

FEBRUARY 2021

BYZ NEWS



The official newsletter of Blackburn Youth Zone



BYZ PATRONS EMPLOYEES GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Over Christmas and the New Year with the support of local businesses, Blackburn Youth Zone provided 1200 health and wellbeing stockings to local young people, these went out to partner youth organisations, women's refuges, homeless shelters, schools and BYZ members.

WE ARE THRILLED TO SHARE THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED WAS AN INCREDIBLE £9,287.50!!!

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal. After such a challenging 2020 and with our fundraising efforts being stifled by #restrictions, your support allows us to continue to change lives for thousands of young people who call #Blackburn their home.

JANUARY LOOK BACK...

**TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS:
4458**

1373 Onsite sessions for vulnerable young people on an invite only basis.

2803 young people participated in online zoom and digital activities.

Detached street work; reaching 282 young people outside the Youth Zone.

£40,000 RAISED THROUGH BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Following Blackburn Youth Zone participation in the Big Give Christmas Campaign 2020, we are pleased to announce we have exceeded our target of £40,000 to support the time to talk project. Following Blackburn Youth Zones participation in the Big Give Christmas Campaign 2020, we are pleased to announce that we have exceeded our target of £40,000 to support the Blackburn Youth Zone 'Time to talk' project. 40% of all children in Blackburn with Darwen are now living in poverty with the full effects of the covid-19 pandemic still unknown. A big thank you to those of you who have supported this campaign to ensure we can deliver the time to talk project to Blackburn Youth Zone members during a time when they need us the most. Without your support, this would not have been possible. The "Time to Talk" project will support young people aged 5 - 18 over the next 12 months, responding to young people's individual needs/priorities it will particularly target those disproportionately affected by the COVID pandemic.



MEET TALIA



Talia used to be a very timid young person, who lacked self-confidence and did not feel confident in her work. Originally Talia would only take part in our activities via Zoom, if her mother was sitting beside her (off-camera), to support her and ask any questions on her behalf. Recognising her lack of confidence, youth workers encouraged Talia to contribute her thoughts on discussions via the chat function in zoom. They also called her on the phone a couple of times a week to build that relationship and increase her confidence when speaking to them. Talia enjoyed the weekly phone calls and using the chat function, and after a couple of weeks, began to talk to the youth workers instead.

"THE YOUTH ZONE REALLY HAS BEEN A LIFELINE FOR TALIA AND HER BROTHER" (TALIA'S MUM)