



ANNUAL REVIEW 23/24 —

REFLECTION ON LAST YEAR

As we look back on the past twelve months, we are filled with pride at our achievements and the positive impact we have had on our community.

In response to the mounting challenges, due to the increased cost of living, we introduced free membership, attendance, and hot meals over the winter months. Providing young people and their families with this extra level of support ensured they did not need to worry about their next meal, finding somewhere to stay warm or having someone to share their worries with.

We continued to empower young people to explore their talents and passions. Our “Artslam” events have become a key activity in Mahdlo’s creative offer, giving our artists and performers a platform to showcase their talent and creativity. Our budding entrepreneurs also saw this as an opportunity with several of our members launching their own art shop, learning invaluable business skills along the way.

Our sporting offer grew from strength to strength with our Senior Zone football team making headlines, being crowned champions in the OnSide Youth Zones’ Football League. England midfielder and Manchester United legend Paul Scholes proudly presented the trophy to the team. This victory was not only testament to their hard work and the excellent coaching they receive at Mahdlo, but also it inspired Girls Zone and Junior Zone members to form their own teams.

A highlight of the year was undoubtedly the special event featuring Professor Brian Cox CBE. His visit was a unique experience for the young people of Oldham. 1,100 students from schools and colleges from across the borough gathered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to hear his tales of the universe, igniting a passion for science and discovery.

These highlights are just a snapshot of the remarkable year we’ve had at Mahdlo. Our achievements are a team effort, and I extend my thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, patrons, and of course, our incredible young people and their families.

Lucy Lees

CEO



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Income

	£
Trusts and Grants	563,251
Council funding	300,000
Patrons and Donations	216,899
Events	216,661
Sales	143,636
Other income	41,279

TOTAL

£1,481,726

Expenditure

	£
Delivery	1,164,618
Management Costs	184,309
Fundraising	106,771
Building Costs	54,487
Marketing	35,683

TOTAL

£1,545,869

Cash deficit

(64,142)



53,394 visits



2,899 members



1,211 from
BAME backgrounds



10% of members with
additional needs or
disabilities



25,000+ free meals
provided



18,570
activities delivered



5440
volunteer hours



Open for
3,559 hours



1,100 young people's
journeys tracked



40% increase in
Family Zone attendance



79 local
people employed

LEON'S 11 YEAR JOURNEY

Leon joined Mahdlo as a Junior Zone (ages 8 – 12) member in 2013 and quickly became a popular member taking part in many of the activities that Mahdlo had to offer. He moved across to Senior Zone, for ages 13 – 19 (25 with disabilities) in 2018, and his popularity grew, becoming known as one of Mahdlo's regulars. Living in Oldham's Central Ward with his Dad and five siblings, he was a stone's throw from Mahdlo and in his time as a member has attended **1,417 times**.

Leon took every opportunity offered to him at Mahdlo. In February 2020 he went to London accompanied by youth workers, his brother and four other Senior Zone members. For many young people living in Oldham, having the opportunity to go beyond the boundaries of Greater Manchester for a few days away is few and far between. Leon embraced every aspect of the trip and visited the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, the National History Museum and took a boat ride down the River Thames.

Leon's warmth towards others and his sense of purpose and belonging saw him take on the role of Young Leader in 2022, qualifying with a **Level One in Youth Work**. Volunteering for a few hours every week at Junior Zone sessions, Leon acts as a positive role model to Mahdlo's younger members, taking new and at times nervous young people under his wing. He shares his passions for the arts and creativity and can regularly be seen supporting youth workers delivering activities and encouraging others, helping them grow in confidence.

2024 will see Leon turn 19 and the end of his Mahdlo journey as a member. He continues to inspire each and every one he meets, young people, staff, fellow Young Leaders, volunteers and patrons.



“I don't really miss out on a meal anymore.”

A SENSE OF PURPOSE & PRIDE

When Kayden joined Mahdlo in April 2022, he was interested in art and music but struggled to engage and make friends. Attending only during school holidays, it made it harder for him to build relationships. Despite initial challenges, Kayden persisted and developed his passion for the arts, which gave him purpose and helped him connect with other young people.

A year later in 2023, he became a Mahdlo buddy, welcoming new members to Holiday Zone with his polite and friendly attitude. Through demonstrating his love of arts to others and providing directions and advice - even for simple things like where and when lunch would be served - his kind and supportive actions helped a nervous young person feel comfortable and introduced him to all aspects of Holiday Zone.

Holiday Zone provided Kayden with a sense of belonging and purpose, transforming him from a shy participant into a confident leader.



THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

Put simply, if it weren't for our patrons and funders, there would be no Mahdlo. Each year, we continue to receive the vital support that our young people need, and we just wanted to say a massive thank you to each and every one of our amazing patrons and funders from everyone at Team Mahdlo and of course, from our young people...

Founding Patron

The Stoller Charitable Trust

Platinum Patrons

David & Janelle Barker
Manchester Cabins
OMC Motor Group
Rowan Ashworth Ltd

Gold Patrons

An Anonymous Donor
JW Lees
Muse Places
Ribble Packaging Ltd

Silver Patrons

David Bellis MBE
Dronsfield's
Duncan & Barbara Arthurs
Fix Auto
Koderly
Rooftops Properties
Wiggett Construction Ltd

Bronze Patrons

ANSA Elevators
Barlows
Breakey & Nuttall
Brooks & Brooks Recruitment
Caddick Construction
Eton School
Gustaf Events
Jeanette Quinn
Lift Safe Ltd
M&C Risk Solutions
North Ainley Solicitors

Bronze Patrons cont...

Osborne Delta (Lightning Conductors)
Oldham Assembly
Oldham Business Awards
Oldham Metro Rotary Club
Oldham Law Association
Pearson Solicitors & Financial Advisors
Peter & Patricia Casey
T&C Motor Panels
Think Wild Ltd
The Treeside Trust

Funders, Trusts, Grants and Foundations

Action Together
Awards for All (DCMS)
BBC Children in Need
BP
Burberry
Crane Widows and Children's Fund
D'Oyly Carte
Eric Wright Charitable Trust
HAF
Medicash
National Lottery

Funders, Trusts, Grants and Foundations cont...

NCS Trust
The Ogden Trust
Oldham Council
OnSide Impact Fund
Point – Short breaks
Prudence Trust
Recycle 4 Greater Manchester
The Roger Tanner Trust
Sport England
UK Youth
WEA

Honorary Patrons

Mark Adlestone OBE DL
Michael Josephson MBE
Paul Scholes
Professor Brian Cox OBE

LOOKING FORWARD

What does the future look like for Mahdlo Youth Zone? Whilst we will always have our challenges, this next year is looking like an exciting one for us.

Oldham is a unique and diverse town, and we need to make sure we're responding to young people and the needs of young people's families. With this in mind, we'll be working closely with our community to ensure that what we're offering is what they need. This also transcends beyond the walls at Mahdlo, as our team also continue to provide sessions in the districts of Oldham for young people that may be unable to travel to the town centre. Another one of our key focuses is going to be raising awareness of this service, so that no young person should have to say "I wish I had the chance to do that."

Competition in the trust and grants arena is greater than ever, with more charities applying for less funding that's available. There's also the challenge of large grant making organisations pausing their grant giving until the next financial year due to pressure on resources. However, we are confident that we can continue to receive the funding we need by showcasing what an incredible asset Mahdlo is to the community.



Something we're keen to focus on is expanding our pool of community and one-off donors, as the majority of our donations currently come from a small group of supporters. While we're incredibly thankful and couldn't do what we do without them, we need to grow so that we can continue to offer our young people even more support and help them be the very best version of themselves that they can be.

Developing Team Mahdlo is going to continue to be a focus for us. Through training and development, we will ensure that the team are continuously sharpening their skills to create meaningful opportunities and inspiring young people to be the very best that they can be.

Lucy Lees

CEO



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