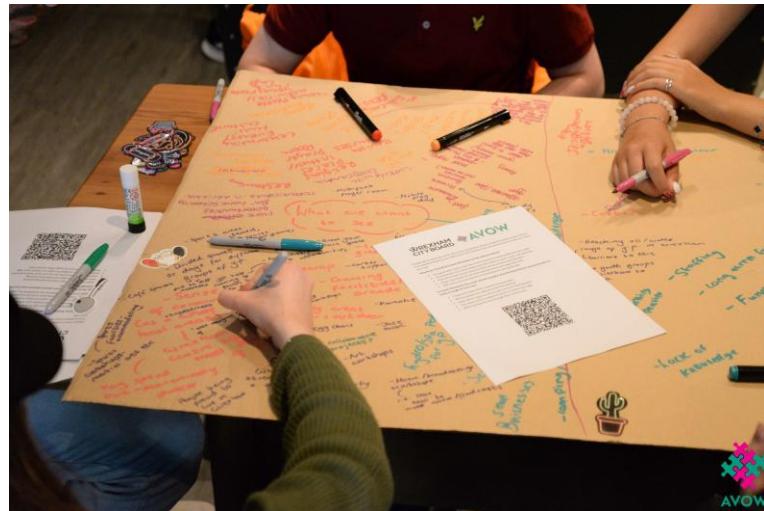




WREXHAM  
CITY BOARD

## **Wrexham City Board and AVOW**

### **Diverse youth voices on youth provision in Wrexham**



## **Executive Summary: Diverse youth voices on youth provision in Wrexham**

Young people value a range of existing services and spaces. **Public:** Libraries, parks, schools, Ty Pawb, transport, youth clubs. **Private:** Cinema, football club, bowling, fast food outlets. **Not-for-Profit:** The Lab, The Venture, Dynamic, TCC, Xplore, faith spaces and swimming pools.

Young people want to see more investment in:

- **Safety:** Better lighting, cleaner streets, warm safe spaces, no hate speech
- **Transport:** Affordable, reliable services to access existing and future opportunities
- **Activities:** Diverse, low-cost events in food, sport, and arts that are inclusive
- **Community Spaces:** Protect and invest in free spaces like libraries and public toilets
- **Mental Health:** More holistic and accessible support (therapy, quiet spaces, yoga)
- **Jobs & Housing:** Support with employment and affordable housing for older youth
- **Flexible, ongoing involvement** with the City Board, both digitally and in person

**Youth Zone** in Wrexham 42 out of 43 young people supported the idea of a Youth Zone. They envisioned a youth led, inclusive space for creativity, fun, and support, featuring:

- Sensory & chill-out areas
- Free learning and career support
- Fun spaces (e.g. cinema, sports, gaming)
- Community expression (e.g. dance, theatre, youth voice)
- Practical supports (food, toilets, digital access, nursery)

### **Potential Barriers to engagement with a youth zone**

- **Safety:** Need for trained friendly, enthusiastic staff and a clean, secure space
- **Inclusion:** Concerns about racism, ableism, and unequal treatment
- **Accessibility:** Transport, cost, opening hours, physical access
- **Awareness:** Poor promotion of services limits engagement

Views from a total of 58 young people (ages 11–25) and 6 adults (parents/youth workers) in person and online, from diverse backgrounds including young carers, neurodivergent and disabled youth, those with experience in care or homelessness, BME communities, and individuals from rural or deprived areas.

**Who was involved?** The following Feedback is from a group of young people between the ages of 11- 25.

- 5 Young people attending AVOW young influencers meeting in August
- 2 Young people from The Land in Plas Madoc
- 17 Young people who attended the youth event at The Lab in August

- 6 parents and youth workers who attended the youth event at the Lab in August
- 13 Young people who filled in an online form

Although a relatively small group, we talked in depth to the young people involved and gave them different options to share. From across the County they represent diverse situations and backgrounds;

- Not currently in employment or education
- Disabled
- Neurodiverse
- Those who have experiences of homelessness
- Those with experience of the care system
- Young carers
- BME young people
- Live in areas of multiple deprivation or rural areas

## **1. What do young people like and use that already exists?**

There were a variety of places and services that young people value in Wrexham across the private, public and not for profit sectors.

- **Public** – The Library, Bus Station, Train Station, Parks (Acton/Bellvue) Ty Pawb, Schools, Youth Clubs, Healthcare, Waterworld
- **Private** - Cinema, Bowling, Primark, Takeaways, Football Club, Table Taps, McDonald's
- **Not for Profit** – TCC, The Venture, The Lab, Dynamic, Your Space, Young Carers, Little Theatre, Xplore, Places of worship

## **2. What do young people want to see in Wrexham?**

The priority areas from the young people are below, the message here was that young people want more financial support for what is already in existence to make it more successful and sustainable ‘I would like to invest money into promoting what is already available’

- **Safety** Young people want to feel safe and suggested the following improvements to help them access the city centre; street lighting, security cameras, cleaner streets, busier shopping areas, warm spaces to sit in the evening, a strong stance against hate speech, activities to do that don’t involve alcohol.
- **Transport** Young people want reliable and flexible transport options so that they can access what is already available and anything that is going to exist in the future. Many of them rely on public transport or lifts, when public transport ends early, is irregular or expensive then they can’t travel safely.
- **Activities and Experiences** Young people want a wider variety of activities and experiences in a variety of areas such as food, sports and the arts. They want these activities to be affordable and accessible to a wide range of young people with different needs.

- **Community Spaces** Young people are keen to protect community spaces that are free and accessible such as community centers, public toilets and libraries.
- **Mental Health** Young people want more funding towards mental health support such as yoga, therapy, quiet spaces.
- **Jobs and Housing** To the older young people that we talked to employment was a concern and they wanted more support with finding fulfilling jobs and secure and affordable housing.

### 3. Do you support the idea of a youth zone in Wrexham

- A total of 42 people supported the idea of a youth zone in Wrexham.
- One person said no 'No because not many people go into Wrexham as you may think. Me and my friends stay in our area (Penycae / Johnstown) Town is too far and too expensive for us to get to.'

### 4. What would young people like a youth zone to be like?

Young people wanted a safe, inclusive, and youth designed space combining fun, creativity, learning, and support. Themes include relaxation and nature, with interactive, hands-on activities.

- **Inclusive Design** Safe for all ages, LGBTQ+ youth, and those with disabilities.
- **Youth-Led** Run and shaped by young people themselves.
- **Fun & Recreation** Slides, sports (basketball, volleyball, rugby), gaming, cinema (e.g. Eurovision), music spaces, board/card games, and young adult sized play areas.
- **Chill & Relaxation Zones** Sensory rooms, padded pods, calming lights, quiet rooms, rest areas, and sleep cubicles.
- **Learning & Growth** Free courses, life hacks, career advice, and creative/hobby zones (science, space, dinosaurs, poetry, arts & crafts).
- **Community & Expression** Theatre, stand-up, dance lessons, festivals, and youth voice opportunities.
- **Practical Amenities** Nutritious food, temporary accommodation, nursery, library, clean toilets, digital rooms.
- **Promotion & Accessibility** Better outreach via flyers, social media, and an organization dedicated to promoting and evolving available services for young people.



## 5. What would the barriers be to young people using the youth zone?

Young people may face a range of barriers that prevent them from fully accessing or engaging with a youth zone in Wrexham. These are detailed below;

- **Safety** concerns are a major issue, including the presence of unsupervised young children, antisocial behavior, effects of drug use (e.g behavior, the smell of cannabis), and generally unsafe or unhygienic environments. Young people would like to see a youth zone staffed with people who make them feel safe by being friendly, inclusive, setting boundaries and importantly being enthusiastic about being there!
- **Inclusion** Some young people feel excluded due to racism, homophobia, ableism, lack of inclusion for different communities, or unequal representation, they sometimes feel favoritism towards groups who like football. There are also concerns about mixed age groups with different levels of maturity and interests, which can lead to discomfort. Young people have diverse and sometimes conflicting needs, and spaces can feel overcrowded or dominated by familiar groups, making it difficult for others such as homeschooled or neurodivergent individuals to feel comfortable.
- **Accessibility** is another barrier, with transport difficulties, poor parking, limited wheelchair and pram access, and unsuitable opening times all creating obstacles. Additionally, the cost of activities, inconsistent staffing, and a lack of long-term funding from local and central government reduce reliability and appeal.
- **Marketing and Communications** need investment. Limited access to information about services in Wrexham makes it harder for young people to know what's available. There is a strong need for

better outreach, especially by going directly to youth groups and listening to young people's voices, to create a truly welcoming and accessible youth zone for all.

## **6. How would young people like to be involved in the future?**

Young people were keen to continue to be involved in the discussions with the City Board and wanted to do this both face to face and digitally with flexibility to fit in with other commitments and with no pressure to stay involved.



## **Data**

- 1. Data Collected at Face to Face events**
- 2. Images chosen by young people - what would you like a youth zone to look like?**
- 3. Data Collected via online questionnaire**

### **1. Data Collected at Face to Face events:**

What do young people like and use that is already in place?

- Football Ground
- Cinema
- Bowling
- Football Stadium
- Tennis Centre
- Gym
- Waterworld
- Fast Food
- Library
- College

- University
- Charity Shops
- Primark
- Bus Station
- Train Station
- Venture
- Tenpin
- Invest in what is already available
- History
- Cinema
- Little theatre
- TV screens to promote things.
- Dynamic/Your space
- Mind our future
- Mcdonalds
- Parks, Acton, Bellvue
- Erddig
- Community
- The Venture
- Healthcare, Buildings/ Structured
- Bitesize Youth Theatre
- Library (Also the council services in the library)
- College
- Senedd yr Ifanc
- Wrexham AFC
- Young Carers Group
- Youth Clubs
- Schools
- Chester Coliseum
- Cheshire Oaks
- Chester Main Street
- Liverpool 1
- Broughton (Deeside)
- Reused containers for Businesses
- Acton/Maesydre Green space, Trees, Wildlife, Local to Schools/shops/hospital, Can be used for events regularly
- Career Wales
- Xplore

- Museum- make even bigger
- Family - Centers (eg- Dean Road Before closed) - BRING BACK
- Table Taps
- Place-Game –Bring back.
- I like Ty Pawb and I love Rainbow Crossing as well.
- Waterworld
- Ty Pawb – art and music
- Community Garden
- Cathedral of the youth group. (ST Marys cathedral)
- Kenalala Community Events
- Diversity of the community – MAKHEL MASS
- Together Creating Communities (TCC)
- Community Library
- Tenpin bowling ane the arcade.
- The Parks
- Access to playing Badminton in the cathedral hall
- Self-defense classes and Zumba classes in the cathedral hall.
- Primark
- Football club.
- Festivals
- Railway lines
- Table tops
- Bus Station- make safe for young children
- Primark
- Waterstones
- Gym-Gym memberships are overpriced. Can be unaffordable for young people.
- Cinema (quite dear)
- Schools and After school activities
- Bowling- Arcade/photo booth
- Museum/Library
- Fast food shops
- Churches/places of worship, church groups
- Ty Pawb
- Coleg Cambria, Areas like H block seating and food.
- Fast food shops
- Cafes
- Football stadium
- The Vic

- X-plore
- Youth Services
- Info shop
- TCC
- The Lab -Nice people
- Subway Quiet and chill
- Bellevue Park Loads of space and meeting spots.
- Acton Park – more space and loads of people.
- Bring back Frankie and Bennies.
- Nice place for food and can see what is boing cooked, chill vibe.
- Likes parks, public spaces, Student union
- The Lab
- Tennis court in Bellview park
- The Lab is chilled and quite a vibe
- Wrexham football club.
- Basketball fun to let off steam.
- Subway I work there and the staff are nice
- St Giles Church – I can practice my faith there
- Cinema
- Bowling
- Football Stadium
- Tennis Centre
- Gym
- Waterworld
- Fast Food
- Library
- College
- University
- Charity Shops
- Primark
- Bus Station
- Train Station

What would young people like to see more of?

- Ice cream farm
- Independent Food Places
- Bigger Theatre
- Art Gallery
- Reasonably Priced Activities, Food and Space to Meet

- Disability Access
- Reliable Transport
  - Better Transport App
- Better Street Lighting
- Security Cameras
- More Money for Young People's Mental Health
- Clean & Accessible Toilets and More
- Jobs Available
- Youth Specific Job Search
- Job Advice
- Employment Rights—CAB
- Yoga
- Therapy Sessions, Drop In, One on One, Therapist Support
- Metal Detecting Groups
- 2-aside pitches
- Sports Pitches
- Flexible travel options
- Sweet shop
- Make existing things bigger and better
- Make Library priority again
- Make Community Centers priority again
- Stop taking what makes us happy
- Trams (Transport)
- Non Alcoholic Spaces
- Public Toilets – FREE
- Mental health social workers
- ACN/SEN Provision
- Social Hub access- Peer support – Carer support
- Somewhere to meet that is healthy and where young people can meet
- Workshops – Coding, Lego, Arts, Gaming, ETC
- Community Initiatives with organizations like National Trust, Trust youth and Community, Theatre Clwyd
- Walking and cycling safer, Free public Transport.
- Parent/Adults- Mentor/Buddy scheme.
- Community/Hub Kitchens
- Ask Local Restaurants for a 'Pay it Forward' or M&S, LIDL etc to help fund the food.
- Safety
- Cheap events

- Walking routes/paths (that feel safe)
- Warm safe spaces for young people to sit, especially in the evening
- Ongoing feedback—Suggestions always changing
- Independent Food Places
- Bigger Theatre
- Art Gallery
- Reasonably Priced Activities, Food and Space to Meet
- Disability Access
- Reliable Transport
- Better Transport App
- Better Street Lighting
- Security Cameras
- More Money for Young People's Mental Health
- Clean & Accessible Toilets and More
- Jobs Available—Ads
- Youth Specific Job Search
- Job Advice
- Job Rights—CAB
- Therapy Sessions
- Drop In
- One on One
- Yoga
- Therapist Support
- A cleaner Wrexham
- Greenery, cleaner streets
- ART-based Hub- like those that used to be held in Ty Pawb
- More creative events
- Better lighting
- Use Wrexham as a meeting place but often go elsewhere
- Activities for older young people.
- Quiet places in the City Centre
- Populated shops, Wrexham quite often appears quite empty in certain area

What would you like a youth zone to look like?

- Youth can design spaces
- Forest and nature themed rooms
- Interactive hands on activities
- Safety for different ages, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities
- Cinema room for Eurovision
- Slide – fund adult sized play rooms
- Healthy, warm nutritious food

- Pods / Padded
- Chill vibes
- Safe environment control areas
- Fun
- Hobby Grove/forest – reading, dancing, board games, poetry, football/rugby, science, space, dinosaurs
- Free courses Maths and English
- Creative rooms
- Relaxing and safe
- Interactive social board games
- I would like to invest money into them - promoting what is already available.
- It's not what is going on or that its not promoted. Need Fliers, social media.
- An organisation that promotes what is already there and works specifically to see what is needed.
- Fidget toys / items to play with
- Small areas – soft rugs 'floor time'
- Blue / purple calming lights
- Basketball
- Sports and games
- Dance lessons
- Reading corners
- Career advice
- Sensory rooms
- Festivals
- Nursery
- Board / Card games
- Gaming area
- Place to listen to music without being disturbed
- Movie room
- Feedback boxes
- Sleep cubicles
- Teaching basic life hacks
- Coloring and painting
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Volleyball
- Rubix Cubes
- Cameras in the youth zone
- Security is needed/more security
- Need more free things in town
- Drug & alcohol detection

- Staff— “people need to want a Positive Environment to work there”
- App for Youth Zone—Activities each day in Wrexham
- Membership
- “If this existed I would never leave”
- Theatre / stand up / music venue
- Library
- Bouldering
- Resting / Relaxing space
- Sports hall
- Digital room
- Arts and crafts
- Quiet Room
- Run by a selected group of young people
- Volleyball court
- Temporary accommodation for youth
- Images selected burger, hot drink, football, sun and shuttle cock

#### Barriers to attending a youth zone

- Unsupervised kids (infants)
- Kids causing trouble
- Unsafe environments
- Different communities not feeling welcome
- Transport issues
- Poor Hygiene
- Unequal representation e.g Wrexham FC
- Being unable to access information about different services in the city
- Racist comments
- Bringing recreational drugs indoors
- No communication between boards in Wrexham – boards should meet to communicate on their mutually desired change
- Age differences – different interests / maturity (could have different time slots for age groups to resolve this e.g primary, secondary and college / Uni age sessions
- High Costs
- Long term commitment from agencies
- Antisocial behavior
- Transport and location
- Long term funding
- Staffing
- Funding from local/ central government

- People have mixed wants and needs
- Opening times
- Parking
- Mixing groups – sensory impaired mixing with people who are not sensory aware
- Reaching a wider group of young people in Wrexham – go to the youth groups and talk to the young people
- Homeschooling
- Too busy / too many familiar faces
- Access for wheelchairs and prams
- The smell of cannabis
- Is it Inclusive?
- Parking
- Transport
- Safety—young people want to feel safe
- Enforceable Security
- Too Busy
- Disruptive members putting others off
- Membership suggested with a “three strikes out” rule

## Further engagement

- Young people are keen for meaningful involvement
- Options to stay involved in something long term (but no pressure)

## 2. Images chosen by young people – what would you like a youth zone to look like?





### 3. Data Collected via online questionnaire:

#### What area do you live in?

Acton

Minera

Brymbo

Acton

Gwersyllt

Caia Park

Southsea

Caia park

Wrexham

Tanyfron

Penycae

penycae.

Acton

#### What is your age?

18-24

55+

18-24

11-16

11-16

18-24

18-24

25-34

18-24

0-11

11-16

11-16

18-24

#### Do you support the idea of creating a Youth Zone in Wrexham City Centre?

Yes

No because not many people go into Wrexham as what you may think. Me and my friends stay in our area (Peycae / Johnstown) Town is too far and too expensive for us to get to.

yes, because it can help a lot of people who are around there and others.

Yes

#### What existing services or projects do you value in Wrexham?

Ylab, dynamic, sennedd yr infanc, mind our future

Church groups, music facilities, sports facilities, open spaces, football club, college courses

Stori Brymbo

Youth Clubs

Youth Wrexham

Table Taps

Wrexham gateway

Local game stores

Unsure

Waterworld - Swimming and Cinema but other than that I haven't found any I fit in with yet

Play team at Ponciau. Don't know of any services in my area.

Im starting counceling but im not sure what company they work for.

A few

#### **What other new things would you like to see in Wrexham for you and other young people?**

More live music gigs and youth-led festivals. An arts hub with graffiti walls, dance studios, and recording spaces. A late-night café for young people that feels safe but fun. Chill-out zones with sensory rooms and quiet spaces. Free or low-cost wellbeing sessions (yoga, mindfulness, therapy pets). A "youth sanctuary" open after school and evenings. Esports tournaments and gaming lounges. VR and AR experiences (virtual travel, career exploration). A youth-run podcast or radio station. More volunteering opportunities linked to rewards or skill-building. Life skills workshops (cooking, budgeting, DIY). Youth-led cafés or pop-up shops to try running businesses.      Outdoor cinema nights in the park. Culture swap evenings with food, music, and traditions from different communities. A safe, alcohol-free space for under-18s to socialise at weekends

Safe space to meet

More activities for young people

Support for young people/ adults 16+ with autism.

Youth club

A indoor environment where people don't have to spend more or be moved on to quickly.

More outdoor activities

Indoor skatepark

better/more all-age parks, skateparks and youth, including older youth spots

Engineering/STEM club. Somewhere to build Lego and be creative and build on my engineering skills. Swimming lessons with likeminded kids like me.

Bigger fishing pond. Better bike park in Penycae

more public toilets to use for free. more quiet safe places to meet my friends that are free.

I would like to see more safe and welcoming spaces for young people in Wrexham where we can spend time together, socialise, and take part in fun activities without needing to spend lots of money. It would be really helpful to have more free or affordable clubs, workshops, and events covering different interests like art, sport, music, gaming, and baking, so there's something for everyone. Better mental health support and peer groups would also make a big difference, and it's important that all new opportunities are made fully inclusive for disabled and neurodivergent young people.

#### **What would you like to see in a Youth zone?**

Accessible spaces

Music room / recording room ;Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Climbing Wall ;Sports facilities;Quiet spaces ;Dancing ;Workshops ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space ;

Affordable food and drink ;Accessible spaces ;Climbing Wall ;Gaming ;Just a place to be with friends ;Quiet spaces ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space ;

Affordable food and drink ;Music room / recording room ;Accessible spaces ;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Support with housing or finances ;Just a place to be with friends ;Dancing ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space ;Workshops ;Quiet spaces ;Sports facilities;

Affordable food and drink ;Music room / recording room ;Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Support with housing or finances ;Just a place to be with friends ;Quiet spaces ;Workshops ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space

Affordable food and drink ;Music room / recording room ;Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Support with housing or finances ;Just a place to be with friends ;Quiet spaces ;Dancing ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space

Affordable food and drink ;Music room / recording room ;Support with housing or finances ;Outside space

Affordable food and drink ;Music room / recording room ;Just a place to be with friends ;Gaming ;A safe and secure environment

Affordable food and drink ;Music room / recording room ;Art and Craft space ;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Support with housing or finances ;Just a place to be with friends ;Quiet spaces ;Outside space ;A safe and secure environment ;Workshops ;Accessible spaces

Affordable food and drink ;Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Climbing Wall ;Sports facilities;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Quiet spaces ;Workshops ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space

Affordable food and drink ;Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Climbing Wall ;Sports facilities;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Support with housing or finances ;Just a place to be with friends ;Quiet spaces ;Workshops ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space

Affordable food and drink ;Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Gaming ;Mental Health Support ;Support with housing or finances ;Just a place to be with friends ;Quiet spaces ;A safe and secure environment ;Outside space ;Workshops

Accessible spaces ;Art and Craft space ;Climbing Wall ;Mental Health Support ;Dancing ;Quiet spaces ;Support with housing or finances ;Sports facilities;Workshops ;A safe and secure environment

### **What else would you like to see as part of a Youth Zone?**

many young people would like to see spaces that feel fun, creative, and welcoming. This could include a gaming room with consoles and tournaments, a cinema-style area for movie nights, and music or dance studios where they can perform or just hang out. Creative spaces for art, graffiti, fashion, or content creation like TikToks and YouTube would also be popular. Alongside this, a chill-out zone with beanbags, sensory-friendly areas, and affordable food would give everyone somewhere to relax. Young people also value opportunities to learn life skills such as cooking, money management, or CV writing, as well as support with school and careers. Outdoor areas for firepits, BBQs, or live events, and chances to take part in community projects or volunteering, would help make the Youth Zone more exciting and inclusive.

Information board or guidance

Something incorporating the football and Wrexham's identity. Pulling together existing activity businesses, such as TenPin etc.

A screen for movies.

More nature sites

Skatepark

Cooking facilities or classes.

headphones to borrow .be able to book a private room for me and my friends.

I'd love to see a Youth Zone that feels different from anywhere else – a place that's creative, inspiring, and made for young people, not just adults deciding for us. Things like a sensory-friendly room with calming lights and textures for when people feel overwhelmed, a "makerspace" with equipment for baking, crafting, music, or even 3D printing, and an area for gaming and e-sports where tournaments or community nights could happen. It could also have a rooftop garden or indoor plants to create a green, relaxing space, alongside opportunities to learn real-life skills like cooking, budgeting, or even running small youth-led projects. A Youth Zone could also include "swap shops" for clothes or books to keep things affordable and sustainable, and a stage or performance area where young people can showcase their talents in music, drama, or spoken word. Most importantly, it would be a space designed and shaped by young people themselves, so it always reflects what we actually need and enjoy.

#### **What would stop you from using a Youth Zone?**

if it didn't feel safe or welcoming, or if they were worried about bullying and judgment from others. Others might be put off if it felt too much like school, too structured, or if the activities weren't things they were actually interested in. Cost, opening times, and location can also be barriers – if it's too expensive, too far away, or only open at awkward times, it may not feel worth going. Some young people also mention that they wouldn't go if they didn't feel listened to or included in decisions about what happens there.

Racism, drugs, offensive behaviours

Lack of safety - Needs to have some sort of security.

Bullies.

Overcrowding

Other people using the zone. The unpredictability of others would stop me if I have to interact with them

Funding/whether other younger people think the same

Socialising

Anxiety, maybe the atmosphere of the area

Too many people

Transport to get there

if mum can't take me. if my friends didn't come with me.

Things that might stop me from using a Youth Zone would be if it didn't feel safe, welcoming, or inclusive, especially for disabled and neurodivergent young people. If the costs for activities, food, or entry were too high, that could also put me off, as well as if transport links weren't affordable or reliable enough to get there. I'd also be less likely to use it if the

activities didn't reflect what young people actually want or if decisions were made without our voices being included. Finally, if the space felt overcrowded, overwhelming, or too focused on one type of activity, it might not feel like somewhere I could belong.

#### Can you get into and out of the City Centre easily?

I have to rely on a lift

I can until the busses / trains finish

Yes

Yes

I can until the busses / trains finish

Yes

Yes

Yes

I can until the busses / trains finish

I have to rely on a lift

I can get public transport but its expensive

I have to rely on a lift

I have to rely on a lift

#### What would help you to access a Youth Zone in the city centre?

if it was affordable or free, and if safe, reliable transport was available to and from the city centre. Having flexible opening hours, including evenings and weekends, would make it easier to fit around school, college, or work. A welcoming, non-judgemental atmosphere where staff and other young people are friendly and inclusive would also encourage attendance. Clear information on social media, in schools, and around the community about what's on and when would help them feel confident about going. Finally, knowing that the activities on offer are things they actually enjoy and have asked for – such as gaming, arts, chill-out spaces, and events – would make the Youth Zone feel worth visiting.

A warm and inclusive welcome

N/A

Better cycling infrastructure from Gwersyllt

N/a

N/a

affordable cost, activities for friends to explore without being alone

No over crowding

I probably wouldn't want to go into the city centre because of all the trouble that happens there.

no steps because i have a condition that limits my movements.

having safe, affordable, and reliable transport so that getting there isn't stressful or expensive. Clear information about what the Youth Zone offers, including timetables, activities, and accessibility details, would also make a big difference.

Making sure the space is fully inclusive, with quiet areas for those who might get overwhelmed, and staff who understand and support young people with different needs, would help me feel comfortable using it. Affordable or free entry and activities would make it easier to take part regularly, and having young people involved in shaping how it runs would make it feel like a space we truly belong to.

#### How would you feel about meeting and mixing with lots of new young people from across Wrexham at the Youth Zone?

It would be possible be over whelming

Happy if there were facilitators

Positive - It is hard for young people to meet new people at the moment.

Good as I don't have many friends.

Nervous but also excited

Depends on the age range. If they are the similar age then yes. Any younger then no.

Better off with those who are responsible

Not much really

good, but afraid

Nervous scared - if same interests as me I would be interested in it

I struggle meeting and getting to know new people

i would be scared but if i had a friend with me i wouldnt mind it. i would like to meet new people and make new friends. think I would feel quite anxious and overwhelmed about meeting and mixing with lots of new young people from across Wrexham at the Youth Zone. Being around big groups of people I don't know can feel intimidating, and it might take me a while to feel comfortable. Having supportive staff, smaller group activities, or quieter spaces to step away to would help make it feel more manageable, and would give me the chance to build confidence at my own pace.

#### What qualities would you like to see in the staff and volunteers at the Youth Zone?

staff and volunteers who are friendly, approachable, and easy to talk to. They appreciate adults who listen without judging and take their ideas seriously. Being supportive, patient, and understanding, especially around different backgrounds, abilities, or needs, is really important. Many young people also value staff who are enthusiastic, energetic, and creative, helping to make activities fun and engaging. Having adults who are responsible and can keep everyone safe, while also encouraging independence and giving young people some freedom, is also key.

Non patronising, facilitating and supportive in a respectful way

Non-judgemental, friendly.

Kind, caring, to have a sense of humour, to like music, football, video games and films. To know about autism.

Kind, respectful

Understanding and in a similar age range

Energetic,understanding,down to earth

Happy?

Supportive, not judgemental, accepting and accessible to all

Kind and not overwhelming

Good at their job, caring, kind, not judging, chilled.

kind,gentle,not judgy,patient,calm,fun

I'd like the staff and volunteers at the Youth Zone to be kind, approachable, and genuinely understanding of young people and the different challenges we face. It's important that they are patient, non-judgemental, and good listeners, so we feel comfortable opening up if we need support. I'd also like them to be inclusive and respectful, making sure everyone feels welcome no matter their background, abilities, or needs. Having staff who are well-trained in mental health awareness, disability and neurodiversity would make a big difference, as well as people who are enthusiastic, creative, and encouraging so they can inspire us to try new things and build confidence. Most of all, I'd want them to treat young people as equals and involve us in shaping what the Youth Zone looks like.

### What else needs to be in place to make a Youth Zone in Wrexham a great experience?

that to make a Youth Zone in Wrexham a great experience, it needs to feel safe, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone, with clear rules about respect and behaviour. Affordable entry or free activities are important so cost isn't a barrier, and safe transport options to and from the city centre would help more young people get involved. Having a wide range of activities to choose from – from gaming and sports to arts, music, and chill-out spaces – makes it appealing to different interests. A good balance of structured activities and free time to just hang out is also key. Young people want to feel listened to, with regular opportunities to share their ideas and help shape what happens in the Youth Zone. Finally, a friendly, supportive atmosphere with approachable staff and volunteers will make it a place they want to return to.

Gaming and graffiti art are not to everyone's taste so I think some quieter, calmer areas for chatting would be nice.

Good staff who make sure everyone is ok.

Breakout rooms

A enjoyable place to relax and enjoy with friends

Friendly?

Bins, to try prevent litter (if we're lucky lol)

Comfort and different zones for different things

Not too busy, different thing on different days so that not too many people go.

a variety of different things to encourage people to go.

To make a Youth Zone in Wrexham a great experience, it would need to feel safe, welcoming, and inclusive from the start. That means affordable or free entry, reliable transport options to get there, and activities that reflect a wide range of interests so there's something for everyone. It should have spaces designed with young people in mind, like quiet rooms for those who get overwhelmed, social areas for hanging out, and creative or skill-building zones for learning and fun. Having supportive, well-trained staff who listen and involve young people in decisions is also key. Accessibility is really important too, so the building and activities need to be fully inclusive for disabled and neurodivergent young people. Clear communication about what's on offer, regular events, and chances for young people to showcase their talents or run their own projects would make it feel like a place we truly belong.

**What existing places and spaces are your favorites? Why do you like them? (This could be places to eat/drink, outdoor spaces, religious buildings or youth and community centers)**

turn a Shipping Container into a food or drink business Places like Boxpark in London and Pop Brixton in London use shipping containers for businesses like shops, restaurants, and bars.

St Mary's Cathedral, parks and gardens

Pubs - Nice places to socialise and generally not expensive for meals either.

Ty Pawb, The Lab, Bank Street Coffee, The Butcher's Market , Revibed Records, The Rocking Chair and The Racecourse. I like all these places as the staff at these places are great and we chat about music, films and football

Tŷ Pawb for the art displays and food. Chester Market for the food and atmosphere

Table Taps. Boards games with an indoor environment where you don't need to spend much money

Kfc because the chicken is finger licking good

4th planet games

Parks, food places, seating areas (when they're free)

Waterworld because it's where you can relax and swim. The cinema as it's relaxing and not too many people.

Johnstown Hafod fishing. Penycae skatey, Tenyaggi fishing

park by my house (penycae) maccies,shops

I'm not really sure yet which places are my favourites. I like places where I feel safe, welcome, and comfortable, whether that's somewhere to relax, spend time with friends, or try something new. I enjoy spaces that are friendly, inclusive, and have staff or people who make it easy to feel at ease.

#### Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?

A sensory room would be nice

No.

I had a great night at the Youth Voice evening

N/a

N/a

No

I'm really interested in fishing and so are loads of other kids around here, the Youth Zone wouldn't help me with this. community cafe where we can do cooking lessons near me.

I'd like to say that it's really important for any Youth Zone or activities in Wrexham to be designed with young people in mind, including those of us who are disabled, neurodivergent, or have different needs. Feeling safe, included, and able to join in at our own pace makes a big difference. Opportunities to try new things, meet supportive staff and other young people, and have a say in how the space is run would make it a place where we really feel we belong.

