



who

ARE

blgc?





BLGC IS AN INNOVATIVE, DYNAMIC AND PROGRESSIVE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHARITY BASED IN BOLTON. OUR VISION AND MISSION IS "TO ENABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS, TO LIVE HAPPIER, HEALTHIER AND POSITIVE LIVES BY PROVIDING SOMEWHERE TO GO THAT'S SAFE, MODERN, INSPIRING AND ENGAGING, AND SOMEONE TO TALK TO WHEN THEY NEED IT THE MOST".

Welcome.

Open five days a week, 51 weeks of the year, we provide a vast array of opportunities to improve the lives of over 4,000 active members through high quality universal open access play, youth and sport provision and a range of bespoke targeted services working on a referral only basis. We employ over 50 people and have the support and commitment of a fantastic team of volunteers. In 2022 we re-opened our state of the art youth facility, following a major £2.4m capital investment programme we are ready for our next phase.

From our strong foundations, we plan to reach, engage, support and where necessary, protect even more children. Our ambition is to reach every child in Bolton who may need us. This plan describes our strategic priorities over the next five years. We believe it is ambitious, courageous and innovative plan to meet our goals.

We intend to work alongside children, young people, families, communities and partners to design, develop and deliver accessible, universal services and targeted early support services and bespoke non clinical therapeutic services across Bolton. We

will continue working to amplify the voices of the children and young people we support to influence change.

We will work with compassion to increase our impact on the lives of as many children and families who need us, so they can develop the warm, supportive relationships they need to help them lead safe, happy and fulfilling lives. As well as building the resilience of our beneficiaries, we aim to build the resilience of our organisation so we are fit to meet the challenges ahead. We will be streamlined, flexible, responsive and financially secure, whilst responsibly increasing our own income to help us to continue to grow.

Over the next decade, we aim to build on our achievements. We will support more of the most vulnerable children and young people than ever before. We will help them overcome the challenges they face and move towards a bright, happy future.

We also want them to have fun!

Our five year strategic plan is just the start of the journey.



A BIT
ABOUT

US



**BLGC IS A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
INNOVATIVE, DYNAMIC AND
PROGRESSIVE CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE'S CHARITY BASED IN BOLTON.**

Established in 1889 as Bolton Lads Club, latterly as Bolton Lads and Girls Club we have undergone a re-branding to "BLGC" which we see as a launchpad for the next exciting chapter for the charity. Our aim is to enable children and young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to live happier, healthier and positive lives by providing somewhere to go that's safe and modern, something to do that is inspiring and engaging, and someone to talk to when they need it the most. We provide children and young people with a safe, active, welcoming space and have done so since 1889. Whilst much has changed over the years, our mission to empower children and young people, to help them to live happy, safe, fulfilling lives continues to drive us forward. In doing so, our offer has been growing rapidly over the last 10 years and we have hugely exciting, ambitious plans to continue this growth

based on the changing and emerging needs of the children and young people of Bolton.

We work in local and national partnerships and are very much an integral part of the fabric of the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton, with our roots planted firmly in the community. We would consider ourselves to be an anchor institution within the town.

Our core operating model has been the blueprint for the national youth charity, OnSide, now rolling out 'Youth Zones' across England and we are a member of the Onside Network, working as a strategic partner. We work in close partnership with The University of Bolton Group with a shared goal of providing opportunities for young people in Bolton (with whom we have been involved in a ground-breaking project of pathways into further education for looked after children).



**OUR CORE OPERATING MODEL HAS BEEN
THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE NATIONAL
YOUTH CHARITY, ONSIDE, NOW ROLLING
OUT 'YOUTH ZONES' ACROSS ENGLAND**



OUR **FLAGSHIP CENTRE, INFINITY**, HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE A **£2.5M REFURBISHMENT**



Our facilities.

We operate over two state of the art facilities. Our flagship centre Infinity is based in the town centre and recently underwent a £2.5 million re-furbishment. In addition we run an impressive sports facility based in Darcy Lever

INFINITY



Infinity

We host a large range of sports and physical activities for children and young people in our sports hall, including a climbing wall, basketball, badminton, cricket and much more. We also have an impressive fitness gym, dance studio, boxing gym and an outdoor enclosed MUGA all weather sports surface, changing facilities and showers.

Hacken Lane, Darcy Lever

Purpose built we offer a FA approved standard sports pavilion and changing rooms. An enclosed, floodlit, adult sized 3G pitch and one grass pitch. This serves over 30 boy and girl football teams. Over 500 children and young people from 6 years old upwards are catered for, giving all ages an opportunity to get involved in team sports from a young age, improving, physical health and wellbeing.

Our centre is a hive of activity at the weekend, with around 1000 local children visiting the site to play team games. We also offer three Junior kicks classes for around 150 children, providing an opportunity to develop football skills before joining a team. Hacken Lane is also used throughout the summer offering successful football camps, tournaments and other activities.



OUR UNIVERSAL PLAY, YOUTH AND SPORTS OFFER



OUR UNIVERSAL YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE IS OUR CORE OFFER FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Our Universal Youth and Play Service is our core offer for all children and young people. It is open access and delivered through one of our centres or a detached setting (Outreach). Infinity is open 6 days a week, year round, providing a vast array of opportunities to improve the lives and opportunities of our 4,000 active members.

Relationships are what we are all about - these we build with young people on an entirely voluntary basis as it is their choice to work with our youth team when and how they choose. Through music, media, dance, the arts and issue-based youth work, we allow young people to explore themselves, their

community, and to discover opportunities, improve their wellbeing and build aspirations for the future.

Through play in our junior and holiday clubs, we empower children to develop interpersonal and social skills through social mixing improving their overall wellbeing in a safe environment with trusted adults.

As well as our sports facilities, Infinity has a large 'rec area', arts section, a modern music centre, enterprise and business room, a state-of-the-art gaming centre, quiet rooms, booths and a cafeteria serving hot food.



THIS YEAR WE DID THIS

blgc
enriching young lives

A Year of
Enriching Young Lives

2023

50,000
Hot Meals provided to Young People

10000
Young People supported by our Targeted Youth Services

3200
Hours Volunteered in 2023

OVER 300
Families supported

65
Young People mentored

We have re-opened our boxing studio with 7 members of staff and 2 young people becoming qualified non-contact boxing coaches

40+
Children a week attend our CONNECT group - the only free accessible SEND provision in Bolton

4000+
Active members accessing our free youth club services

900
Involved in our universal grass roots sport offer

OVER 600
Free holiday club places provided

Learn more at www.blgc.co.uk

The infographic features a blue and yellow color scheme with various icons representing meals, youth services, volunteering, families, mentoring, boxing, SEND provision, active members, and sports. It includes a young girl cheering at the top left and a young boy jumping at the bottom right.



WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

We work largely in the community, liaising closely with Children's Services, CAMHS and schools. We have grown considerably over the past few years to respond to the needs of children and young people in Bolton. We offer a range of services that support children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. This includes **Safe Zone**, a brief intervention service for young people who have had a mental health crisis, and we are partnering with the NHS to be part of the National roll out of **Mental Health Support Teams** in schools. We work in partnership with Children's Services and CAMHS around the school project, offering emotional health and wellbeing support. We also have a **Bereavement and Counselling Service** for children and young people.

We are commissioned to deliver the **Young Carers**

Service for Bolton and the Independent Visitor Service for children who are looked after. We have an established and very successful **Mentoring Service** (Queens Award), which supports vulnerable young people. Young people are matched carefully, one on one, with selected and trained adult volunteers. As the needs and complexity of the families we work with have increased, we recently took the decision to set up a **Family Support Service**.



OUR
TARGETED
YOUTH
SERVICE
OFFER



OUR REQUIRED
BUDGET FUNDING
FOR 2024 IS
£2.5 MILLION.



HOW

ARE WE FUNDED?,

We have, and need, a diverse income funding stream to ensure sustainability. We have invaluable philanthropic support from around 170 local businesses and individuals through our patronage programme. Without such support we simply could not sustain our core offer facility for children and young people. We organise a range of regular fundraising events including an annual Beer Festival, Golf event and community days. We have services commissioned through a range of contracts and receive funds from grants and trusts, such as Children in Need and the Lottery.

We generate some funds through income generation initiatives and are the beneficiary of fundraising events that others run to raise funds for us.

It is the intention of the board to seek sustainable income generation from commercial 'not for profit' activities which align with our vision.

Our required budget funding for 2024 is £2.5 million.





WE WILL ENSURE WE OFFER THE BEST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND ARE BOLD IN OUR ASPIRATIONS.

Our Ambition.

We are always looking how to adapt, improve and change to ensure we not only maintain our current activities but meet the growing needs of those we are here to serve. Our investment in our refurbishment at Infinity is testament to the fact that we will ensure we offer the best for children and young people and are bold in our aspirations. In line with our strategic plan we are about to further expand what we currently offer for children and young people in Bolton along with our local partners. We have an ambitious plan to expand the charity to ensure that children and young people of Bolton have high quality services that meet their needs. We intend to re-introduce a programme of Alternative Provision with local schools which was

unfortunately side-lined during Covid. Also, we are in an advanced process of working in partnership with the local council who want us to offer the additional service of Residential Care for Young People. This will be a ground-breaking and unique holistic approach to help both the young people and the difficulties faced by the local authority.



WE DO

WATCH THIS SHORT VIDEO TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR WORK

THIS



2022-2027
5 YEAR
STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR
AMBITION



**INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES AND
OUTCOMES FOR MORE CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS
BOLTON**

Over the next five years we will increase the number of children and families we reach annually.

To create better opportunities and outcomes for more Bolton children and young people, we need to be strategically focused and have absolute clarity on how we will achieve our ambition.

We're committing to three strategic goals that will help us do just that, over the next five years we will work with children, young people, and their families through a range of Universal provision and Targeted Services.

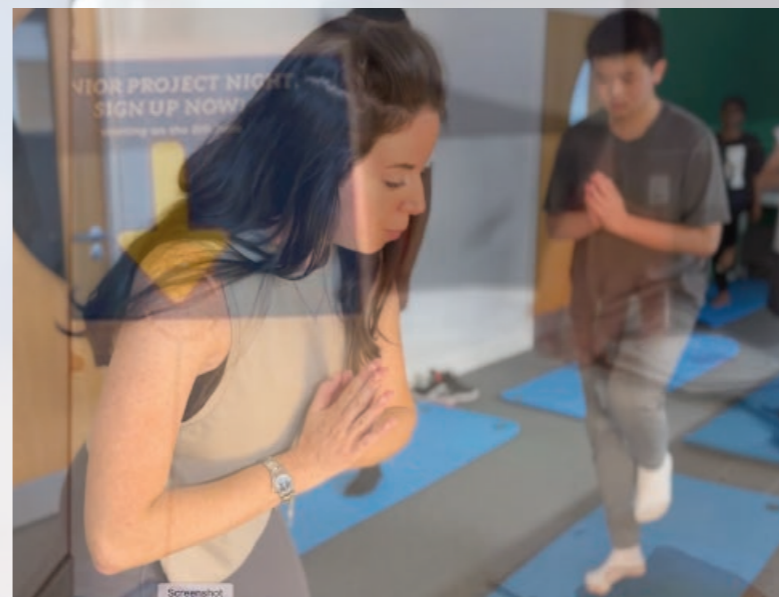
STRATEGIC GOALS

ONE



IMPROVED PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING

Providing opportunities for children and young people to take part in stimulating and inspiring opportunities and activities that improve the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing will underpin our curriculum model through our universal open access provision programmes. Our provision will transform young lives through sport and physical activity, emotional health and wellbeing services and bespoke non clinical mental health provision.



STRATEGIC GOALS

TWO

WHO ARE BLGC?



STRONGER AND RESILIENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We want children and young people to thrive with the love and support of their families and carers. But sometimes they come up against challenges or adverse experiences that makes this difficult. Through our broad provision and by working with external partners, we will support them to overcome these challenges and help families build on their strengths.



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STRATEGIC GOALS

THREE



INCREASED CONFIDENCE AND ASPIRATIONS FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE

We want young people to have the best chances early in life in order for them to achieve their full potential in later life. It can be hard for some to access the right support to get them started and many experience setbacks which they struggle to move on from. We will provide a range of opportunities and programmes that help them deal with what can be a challenging transition to adulthood.





The BLGC Offer.

EXISTING OFFER

TARGETED YOUTH SERVICES

- + MENTORING
- + FAMILY SUPPORT
- + LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
- + INDEPENDENT VISITORS
- + YOUNG CARERS
- + MENTAL HEALTH
- + BEREAVEMENT
- + COUNSELLING
- + SAFE ZONES
- + MHST TEAM
- + FAMILY TIME

UNIVERSAL OFFER

- + MULT-SITE PLAY
- + 4000 MEMBERS
- + YOUTH PROVISION
- + SPORTS
- + SEND PROVISION
- + HOLIDAY CLUBS
- + NCS DELIVERY



CIC OFFER PLANNED FOR 2024/5

RESIDENTIAL CARE

WORKING WITH BOLTON COUNCIL TO PROVIDE HOMES TO KEEP LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN FROM BOLTON IN BOLTON

EDUCATION

- + ALTERNATIVE PROVISION
- + 'YOUR TIME' SCHOOL
- + EMPLOYABILITY
- + ENTERPRISE

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