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Issued by The Stoller Charitable Trust**



### **The Stoller Charitable Trust appalled with Council's short-sighted decision**

The tragedy of loss of life, commercial damage and personal hardship caused by COVID-19 will continue to be felt long after the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic have been lifted. High on the list of casualties will be the damage to our young people, whose education, career prospects and well-being have been severely challenged. Minimising these negative effects must surely be given the highest priority.

Mahdlo Youth Zone has a right to be proud of the very high standard that it achieves in all of the elements of youth services it provides throughout the Borough. Its effectiveness can be judged in many ways and especially by the reduction of anti-social behavior orders that are issued. The Council has announced that due to its own pressures, it has sliced its support to Mahdlo by £200K, by way of a £100K reduction for each of the next two years. We find this decision to be not only completely reprehensible in view of the resultant damage that any reduction of support would cause, but also totally short-sighted as well.

Mahdlo is a vital platform for Oldham's population sectors that are helping to break down barriers, reach isolated young people and foster cohesion within our town, and the positive results are excellent. Working within the core of Oldham's communities, Mahdlo provides essential support to help the next generation grow and reach its potential. Mahdlo also gives the Borough's young people the chance to participate in positive, exciting and constructive activities. Having this opportunity has inspired and motivated many to transform their lives, and they deserve the best start in life that Mahdlo can give them.

For the past 10 years, since Mahdlo first opened its doors, Oldham's Council, Industry, Societies and people have recognized and supported Mahdlo. As one of the founding sponsors, The Stoller Charitable Trust has been proud to play a leading part in ensuring that Mahdlo could afford to carry out its essential work, but we are appalled by the threat to further progress that now exists by way of the Council's decision.

Sir Norman Stoller CBE KStJ DL