

EMPOWER
MANCHESTER • SALFORD

6 MONTH IMPACT REPORT

HIDE
OUT
An **OnSide** Youth Zone



THIS YEAR SO FAR IN NUMBERS

From 1st April to 30th September

42,690
VISITS TO OUR
TWO SITES

6,011
MEMBERS HAVE
ENGAGED

34,500+
FREE HOT MEALS
SERVED

47% 

of our active members
identify as a girl or woman.

62% 

of our active members
identify as Black, Asian
or Mixed Race.

21% 

of our active
members have a
disability or additional
needs

55% 

of our active members
are eligible for free
school meals.

89% 

of our active members live
in the top 20% most
deprived neighbourhoods
in England.

5,720 

new membership sign
ups across both
HideOut and SYZ since
1st April.

SOMEWHERE SAFE TO GO

SOMETHING POSITIVE TO DO

SOMEONE TRUSTED TO TALK TO

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

We regularly engage with our members to understand their wellbeing and other measures by completing ME App evaluations. Me App's are a series of attitudinal questions, that ask young people to rate themselves between one and five in several areas aligned to our defined outcomes including self-confidence, social skills, physical health and mental wellbeing.

Young people complete the questionnaire alongside their trusted youth worker at different points throughout the year, so we can monitor changes over time. When looking at the outcomes, most of our members maintain or see an improvement in each area. Young people report significant improvements in key wellbeing outcomes:



77%
IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED THEIR
PHYSICAL HEALTH

77%
IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED THEIR
SENSE OF COHESION

76%
IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED THEIR
DETERMINATION

71%
IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED THEIR
SELF-ESTEEM

71%
IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED THEIR
SELF-CONFIDENCE

SOMEWHERE SAFE TO GO

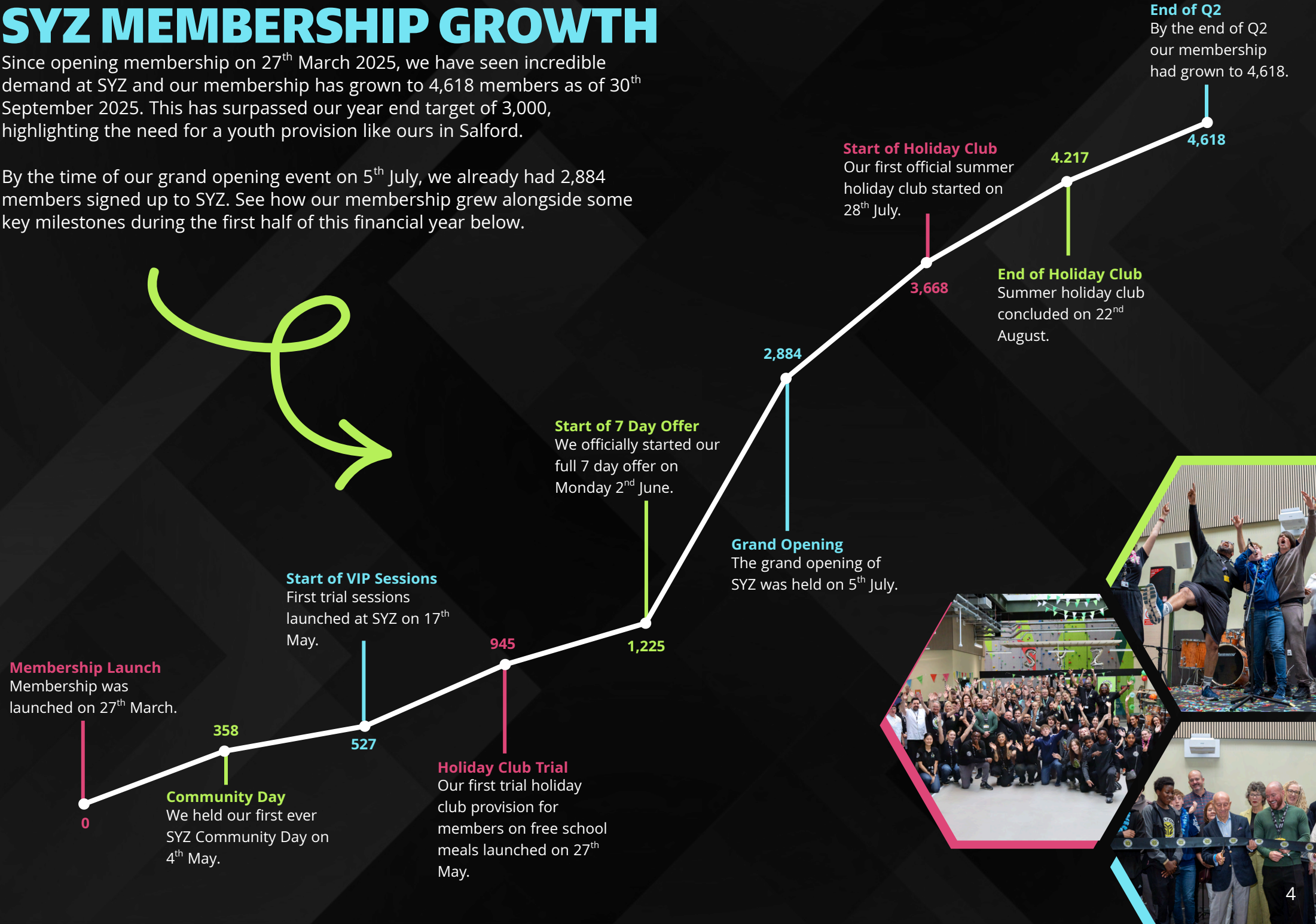
SOMETHING POSITIVE TO DO

SOMEONE TRUSTED TO TALK TO

SYZ MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Since opening membership on 27th March 2025, we have seen incredible demand at SYZ and our membership has grown to 4,618 members as of 30th September 2025. This has surpassed our year end target of 3,000, highlighting the need for a youth provision like ours in Salford.

By the time of our grand opening event on 5th July, we already had 2,884 members signed up to SYZ. See how our membership grew alongside some key milestones during the first half of this financial year below.



HIDEOUT TURNS 5

HideOut reached two huge milestones earlier this year, celebrating our 5th Birthday and reaching 10,000 members since opening. Since opening our doors in September 2020, HideOut has supported over 10,000 young people, resulting in more than 200,000 visits to the Youth Zone. We have served over 116,000 free hot meals during this time and provided a safe space where young people can follow their passions in sports, music, media, cooking, dance, drama and so many more.

We marked the special occasion with a free community day held at HideOut on 27th September which brought together 900 members of the community to celebrate and give them the chance to enjoy activities, meet our youth workers, and see first hand what HideOut has to offer.

**HEAR FROM
SOME OF OUR
MEMBERS
BELOW**

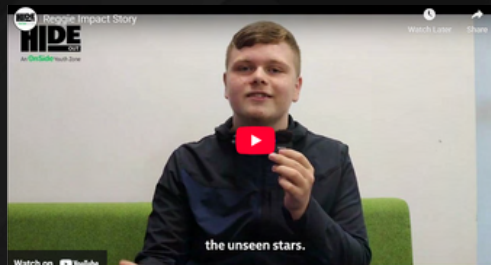
DERRICK



ERIN



REGGIE



ALIYAH



LAIGHTON



"The impact that HideOut has had on our city over the last five years is remarkable, and I know first hand the difference that access to youth workers can make on a young person's life. I grew up in Gorton, so deeply understand the challenges that the local community faces daily and how HideOut has truly changed lives by creating opportunities for young people in the area." – Adam Farricker, CEO Empower



TACKLING HOLIDAY HUNGER

At EMPOWER, a core part of our offer to young people is to be open whenever schools are closed. This means offering daytime provision during school holidays alongside our regular evening sessions. So far this financial year, we have held 54 holiday club sessions across our two sites, resulting in 3,309 visits and 3,406 free meals being served.

Free meals are another core part of our offer and this continues during the school holidays. With over half of our members being eligible for free school meals, the school holidays present a difficult situation for some families where they are unable to cover the costs of the additional meals their children need when at home. Our holiday clubs provide children and young people with breakfast, lunch and a snack every day ensuring that they receive nutritious food throughout the day.

Through valuable HAF funding from both Manchester and Salford City Council we are able to provide a significant number of subsidised places. This is especially important with the rising cost of living - recent data shows that summer holiday clubs to cover Britain's six-week school break now cost parents an average of £1,076 per child.



54 HOLIDAY CLUB SESSIONS



70% SPACES PROVIDED FOR FREE



3,309 VISITS



3,406 FREE MEALS PROVIDED

“You are amazing for what you do. My son never likes being away from me and from 8-5pm the sessions he did I don't think he wanted to come home. Wish there was this for us when we were kids my son loves it and he has additional needs so to have him entertained for all those hours is amazing.”

“As an Autistic young person, this is the first holiday club where he has been able to regulate himself after a busy and fun day. It's been amazing to see him thrive in this environment, day after day. If it wasn't for SYZ, it would have been a very different and difficult summer for him.”

YOUTH VOICE GROUPS LAUNCHED

In June we recruited for and appointed our first youth voice groups for HideOut; one Senior Club and one Junior Club. Our youth voice groups play an important role in helping to shape many aspects of the youth zone, including our programming, projects, catering and event planning. By working collaboratively with our members, we can learn from their own experiences and directly use these to ensure the programmes we offer make a real impact.

Our youth voice groups meet on a monthly basis and have covered topics such as how to ease the transition from junior club to senior club. We have held focus group style conversations around what employability projects they would like to see at the youth zone. We also learned about what our young people are passionate about which brought up topics around animals and the environment, fairness and justice, creativity and self-expression, gender and equality, and having a voice.

We are currently in the process of recruiting for our youth voice groups at SYZ which will give us valuable insight from a wide range of young people from the two cities we operate in, Manchester and Salford.

The importance of youth voice goes beyond our youth zones and by giving our members a platform, it equips them with skills to speak in wider forums. Some statistics from [UK Youth](#) below.

Only one in 10 young people believe politicians prioritise their needs.

88% of young people believe it is important to have a say in the decisions politicians make about public life.



**OUR JUNIOR
YOUTH VOICE
GROUP**



PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Our volunteers are the heart of Empower, playing a vital role in shaping the experiences and opportunities available to young people. We are committed to ensuring that every volunteer feels valued, supported, and aware of the real change they are helping to create. Their involvement strengthens our Youth Zones, enhances the quality of our programmes, and reinforces our mission to empower young people. Volunteers are integral to our success. We couldn't do it without them, and we wouldn't want to either.

We are grateful for the amazing corporate partners who volunteer with us and have donated 526 hours of their own time to help support the young people of Manchester and Salford. Our partners have got stuck into a variety of opportunities including being judges for Come Dine With Me, volunteering on holiday club, helping refresh the building and facilities at HideOut, putting together back to school packs, and distributing donated pieces of uniform.

1,017
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING
HOURS FROM 36 DIFFERENT
VOLUNTEERS

526
CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING
HOURS FROM 16 DIFFERENT
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



“

I found the experience truly insightful. Talking with the young people and having them talk so openly with me was eye-opening. They were honest, direct, and thoughtful. Some of the conversations made me reflect on my own life; it reminded me that while we might find our own issues challenging, a day at the Youth Zone shows you a whole range of stories that put things into perspective.

...

The Youth Zone is a safe, vibrant space for young people - a place full of quality activities, friendships, and opportunities. But this doesn't happen without cost. Funding is essential. These young people are our future, and ensuring the survival of spaces like this through individual contributions and corporate sponsorship is critical, not only for their future but for ours too.

Sue Willis, Manchester Building Society.

”

OUR PEOPLE

EMPOWER aims to be an employer of choice for both existing and potential new employees. Empower values diversity and is committed to building an inclusive workplace where employees from all backgrounds can thrive and contribute to our mission. With the launch of SYZ earlier this year, our headcount has practically doubled and we have grown as an organisation to having 128 members of staff. We are proud to say that we are the largest employer of youth workers in Greater Manchester.

In September, we successfully recruited eight new apprentices across EMPOWER, bringing our total apprentice headcount to 10. We now have seven youth work apprentices, two communications apprentices and one building & facilities apprentice.

At EMPOWER we are passionate about youth work being seen as the valuable profession that it is, and by recruiting 7 new youth work apprentices we will be directly adding more qualified youth workers into the workforce of Greater Manchester. This is in addition to 6 of our existing staff having a recognised youth work qualification, and 2 more who are currently working towards their level 2 qualification.

TRUSTEES

In June we appointed Sean Turner as the new chair of our EMPOWER board of trustees, having been a trustee since 2024. Sean brings a wealth of experience and is passionate about providing employability and skill development opportunities to young people. Sean is the Global Head of Corporate Trust Operations for BNY, one of EMPOWER's supporters.

"As someone brought up in a council estate in Leigh, I've benefited from support, mentorship and access to skill development that allowed me to progress my career and change the course of my family's future. I hope to use my experience and resources to do the same for others." – Sean Turner

7 youth work apprentices working towards their level 3 qualification.

6 current staff have a level 2 or above youth work qualification.

2 additional staff are currently working towards their level 2 qualification.

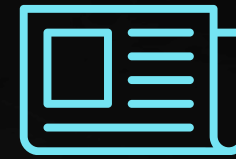
CARTER IS ONE OF OUR NEWLY RECRUITED YOUTH WORK APPRENTICES AT SYZ. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY PART OF THE YOUNG PEOPLES DEVELOPMENT GROUP THAT HELPED DESIGN AND SHAPE SYZ INTO THE PLACE THAT IT IS TODAY. [LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS JOURNEY HERE.](#)



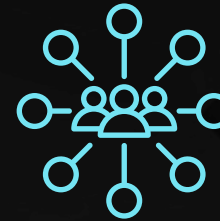
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

It's no secret that we've been busy at EMPOWER and we are proud to have been recognised both regionally and nationally for the work we are doing. You may have seen us feature on The One Show, ITV Granada Reports, BBC Breakfast and Newsround among others. All of these pieces of coverage provided our members with the chance to be part of the exciting world of broadcast media and even gave some the chance to have their faces seen and voices heard on regional and national television.

Besides the benefits of regional and national recognition for EMPOWER as a charity, the coverage is extremely important for informing young people, parents and guardians of what HideOut and SYZ can offer, as one of the main barriers for young people accessing youth provision is simply not knowing what is out there. By reaching these nationwide audiences we are spreading the word of both EMPOWER, and the wider Onside network and the other youth zones that form part of it.



74 COVERAGE FEATURES



198M PEOPLE REACHED

BBC THE ONE SHOW



BBC NEWSROUND



ITV GRANADA REPORTS



BBC BREAKFAST



CLICK THE
IMAGES TO
WATCH



EMPOWER

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THE HOME OF:

HIDE
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