



THE HIVE
YOUTH ZONE

Registered charity No.
1163183

THE BUZZ

August
2017

The Hive Youth Zone - part of the OnSide Youth Zone network

Young people make a huge impact in first three months!

On 8th April, 2017, Wirral's Youth Zone, named 'The Hive' by its members, opened its doors to the young people of Wirral and invited them to come along and make it their own.

On opening day The Hive welcomed it's 1000th member. Local outreach campaigns visiting schools and community groups, along with great local media coverage, had attracted young people to join up online, with the promise of a place that would have 'Something to do, be 'Somewhere to go' and always have 'Someone to talk to'.



Open 365 days a year, for young people age 8 - 19 (and up to 25 with additional needs) the Youth Zone has a range of facilities for members to enjoy, including a climbing wall, skate park, rooftop 4G pitch, sports hall, fitness suite, music room, salon, training kitchen and garden. For a membership fee of just £5 per year, and then 50p for each visit, activities includes coaching from Everton, Tranmere and Liverpool community coaches, skateboard lessons from Extreme Wheels, Art & Fashion projects, quiz nights, cookery and DJ workshops.

Sessions across the week are spilt across Junior, Senior and Inclusion groups, each with their own timetable of activities and events. Young people are encouraged to contribute ideas for sessions and members have requested activities such as anti-bullying workshops, filming interviews, fashion design and music lessons.

Along with activities inside the Youth Zone, The Hive has been out and about at a number of events including OnSide Youth Zones 'Presidents Cup' in Carlisle where 300 young people from across the UK from 11



Youth Zones went head-to-head in a series of challenges including Boccia, Dodgeball, wheelchair basketball, graffiti art and climbing.

The first four months have been a hive (!) of activity, as new members have made the zone their own, with artwork, workshops, demos, clubs and talks. Here are some of our highlights ...

4,754

Number of Hive members from 8th April 2017 - 8th July 2017

823

Hours of work done by our Hive volunteers April - June

5*

Food hygiene rating given to our Hive kitchen and cafe

Enterprise and Employability

On the 12th of June, we started our first "Get a Job" course with 9 young people attending. They ranged from 16-22 year olds and were young people not in employment, education or training.

The focus of week 1 was to get participants to know each other by running several team-building activities and discussions around respect, self-awareness and motivation. Week 2 was about working on CV's and covering letters, and a Digital Skills workshop pilot. The group worked well together and enjoyed a residential trip away in July. They then went on to work experience placements, some of which were with founder patron companies.



May, June and July has been a busy time building relationships with a number of local employers. We now have 16 companies on board who are offering support in many ways; work placements, employer talks, apprenticeship opportunities, company visits and tours.

Dan Cooper, one of our senior members completed his 5-week work placement with B&M Waste Services. Dan said "I have learnt so much from the B&M staff. The experience has been valuable in several ways but in particular to find out if this is the career I want to work for in the future."



Every Thursday evening 'The Hive' is home to our extremely popular Quiz Night that attracts 40+ young people to take part. The quiz consists of 5 rounds of questions and two bonus rounds. Quiz Night at 'The Hive' is a wonderful way for the young people to learn about the world and their surroundings through various question rounds ranging from music to culture and general knowledge.

'Life Skills' is another one of our projects we have been running in the Rec' area. Learning life skills is really important especially for our older Senior Members as they start to attend colleges, apply for universities and begin to rent their own living space. We have currently been delivering sessions on 'How to change a plug and how to change a fuse'. Next, we will be moving on to daily to-do lists, money management skills and learning how to complete day-to-day tasks such as using washing machines, cookery skills and decision making.



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Hive Urban Festival

A celebration of music, art and sport at The Hive. Highlights included a skate park competition, Hive bands and singers performing and a 5-a-side rooftop tournament

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'This Girl Can' Roller Disco

Wirral's 'This Girl Can' team launched their poster campaign (shot on location at The Hive) in our sports hall with a roller disco!



Easy recipes for baking and cooking are incredibly popular with our Juniors, and they have been enjoying gaining essential life skills by making a range of savoury and sweet dishes. On a Wednesday, the Juniors make and sell what they bake. They then use the money raised to buy more ingredients for the following week.

In the aftermath of the Manchester bombing the Juniors suggested we donate the money raised to the Manchester appeal. All week they were busy baking and selling cupcakes to the staff and their peers and raised a grand total of £75!!

Saturday in Reheat consists of Culture Club, where the Juniors get the opportunity to prepare and taste dishes from around the world. They have made enchiladas and guacamole, American Burgers and blueberry pancakes, Garlic Bread and lasagne.

Sunday in Reheat is our Pots and Puds session where our Juniors learn how to cook a one Pot savoury dish and a pudding. The group have recently had the idea to grow the ingredients they are going to cook in the ReGrow garden.

Our giant sea-monster puppet enjoying the sun on New Brighton prom as part of the 'Love New Brighton' parade



Our Hive rooms each have a different name:

- Rec** (Recreational space)
- Reinvent** (Salon)
- Recharge** (Inclusion room)
- Re-engage** (Enterprise & Employability)
- Reheat** (Training Kitchen)
- Re-energise** (Sports Hall)
- Reactivate** (Gym)
- Respect** (Boxing)
- Reboot** (Football Pitch)
- Reach** (Climbing wall)
- Reachout** (Skate park)
- React** (Dance/Drama)
- Replay** (Radio)
- Retune** (Music room)
- Record** (Recording Studio)
- Recreate** (Art room)
- Rewind** (Film, photography, media)
- Rec Art**
- Reception**
- Refuel** (Cafe)

Rec area activities

The team have been planning and delivering projects based on weekly and sessional themes. Projects have varied from learning how to respect one another, to other issue-based projects such as Equality, Diversity and Rights.

Members have been working on Film & Editing projects which consist of the young people filming scenes and completing interviews in line with Rec's weekly themes. One of our themes was Respect in which the young people shot scenes in the Rec area of young people being disrespectful and then shooting the scenes doing the same activity, but in a more respectful manner. This educates young people on how to act and behave within The Hive and beyond.

'Staying Safe Online,' 'Sexual Health' and 'Alcohol Awareness' are just a select few of the issue-based projects that we have delivered in the Rec area on a weekly basis. We deliver these projects in a fun and engaging way through poster making, topical discussions and creativity to ensure young people learn the content and can apply it to everyday life.

The Regroup room was changed in to a 'Polling Station' during the general election, which gave young people the chance to discuss politics, read manifestos and then make an educated choice, depending on their views.

Due to the influx of illegal substances being sold to young people and the intelligence received by the police in the local area, The Hive offered an awareness session regarding the dangers of substances (provided by Evolve UK). The session went well with 16 young people attending and hard-hitting stories told by the trainer.



Self-esteem projects

On a Monday and Tuesday evening the Rec department deliver self-esteem projects for young people who lack confidence, and self-awareness. They look at how the young people manage their feelings whilst challenging stereotypes including body image, self-worth and personal beliefs.

Rach Markey, a member of staff who delivers one of the self-esteem projects has commented on how it has made a positive impact on all young people involved

'For the past couple of weeks in Re-Invent I have been focusing on self-esteem and how to promote positive body image with the young people, we also focused on how the media puts pressure on us to look a certain way' Rach also added 'I got some fantastic feedback from the young people I have been working with and the young people have commented on how important it is for them to have positive role models'

Self-esteem plays a vital part in the development of young people within The Hive and it's important for them to gain confidence and learn about topics that are affecting them.

One of our young people Ash added "Over the past few weeks I have learnt a lot about myself and feel as though my confidence has grown immensely". Ash attends one of the self-esteem projects on a weekly basis.



Love New Brighton festival

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Members of the youth zone took part in the Love New Brighton parade, marching with Wirral Samba School with our giant Hive Sea Monster puppet.

Be in Birkenhead festival

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The Hive took part in the Be in Birkenhead festival in Hamilton Square. Two of our talented singers and 'Ludovico' Hive band performed on the Wirral Radio stage.



Hive Live on air!

The Hive radio is now up and running, broadcasting live across the building every week. Young people have been given training on how to use the Myriad software to speak live on air, record jingles and create their own music shows.

Activities in the Rec vary from quizzes, to pool competitions, table tennis to circuit classes. On a Tuesday evening one of our young people James Williams (pictured below) plans and delivers his very own Circuit Class under the supervision of a staff member. The circuit class attracts up to 10+ young people. James has grown so much in confidence over the past few months and aspires to use his fitness skills to support him in joining the army in September 2017.



Hive Arts

The Arts Department has been working on various projects which aim to develop and progress the skills and creativity of our members.

The President's Cup gave us the perfect opportunity to form a creative team to represent The Hive away from home and compete against the other Youth Zones in both dance and visual arts. The young people showed great commitment and worked hard in the lead up to the competition, practising their choreography three times a week, which resulted in a fantastic performance on the day.

On our return, we began brainstorming ideas for performance and have decided on The Hive Warp: a musical journey through the decades to the present day. Showcasing the talent of both our Junior and Senior members, the musical theatre piece is set to be performed by the end of the year. Weekly drama classes have also focused on improvisation, devising and script work.

Film and Media

Over in the Film and Media suite, young people have been creating films about a variety of different subjects. The Buzzcast is a regular feature, where young people take the theme of the week and debate it on camera.

Seniors have also begun to direct and produce their own Music Videos, in which they also act. The Camera Club for Junior members continues to be popular as young people use their imagination to create mini films "on location" around the Hive. A collaboration between the film suite and the art room for Stop-Motion Animation sessions was also a highlight for Juniors.



In various art projects, young people have been learning core skills and experimenting with a variety of artistic mediums. They have been given masterclasses in portraiture, clay sculpture and brusho inks. The Art department also linked with Enterprise to make and sell tote bags decorated with designs using fabric paint, jojo bows created with Hive logo ribbon and tie-dyed t-shirts at the Urban Festival.



'From 0 to 3000 members in no time !! Kids from all walks of life mixing under 1 roof, activities in abundance from football to beauty. These volunteers are priceless in bringing our kids together just as it should be.....well done !!! My kids love it.'

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Jon, 5 star Facebook review

Sewing Bee and Hive Fashion Projects



Our Fashion sessions are becoming increasingly popular with the launch of The Sewing Bee project where young people have been designing and creating garments from scratch.

Seniors have also been having fun with our Super Battle Saturday where they are challenged to make elaborate costumes (eg. Spaceman vs. Alien) and battle it out to be crowned winner.

A highlight from Junior sessions includes working with paint and textiles to create a Giant Map of Birkenhead which blends fantasy and reality.



Planning events and giving young people goals to work towards will be the focus as we move through the Summer with events such as a Fashion Show, a Writer's Night, a Film Screening and a Junior talent show which are all in the pipeline.

How we display and exhibit art work is also a key focus over the next few months in a bid to celebrate the fantastic work the young people are producing.

Hiveability

The weekly Hiveability session continues to thrive with an average of 65 young people attending Sunday morning sessions.

Numbers for the Junior and Senior sessions are also really pleasing inclusion-wise with many members attending these sessions who have a range of disabilities and additional needs. This has been made possible by developing links with a number of different schools, care agencies and other organisations who have signposted members towards The Hive.

During these sessions, many different inclusion sports have been delivered, which include seated volleyball, wheelchair football, bocce, curling and seated table tennis.

Sale Sharks are delivering Wheelchair Rugby on top of the current offer, firstly for the Hiveability sessions, but then also for some Senior sessions, giving our ambulant members a chance to get into the wheelchairs and have a go at wheelchair sports for the first time.



'I am really impressed. I have 4 kids, all different levels of ability (one with Autism and another with complex learning difficulties) and I feel confident in the staff and their ability to manage any problems that might arise whilst they are there. They haven't experienced anything that has made them worried or uncomfortable, and this alone is pretty amazing, when you take into account just how many members there are. Given how difficult it is to get kids out and socialising, this is an unbelievable place.' *Ruth, 5 star Facebook review*

Hive Sports

We have continued to develop our relationships with Liverpool, Everton and Tranmere Rovers Football clubs. Liverpool continue to deliver their Junior Kicks project in conjunction with Merseyside Fire Brigade in our sports hall and regularly engage 30 – 40 young people each time they come to The Hive.

Everton FC continue to deliver a wide number of sports for us from both their Kicks and Premier League for Sport initiatives. Highlights from the scheme include their Badminton and table tennis sessions which attract our members consistently. These sessions have led to The Hive's own internal ladders* in these sports which will go live in early July.

Tranmere Rovers have continued to deliver Futsal sessions at The Hive on a Monday night and our links have enabled Hive Members to be scouted for the Tranmere Rovers Futsal Club. This is a link which we hope will continue to develop and bear more fruit for the Futsal club.

In May, we hosted development meetings for the Sport England #thisgirlcan initiative. The outcome of this meeting has seen girl specific sport and fitness sessions offered at The Hive.

Our fitness offer has continued to be popular with our Juniors taking part in our cardio zone sessions where they can experience the cardio vascular facilities of a gym in a safe, controlled and supportive environment. Our offer to Seniors has evolved further with the addition of circuit training, sports specific fitness alongside our gym instruction and fitness sessions.



Sports Highlights

- Sale Sharks delivering wheelchair rugby across the summer in both Inclusion and Senior sessions.
- The development of our internal Hive ladders in Table Tennis and Badminton
- Hosting Netball through Merseyside Netball Development
- Planning our first football fixture against Everton sports Development side



** Ladders are a type of competition where members play matches against each other and move up and down in the ranking as they win or lose. Ladders make 1-on-1 sports such as squash, tennis or badminton more engaging, competitive and fun.*

The Hive now has two new coaches from Anfield Amateur Boxing Club. The coaches have been a great addition to the already existing sports offer and as a result the sessions have seen participation triple within the last 4 weeks. The coaches will be registering the Hive as an ABA registered club within the next month with the scope to develop our own coaching in-house. This will then position ourselves to form a stronger partnership with Birkenhead-based Venture Boxing.



Hive Urban Festival

On Saturday 10th June, we held our first Urban Festival – A celebration of music, sport and art here at The Hive Youth Zone. The night was a big success with members queuing out of the door to come and be a part of the activities and entertainment on offer.

We hosted our first scooter competition, with judges from the team at Wheels Extreme, and prizes donated by Ridge Scooters & Skateboards for the talented winners. A DJ booth was set-up alongside the skate park, providing a soundtrack to the tricks and skills displayed on the ramps, and our Hive BBQ provided burgers and hotdogs for spectators! Inside The Hive our live bands and singers took to the stage and kept us entertained with four hours of live music, from solo performers and musicians to groups and bands.

The team from our 'Reinvent' salon set up a festival make-up station fully stocked with glitter, makeup and accessories to create the perfect 'festival-look' for the night. Up on the rooftop the competition was intense as teams took to the 4G pitch in our 6-A-side tournament. Eight teams took part in 20 matches across the evening with the winners taking home prizes donated by Everton FC in the Community. Our art room, 'ReCreate' was inspired by Banksy and graffiti, and our Hive dance team performed street dance and choreographed routines throughout the evening.

A fantastic event and a night to remember at The Hive!



This Girl Can at The Hive

We hosted our first Roller Disco in the sports hall in June in conjunction with #thisgirlcan. The night attracted 260 young people into The Hive who were able to have a skate and witness some of the outstanding skills of The Wirral Roller Derby group. In a memorable night, our young people were given the opportunity to take part in sport in a relaxed, informal and social atmosphere. Key ingredients of a successful sport offer anywhere!

Retune - Hive music room



Our musicians have been developing their skills on a range of instruments including drums, ukulele, guitar and keyboard. Our Hive resident bands and singers are booking out the room to practice and perform. Karaoke sessions have been extremely popular - with up to a hundred young people taking to the microphone every week to belt out their favourite songs!

A young woman is smiling while climbing a rope on a climbing wall. The background shows other people in a gym setting.

**hanging out
with the girls**

 **@THISGIRLCANINWIRRAL**
 **@TGC_WIRRAL**

 | **WIRRAL**  

Holiday Club



The first Hive Holiday Club was remarkable success, we exceeded our expectation of 45 young people per session and had up to 75 on one afternoon.

Activities included a Junior MasterChef, Gardening Project, Fashion and Design Project, Football skills project, Team games, movies, writing a Hive Holiday club song, arts and crafts and "chill time"

"In the hive this week, it has been amazing (best week ever) I've done dancing, sports, fashion and I even learnt how to play the drums. It has been fabulous. I went to cooking and Margy was teaching us how to make rocky road with marshmallows (yum yum) and chocolate tiffin's. They were soooo delish. I really like every single thing in the hive holiday club. I can't wait for next time"
Daisy-Sue aged 10

Our summer holiday club started on Wednesday 26th July and runs until Friday 1st September



A partnership formed with local business the Nail Station Academy has been a great success. They delivered an accredited Introduction to Manicure course across a four weeks of Friday sessions, and donated supplies and equipment to the salon.

ReInvent - Hive Salon

Our members love the Reinvent room and enjoy practising nails, hairstyling, braiding, face painting, henna, festival hair and hair chalks. The room is an ideal space to run health and wellbeing projects too.

On a Sunday, we currently have a "Feel Good" project that supports the Juniors with managing their emotions and building self-esteem. Juniors made Worry dolls discussing ideas about how to manage stress.

We have recently started the Project Aspire on a Wednesday evening in the Reinvent room too. The project engages 10 young people a week with the aim of identifying life goals and raising aspirations. So far, the juniors have expressed interest in being, plumbers, builders, firemen, nurses and workers at the Hive!



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Urban Garden



In a project that has involved the Birkenhead Constituency Committee, local councillors, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Hive members and a number of private contractors, the land has been transformed into a peaceful garden area within the hustle and bustle of central Birkenhead.

Young people from the Enterprise and Employability group have been at the forefront of designing the garden, which features seating areas, raised beds, beehives, bird boxes and a greenhouse, donated by B&Q.

The work has been carried out by local volunteers, supported by employees of Engie and Benchmark, who are contracted to maintain the area around the Fire Station as part of the PFI agreement managed by Balfour Beatty. The land is owned by Merseyside Fire and Rescue.



The introduction of the 'The Barbershop' has been one of the highlights of this room over the last month with young people attending every Saturday to have hair cuts, get styling advice and talk to our in-house barber about their week. The barber shop has been so successful that we have now ordered a barber chair and have gained interest from 'Barber No1' who want to work with us in the near future and visited the Hive to see what support they can offer.



WIRRAL YOUTH ZONE Bright Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH4 4EA 0151 705 8000
WEBSITE: www.thehiveyouthzone.org

TWITTER: @thehiveyz

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