



First month review: 1 in 5 young people living in Chorley is now a member of Inspire Youth Zone

The launch of Chorley's brand new Inspire Youth Zone has exceeded all expectations in the introductory month, with over 3,400 young people now registered as members. The charity is now looking for further support from the local business community to help change even more lives.

After a successful launch event on Saturday 5th May, the Youth Zone has gone from strength to strength with over 20% of Chorley's young people aged 8-19 now registered as members.

Membership figures prove the Youth Zone is a hit with young people. Throughout May Inspire received over 6,000 visits from young people aged between 8-19 and up to 25 for those with a disability.

But the charity still needs on-going support from the local business community to help reach even more young people.

Janine Blythe, Chief Executive, was thrilled to share the latest figures and achievements with the Youth Zone's supporters and wider community. She said: "Launching Inspire Youth Zone has been an unforgettable journey, there has been a real buzz at Inspire ever since we opened. It is heartwarming to hear from young people, parents and the community about the difference Inspire has already made and we look forward to what the future brings."

"Our sincere thanks go to Inspire Youth Zone's supporters, they have gone to extraordinary lengths to bring Inspire Youth Zone to life, ensuring Chorley's young people have somewhere safe and inspiring to spend their leisure time. Our charity simply would not exist without our valued supporters and we are always hugely grateful for any new supporters who wish to join our family."

Youth Zone Emily member said: "I come to Inspire Youth Zone every Senior session which is 4 times per week. At Inspire I can socialise with my friends and meet new people, instead of spending all my time on my phone. My favourite activities are climbing and art. I'm really glad Inspire Youth Zone is open!"

It isn't just young people that are praising the Youth Zone but parents too, Marie Cocker who reviewed Inspire Youth Zone 5 star said: "Just superb! Both my girls attend the sessions - one in Junior Club, one in Senior Club. They love this place, so much to do and to get involved in with lots of new friendships made already. The staff are brilliant, involved, eager to engage and really encourage the kids to try something new if they're reluctant to join in. A huge thankyou to all involved, it's a gem of a place that we're very lucky to have on our doorstep."

The Youth Zone is run in partnership with Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council, The Arts Partnership and OnSide Youth Zones.

Proud to support Chorley's young people are Inspire Youth Zone's Founder Patrons, a network of local businesses and philanthropists, who support the charity's aim to inspire young people to lead healthier, happier, more aspirational lives.

If you're inspired by the difference that Inspire Youth Zone is making and would like to find out more about supporting this worthwhile charity, please visit www.inspireyouthzone.org or call Sara Eltman on 01257 228888.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Inspire Youth Zone

Chorley Youth Zone is an independent charity which will operate on the successful OnSide Youth Zones model. The Youth Zone cost approximately £4.8million to build and £900k to run annually. The project is being run in partnership with Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council, The Arts Partnership and OnSide Youth Zones.

OnSide Youth Zones

OnSide Youth Zones was set up in 2008 to improve young people's futures by building and supporting places for young people to go, with positive things to do, staffed by people who care, open seven days a week – Youth Zones. They offer 20 activities each night ranging from

football, climbing and media to nail art, DJ-ing, drama and employability training and entry is just 50p along with a £5 membership.

Over 30,000 young people are already members across the OnSide Youth Zone Network at our nine open Youth Zones in:

- Manchester (The Factory) Youth Zone: thefactoryyz.org
- Oldham (Mahdlo) Youth Zone: mahdloyz.org
- Wigan Youth Zone: wiganyouthzone.org
- Bolton Lads & Girls Club: blgc.co.uk
- Blackburn Youth Zone: blackburnyz.org
- Carlisle Youth Zone: carlisle-youthzone.org
- Wolverhampton (The Way) Youth Zone: thewayyouthzone.org
- Warrington Youth Club: warringtonyouthclub.co.uk
- Wirral Youth Zone (The Hive): thehiveyouthzone.org

A further 12 Youth Zones are at various stages of planning. Recently we struck agreements with Barking and Dagenham Council, Barnet Council and Croydon Council to create Youth Zones in London - three of five priority locations identified in the capital.

Each Youth Zone is an independent charity with its own private sector-led board. This model of local ownership is a key factor in ensuring the financial sustainability of each Youth Zone. The Youth Zone provides a way for local communities to actively support their young people between the age of 8 and 19 (25 for those with a disability). Visit onsideyouthzones.org for more details.