

# 2019

## IMPACT REPORT

SOMEWHERE TO GO...  
SOMETHING TO DO...  
SOMEONE TO TALK TO...



PART OF THE  NETWORK

# BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

# 2019

## What difference have we made?

- > Altogether, since 2012, we have an impact on the lives of 13,029 young people across Blackburn with Darwen with a total of 260,555 visits to BYZ. The social value of young people just attending the Youth Zone is £459,100 annually, add to this the value of them engaging in sports, volunteering, employability programmes and the increase in confidence, staying out of trouble brings the social value to over £2mill generating a £2 return for every £1 spent
- > 34% of our membership is from the BME community with a 65% increase in young people (YP) from a BME background attending BYZ since 2012. Having mixed social networks consisting of people from different ethnic and material backgrounds, helps aid social mobility reducing the risk of entrenched poverty later in life.
- > 25% of all BYZ members come from the top five most deprived wards in BwD which falls into the top 15 most deprived boroughs in the country.
- > 37% of BYZ members come from the top five areas with the highest current reported ASB.
- > 18% of the borough's looked-after children attend BYZ on average of once every two weeks.
- > For every £1 of funding which we receive from BwD council, BYZ raises £6.£3.50 of this comes from the business community who support BYZ. Blackburn's is the most successful Youth Zone for attracting and sustaining high levels of donations from local businesses.
- > Since opening we have had 92,000 hours of volunteering given to BYZ with an average of 250 individuals volunteering a year. The social value of this is approximately £0.25 million a year or £1.75 million since we opened







## Keeping Children & Young People safe in the home and in the community

With 85% of a young person's waking hours spent outside of school and formal education, and where the loss of youth services is pronounced, vulnerable young people in particular are falling prey to loneliness, poor mental health and fear of youth violence (*Blackburn with Darwen Council Adolescent Strategy 2019/2023*).

- Annually, we are open 2050 hours outside of school time and an additional 585 hours for school holidays (2634 hours in total).
- In 2018, through the Holiday Hunger Initiative 262 young people were provided with 6 weeks free holiday club provision including breakfast, lunch and snacks.
- 22.2% of children aged 10-11 in the borough are classified as obese. In a 2019 Consultation 49% of BYZ members aged 10-11 stated that 'get active' activities at BYZ are what they are most interested in; with 44% of them saying that sports is their favourite thing to do at the Youth Zone.
- We do weekly outreach in the town centre and Cathedral Quarter as well as twice weekly at 5 local primary schools. On average, we engage an additional 100 young people a week through our outreach.
- We do weekly detached work in partnership with Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) and Young People's Services (YPS). On average they engage 30 young people per night across Blackburn with Darwen.

*In areas of investment in youth services, we see a positive commitment to young people's inclusion in decision-making, community engagement and increased life-skills (NYA National Debate July 2019)*

- We have life-skills' activities every week, engaging 200 young people a week.
- We hold on average four community 'eat-togethers' a year, inviting members of the community to come and enjoy a meal together. These have engaged 320 members of the community a year.
- In the last 12 months, 130 young people have been involved in social action projects.



## Reduce the number of children & young people in care

- We support, on average, 170 young people a year at risk of entering the care system through safeguarding, mentoring, targeted provision and universal provision.

Children's services and connected partners are working with an increasing number of young people with complex needs and challenging behaviour. Supporting young people and their families at an early stage and at all levels of need, reduces pressure on statutory services by intervening early to prevent entry into care.

- We hold four family engagement sessions a year providing families the opportunity to do quality, meaningful activities. In the last 12 months over 150 families attended at least one of the four sessions.
- On average we refer 30 young people a quarter to external services for early intervention.
- On average over the last three years we have delivered 470 1:1 mentoring and support sessions over the past three years.



## Reduce the number of children in the criminal/youth justice system

- Over the last 12 months we have worked with seven alternative providers. Through this, 16 YP received a sports leaders' accreditation and eight received the Nicas climbing accreditation; all, as well as taking part in a range of team building, life-skills and leadership workshops.
- We work in partnership with the YOT team who attend BYZ weekly, and supporting 12 young people a month

Research suggests that young people who perpetrate group-based offending and violent behaviour will often have been the victims of abuse or neglect (Young et al, 2007). For example, where violence is a common occurrence in the home or wider community, such behaviour becomes normalised and this will have an impact on the likelihood that young people will perpetrate this behaviour



## Stop Children from becoming 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

BWd NEET rates for those aged 16-17 is at 6.1%, just slightly higher than the England average.

- Over the last 12 months we have run a range of programmes designed for young people to gain skills and raise aspirations. These have engaged 250 young people
- Over 70 local businesses are involved with BYZ, supporting with employability masterclasses, taster sessions and visits, linked to the 'Gatsby' benchmark. [International standards for good career guidance]
- Blackburn College and UCLan deliver monthly employer engagement activities including employer visits and masterclasses 120 young people have taken part in these over the year.
- In 2019 we have held two large employer events at BYZ engaging 125 young people aged 12-16.
- We deliver highly tailored employment training courses. 41 young people have completed our course in the last 12 months equating to £16,877 of social value. Of these 11 young people have gone into jobs, which equates to £102,132 of social value (a further 24 went into employment or training)
- We have employed 6 apprentices over the past 3 years resulting in £11,998 of social value

## Effective intervention (right time/ right place/ right young people)

A Hub and Spoke approach is being developed with key locations identified. BYZ and BRCT are leading on delivery of the universal neighbourhood offer and have tailored their offers using intelligence and mapping from the SYA partnership (Blackburn with Darwen Council Adolescent Strategy 2019/2023)

Partnership working and multi-agency teams enable the borough to be innovative and responsive to the needs of our young people. The multi-agency teams already in place in the borough are achieving better outcomes for young people. (BWd Adolescent Strategy, 2019)

- We are committed to working in partnership to deliver a service that is responsive to the priorities of the borough and the individual needs of our young people. This is exemplified by our lead role in the Strategic Youth Alliance and our operational partnerships with Blackburn Rovers, and Young People's Services to deliver detached sessions and our inhouse sports offer, with One Voice, 10 local schools each year etc. etc.
- Our offer complements the neighbourhood provision providing 40 hours of open access universal provision across Seven days a week with up to 20 activities a night.
- We have an average of 750 visits a week with young people accessing a programme of positive activities out of school hours tailored to individual interests and needs. Additionally we have a further 250 visits a week during school hours – making around 1,000 visits a week in all.
- To reach as many young people in the borough as we can each year we do assemblies/golden days/enrichment days at 30 primary schools
- In 2019 we won the Hive Business award for commitments to schools.

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Blackburn Youth Zone

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