

# When lessons end, we're just getting started...

**As the evenings grow darker and the weather turns colder, many young people find themselves indoors, often spending hours on their phones or online. Others may be out in the city without access to a safe, structured environment. That's where The Way Youth Zone comes in!**

Located in the heart of Wolverhampton, The Way offers a warm, welcoming space for young people aged 8–19 (or up to 25 with additional needs) to get active, make friends and learn new skills.

Whether it's sports, creative arts, music, cooking or simply spending time with positive role models, our Youth Zone is designed to help young people disconnect from screens and reconnect with real-life experiences that build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging.

Open six days a week, we offer a safe, inclusive environment where young people can access a wide range of activities, make friends, build confidence and develop essential life skills.



## Opening Times\*

|           |                                |                           |                                         |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| MONDAY    | 15:00 - 21:00                  | Inbetweeners              | 11-15 years                             |
| TUESDAY   | 15:00 - 20:00                  | Juniors                   | 8-12 years                              |
| WEDNESDAY | 15:00 - 21:00                  | Seniors                   | 13-18 years**                           |
| THURSDAY  | 15:00 - 20:00                  | Juniors                   | 8-12 years                              |
| FRIDAY    | 15:00 - 21:00                  | Seniors                   | 13-18 years**                           |
| SATURDAY  | 10:00 - 12:30<br>13:00 - 16:30 | SEND Families<br>Families | All ages,<br>accompanied<br>by an adult |

\* Session starts at 3pm during term time only, 4pm during school holidays

\*\* Up to 25 years with additional needs

**50p**  
per visit

**FREE hot meal every visit**

The Way Youth Zone,  
School Street,  
Wolverhampton  
WV3 0NR  
[www.thewayyouthzone.org](http://www.thewayyouthzone.org)

# Safeguarding

## Meet Our DSL

**At The Way, safeguarding isn't just a policy, it's a culture. We are deeply committed to creating a safe, welcoming and empowering environment for every young person who walks through our doors. Our approach is proactive, robust and rooted in strong partnerships with local services.**



**Rebecca Bunger**  
Head of Youth Work and  
Partnerships

One of the most important ways that we maintain safety is through practical measures at entry. Wanding and bag searches are standard practice on our sessions, carried out respectfully and consistently to ensure no harmful or inappropriate items enter the space. Where necessary, items are confiscated in line with our safeguarding protocols, always with clear communication and follow-up with the young person and their parents where necessary.

Our team is trained to a high standard, with regular safeguarding refreshers and scenario-based learning that equips staff and volunteers to spot signs of concern - whether related to exploitation, mental health or other vulnerabilities. We emphasise early intervention and clear reporting pathways, ensuring that concerns are never overlooked or dismissed.



We also work closely with external agencies to provide wraparound support. Our relationships with social care teams, exploitation units, the police and mental health services are built on trust and shared responsibility. These partnerships allow us to respond quickly and effectively when a young person needs more intensive support and they help us stay informed about emerging risks in the wider community.

Safeguarding is not just about reacting to issues, it's about creating a space where young people feel safe enough to be themselves, ask for help and grow. We foster open conversations, encourage peer support and make sure every young person knows who they can talk to.

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that every young person who engages with our centre feels protected, respected and valued. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we're working hard to rebuild trust by putting young people's safety and wellbeing at the centre of everything we do.

# Outreach

## Meet Our Team

**As the evenings draw in and temperatures drop, we understand that many young people may be spending time in the city without a safe or structured environment.**

To help address this, we've launched a new Outreach Team who are actively engaging with young people across the city and encouraging them to visit our Youth Zone.

Our team - Scott, Brandon, and Tia - are easily spotted in their bright pink hoodies and will be out and about in key areas, building relationships and offering young people a positive alternative to spending time on the streets, especially during the winter months.



**Scott Broome**  
Outreach Coordinator



**Tia Johnson**  
Outreach Youth Worker



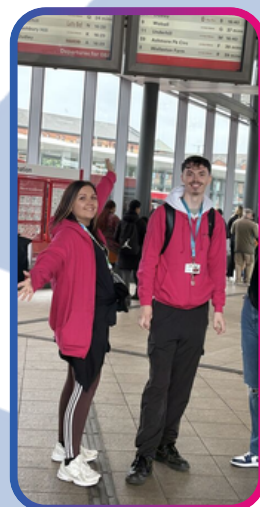
**Brandon Flash**  
Outreach Youth Worker

**As part of our commitment to supporting young people across the city, our Outreach Team would love the opportunity to visit your school and introduce pupils to the fantastic opportunities available at our Youth Zone.**

Our team would love to speak directly with pupils, answer questions and help them feel confident about visiting the Youth Zone. They're easily spotted around the city in their bright pink hoodies, engaging with young people and encouraging them to make the most of what's on offer.

We'd be delighted to arrange a visit to your school at a time that suits you.

Please get in touch to book a session or to find out more – email [scott.broome@thewayyouthzone.org](mailto:scott.broome@thewayyouthzone.org)



# Life Skills

## Meet Our Young Leaders

**The Young Leaders Programme at The Way Youth Zone is designed for senior members who want to take their involvement to the next level. Our programme empowers young people to become role models, build leadership skills and contribute meaningfully to the life of the Youth Zone.**

There are many benefits to young people taking part:

### **Develop Leadership Skills**

Young Leaders take part in training sessions that build confidence, communication, and teamwork - skills that are valuable in school, future careers and everyday life.

### **Make a Positive Impact**

Participants help shape activities, support younger members and play a key role in creating a welcoming, inclusive environment.

### **Boost Their CV and Personal Statement**

Whether applying for college, university, apprenticeships or jobs, being a Young Leader shows initiative, responsibility and community spirit.

### **Have Fun and Build Friendships**

It's not all work! Young Leaders enjoy social events, trips and the chance to be part of a supportive peer network.

### **Who can join?**

The programme is open to committed young people aged 14-18 who are already members of The Way Youth Zone and want to take on a leadership role.



"During the young leaders project, I ran the dance studio for a few weeks. This allowed me to take charge and teach the juniors something that I am passionate about. I found it difficult some sessions to keep the juniors under control. I was able to keep calm and tell them that if they would mess around they could leave. This happened a few times but everything went smoothly once they left. I enjoyed the young leaders project and would definitely do it again if I had the opportunity."

*Amy, 14*

# Our Impact

## Meet Our Young People

Ryan, 14 - member since 2022



**“I started coming to The Way because my friends came here, and I just fell in love with it. I’ve met new friends and tried loads of new things I’d never done before, like climbing - I didn’t even know it was a thing! Now I do it outside of The Way too. The staff help me with my homework and I’ve learned different things, like working out in the gym, sports hall and even playing chess. Since coming to The Way, I’ve become good at stuff I wasn’t good at before.”**

“I joined the Young Leaders programme to volunteer for my Duke of Edinburgh and The Way was the best place because I already go and feel comfortable here. I’ve developed patience by helping with nerf wars and reminding kids to stop shooting and I’ve learned time management by keeping track of game times in football and nerf wars. I also worked on discipline, like making sure kids followed the climbing rules.

“I went on a residential and got to try new things, like the big swing - I was nervous at first, but it was really fun and I went again to the max height. The residential has gave me some freedom without being close to home, like with parents taking care of me all the time. I’d definitely recommend residential because you make new friends and try things outside your comfort zone.”





# Mentoring

## Supporting Young People in Care

**At our Youth Zone, we believe every young person deserves someone in their corner - especially those navigating life in care. That's why we've developed our MAP mentoring programme to support young people in care across Wolverhampton.**

This programme offers consistent, one-to-one support from trusted adults who are trained to listen, encourage and guide. Our mentors help young people build confidence, set goals and develop the life skills they need to thrive - both in and out of school.



What the Programme offers:

- Regular mentoring sessions tailored to each young person's needs
- Safe, supportive relationships with trusted adults
- Help with goal setting, decision-making and building resilience
- Opportunities to explore interests, develop new skills and plan for the future

Whether it's helping with schoolwork, preparing for independence or simply being a reliable presence, our mentors are there to walk alongside young people as they grow.

Why It Matters:

Young people in care often face unique challenges - but with the right support, they can overcome barriers and unlock their full potential. Our mentoring programme is designed to do just that: to provide stability, encouragement and a sense of belonging.

Interested in learning more or referring a student?

**Contact our Mentoring Coordinator**

Arran Gill

[arran.gill@thewayyouthzone.org](mailto:arran.gill@thewayyouthzone.org)



"Before mentoring, I felt like I was on a downfall. My behaviour showed how I was feeling inside - it was really bad and awful. School was tense, and I didn't know how to express myself.

Then I met my mentor. Talking through things with him helped me open up. I could finally talk about how I feel, and he just listened - no judgement, just support. That made all the difference." *Mentee, 17*

# Inclusion

## Supporting Young People with Additional Needs

**At The Way Youth Zone, we're committed to making sure every young person feels welcome, supported, and included - especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

Young people with additional needs have the option to join us for our dedicated SEND Squad families session or they are welcome to join our weekday evening universal sessions.

Our SEND Squad runs every Saturday morning, offering a quieter, more structured environment for young people and their families. It's a great starting point for those who may need extra support, with adapted activities, sensory-friendly spaces and a different theme every week. Many young people begin their journey with us through SEND Squad, and as their confidence grows, we gently support them to transition into our universal sessions where they can enjoy over 20 different activities alongside their peers.



We're proud that 25% of our members have additional needs, and the majority attend our universal sessions during the week. Our trained staff are always on hand to provide support, ensuring every young person can take part, make friends, and thrive in a safe and inclusive space.

**Contact our Inclusion Coordinator**  
Lorenz Bruce  
[lorenz.bruce@thewayyouthzone.org](mailto:lorenz.bruce@thewayyouthzone.org)



*"SEND Squad is part of our weekend routine, and she looks forward to it. We have seen the Youth Zone has helped to improve her speech, and she is a lot more confident and excited to play with other children. We love the variety of activities and meeting new families who are in a similar situation to us. It's like a support network." Parent of Agnes, 10*

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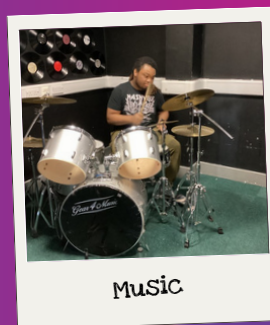
Here's just a snapshot of the activities going on at our Youth Zone:



Black History Month activities



Girls football



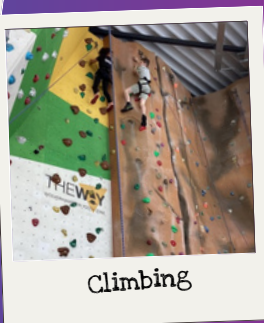
Music



Staff vs young people dodgeball



Holiday Club



Climbing



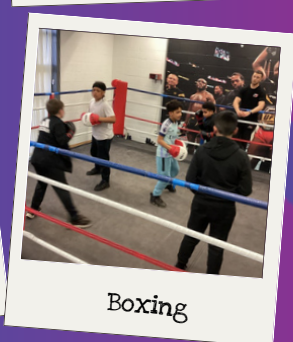
Dance



Cooking



Sensory room fun



Boxing



Art



Parachute games

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☎ 01902 328290

Find out more



**THEWAY**  
An OnSide Youth Zone

# When school's out, We bring the fun!!!

Introducing our holiday club options!

# £5

per day

## HOLIDAY CLUB KIDZ



- ◀▶ 8 - 12 years
- ◀▶ 8:30am - 3:00 pm
- ◀▶ 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October

# £5

per day

BOOKING OPENS  
6<sup>th</sup> October



THEWAY  
An OnSide Youth Zone

## HOLIDAY CLUB TEENZ



- ◀▶ 13 - 15 years
- ◀▶ 8:30am - 3:00 pm
- ◀▶ 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October

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