

Registered Charity Number 1151247

Youth-Focused Trustee

The Way Youth Zone
Wolverhampton

Candidate Information Pack
June 2024

THEWAY
An OnSide Youth Zone

Who we are

The Way isn't just a Youth Zone; it's a catalyst for change. We empower every young person in Wolverhampton to unlock their potential and blaze a trail for their future.

Imagine: Thousands of young faces, from all walks of life, coming together in a vibrant space with top-notch facilities, passionate youth workers, and life-changing opportunities.

That's The Way Youth Zone.

Here's what sets us apart:

- **Unparalleled Impact:** Over 34,000 visits last year, with an average of 800 young people getting involved at The Way every week.
- **Affordable Access:** Just 50p per visit and a £5 annual membership open doors to endless possibilities.
- **Holistic Support:** From open-access activities to targeted initiatives like our UFC Youth Mentoring Project, we cater to every need.
- **Proven Success:** We're a trusted model in youth service provision, backed by the Local Authority, local businesses, and the community.
- **Unwavering Commitment:** We believe in the power of nurturing potential, fostering positive choices, and inspiring aspirations.

This is where you come in.

Join our Board of Trustees and become a champion for Wolverhampton's youth. Your passion and expertise will shape a future where every young person discovers their spark and achieves their dreams.

Our Vision is..

“to be the go to place for young people in Wolverhampton”



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How we made a difference in 2023

17,534

Young people supported by The Way Youth Zone since it opened its doors in 2016



269

Young people with additional needs



13,850

Free meals to young people (Nov 23 - Mar 24)

"The Way has made quite a big difference to me because this is the only social chance I get, I'm usually just cooped up in my room at home."

Senior member, 22

326

Sessions held

34,110

Attendances

1,431

New members



5%

of our members are Looked After Children

I love The Way because we get to do lots of fun art stuff and its cheap. They respect all religions and have loads of rooms to do things in."

Jameela, 10

14

young people completed Arts Award

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What are we looking for?

The Way Youth Zone, a leading youth charity in Wolverhampton, is at a pivotal moment. We're crafting a groundbreaking new strategy for 2024-28 and beyond, and we need your passion and expertise to make it a reality. This isn't just about governance; it's about shaping the future of Wolverhampton's young people.

We're looking to expand our Trustee Board with people who have skills to help us deliver our new strategy. Our Trustee Board has reflected on its current skills set and would like to add to this with individuals experienced in Communications & marketing, facilities/property management, youth work/educational experience, and good governance particularly of corporates and/or their Boards.

Become a Trustee and join a dedicated team shaping a brighter tomorrow.

You'll play a vital role in ensuring The Way:

- Empowers every young person in Wolverhampton to reach their full potential.
- Complies with all legal and regulatory requirements while pursuing its charitable mission.
- Manages resources wisely, maximising impact and fostering financial stability.
- Delivers a transformative strategy that addresses the evolving needs of Wolverhampton's young people.
- Provides strong strategic direction to the Chief Executive and team.
- Pursues its charitable objectives, as defined in the OnSide DNA and the OnSide Network Agreement.

This is more than a responsibility; it's an opportunity to make a tangible difference. As a Trustee, you'll:

- Contribute actively to Board discussions, offering your unique perspective.
- Champion local causes and ensure The Way addresses the city's specific youth challenges.
- Utilise your skills and experience to guide sound decision-making.
- Collaborate hand-in-hand with a passionate team for maximum impact.
- Witness the positive change you're helping to create in young lives.
- Safeguard the reputation and values of The Way.
- Ensure that there is a suitable framework of internal controls and risk management in place that are regularly reviewed and update.

Do you have a deep commitment to Wolverhampton's young people? Do you crave the satisfaction of making a real difference?

We encourage you to learn more about this exciting opportunity. Previous board/trustee experience is not necessary and we welcome applications from all ages and backgrounds.

Together, let's pave the way for a thriving Wolverhampton youth community.

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The Role of a Youth-Focused Trustee

We're looking for a Trustee that has professional experience in the education sector or youth sector. All our Trustees share the responsibility of making informed decisions about our youth work programme, to support Board-wide discussions and decisions we're looking for someone who can provide a deeper level of knowledge of the needs of young people. As our youth expert, you'll sit on the Delivery Committee (with at least one other Trustee), a sub committee of the Board, which meets once every two months ahead of the Board meeting. Through the Committee, you'll provide support to the Head of Youth Work and scrutiny of the youth work programme, aided by data through our dashboard and your personal experience of witnessing sessions.

Person Specification

- Have commitment to the mission, values and DNA of The Way Youth Zone
- Show willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Act with integrity and have a willingness to speak their mind, working effectively as a member of a team and take decisions for the good of the Youth Zone
- Employ a strategic vision
- Have an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of Trusteeship
- Demonstrated leadership and management, communication and presentation skills
- Strong background in working with young people, either in education or the youth sector
- A passion for helping young people reach their potential
- An understanding of the issues and opportunities facing young people from all backgrounds

Time Commitment

- 6 Board meetings a year c2 hours each (and preparation), including one Away Day. All meetings are held at the Youth Zone.
- Offer support and perspective on specific areas and issues by joining a Board committee or task & finish group, as required
- Represent The Way Youth Zone within the community, once or twice per year
- At least once per year get to know our young people by joining them on an evening session or during Holiday Club.
- All Trustees serve one three year term, which is renewable for a total period of two terms

How The Way will support you:

- We provide training to all our board members on safeguarding and governance alongside a comprehensive induction.
- Each member also receives a Trustee handbook which includes all our policies, values and guidance.
- Opportunity for one-to-one meetings to support skill development, if required, with fellow Trustees, members of the Executive Team, OnSide experts, or Trustees from other Youth Zones.
- Chance to join in sessions with the young people, to better understand our values, mission and work.



How to apply:



Step 1: Complete this Expression of Interest Form

Scan the QR code to our Expression of Interest Form. Completing it should take only a few minutes.



Step 2: An Informal Chat

Based on your form responses, a member of our Board will be in touch to schedule a brief conversation. This informal chat allows us to learn more about each other and see if there's a good fit.

Step 3: Formal Application (if invited)

Following the conversation, if both parties feel there's potential, we'll invite you to submit a formal application. This typically includes:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV): A comprehensive document outlining your professional experience and educational background.
- Cover Letter: A personalized letter highlighting your motivations for joining our Board and how your skills align with our needs.