
Cost of Sales	£50,599

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £1,826,331

Figures are from the audited annual accounts, a copy of which is available upon request.

INCOME

Local Authority	£425,000
Patrons	£402,532
Voluntary Donations	£27,929
Gift Aid on Donations	£40,681
Trusts & Grants	£197,978
Events	£211,628
Income from Charitable Activities	£161,347
Rents Received	£37,167
Bank Interest	£728

TOTAL INCOME: £1,504,990



wigan youth zone

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