

NEWSLETTER



Message from Paul Snape, our CEO

It's been a whirlwind first three months as permanent CEO, and I'm thrilled to be part of the exciting journey ahead for our Youth Zone. Since joining, I've been deeply impressed by the dedication and passion of our staff who create a vibrant and supportive environment for our young people. Their commitment is truly inspiring.

We've wasted no time in kicking off our ambitious four-year strategy. Our goal is clear: to expand our reach and open our doors to even more young people in Wolverhampton. We want to ensure this incredible Youth Zone provides a safe haven and a springboard of opportunity for all.

Over the past month, we've been actively raising our profile within the community, taking part in Wolverhampton Pride, joining in with summer fayres and we'll be involved in the Same Difference Festival over the summer at Wolverhampton's West Park. We've also had some positive media coverage, hosting the BBC Midlands Today live broadcast from our Youth Zone! All aimed at showcasing the fantastic work happening here and the amazing young people who attend.

It's been an exciting start, and I can't wait to share more about our plans in the coming issues. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can create an even brighter future for the young people of Wolverhampton.

How are we doing? Apr - Jun 2024



Beaming with Pride at Wolverhampton Pride!

We're still basking in the afterglow of a fantastic weekend celebrating Wolverhampton Pride!

The Way Youth Zone was thrilled to be a part of the festivities. We joined the parade with a vibrant group of young people, waving our flags and spreading messages of love and acceptance.

Our stall in the Pride Plaza was a hive of activity until 10pm. We shared information about The Way Youth Zone and all the amazing things we offered the young people of Wolverhampton. But it wasn't just about us! We also handed out free temporary tattoos (because who doesn't love a bit of sparkle?) and joined in the incredible atmosphere, dancing and cheering alongside the fantastic crowd.



Seeing the community come together to celebrate diversity and inclusion was truly heartwarming. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of creating safe spaces where everyone feels welcome and accepted, just like our Youth Zone!

Holiday Club: A Summer Success!

We're thrilled to share the fantastic news about our recent holiday club! It was a resounding success, with happy kids, engaged activities, and – most importantly – glowing feedback from parents like you!

Following the May Half Term Holiday Club, we saw a record-breaking 100% satisfaction rate, which fills us with immense pride. Here are some of the wonderful comments we received:

"Holiday club is a godsend as a working parent."

"They've benefitted from being more active than just sitting in front of the TV."

"She made new friends!"

"My child came home a lot more confident."



These comments truly capture the essence of what we strive for at our holiday club. We want to provide a stimulating and enriching environment where children can have fun, learn new things, and build strong social connections.

Building Bridges, Building Trust



At The Way Youth Zone, we want everyone to feel safe and happy. That includes making friends with people who help keep our community safe, like the police! We're especially proud of our friends on the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team, especially PC Pete and his team.

They aren't just police who show up because they've been called. They come and hang out at The Way Youth Zone, joining in with some of our activities, giving advice and building trust. This makes them way more approachable, and it lets them get to know us on a personal level.

That's a win-win! Our young people get to learn cool stuff from real police officers and see how important their jobs are in the community. Plus, the more we know them, the easier it is to trust them. If something ever happens, we know they're there to help.

Imagine a community where everyone feels safe and supported, including the police! That's what we're working towards. Huge thanks to PC Pete and his team. We're still waiting for that karaoke session with PC Pete!!

Delicious! Juniors Cooking up a Storm

Get ready for some serious kitchen creativity! Our recent "Delicious!" project on junior sessions has been a sizzling success, with 16 young people whipping up delicious meals and learning valuable life skills along the way.

This project is all about helping our young people to become more confident in the kitchen. We tackled the basics of food hygiene and safety, explored the world of healthy eating and nutrition, and of course, learned the art (and importance!) of washing up afterwards!

From the classic crowd-pleaser of baguette pizzas to the hearty goodness of chilli con carne, from healthy chicken kebabs to build-your-own burritos, our young chefs explored a variety of dishes that were both delicious and nutritious.

But the best part? Seeing the positive impact on our junior cooks! The project survey revealed a real boost in confidence when it comes to making healthy choices in the kitchen. More importantly, these young people have developed valuable life skills that will stay with them long after they've graduated from "Delicious!"



The Way Youth Zone Goes Global!

For one Saturday in June, we had the amazing opportunity to host the Collins Aerospace AS Olympics 2024 right here at The Way Youth Zone.

It was incredible to welcome visitors from all over the world – Italy, France, Indonesia, you name it! Everyone came together for a day of friendly competition, with awesome activities happening all over the Youth Zone. We had tug-of-war battles, climbing challenges, delicious cake decorating contests (because who doesn't love cake?), and even some friendly dart matches!



A huge thank you to Collins Aerospace for choosing us! Their support is a fantastic example of how businesses can partner with charities to make a real difference. This event not only brought people together from around the world, but it also allows us to continue supporting the young people of Wolverhampton. Our facilities proved to be the perfect place for a global event of this size, and we're so happy they could be put to good use!

Thanks again to Collins Aerospace for their amazing support!



Collins Aerospace
 An RTX Business

Giant Games & Giant Thanks to Jaguar Landrover!



Our Rec area was buzzing thanks to a fantastic donation of £500 from Jaguar Landrover!

This incredibly generous contribution has allowed us to completely rejuvenate our games supply for the rec area. We've invested in a giant Connect 4, perfect for some strategic showdowns, a giant snakes and ladders board for some classic fun, and a bean bag throw to test those tossing skills. But that's not all – we've also added a whole bunch of other awesome games to the mix!

These new additions are already proving to be a huge hit. They're a fantastic way for young people to come together, make new friends, and of course, have a ton of laughs while staying active.

A huge thank you to Jaguar Landrover for their incredible support. Their generosity is making a real difference in the lives of young people in our community!



Our Youth Zone becomes a Cadent Centre For Warmth

You might have spotted the Cadent logo around the Youth Zone lately, both on our social media and on our TVs inside the building. This is because we're proud to be part of a network-wide project funded by Cadent, a leading gas network provider.

Through their "Centres for Warmth" initiative, one of Cadent's largest VCMA (Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance) projects, they're offering fantastic support to families across the Youth Zone network.

This includes:

- **Expert Advice:** Financial and energy efficiency tips to help families save money on their bills.
- **Gas Safety Awareness:** Information and resources to keep everyone safe at home.
- **Free Slow Cookers:** Every month, the program gives away a slow cooker to a lucky Youth Zone family! Slow cookers are a brilliant way to prepare healthy, economical meals, perfect for busy families.
- **Free Priority Service Registration:** This service ensures priority assistance during a power cut for those who rely on electricity for medical needs.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms:** These vital devices can save lives by detecting dangerous CO leaks. We'll be distributing CO alarms and providing information on how to use them properly

We're thrilled to be involved in this valuable project and look forward to helping families stay warm, safe, and save money on their energy bills. Keep an eye out for further information on how to participate in these fantastic initiatives!



FREE PRIORITY SERVICE

To learn more about the Free Priority Service Register, scan the QR code below:



SLOW COOKER GIVEAWAY

To be in with a chance of winning one of our slow cookers, donated by Cadent, come along to one of our Saturday Squad sessions and take part in the monthly Cadent challenge.

ENERGY SAFETY TIPS

STICK A LID ON IT

Water will boil faster and food will cook quicker when the heat is contained, so stick a lid on the pan and reap the rewards!

SWITCH IT UP

Slow cookers, microwaves and air fryers all use far less power than ovens - switch it up and see what you can save!

DON'T OVERFILL

Filling your kettle with just the amount of water you need to use can save you a staggering £131 a year!

TURN IT DOWN

Lowering your heating by just 1 degree could save you £145 every year!

GET YOUR TIMER OUT

Limiting your showers to only 4 minutes could save you around £95 per year!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE LED

Switch to energy saving LED bulbs and save around £65 every single year!

POWERED BY **Cadent**
Your Gas Network

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THEWAY
An OnSide Youth Zone

Junior Members Explore the World of Media at Wolverhampton Screen School

A group of our junior members recently embarked on a whirlwind tour of the University of Wolverhampton's Screen School, and it's safe to say they were blown away! They got hands-on experience with animation, computer game design, film and television production and multi media journalism.

They had a blast pretending to be newsreaders, podcasters and film-makers, as well as seeing game creation and animation in action. But it wasn't all about the technical side of things. Our budding journalists got their chance to shine in a mock newsroom, practicing their best newsreader impressions. They even donned the headphones and mics, transforming into podcasters.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for our junior members to explore their creative side and discover potential future careers in the world of media. Who knows, maybe we have some future Oscar winners, groundbreaking animators, or innovative game designers amongst us!



Broadcasting Live From The Way!!

We had a truly special evening on Seniors with BBC Midlands Today broadcasting live from our Youth Zone! It was very exciting to watch all of the behind the scenes action of a live broadcast.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing Seniors, Stephanie and Manny, for bravely sharing the challenges young people face and the positive impact our Youth Zone has had on their lives. You both were incredible!

A big shoutout to Sam, a dedicated parent of two of our wonderful junior members, for sharing your valuable perspective with the BBC.



Values Award Winner

Time to shout about some of our amazing young people who regularly show our values in their behaviour when they are in our Youth Zone.

Well done to:

Jacob
 Charlie
 Harloe-Safire
 Blessing
 Kayden
 Shardae
 Paighton
 Corey



KEEPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE ONLINE



We're committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all our junior members. Recently, we've noticed an increase in young people using Snapchat on their phones during sessions. Snapchat is not age-appropriate for our Juniors.

Social media platforms designed for older audiences can expose young people to inappropriate content, online predators, and cyberbullying. To ensure everyone's safety, if we continue to see Snapchat use during sessions, we may have to implement a "no mobile phones" policy.

We encourage open communication with your child about the risks of social media and the importance of following program rules. Let's work together to keep our Juniors safe and ensure they can fully enjoy the fun and educational activities we offer.

Keep up to date with our Youth Zone



@thewayyouthzone



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@theway_youthzone

Contact us



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VACANCIES

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT AT OUR YOUTH ZONE!

We are thrilled to announce some exciting vacancies across our charity. We're searching for talented individuals to fill the following roles:

Volunteer Coordinator: Do you have a knack for organisation and a passion for inspiring others? Lead our dedicated team of volunteers and help them make a real difference in the lives of young people.

Business Operations Manager: Got an eye for detail and a talent for keeping things running smoothly? This role is for you! Oversee the day-to-day operations of The Way Youth Zone and ensure everything runs like clockwork.

Catering Assistant: Fuel the fun with your culinary skills! Join our team and help us provide healthy and delicious meals for our young people.

Trustees: Are you a leader with a vision for the future? We're seeking passionate individuals to join our board and help guide The Way Youth Zone towards continued success.

If you're looking for a career that makes a difference and the chance to make a lasting impact on your community, look no further!

To find out more, head over to our website at www.thewayyouthzone.org

www.thewayyouthzone.org/vacancies/