

Preston Youth Zone

Frequently Asked Questions



Q1. Who are OnSide Youth Zones?

A1. We're OnSide, a national charity determined to make sure that all young people have the opportunity to shine. The chance to discover their passion and their purpose.

We fund, build, launch and support a network of state-of-the-art, multimillion-pound Youth Zones in the UK's most disadvantaged areas. These are incredible spaces filled with energy, inspiration and highly skilled youth workers who truly believe in young people.

This is passionate, properly funded youth provision. A unique partnership between young people and their community, local authorities and private business leadership, and a growing movement of supporters. Together, we believe that all young people need is a chance to discover what they've got and where it could take them.

Q2. What is a Youth Zone?

A2. 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 school 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.

Q3. Where will Preston Youth Zone be located?

A3. Preston Youth Zone is to be built on land adjacent to, Preston Bus Station, close to Tithebarn Street and Lord Street.



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Q4. How much will it cost to attend?

A4. An annual membership to the Youth Zone is £5, with each visit costing young people just 50p. All the activities (over 20 per session) are included for this entry fee.

Q5. When will it open?

A5. The plan is for Preston Youth Zone to open in early 2025.

Q6. How did it come about?

A6. Preston City Council, in partnership with local businesspeople, have seen the Youth Zone model in other towns and cities and want to give more young people in Preston access to a Youth Zone and the benefits it can bring for the whole community. Preston Youth Zone will be part of The OnSide Network of Youth Zones across the country with others in Bolton, Blackburn, Carlisle, Chorley, Manchester, Oldham, Warrington, Wigan, Wirral, Wolverhampton and 3 sites in London.

Preston Youth Zone is being delivered in partnership with OnSide Youth Zones, Preston City Council, the Towns Fund and a variety of private philanthropists and organisations who wish to support the social development of young people in Preston.

Q7. Why did you choose the site?

A7. We were keen for the Youth Zone to be accessible for all the young people of Preston and complement existing provision in the town. This is a central location accessible by foot, bus or train and is prominent so to make a statement about the value Preston places on its young people.

Q8. Who will run Preston Youth Zone?

A8. Preston Youth Zone will be an independent charity, governed by a Board of Trustees, made up of local businesspeople, alongside the Council and others who have a passion for the town. They will ensure the new charity delivers for the young people of Preston. The day-to-day management of the Youth Zone will be the responsibility of a dedicated team of paid staff headed up by a Chief Executive and supported by an army of volunteers.



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Q9. What will happen to all the existing Youth Provision?

Q9. Preston Youth Zone will complement the town's existing youth provision, acting as a platform to help grow the Town's offer for young people. Youth Zones deliver the best service when they work in partnership with local voluntary and statutory organisations. In other towns and cities, the Youth Zones provide a new physical space for other organisations to deliver their activities or services to young people. Other local organisations find they can reach more young people and new young people through the Youth Zone membership. Preston Youth Zone is also keen to work in partnership with as many existing youth groups as possible. Early consultation meetings are already planned. To find out more about working in partnership please contact enquiries@onsideyouthzones.org.

Q10. How much will it cost to run?

A10. The annual running costs for the Youth Zone will be approximately £1.3 million. This includes for example: staffing costs, equipment, support of volunteers (including DBS checks), insurance, maintenance and utilities. The annual running costs are met through local authority support, local private sector supporters, charitable trusts and grants, and young people's membership and entry fees.

Q11. How do we know the Youth Zone will be sustainable in the future?

A11. The Youth Zone model is based on the successful Bolton Lads and Girls Club, where a combination of revenue streams, including private sector funding, ensures its sustainability and over time allows the income streams to grow and diversify steadily, increasing the Youth Zone offer. At the time of opening, OnSide ensures that each Youth Zone has three years revenue funding in place and this will be the case in Preston. This allows the new charity time to establish itself as a key part of the local youth offer and demonstrate the huge value it can provide to the lives of many of the town's young people. Over the first three years, the Youth Zone, supported by its private sector-led Board, will develop new income sources and partnerships to allow its income to grow, in the same way that all OnSide Youth Zones have grown.

Q12. How can young people get involved?

A12. OnSide will be working with young people from Preston and establishing The Young People's Development Group. This is a group of local young people who meet regularly and will be key in shaping the Youth Zone. Members have opportunities to meet new people locally and



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nationally, express their views and opinions, become an ambassador for the Youth Zone and play a key role in bringing the Youth Zone to life.

If you'd like to find out more about joining the Young People's Development Group, please email enquiries@onsideyouthzones.org.

Q13. How can you say it's for all of Preston's young people when it's in the middle of the Town?

A13. Our experience from other Youth Zones is that if the offer at the Youth Zone is strong enough the young people will travel to it. The central location of the Youth Zone will help to ensure that all young people from all districts can access it via various means of travel. From experience, 85% of young people get to the Youth Zone under their own steam, be that on foot, skateboard, bike or public transport.

Q14. How do I know my child will be safe when using the Youth Zone?

A14. Preston Youth Zone will be run by suitably trained and qualified members of staff that are vetted in line with current legislation (including DBS check). Their focus will be to ensure all young people are safe when accessing the services offered by the Youth Zone.

Youth Zone sessions are split between Junior (8-12yrs) and Senior (13-19yrs) sessions. In the junior sessions all young people must be collected from the Youth Zones by their parents, carers or guardians. Members must stay inside the Youth Zone in what we call a closed session. Senior sessions are open sessions where they are able to come and go as they please due to their age and level of responsibility.

Q15. What impact have Youth Zones made?

Q15. Currently, more than 50,000 young people are members of OnSide's Youth Zones across the UK, with over half a million visits being made a year. During a recent survey amongst Youth Zone members, 77% said they felt more self-confident as a result of attending, with 70% saying they believe they are physically healthier as a result. More than 400 jobs have been created, while there are more than 750 volunteering opportunities across the Youth Zones.



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Q16. Will the central location of the Youth Zone increase anti-social behaviour?

Q16. The impact of other Youth Zones in their local areas has been extremely positive with statistics showing that the Youth Zones have actually contributed towards the decrease in anti-social behaviour.

Local police in some areas across the country have reported up to a 77% reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB) as a direct result of strategic and continued partnership work between Youth Zones and local police.

PCSO Rob Smith, a local police officer in Greater Manchester commented: *“We have come across residents that were against the opening of the Youth Zone stating that it would cause more problems than it would solve. Since the opening, we have had further comments from those residents who are now happy and grateful that Manchester Youth Zone has given the young people a place to go rather than cause problems by hanging around on their streets.”* This direct feedback from Police and Residents is consistent across the Youth Zone Network.

Q17. Will young people from across the Town mix together in the Youth Zone?

Q17. One of the major strengths of a Youth Zone is the way young people from different areas and backgrounds are able to mix in a neutral space. Evidence from existing Youth Zones suggests that their members will mix with their peers from different backgrounds, as well as young people from a range of local areas in the town / city, as long as the offer is good enough.

Q18. What time will the Youth Zone be open until?

Q18. The Youth Zone will be open until 9pm for Junior sessions and up to 10pm for Senior sessions.

Q19. How will the Youth Zone provide services to young people with additional needs?

Q19. All existing Youth Zones provide and cater for young people with a range of additional needs up to the age of 25 through inclusive ability sessions alongside the mainstream offer. The sessions are adapted for young people with additional needs and are open for a wide range of young people to access, including those with mild learning difficulties to more complex needs such as visual impairment and physical disabilities. Young people are given the opportunity to access a range of activities for example boxing, trampolining, karaoke, arts and crafts, cooking, gaming and much more.



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Q20. Will the floodlights on the outdoor MUGA be lit until 10pm each evening?

A20. The Youth Zone has an indoor multi use games area (MUGA) located on the ground floor of the facility and is for sole use by Youth Zone members and will be fully supervised at all times. The pitch lighting has been carefully designed by specialist lighting engineers to avoid detrimental impact on local residents or wildlife i.e. lighting points into the site and only lights the pitch area.

Q21. There's no provision for parking. Why?

A21. Our plans include a drop-off/ pick-up parking bay close to the Youth Zone entrance for use by the relatively few parents/carers who drop off their children. The vast majority of young people will access the Youth Zone on foot or by public transport. Our strategy is to promote a green travel policy which aligns with most Local Authorities desire to promote public transport and get traffic off the roads.

Q22. What about parking by staff and volunteers when the Youth Zone opens?

A22. Our strategy is to promote a green travel policy which aligns with most Local Authorities desire to promote public transport and get traffic off the roads. All members of staff and volunteers will be encouraged to use public transport and where that is not possible, they will be required to respect the amenity of local residents and park in the public car parks available close by.

Q23. Will there be disabled parking on site?

A23. Yes. A transport statement has been carried out which will support our planning application. There is disabled parking on site for staff and one space for blue badge holders.

Q24. Where will contractors park and receiving construction related deliveries in an already congested area?

A24. A Construction Management Plan to confirm the delivery strategy will be agreed with Lancashire County Council Highways teams. Deliveries will be made via a dedicated site entrance off Lord Street.



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Q25. How do you intend to cut down the noise pollution?

A25. The building is designed to meet all the necessary Building Regulation requirements for noise transfer and a professional acoustician has been involved in the building design. The noise generated by the Youth Zone is not significant. The experience of the Youth Zones that are already operating around the country is that they receive almost no complaints from neighbours. This is, in part, due to the careful design but also because Youth Zones strive to be good neighbours; the relationship between the staff, volunteers and young people is founded on high quality youth work and the members will be asked to respect the amenity of local residents as they make their way to and from the facility.

Q26. Are you planning to have CCTV in the area?

A26. Yes. The Youth Zone will have external CCTV linked to a monitoring station during out of hours. This is to protect the building and its contents as part of the building's insurance requirements. CCTV is employed at all our Youth Zone buildings both on the exterior of the building (as a deterrent against break-ins) and internally for reasons of safeguarding. It is certainly not because we expect problems from the young members.

Q27. How will you monitor young people hanging around outside the Youth Zone?

A27. The Youth Zone clearly wishes to be a good neighbour and would ensure that there would not be groups of young people "hanging around" before, during or after sessions. We do not and would not let that happen and that would be managed by the youth work managers on a daily basis. Young people want to be in the building taking advantage of the high-quality facilities and the wide range of activities on offer in the Youth Zone. This means that the Youth Zone does not tend to find groups of young people hanging around outside or in the neighbourhood.

Q28. Who will police the members when they leave the facility at night?

A28. Once the Youth Zone closes then we expect young people will be collected or make their way home on public transport. The senior members are welcome to come into the Youth Zone for as little or as long as they wish, as such there is not a mass exodus as the Youth Zone closes and instead young people tend to arrive and depart in small groups. Due to the strong relationship between the Youth Zone staff team and the young members there are very rarely complaints at our Youth Zones about nuisance as the young people disperse.



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Q29. Are you employing local builders, contractors and staff from Preston and surrounding local areas?

A29. We always aspire to employ local people in the building of our facilities and the appointed main contractor will be encouraged to involve local people but ultimately it will decide on which sub-contractors to use.

The majority of the full and part time staff team once the Youth Zone opens will be from the local area.

Q30. Will there be employment opportunities for members?

A30. Preston Youth Zone will have a room dedicated to helping young people with Enterprise and Employability opportunities, with workshops focusing on CV writing, interview techniques etc. as well as our extremely successful 'Get a Job' course which has enabled so many young people across the OnSide network to find both part and full-time jobs.

For more information visit: www.onsideyouthzones.org

