



# TRUSTEE WELCOME PACK

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

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Thank you for taking the time to read this pack and considering taking on a role of trustee at Mahdlo Youth Zone. The role of a trustee is vital to ensuring that Mahdlo and therefore, the young people attending the organisation, thrives. You will discover as you read through, Mahdlo is an impactful organisation, where all young people are valued and can flourish, and you can bring your skills, time, and experience to have maximum impact for the area's young people.

We are a truly diverse and inclusive organisation that welcomes all young people, where all who come, thrive and where each young person's background culture and identity is valued. We set high standards for everyone associated with Mahdlo and recognise that everyone is unique and has potential.

## **Giving something back**

Becoming a Trustee is a fantastic way to give something back to the community and use your skills, time, and experience to support our area's young people. You will be playing an integral part in the way the charity is run, ensuring it remains sustainable and financially viable.

## **Learning new things**

It's not all about giving. Getting involved as a charity Trustee is a great way to put your professional skills to use but can also be a fantastic opportunity to learn new things. You will get great insight into what is involved in the management of Mahdlo Youth Zone and gain skills on working well within a leadership role.

## **Meeting new people**

Joining Mahdlo is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people from a range of different personal and professional backgrounds. There will be meetings to attend, events or activities to do within your local community, as well as many other opportunities to meet new and interesting people.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to take up this role, develop new skills and increase your knowledge on young people and governance matters and most importantly, gain a great sense of satisfaction that your experience, skills, and community-standing would be making a real difference to the lives of our young people and their families and to the staff at Mahdlo.

Best wishes and thank you,

**Chris Wareing**

Mahdlo Chair



# Oldham Today

Evidence obtained from The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK & The Oldham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Framework



Oldham has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country at 44%, compared to the national average of 29%.



Oldham's percentage of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training), 16 to 17-year olds, is higher than regional and national averages at 6.9% compared to 4.7% nationally.



Oldham has the 4th highest rate of young people in treatment services in Greater Manchester for substance misuse with 2.04 per 1,000 almost double the England average of 1.03.



Oldham has a significantly high obesity rate amongst year 6 children at 42.4% compared to national average of 37.8%.



Oldham's teenage conception rate is 20.5%, significantly higher than the national average of 13.1% for England.

**“I don't have to hang out walking the streets any more with friends. I go to Mahdlo”**



# AN INTRODUCTION TO MAHDLO

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At Mahdlo Youth Zone, **we believe that all young people should have the opportunity to discover their passion and their purpose.** To find out what they've got and where it could take them. Our Youth Zone is a purpose-built space fizzing with energy and crammed with incredible facilities. It is staffed by skilled and dedicated youth workers who truly believe in young people in the community – helping them see what they could achieve, and giving them the skills, confidence and ambition to go for it. Year in, year out we deliver **life-changing support** that helps thousands of young people from a diverse range of backgrounds to thrive. It's inspiring. It's empowering. And it works

Open **40 hours a week**, 7-days a week, while schools are closed - that's evenings and weekends, plus all through the school holidays. We offer a **safe and active space for young people to flourish** in their leisure time, where their interests can be nurtured, and they can grow as individuals. This is a charity that the whole community can be proud of, and you can be part of that journey. **Entry is just 50p** each time and annual membership £5 which gives a young person access to over 20 activities per night!

Mahdlo Youth Zone benefits from the guidance, direction and support from colleagues and partners across the OnSide network. It is part of a network of 22 Youth Zones. OnSide's role is to provide ongoing support as the umbrella organisation within a federated structure and to create new Zones, taking our tried and tested model to ever more young people across the country.





# 4,981

## Young people registered as Mahdlo members throughout 2024



20% have a disability or additional needs.



69% of members live in the most deprived communities.



44% of members are BAME.



19% of care experienced young people in Oldham attended Mahdlo.

**“I used to get bullied and Mahdlo has helped me make friends.”**



# “It’s not good enough”

A member of Mahdlo since 2018, Khyla has attended 294 sessions including Family, Girls and Junior Zone. When producing this piece of artwork, she was asked if she would like to put it in the art shop, that had been set up as an enterprise project. She replied “I don’t think it’s good enough.”

This piece was entered into the auction at the Mahdlo Ball, where it was the star piece selling for an impressive £760. The winning bidder certainly thought it was good enough!

“At Mahdlo, fostering a culture of creativity empowers young people to discover their passions and equips them with the tools to navigate life’s challenges with resilience and confidence.” - Lucy Lees, CEO



**“Mahdlo gives me a break from my family to have some time to myself to do different things.”**

# WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

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## **We are seeking at this time:**

- Corporate leaders and Community influencers
- People with business acumen, knowledge, and connections
- Lived experience in the Oldham community

Previous board/trustee experience is not necessary and we welcome applications from all ages and backgrounds.

## **Time commitment required**

- 6 Board meetings a year (and preparation)
- Offer support and perspective on specific areas and issues by joining Board sub-committees or task & finish groups, as required
- Represent Mahdlo Youth Zone within the community including at events
- Once or twice a year, getting to know our young people by joining them on a session.

## **How will you support me?**

- We provide training to all our board members on safeguarding and governance alongside a comprehensive induction.
- Each member also receives a Trustee's handbook which includes all our policies, values and guidance.
- Opportunity for one-to-one meetings to support skill development, if required.
- Chance to join in sessions with the young people, to better understand our values, mission and work.

## **What is it like?**

The Charity Commission, which regulates charities in England and Wales, says: "Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. Charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of a charity."

If you're looking to empower young people and support them raise their aspirations then you are the likely the perfect fit. Please get in touch with Lucy, Mahdlo CEO, on the following email address: **[Lucy.Lees@mahdloyz.org](mailto:Lucy.Lees@mahdloyz.org)**

# HELP TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

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**MAHDLO**   
An **OnSide** Youth Zone