

**ITEM [6]**

<b>Report Name:</b>	<b>Introducing Unitas Youth Zone</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB)</b>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	26.10.18	
<b>Enclosures:</b>		
<b>Report Author:</b>	Tony Lewis, Unitas Youth Zone Chief Executive.	
<b>Outcome Required:</b>	Information Only	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Restricted</b>	No	

## **Introducing Unitas Youth Zone:**

This report intends to introduce Unitas Youth Zone to members of BSCP Board and to outline its vision, mission and youth offer. In addition, it seeks to outline its partnership approach and how as an organisation it can support the underlying strategic objectives of BSCP as detailed within the paper *Community Safety Strategy Update 2019/20* presented to the BSCP Board on 26.07.18.

### **Unitas Youth Zone:**

Unitas Youth Zone, a registered charity, opens Spring 2019 and is dedicated to providing hundreds of young people aged 8 – 19 (or 25 with an additional need) “*somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to*”. Open 7 days a week, yearly membership is just £5 and entrance to each session is just 50p. We are funded and supported through a unique 4-way partnership between private business, local authority, local community and young people themselves. Our parent charity, OnSide, have developed a successful model of youth provision across the North West opening a number of Youth Zones in just under a decade. Unitas Youth Zone will open soon after Barking & Dagenham, with Croydon to follow and Hammersmith & Fulham in 2020.

At our Montrose Park locality, in Burnt Oak, facilities include a dedicated arts space, climbing wall, gym and fitness suite, recreation space, boxing ring, sensory room, wellbeing room, rooftop outdoor 4G pitch, 4 badminton court sized sports hall, a performing arts studio, a café and catering kitchen and music and multi-media spaces. Free wifi will be available across the site and young members will be able to purchase hot meals for affordable prices. We will be staffed by up to 50 FTE employees and sessional staff all earning London Living Wage. We will have a volunteer base all utilising their wealth of community knowledge, experience and eagerness to support young people.

We will deliver a range of exciting activity programmes that will challenge, stimulate and provide new opportunities, in line with six key themes: Get Active (Sports); Get Creative (Arts); Get Sorted (personal development and health and wellbeing); Get Outdoors (outward bound and environmental activities); Get Connected

(leadership, volunteering and citizenship) and Get Ahead (employment and enterprise).

Our vision at Unitas is to transform the lives of Barnet's children and young people.

Our mission, or in other words, our purpose, is to 'level the playing field' for young people. We will promote social mobility ensuring that no matter the circumstances into which young people were born, at Unitas, they are all able to receive the same equality of opportunity when they access our youth provision.

### **Partnership approach:**

Unitas Youth Zone wishes to be an integral member of the borough's multi-agency partnership approach working alongside statutory, police, education, health and fellow voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. We seek to support the Family Friendly Barnet vision, working with children and, by extension, their families in order to achieve positive outcomes for them and so that they can lead safe, happy and resilient lives.

Our partnership approach will see us work collaboratively with the VCS so as to ensure that our facility provides a platform for our young members to access services and provision beyond that of ourselves. We are clear that we will never replace any organisation supporting children in our borough, but that we are simply in addition to a current range of outstanding services available to young people. Barnet's young people will have a youth offer to be proud of.

### **BSCP support:**

Throughout the OnSide Network Youth Zones work most effectively when working closely with key stakeholders. Community safety partnership boards are a key stakeholder. Our evidenced impact in the North West, and our desired impact in London can be seen thus:

# ON-SIDE YOUTH ZONES IS A CHARITY WITH ONE SIMPLE AIM...

to build a network of 21st Century Youth Clubs, giving young people, safe and inspiring places to go in their leisure time. Here's how OnSide Youth Zones are making every penny count and every one of their members matter.



It is significant that anti-social behaviour within a local area reduces following the opening of a Youth Zone. This impact is not achieved alone though – it is a partnership effort. It is about police partners engaging with young people within a Youth Zone through the lens of positive relationship building with them; supporting our approach to the safety and security of the Youth Zone and working towards community led policing and restorative justice approaches. It is about local children's centres and early years services sign posting to the Youth Zone and supporting families to access our holiday club provision. It is local educational partners across school, FE and HE establishments working collaboratively

with us through promoting volunteering opportunities and facilitating information days and student placements in Youth Zones. It is about Housing Association supporting their tenants' children to access the Youth Zone – giving them a way to leave behind boredom and temptation within their local community. It is about all of these things together, and much more, that leads us to wish to support the overarching objectives of the BSCP and to seek reciprocal support, championing and collaboration from members - so that all young people will be the benefactors.

Unitas Youth Zone believes that it can support the overarching objectives of the BSCP through:

- reducing antisocial behaviour
- support young people who are at risk of offending and support the reduction of youth recidivism
- to support the perception of Barnet as a safe place to live, work and visit and;
- work across BSCP and Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

Unitas Youth Zone provides a unique opportunity to inspire a whole generation of children within the borough to achieve. We look forward to working closely with partners in order to ensure that we deliver upon this ambition.