

# SPARK

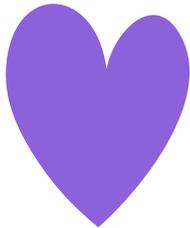
OLDHAM

TRANSFORMING LIVES



At **SPARK OLDHAM CIC**, we're a Community Interest Company driven by a deep passion for **SUPPORTING PEOPLE AT ALL STAGES OF THEIR LIVES**. We believe that strong mental health, vibrant youth groups, and accessible **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES** are essential for a thriving **COMMUNITY**.

## **TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



At SPARK OLDHAM CIC, we operate with a people and community-first approach. We actively listen to the needs of our local community and develop programmes that address them. We collaborate with other organisations, mental health professionals, and volunteers to maximise our impact.



# Founder's Story



**Kim Rogers**

FOUNDER OF SPARK OLDHAM



*“Kim genuinely cares about people in the community. Her job isn't a 9-5 job, she goes above and beyond to help anyone”*

*“Kim has created a caring and nurturing ethos in SPARK- this helps us to make sure we support people with kindness and compassion”*

Kim Rogers has dedicated over 20 years to the voluntary sector, beginning her work with The Youth Offending Service after relocating from the Isle of Man. Having faced her own challenges growing up, she understood from an early age the importance of self-worth and made it her mission to help others recognise theirs.

Kim is a passionate advocate for people, firmly believing in the importance of meeting people where they are at. In October 2023, she founded SPARK after recognising a growing need for support. SPARK is driven by a team of dedicated individuals committed to reigniting people's inner spark and creating personalised programmes that meet each person's unique needs.

Kim received an Oldham Mayoral Award, Point of Light Award and a BEM in 2021, for her contribution to community work during covid.

Kim is deeply grateful for her phenomenal team, whose lived experience and passion for helping others enable them to work seamlessly in serving the local community. For her, this work has never been just a job- it's a way of life, one she wholeheartedly dedicates herself to every single day.

Kim has built SPARK on a foundation of care and support, creating a nurturing environment where people are treated as individuals. She takes pride in meeting people's basic needs, knowing that even small acts of support can have a life-changing impact. With SPARK continuing to grow and evolve, we're excited to see where this journey leads, watch this space!

# Improving Health and Wellbeing

At Spark, we understand the importance of providing programmes and resources to support mental health and well-being. Our offerings include workshops, peer support, and mindfulness practices, all designed to empower individuals in managing their mental health.



## Our programmes

Spark Oldham delivers programmes to suit the needs of the community. Many of the programmes are written and delivered by people who have previously attended the programmes themselves and have lived experience. Programmes are designed to fit under our 3 key themes- **Improving Health and Wellbeing, Investing in Children, Young People and Families** and **Inspiring Through Volunteering**.



# Feedback

## Women

*“The highlight of my day has to be seeing women in this group being able to turn to each other and openly say ‘You made me comfortable and confident in speaking out’. Taking something positive from someone’s vulnerability and sharing our experiences and feelings is just invaluable.”*



## Men

*“Being part of the walking group has helped me to get out of the house and pushed me to chat to new people. I really look forward to getting out and about each week.”*

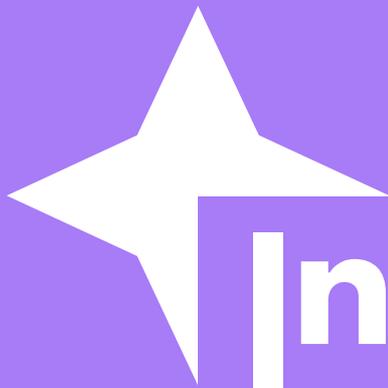


## Families

*“We have loved our sessions at Baby Boogies each week- it is the best hour of our week by far. My child has loved learning the new songs and rhymes and his speech has actually come on so much. He copies the songs at home to his older brother, which makes us all laugh. The staff are so welcoming and friendly.”*

**YOU MATTER**





# Investing In



## Young Leader's Story

### What is the Young Leader Programme?

The Young Leaders Programme aims to empower Young People aged 16 to 21, by providing them with the **tools, experiences** and **support** they need to navigate life's challenges successfully. Through a combination of life **skills training, hands-on work experience** and **mentorship**, we seek to set participants on a path towards a fulfilling and productive future.



All Young Leaders complete training to prepare them to work at SPARK Oldham, which includes:

- ◆ Safeguarding
- ◆ Professionalism & Boundaries
- ◆ GDPR & Confidentiality
- ◆ Policies & Procedures
- ◆ Challenges & Conflicts
- ◆ Team Building
- ◆ Supporting Challenging Young People

**ENHANCED LIFE SKILLS**

◆◆◆

Young Leaders will have a stronger foundation in essential life skills, better preparing them for adulthood

**INCREASED EMPLOYMENT**

◆◆◆

Through work experience and skill development, participants will have a competitive edge in the job market

**EMPOWERED YOUNG ADULTS**

◆◆◆

Participants will leave the programme with a clear vision of their goals, increased confidence and the tools necessary to achieve success in their chosen paths

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

◆◆◆

By encouraging community engagement, the programme will foster a generation of socially responsible young adults

# Young People



Igniting the **SPARK** in the next **GENERATION**

## Case Studies

### What advice would you give to anyone wanting to join the programme?

"I would definitely say do your best and just get out there. The more enthusiastic and involved you are, the better it's going to be for yourself and everyone around you. This job takes passion, and though you may not think you need it, it's integral to enjoying it, which is something you need to perform well. The role you'll take in Spark Oldham can only be filled by your boots, with your enthusiasm because there's nobody who does it like yourself- and that's what we need here at Spark Oldham. We want all people who are working here to have the same enthusiasm and passion, no matter our differences"

**Katie 17**

### Have you noticed any changes in yourself since working with Spark?

"Since I joined Spark Oldham I feel I've been more confident and empathetic. I get along well with all of the people I'm around and I know much better how to diffuse a situation. Not only this but I've become a much friendlier and nicer person to be around as my job elevates my mood, no matter what I'm doing"

**Daniel 16**

### What impact has the programme had?

"When I was in school, I struggled with my mental health and because of this, school made me go to counselling sessions. These sessions left me feeling worse than I did before I went in as I had to tell my story to all of my teachers.

I didn't start to feel better until I joined a youth club where they treated me like a human and not some case story that needed to be ticked off."

Going to youth club helped give me hope that there were still people out there that could help because they believed in me and they put me on to the Young Leader's Programme. The Young Leader's Programme helped me to create a better version of myself and gave me the confidence to inspire and help over 50 new Young Leader's that have now started on the programme"

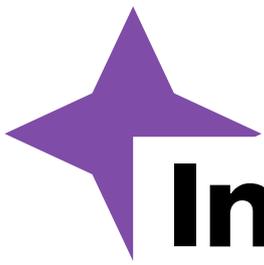
**Ellie age 19**

## Ways you can support the Young Leaders Programme...

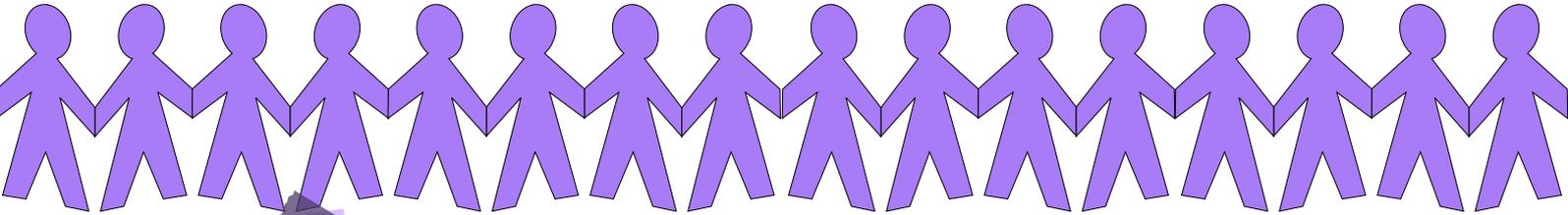
- ◆ Offer training opportunities for Young Leaders
- ◆ Offer work experience opportunities
- ◆ Support the Young Leaders Programme financially
- ◆ Become a mentor
- ◆ Support with uniform costs
- ◆ Share our socials - @sparkoldham
- ◆ Help us to share our programme to support more Young Leaders

### More info on the Young Leader Programme





# Investing in Families



Amazing, staff are lovely & friendly.  
Children all feel included  
" Best hour of the week!

The next generation is **our future**. We're committed to fostering **positive youth development** through engaging activities and mentorship programmes. We support families with a range of activities to **encourage core family relationships**, whilst supporting them to be the best version of themselves.



## Parent/Carer Support

We understand that parents and carers can be apprehensive about accessing support from some professional agencies, so we try and plug this gap by using our person-centred approach to meet people where they're at. Working in communities, we hold parent drop ins, provide crisis support and also act as advocates for parents facing challenges with accessing the right support for their child/ren. Through the expertise of our staff and volunteers, we provide peer support and create social networks for families to gain adequate emotional support.

## HAF (Holidays, Activities & Food)

We deliver HAF sessions in the school holidays in a number of different areas. Enriching activities are carefully planned to stimulate the mind, body, and spirit, fostering growth and development. We want to provide activities that encourage cultural capital and real-life experiences that the children may not have experienced before. Activities for young children encourage exploration, play and basic skill development. For older children activities target intellectual curiosity, social connection and creative expression. We tailor activities to individual interests to keep children engaged. Previous successes have been a falconry experience, a gaming tent, karaoke and a variety of trips.

## Baby Boogies

Baby Boogies is a programme of work based on songs, rhymes and actions. Singing and rhyming activities are likely to help children develop phonological awareness, which will support their introduction to Nursery. We understand that immersing children in language empowers them to express themselves, share their ideas and advocate for themselves. Language is essential for brain development and critical thinking ability.

## School Readiness

At Spark Oldham, we're passionate about supporting families and schools in our local community to ensure that children are socially, emotionally and developmentally ready to start their school life as they enter in The Early Years Foundation Stage. We have developed a Story Sacks programme which provides families with everything they need to share a multi-sensory reading and language experience with their child/ren. We work with families over a six-week period to help them develop their own confidence with story-telling either through spoken language, small world play, sensory experiences or actions.



# Feedback

from HAF, Baby Boogies and Mucky Monkeys



## Baby Boogies



*"The staff are so friendly and smiley when we come to sessions, they really make me feel like I belong there. My son loves all of the songs and really likes to hand out the props for the songs. We always finish with a story and a sack, which he loves! I have made some good friends with other Mums here and we really look forward to coming each week"*

## HAF (Holidays, Activities & Food)



*"I love that my child has somewhere to go where she can see her friends and can take part in so many activities. She loves the crafts and the jewellery making and she often brings things home that she has made. For me, it is a big help in the holidays because going out is so expensive and I know that she will be doing things she loves and having something filling for lunch"*

## Mucky Monkeys

*"This group is much more than just messy play for my child- it is a chance for me to get out of the house, have a brew and chat with other women. The staff are amazing with the children, they take so much time to get to know them. My son will be so sad when he goes to school full time because he looks forward to it every week.*

**See the positive impact of  
the HAF provisions**





# Inspiring Through Volunteering



## Why is volunteering important?

At Spark, we understand the importance of providing programmes and resources to support mental health and well-being. Our offerings include workshops, peer support, and mindfulness practices, all designed to empower individuals in managing their mental health.



## Volunteering Stories

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*“I attended a women’s group after being referred by my local GP surgery and found that it made a massive difference to my wellbeing. When the group finished, I wanted to carry on doing something and the group lead suggested that I do some training to be a buddy. I did some training with Spark and now I support other women who are going through the programme. I can’t believe how much my confidence and self esteem have increased. I used to find it hard to walk in to the building on my own and now, I stand at the front and deliver sessions”*



”



“

*My son is at school and I need to stay in the local area so I am on standby if school need to contact me. I have started to volunteer at Spark and have had training on things like safeguarding. I have started to attend some of the sessions like Baby Boogies so that I can watch the staff deliver and learn how to do it. I love working with children so this is something I’m really keen on. I told Spark this when I met with them before I started so they really listened and gave me chance to support sessions that interested me.*

“

*At the moment, I’m not in a position to work full time but after attending some sessions that Spark were delivering at my daughters school, I have started to volunteer. I love that I can do something for me but that it still benefits other people too. I have helped at an event that Spark did in Royton and I was able to help prepare the resources needed for the workshops with the other volunteers and over 75 people attended on the day.*

”





# # BE OUR SPARK

## How to Support

### Community Lottery

Set up to support community projects in the local area, Oldham Community Lottery operates on the principle of raising money **within the community for the community.**

Oldham Community Lottery enables people to **support** the causes they care most about, helping good causes to connect with their supporters.

A ticket for **Oldham Community Lottery costs £1** a week and **60p goes directly to Spark Oldham**- This allows us to continue to deliver our much-needed programmes of work.



## Want to make a donation, but unsure of the amount?

### Can you support us in these ways:

- ◆ **Become a mentor**
- ◆ **Support with training opportunities**
- ◆ **Share/add our socials - @sparkoldham**
- ◆ **Support with donations for our school holiday programmes- food, trips or by funding spaces for children @ £25 per session.**

### Here are ways you can support!

First Aid Training <b>£22</b>	Wellbeing Pack <b>£8</b>	DBS <b>£30</b>
Uniform <b>£10</b>	Young Person's Hot Lunch <b>£5</b>	Children's Underwear <b>£6</b>

Account Name: Sparkoldham

Account No: 74417343

Sort Code: 05-02-00

Follow us on socials

@sparkoldham



**THANK  
YOU!**

**MASSIVE**

**THANK YOU**

*to everyone who supports what  
we do at Spark Oldham.*



**A BIG THANKS TO OUR  
AMAZING TEAM!**