



**Legacy**

An **OnSide** Youth Zone

**Helping every  
young person to  
become the best  
version of  
themselves**

Impact Report 2025

# Welcome

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

2025 has been a remarkable year for Legacy Youth Zone. Every day we see the extraordinary potential of young people in Croydon, and this year has once again demonstrated what can happen when they are given the opportunities, support and safe spaces they deserve.

At the heart of Legacy Youth Zone is a simple belief: that every young person should have somewhere safe to go, something positive to do, and someone trusted to talk to. Throughout 2025, we continued to build on that belief; growing our offer through strengthening our community partnerships, and creating new platforms for young people to express themselves, develop their skills, and shape the future of the Youth Zone such as our youth voice forum, as well as adding capacity and skills to our safeguarding team meaning we can continue to support the forever changing and emerging needs of young people.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of our Open Mic Night, a brilliant initiative designed and run by one of our volunteers and young people, for young people. What began as an idea from our volunteer quickly grew into a vibrant event where young performers could share their music, poetry, and creativity in a supportive environment. It is a powerful example of what happens when young people are trusted to lead.

We were also thrilled to welcome Levi Roots, whose cooking session inspired young members to explore food, culture, and entrepreneurship. These sessions brought energy and flavour to the Youth Zone while showing young people how creativity in the kitchen can become a pathway to opportunity.

Another landmark achievement came through the Pan London Youth Zone Crowdfunder, where the four London Youth Zones came together in a powerful show of collaboration and community support. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised an incredible £659,448, enabling us to continue providing life-changing opportunities for young people across the capital.

These moments are just a snapshot of what has been a busy and inspiring year. Behind every event, session, and programme are dedicated youth workers, volunteers, partners, and supporters who believe in the power of young people. Most importantly, there are the young people themselves whose ideas, energy, and resilience continue to shape Legacy Youth Zone.

As you read this report, you will see the real impact of our work: new skills developed, confidence built, friendships formed, and futures expanded. I would like to thank everyone who has supported Legacy Youth Zone this year. Together, we are helping to ensure that the next generation has the opportunity not just to succeed, but to thrive.

Myke Catterall  
Chief Executive Officer  
Legacy Youth Zone



# ABOUT LEGACY

We are a local charity, offering young people aged 8-19 and up to 25 with additional needs the chance to take part in varied activities that suit their needs and passion. We support young people in finding out what they want to pursue in life, we open doors to new experiences and opportunities and most importantly we offer a safe space to hang out and make new friends.

## OUR VISION

Every young person to become the best version of themselves.

## OUR MISSION

We give young people of Croydon the opportunity to discover their full potential through positive activities and inspirational Youth Workers within a safe environment.

## OUR VALUES

COLLABORATIVE



AMBITIOUS



RESPECT



EXCELLENCE



YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST



# OUR IMPACT



**88%**

of young people reported an improvement in their mental health since coming to Legacy.



**37,074**

Total visits to Legacy



**34%**

of Croydon's care experienced young people are supported through visits to Legacy every week.



**90%**

of young people reported an improvement of their confidence and self-esteem since coming to Legacy.



**25%**

Of active members have an additional need.



**25,072**

Total hours of youth work

Our work goes beyond activities; it builds confidence, develops skills, and creates pathways into brighter futures. From youth-led initiatives and leadership programmes to school engagement and specialist partnerships, we are delivering measurable outcomes while placing young people at the heart of everything we do.



"I first discovered Legacy by accident, to be honest. Before coming to Legacy, I was very shy, and even talking to people or doing work with them at school and in class was something I found hard. I've never been someone who looks for trouble, but I have always loved MMA.

You are always mirroring the person that you are with and having something in common with them always makes it easier to start conversation.

Chris - Senior Member



# OUR MEMBERS; THEIR STORIES

Before joining Legacy, life was a challenge in small but impactful ways. I was unfit, shorter than I wanted to be, shy, and often misbehaved. I had ambitions, like learning a new instrument, but lacked the push or confidence to try. At that time, I was young, inexperienced, and still figuring out who I was. Joining Legacy completely changed that. The community, the supportive environment, and the people around me helped me grow in ways I never imagined. Being part of Legacy played a huge role in shaping the person I am today. I've discovered that I'm special and have a sense of self I hadn't recognised before.

Having youth workers and volunteers to talk to has been invaluable. As a 17-year-old, there were times when I needed guidance from someone who had more experience or just understood what I was going through. Legacy has also helped me navigate difficult moments.

For example, when I was kicked out of a place I once called home, Legacy supported me with free meal vouchers and essentials like pasta, rice, fruit, and chicken. That support made a real difference in a tough time.

Without Legacy, my life might have looked very different. Growing up as a young Black kid from the South, the reality is I could have ended up bored, getting involved in gangs, or becoming a product of my environment. Instead, Legacy gave me opportunities, guidance, and a sense of purpose. Now, my future feels full of possibilities. I never imagined I'd be striving to become a rapper or thinking about inspiring the next generation. My long-term goal is to leave a legacy of my own: being authentically me in everything I do, and motivating others along the way. Legacy didn't just give me support, it helped me discover who I am and who I want to become.

A key moment for me was becoming one of the first rappers to perform at the Houses of Parliament. It was a deeply meaningful moment for me, as it represented more than a performance; it was about bringing youth culture, lived experience and unheard voices into a space where we are rarely represented.

Kyran - Senior Member at Legacy



# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with Reedham Children's Trust, we are delivering a School Engagement Programme designed to remove barriers that young people in Croydon may face. We will bridge the gap between schools and a young person's access to Legacy and the enriching opportunities we can provide.

The School and Community Engagement Programme connects young people to the support they need through the Youth Zone, offering mentoring and targeted interventions to foster positive engagement and personal growth. School absence remains one of the most urgent challenges in education, with rates rising since the pandemic and often driven by complex, wider factors beyond the classroom.

In response, OnSide commissioned King's College London to evaluate how Youth Zone participation impacts educational outcomes. Scan the QR Code below to read the report.



## In 2025, our School and Community Engagement team made a great impact

**256**

young people referred to the project throughout the year.

**160**

young people taking part in extracurricular activities at Legacy.

**11**

schools engaged during 2025.

Parental engagement has grown, particularly with around 12% of previously disengaged parents now engaging more regularly. Our Support Officer reached out via calls, informal coffee invites, and follow-ups, allowing space for parents to voice concerns and be signposted to support.

# SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Child C is an Iranian asylum seeker who joined the SCE Project in early 2024, referred by Lucy from Croydon Refugee Day Centre. Lucy recognised the potential in Child C and shared, "I believe she would benefit hugely from the enrichment that Legacy offers. She is very sporty and sociable and would probably also thrive in a mixed environment." This insight enabled Akua, the SCE Support Officer, to connect with Child C's guardian and arrange a tour of the facilities. Upon visiting, Child C was captivated by the vibrant spaces and activities available, leading to immediate membership and participation in the next senior session.

Akua documented Child C's enthusiastic feedback: "I want to be here forever! There's so much space to do everything, and I want to do everything at once. My favourite is football and the gym; I can stay active like I was back in Iran."

Recognising the challenges Child C faced, a dedicated mentor was assigned to provide 1-2-1 support, helping them navigate the difficulty of socialising due to a language barrier. Akua suggested utilising the library resources and working with a designated youth worker to improve English skills. Together, they devised a plan for Child C to spend two hours each Wednesday over four weeks practising in the library. After this dedicated effort, Child C reported noticeable improvements in verbal communication, enabling them to forge friendships at school and even advance in the English curriculum.

After three months with Legacy, Child C expressed interest in the Young Leaders programme, eager to develop leadership skills and support younger peers in activities she enjoyed. After completing training and passing the assessment, Child C proudly became a young leader, earning a certificate in recognition of her achievement. She quickly became involved in Tuesday sessions, assisting with Gym, Rock climbing, and Art, sharing positive experiences with Akua and requesting to amend her wellbeing plan to include her young leader role on Thursdays.

Child C's transformational journey showcases remarkable growth. From being hesitant to embrace new experiences, she has developed autonomy and responsibility for her personal development, receiving invitations to events like the Reedham Founders' Celebration. Her story illustrates the essence of resilience and the incredible potential within when one is determined to thrive.



# VOLUNTEERING

## This year, our volunteers achieved outstanding numbers

**177**

people applied to volunteer at Legacy Youth Zone.

**34**

young leaders volunteered in 2025.

**2,919**

hours have been delivered by our adult volunteers.

Volunteering at Legacy Youth Zone in 2025 continued to be a powerful force for change, with dedicated volunteers helping young people in Croydon feel supported, inspired, and seen. Volunteers played a vital role across the Youth Zone's vibrant spaces—from creative arts and sports to mentoring, inclusion support, and leadership programmes—offering their time, energy, and compassion to create a safe, welcoming environment where members could thrive.

Their commitment not only strengthened young people's confidence and skills but also enriched the wider community, demonstrating how meaningful relationships and consistent support can open doors to new opportunities. In 2025, Legacy's volunteers embodied the spirit of empowerment, proving that when adults show up wholeheartedly, young people are empowered to imagine—and pursue—bigger futures.

Scan the QR code to hear from one of our young people who has been impacted by the amazing work of our volunteers.



# VOLUNTEERING STORY

For many years, I've worked as an HR Manager in design companies, having previously explored various roles within creative businesses. My background also includes working as a freelance children's illustrator and textile designer. More recently, I found myself drawn to working with young people. This passion was sparked by leading work experience programs in my HR roles and volunteering as a mentor for a secondary school student with the charity ReachOut.

I started volunteering at Legacy in March 2024. My motivation stemmed from my desire to explore new career avenues working with young people. I also wanted to incorporate my love for cooking into this experience. Legacy provided the perfect opportunity to merge these interests in a meaningful way.

One of the biggest learning curves for me was working with young people with additional needs, an area in which I had minimal prior experience. However, I have been fortunate to receive great support from Syreeta, who has encouraged me to take the lead in areas where I feel most comfortable. The collaborative nature of the kitchen has also been incredibly inspiring. It's heartwarming to see young people supporting one another, both practically and emotionally, when someone is struggling.

What struck me about the Beyond Limits Session was the immediate sense of warmth and inclusivity. The space provides a safe and enjoyable environment where both young people and their parents/guardians can feel comfortable and have fun together.

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering at Legacy is forming connections with the young people. Seeing their joy when they arrive and being greeted with high-fives and fist pumps is something I never expected in a workplace! I love the friendly conversations that happen while cooking and washing up together. It's wonderful to see them having fun, following through on tasks, and, of course, enjoying the delicious food they've made.

Volunteering at Legacy has been an enriching experience, and I look forward to many more moments of connection, learning, and shared meals in the kitchen.

Zoe, Training Kitchen Volunteer



# YOUTH VOICE

Through funding received by Jack Petchey, we were able to secure a position for a Youth Engagement Intern to help us in our 3-year strategy of being more youth-led. At the start of the year, the Youth Engagement Officer started and introduced a Youth Voice group and Junior Council.

Over the year, both sessions have been an amazing way to engage young people in making decisions at Legacy. They have helped organise events, attended board meetings and been present through decision-making processes. When Legacy was first founded, it was a space designed by young people, for young people. We wanted to continue with that philosophy throughout the upcoming years.

Looking forward we want to continue the work of the Junior Council and the Youth Voice Group.



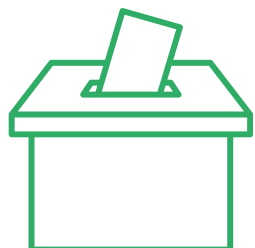
**15**

Active Youth Voice  
Group Members



**20**

Structured sessions  
were delivered.



**19**

Active Junior  
Council Members

"Youth voice has given me a place to be vocal and make decisions for things I didn't think I had a say in. It's also been a supportive and open space to bounce ideas off of the group without fear of judgement."



"Youth voice is a great environment to find like-minded young people who aren't afraid to voice those unvoiced opinions."



# OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships programme continues to play a key role in strengthening the breadth and impact of our offer, with 12 active partners currently delivering specialist support and enrichment opportunities. This year, we expanded our wellbeing provision by onboarding Stop Breathe Think, an online counselling service that enhances access to mental health support for young people. Our sports partnerships continue to drive strong engagement and positive participation, with Active Future, Rugby delivered through the Dallaglio Foundation, and more recently, MMA sessions providing structured opportunities that promote confidence, resilience, and physical wellbeing.

Community connections remain central to our approach, with Paul Mundy from Castle Croydon Cougars continuing to use the space monthly for community games that bring local young people together through sport. In the creative arts, the Guildhall School of Art delivers pottery sessions that support creativity and self-expression, while Off the Record and Croydon Drop In provide vital, trusted mental health support during senior sessions. For our younger cohort, Boost My Maths offers targeted academic support, helping juniors build essential numeracy skills that underpin long-term educational attainment and life opportunities. In addition, SENDIASS provides education information and guidance for families with children who have additional needs, ensuring parents and carers can access the support, advice, and resources required to navigate the education system effectively.



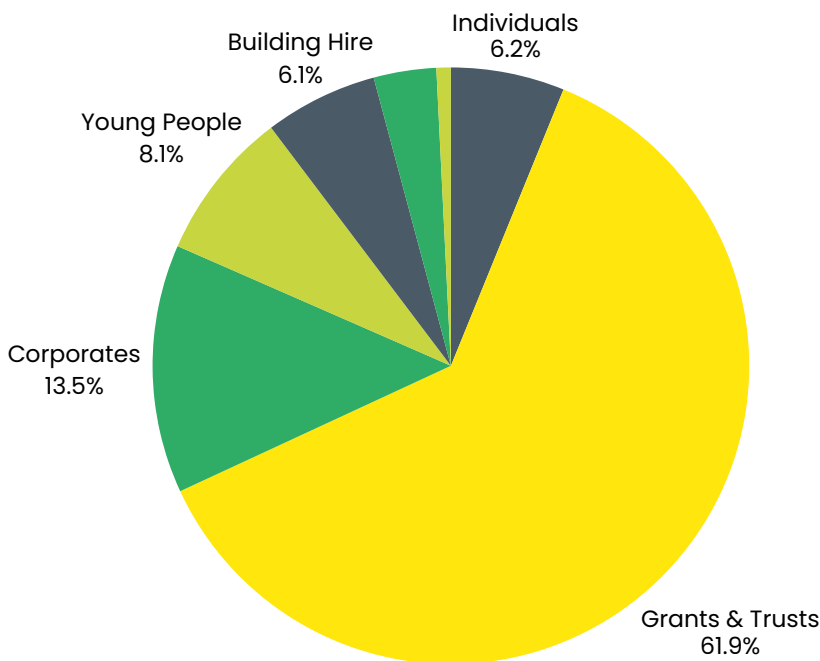
TALK TO US



# FUNDRAISING AT LEGACY

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support that has made our work possible. Every contribution, no matter the size, has helped us expand our reach and deepen our impact in the communities we serve. Because of you, we've been able to turn our vision into meaningful action—creating real, lasting change for those who need it most. Your belief in our mission not only sustains our efforts but also inspires us to keep pushing forward. Thank you for standing with us and being such an essential part of our journey.

This year, we had an amazing golf day, which raised over £55,000 through over 100 individuals all raising money to support young people in Croydon.



At Legacy, we rely solely on donations from individuals, organisations, trusts and foundations.

This year, 61.9% of our fundraising has come from grants and trusts that our team have been applying for.



"TW Drainage is proud to be a Silver Patron of Legacy Youth Zone. Supporting a space that empowers young people, builds confidence, and creates opportunities within the local community is incredibly important to us. It's a privilege to contribute to such a positive and lasting impact."

TW Drainage - Silver Patron at Legacy



# OUR CORPORATE OFFER

## Legacy Youth Zone

Inspiring Croydon's young people to become the best versions of themselves - with you.

We have multiple different giving levels, so if you would like to get involved please see below.

Partnership Level	Annual Commitment	Key Benefits
Bronze	£5,000 - £12,499	Sponsor Live Events at Legacy. In partnership branded events and social media support. Patron plaque at Legacy
Silver	£12,500 - £24,999	Sponsor The Music Studio - Have your business name above our studio and benefit from branded events and social media support. Employee volunteering and event days in your honor
Gold	£25,000+	Music Sponsor - Room Sponsorship and Live Events Package
Platinum	£50,000+	2 Year Commitment of our full music programme

As well as our corporate giving level packages, we also have the options for corporates to get involved in supporting us through challenge days, charity of the year, corporate volunteering and many more opportunities that workplaces can take part in.

# OUR SUPPORTERS



The Nelsons



# CONTACT US



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