



# **Westhoughton Youth Offer**

## **Powered by Bolton Lads & Girls Club**

### **Working with the Westhoughton Community**

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Bolton Lads & Girls Club was established in May 1889 with the following mission statement:

"To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realise their potential and become happy, responsible and caring citizens" and is now one of the country's most celebrated, progressive and successful youth organisation.

In 2002 we opened a purpose-built, state of the art youth facility in the town centre from where we provide a range of universal and targeted services that are fully accessible seven days/nights per week. We currently have over 7000 members across the Town, and have 3000 visits each week to the Club. Our success is impressive, however we are only scratching the surface and there is more we can and wish to do. Many children and young people, especially those residing in the outer areas of the borough have limited or no youth provision in their locality. Westhoughton is one such area. Cost of transport means that they cannot travel to access high quality provision such as Bolton Lads & Girls Club. These youngsters find themselves with nowhere to go, nothing to do, and no-one to talk to when they need it. There is currently no statutory youth service in Westhoughton, although there are local groups providing good provision.

Transforming youth provision in Westhoughton together...

The project is ambitious, and will result in young people in Westhoughton having access to a 7 night a week youth offer in their own community. Currently we engage with over 70 young people in the Town Centre on a Friday night, and they simply have nowhere to go, nothing to do, and no-one to talk to.

#### **During the first 12 months we will**

- **Open a large Youth Centre, currently identified as the former Westhoughton County Primary School, Central Drive.**
- **Recruit and train local people in to paid and voluntary roles**
- **Reach 500 children and young people**
- **Develop a vibrant youth offer spanning 7 nights including Sport, Health, Recreation & Arts**
- **Provide more specialist support for 50 children and young people through 1:1 mentoring and programmes to address youth unemployment**
- **50 children and young people making a difference through social action in their own communities.**
- **Develop a rounded service which encompasses and adds value to existing provision**
- **Support local groups to work with us**

What do we need ?

- local businesses financially supporting the project through patronage
- Project Champions to be identified i.e., private Sector, community sector, parents, and Partners to join a Steering group to drive the ambition
- Ideas and opportunities to work with local groups

The demand for this project is high. Early discussions with Councillors, business leaders and young people has been extremely positive. We firmly believe that this initiative will encourage a unique diverse partnership in the town, who will address the needs of local young people and will make a real difference and have long term impact for the local community.

**For further information please contact Karen Edwards OBE, Chief Executive, Bolton Lads & Girls Club :  
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