

The OnSide logo features a white star icon inside a circle, followed by the word "OnSide" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the top half of the image is a green-to-purple gradient with a colorful geometric pattern of triangles on the right side.

# OnSide

# HERE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



[onsideyouthzones.org](https://onsideyouthzones.org)



# IT'S ABOUT OPPORTUNITY

**Potential is everywhere. In every home on every street, from affluent suburbs to inner-city estates. The difference is that some young people get every opportunity to explore their potential. Others don't.**

We're OnSide, a national charity that believes all young people should have the opportunity to discover their passion and their purpose. To find out what they've got and where it could take them.

We raise the funds to build state-of-the-art, multimillion-pound Youth Zones in the country's most economically disadvantaged areas. We train the amazing people that run them. We offer continuing support to the nationwide OnSide Network where they can learn and grow, share their stories and celebrate their success together.

These are brand new, purpose-built spaces fizzing with energy, and crammed with incredible facilities. They are staffed by skilled and dedicated youth workers who truly believe in young people – helping them see what they could achieve, and giving them the skills, confidence and ambition to go for it.

This is life-changing support that helps tens of thousands of young people from a diverse range of backgrounds to thrive.



**It's inspiring. It's empowering. And it works.**

We know it works because we've been doing it for over a decade and we're in this for the long term. Every new Youth Zone is built on the know-how of the last. Every success story writes the first chapter of the next. And we're just getting started.

This is passionate, properly-funded youth provision, with no ifs or buts. A unique partnership between young people and their community, local authorities and private business leadership, and a growing movement of supporters who believe that how we treat the next generation defines who we are as a society.

Because when we really invest in young people, we all benefit – from who they are now, everything they might become and achieve, and everyone they might touch and inspire.

All they need is the chance to shine – an environment where they can be their best selves – and you just watch them go.





# OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

## Our Vision

Every young person across the UK is happy, healthy and able to thrive.

## Our Mission

To empower young people to lead positive, fulfilling lives by providing access to incredible spaces and excellent youth work, delivered by outstanding people, where they are needed the most.

## Our Values

**Young People First** Young people are at the heart of everything we do, inspiring and challenging us to deliver services that exceed their needs and challenge them to be the best they can be.

**Ambition** We are passionate and driven in taking on new challenges, embracing new ideas, and exceeding our ambitions for young people, Youth Zones and our local communities.

**Excellence** We encourage ourselves and each other to be the best we can be through continuous learning and improvement, and a focus on finding solutions.

**Respect** We act with honesty and integrity, celebrating diversity across the whole organisation and caring about each other, our young people and the Youth Zone environment.

**Collaboration** We create and nurture strong, creative partnerships, working together to achieve better results and outcomes for young people.



# COLLABORATION MATTERS

**Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do and is the key to creating opportunities for tens of thousands of young people across the country.**

OnSide Youth Zones aren't youth centres as you may know them. These are inspirational hubs of energy and support packed with state-of-the-art facilities. They're a message to young people that someone really believes in them and has invested in their future.

Everything we do is about collaboration; our success depends on us working with others who share our vision. Our unique 4-way partnership is at the heart of how we create vibrant and thriving Youth Zones. We bring together young people and their community, local authorities and supporters from the private sector (including businesses and philanthropists) to fund and build each Youth Zone.

By working together, we are able to create a new local charity which will go on to support thousands of young people for years to come.

Each OnSide Youth Zone typically costs £9 million to build and we make this happen

through a unique 4-way partnership.

We all believe the same thing – that every young person deserves the chance to shine, regardless of their postcode or background. By working together, we can build something really incredible for young people in communities across the country.

“*OnSide is a dynamic business-like partner who is providing sustainable and inclusive opportunities for our young people. Easy to work with and solution focussed.*”

**Professor Steven Broomhead,**  
Chief Executive,  
Warrington Borough Council





# WHAT MAKES AN ONSIDE YOUTH ZONE UNIQUE?

Every OnSide Youth Zone is a safe and inspiring place for thousands of young people to enjoy a wide range of activities and support. Here's what makes an OnSide Youth Zone unique:

- **Open 7 days a week** including evenings, weekends and schools holidays.
- **Over 20 activities on offer each session**, including sports, music, media, dance, drama and much more.
- **Kitted out with state-of-the-art facilities** including an indoor climbing wall, 3G kick pitch, 4 court sports hall, music room with recording studio, dance and drama studio, training kitchen, arts and crafts room, enterprise and employability suite, fully equipped gym and much more.
- **Staffed by skilled and dedicated** youth workers who really care, supported by a team of committed volunteers.
- **Open to all young people** with a typical membership of 4,000 young people aged 8 to 19 (up to 25 for those with additional needs) with 100 to 250 young people attending every session.
- **Delicious hot meals available** from £1 at the café.
- **Entry is just 50p per visit.**
- **Provide targeted support** both in house and through external specialist services, creating a seamless link between the Youth Zone and local services.

# HERE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe all young people deserve the opportunity to shine. But opportunity is about more than bricks and mortar, sports courts and sound studios.



The amazing equipment in our Youth Zones is important. But their real impact comes from the life-changing youth work that goes on behind the scenes.

That's why we don't just create state-of-the-art spaces, we train and support skilled and dedicated youth workers to run them. People who understand where young people are coming from, and truly believe in where they're going. Then, day by day, give them the tools to get there.

With every workout or kickabout, every mock interview or muck around with mates, young people develop the resilience to face challenges and the skills to solve problems. They find confidence to aim high and the determination to become who they want to be. They build positive relationships based on an understanding of their own self-worth, and a sense of belonging to something bigger.

These journeys don't always happen overnight. But that's ok – we're not going anywhere.

When a Youth Zone opens its doors in a community, they stay open. And when its youth workers say they'll be there too, they mean it. Rain or shine, good mood or bad they're there for young people, with young people, believing in young people.

That's why our Youth Zones aren't just places to go – they're places to grow.

That's the power of outstanding youth work.

**“**  
*When I first started coming I had no goals for the future with no idea what to do with my life. Attending the Youth Zone has made me realise that I would like to become a youth worker. I'd like to help people in the same way they have helped me.”*

Hannah,  
Inspire Youth Zone member





# OUR APPROACH TO EVALUATION

**We are committed to monitoring and evaluating the reach, quality and impact of youth work delivered across the OnSide Network, to help us learn and continuously improve the range of activities and opportunities offered to young people. We achieve this through collecting information from young people and analysing results.**

## Our ME App Evaluation System

The ME App evaluation system was designed in partnership with the EDIT (Evidence Development and Incubation Team) at King's College London. It is a survey with a short series of attitudinal questions that ask young people to score themselves between one and five in several areas aligned to our defined outcomes, including self-confidence, social skills, physical health and mental wellbeing. Young people complete the questionnaire alongside their trusted youth worker at different points throughout the year, so we can monitor changes over time. Answers are logged online and pulled through to our content management system, Salesforce, from where we analyse the data locally and nationally.

Each year we produce a Network Impact Report which highlights key findings from the ME App Evaluation System data. The data in the report is a useful tool to enable Youth Zones to ensure they are continually meeting the needs of young people and can adapt their offer to young people.



**[Read the Network Impact Report here](#)**

## Social Return on Investment

Measuring social value is a useful way to determine how organisations are impacting the wellbeing of individuals and communities. To understand this better, we commissioned a Social Return on Investment report to hear first-hand from Youth Zone members about their experience. The findings clearly demonstrate the impact of universal youth work, and articulate this impact in terms of improvements to the health and wellbeing of children and young people that attend Youth Zones.

**The headline findings from the study are that**

**OnSide Youth Zones support young people to feel free to have fun, to feel safe and to feel confident in themselves**



**For every £1 of costs there was a return of over £13 of social value in terms of young peoples' wellbeing.**

**[You can read the report here](#)**







“

*Before I came to The Hive I was going home straight from school and I didn't speak to anyone. I was feeling naturally quite lonely and isolated. My mum contacted The Hive, and it changed my life completely. Coming to The Hive has helped me make more friends...I've really formed a vision of what I want to do in the future.”*

Angelos, aged 16,  
member of The Hive Youth Zone

[Watch Angelos' story here](#)





# THE DIFFERENCE WE ARE MAKING

As a Network we have an incredible impact on young people

**£210M**  
INVESTED IN OUR NETWORK  
TO SUPPORT YOUTH ZONE  
DELIVERY AND PROGRAMMES

**50K+**  
YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND  
YOUTH ZONES EVERY YEAR

**582**  
STAFF HAVE BENEFITTED  
FROM TALENT ACADEMY  
TRAINING IN 2023/24

**574K+**  
ENGAGEMENTS BY YOUNG  
PEOPLE ACROSS  
THE NETWORK

**£211M**  
RAISED TO 'START UP' NEW  
YOUTH ZONES NATIONWIDE

**81%**  
OF YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASED  
OR MAINTAINED SELF-  
CONFIDENCE IN 2023/24

**88%**  
OF YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASED  
OR MAINTAINED LIFE SKILLS  
IN 2023/24

**90%**  
OF YOUNG PEOPLE IMPROVED  
OR MAINTAINED THEIR  
PHYSICAL HEALTH IN 2023/24

**£13+**  
SOCIAL RETURN ON  
INVESTMENT FOR EVERY £1  
INVESTED INTO YOUTH ZONES

**~£300M**  
OF SOCIAL VALUE GENERATED  
ACROSS THE ONSIDE NETWORK  
IN 2023/24





# THE ONSIDE NETWORK



Since 2008, we have been working in towns and cities across the country to establish Youth Zones that make a real difference to young people. From Carlisle to Croydon and with many more in the pipeline we are proud to have developed a growing national network of Youth Zones, meeting the needs of young people in their communities.

The OnSide Network is a thriving collaboration of independent local charities committed to exceptional, life changing youth work that has a genuine long term impact on the lives of young people. They come together as a network to share their experiences, learn and grow – while we provide training and support across almost every aspect of their operations.

So when we speak about ‘our’ Youth Zones they are not, in fact, ours. They belong to the young people and staff who fill them with passion and possibility. They belong to the communities that trust and treasure them.

Their stories are unique, their successes are their own. The reason we talk about them too is because we’re so proud of what they’re doing. And because they show what we already know – that all young people need is the same opportunity others may take for granted.

When you support OnSide, you’re supporting all Youth Zones and every community, both now and in the future.

You’re supporting systemic change – through a growing national network of incredible spaces delivering inspirational, life-changing youth work.

You’re supporting the belief that every young person deserves the same opportunity to shine – and the determination to make sure they get it. In short, when you invest in OnSide, you’re investing in young people.

**“The OnSide Network provides a supportive environment, continuous learning, shared knowledge and resources, enabling us to achieve excellence.”**

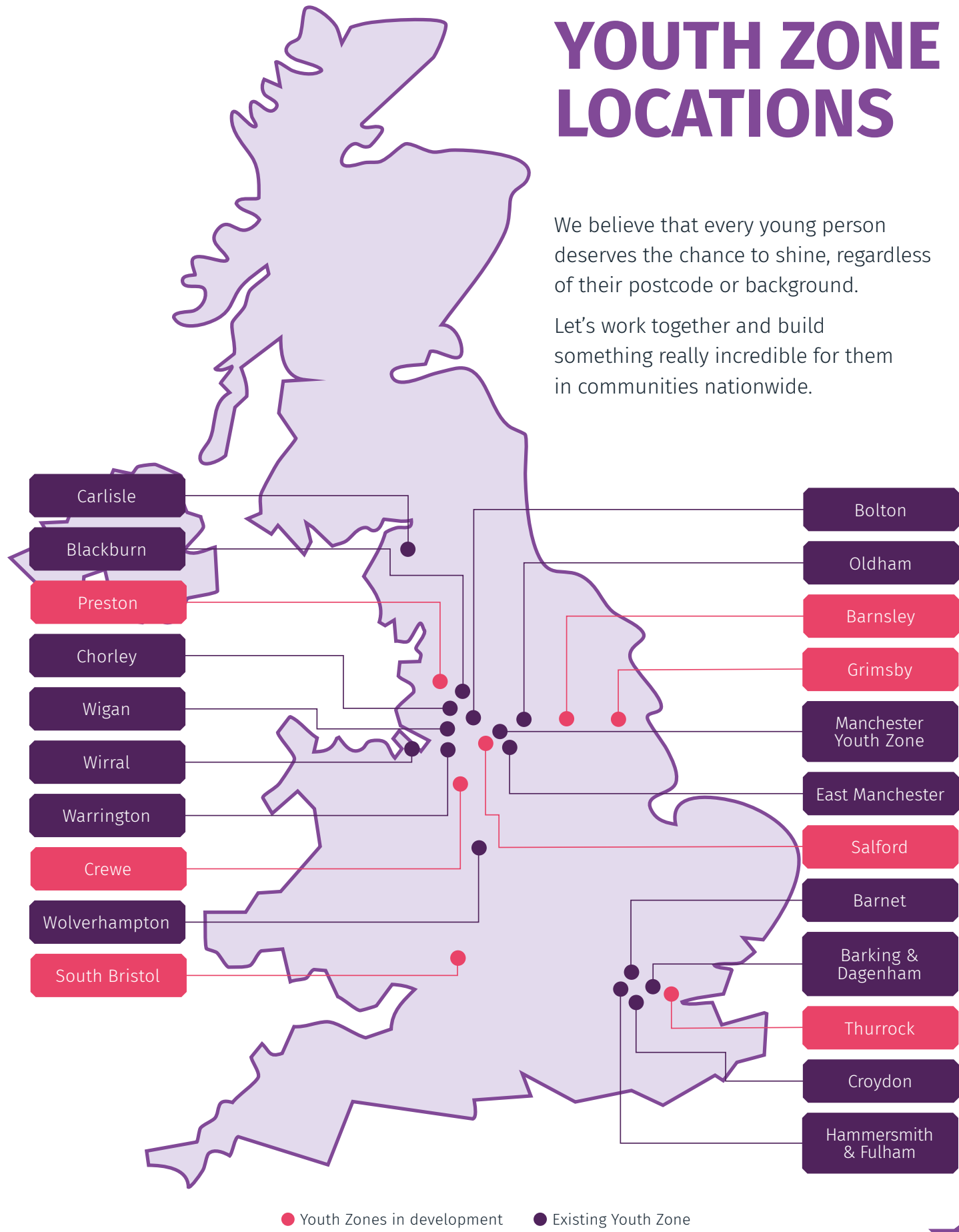
**Anthony Ashworth-Steen,  
CEO, Wigan Youth Zone**



## YOUTH ZONE LOCATIONS

We believe that every young person deserves the chance to shine, regardless of their postcode or background.

Let’s work together and build something really incredible for them in communities nationwide.







If you believe that every young person deserves the same opportunity to shine then we'd love to work with you.

[enquiries@onsideyouthzones.org](mailto:enquiries@onsideyouthzones.org)

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Here for young people



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