



THEWAY

An **OnSide** Youth Zone

Chair of Trustees

candidate pack

 Reach
TrusteeWorks

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read this pack and considering taking on the role of Chair of Trustees at the Way Youth Zone. The Way is Wolverhampton's flagship youth hub. It is also part of the wider national OnSide Network. OnSide is a thriving collaboration of independent local charities, each committed to exceptional, life-changing youth work that has a genuine long-term impact on the lives of local young people.

The role of the Chair is key to ensuring that The Way continues to thrive, meeting the needs and aspirations of thousands of young people. We are a truly positive and diverse organisation that welcomes all young people. Each young person's background culture and identity is valued. The Way is a place where all young people can flourish. The facilities and opportunities encourage participation, enjoyment, well-being, resilience, and aspiration.

Staff, volunteers, and Trustees are valued and flourish too. You can bring your skills, time, and experience and have a positive impact for the City's young people. We set high standards for everyone associated with The Way, training and learning together. We recognise that everyone is unique and has potential. Everyone deserves encouragement and opportunity.

The Way is at an exciting time in its development. Now in its eight year, a new three year strategy is currently under development ahead of the next Financial Year (April 2024). Overseen by the Board and led by the CEO, Paul Sharpe, the strategy's development has involved all staff members. There will be an accompanying Business Plan for 2024/25, and the chance for the Chair to review the strategy each year with fellow Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The strategy focuses on further embedding the Youth Zone in the Wolverhampton community, making it the go-to place for all young people in the city.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to take up this role, develop new skills and increase your knowledge and experience on working with young people and governance. I know that you would gain a great sense of satisfaction that your experience, skills, and work within the community would be making a real difference to the lives of our young people and their families and to the staff at The Way.

Best regards and thank you.

Ian Budd, Outgoing Chair of Trustees



Who we are



A youth-led, open access, universal state of the art space for young people aged 8-19 (up to 25 with a disability) located centrally in the vibrant and diverse city of Wolverhampton

Our Mission:

- To invest in young people through safe, state of the art facilities, dedicated staff and quality, fun activities.

Our Vision:

- To support young people to grow and thrive, make positive decisions and develop resilience for the future.

How we made a difference in 2023

17,534

Young people supported by The Way Youth Zone since it opened its doors in 2016



14

young people completed Arts Award

1,431

New members



10,986

Free meals to young people (Nov 22–Mar 23)

269

Young people with additional needs



326

Sessions held

34,110

Attendances

5%

of our members are Looked After Children

"The Way has made quite a big difference to me because this is the only social chance I get, I'm usually just cooped up in my room at home."

Senior member, 22

"By joining The Way Youth Zone's Board, I really feel like I'm making a difference to the Young People of Wolverhampton.

It has given me the chance to volunteer with new people and bring my professional experience to the charity, as well as teach me new ways to approach problems, look at things from different perspectives and develop new skills"

- Alison, Board Member since 2019



What are we looking for?



We are looking for a new Chair to lead and support us in this exciting next phase of the Way's development.

The new Chair will bring their passion and commitment to the young people of Wolverhampton. Your skills and experience will help us to empower young people and support them to raise their aspirations.

We are interested in an individual who brings the following:

- Ideally the Chair will be local and have networks in Wolverhampton.
- Have commitment to the mission, values and DNA of the Youth Zone.
- Strong leadership skills and ability to motivate a team.
- Show willingness to devote the necessary time and effort for the role.
- Strong inter-personal, networking and relationship building abilities.
- Previous Board experience, either within a charity or in a corporate setting.
- Entrepreneurial/business skills.

We warmly welcome candidates from a range of cultures, backgrounds, contexts, ages and experience. We strongly value the contribution that people with these characteristics will bring to our Board discussions.

The role

The role of Chair is a stimulating and challenging role that will call on your strategic and interpersonal skills.

It provides an opportunity to work alongside an experienced and diverse team of Trustees and senior management in a rapidly changing environment to make a real difference to the young people of Wolverhampton.

The Chair provides leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees to enable the Board to fulfil its responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, as well as oversight and scrutiny of the charity's operations.

The role is not remunerated. However, reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out the role will be repaid.

Commitment

- The Board meet 6 times a year for 2 hours in the evening (5pm -7pm).
- One to one meetings with the CEO every month, ideally twice a month. These can be done remotely.
- Ad hoc communication outside of formal meetings.
- Annual Board Development Day.
- Ideally the Chair will support on at least one sub-committee (3/4 meetings a year)
- Ideally you will be able to represent The Way Youth Zone within the community including at events once or twice a year.
- The Chair is encouraged to get to know our young people by joining them on a session.

How to apply

Reach TrusteeWorks are supporting us with our Chair recruitment.

Please send a CV/LinkedIn profile and a cover letter in which you include why you are interested in the role and how your skills and experience would add value to The Way and send it to:

trusteeworks@reachvolunteering.org.uk

If you have any questions or require any assistance submitting your application please get in touch with the TrusteeWorks team.

Closing date for applications: Friday 17th May

THE WAY

An **OnSide** Youth Zone



Reach Volunteering - 7 Bell Yard London WC2A 2JR
Charity registered in England and Wales No 278837 and Scotland SC041623