

CITY TAKEN OVER FOR OUR SUMMER ESCAPE!

On 23rd August 2025, Lancaster came alive with creativity as young people took over the city to showcase the skills they had nurtured through our Summer Escape Programme.

We delivered an entire summer holiday season of free creative workshops for 11–18-year-olds, giving them safe spaces to meet offline, try something new, and, most importantly, have fun!

Over the school holidays, **110** young people got the chance to dive into a diverse selection of activities including drama, photography, street band, LGBT quilt making, portrait painting, outdoor woodwork, black history tours, art workshops, wild cooking and green group skills. Daily drop-ins also provided a relaxed environment to experiment with mini artworks, creative writing, karaoke, T-shirt design, air-dry clay crafting and they even got to write their own TV shows!

We successfully raised over £22,000 for the Summer Escape. We are grateful for every contribution that made this possible, which included:

Generous support from

- LANPAC
- Lancaster BID
- The Penhale Fund
- Areti Charitable Trust
- Wilson Trust
- Police Commissioners
 Holiday Club
- Pots of Possibility

Fabric donations from

- Standfast & Barracks
- Rose Anderson





Charitable Trust







ARETI CHARITABLE TRUST



PARTICIPATION

110

11-18-year-olds signed up for workshop programmes

7 %

Attended one session or more that they signed up to

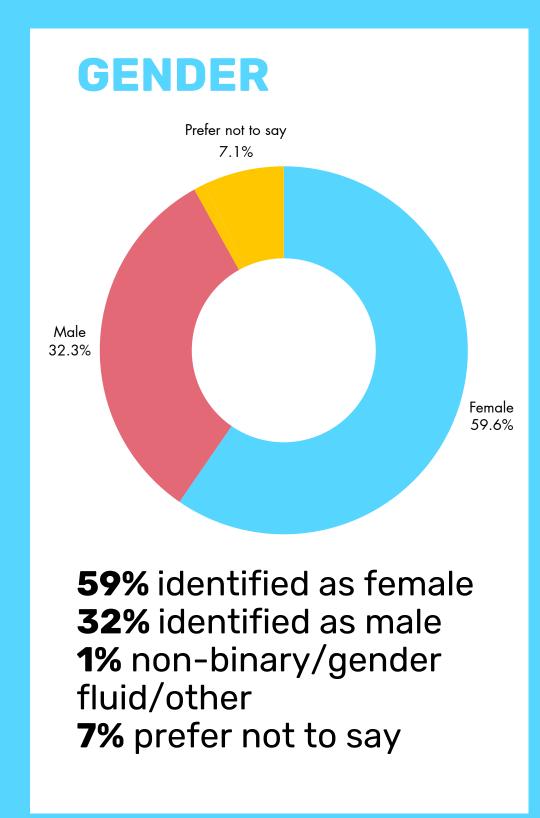
164

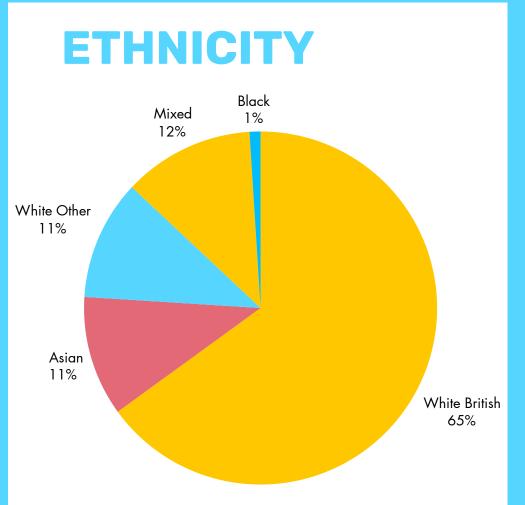
Total young people engaged in the project, including drop-in sessions

Based on 85 young people who attended our programmes that had multiple sessions

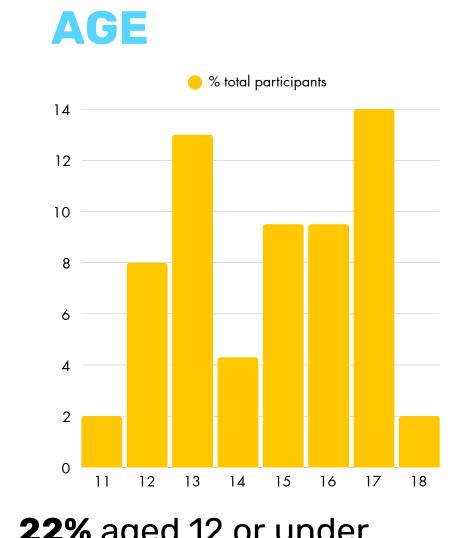


WHO ARE OUR PARTICIPANTS?









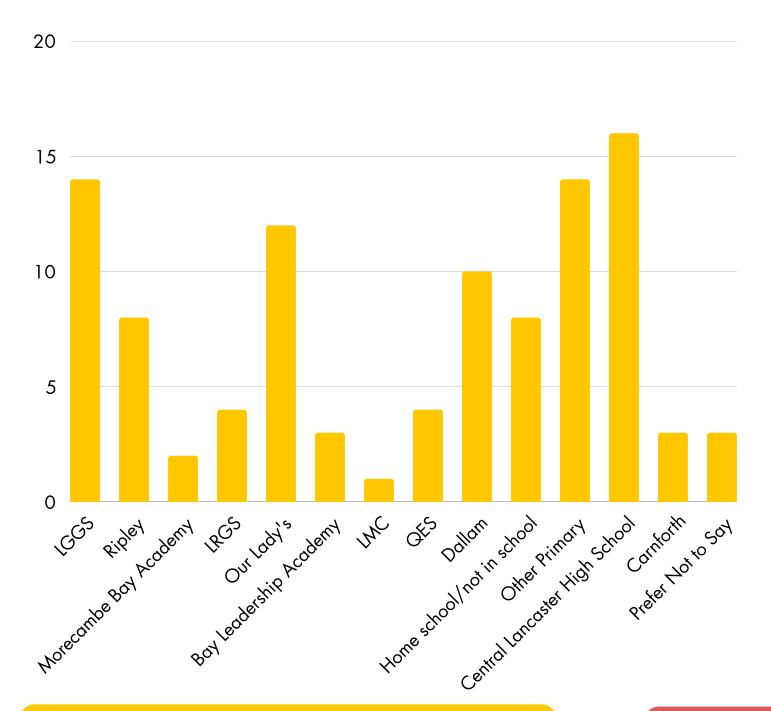
22% aged 12 or under62% aged 13-1516% aged 16 or over

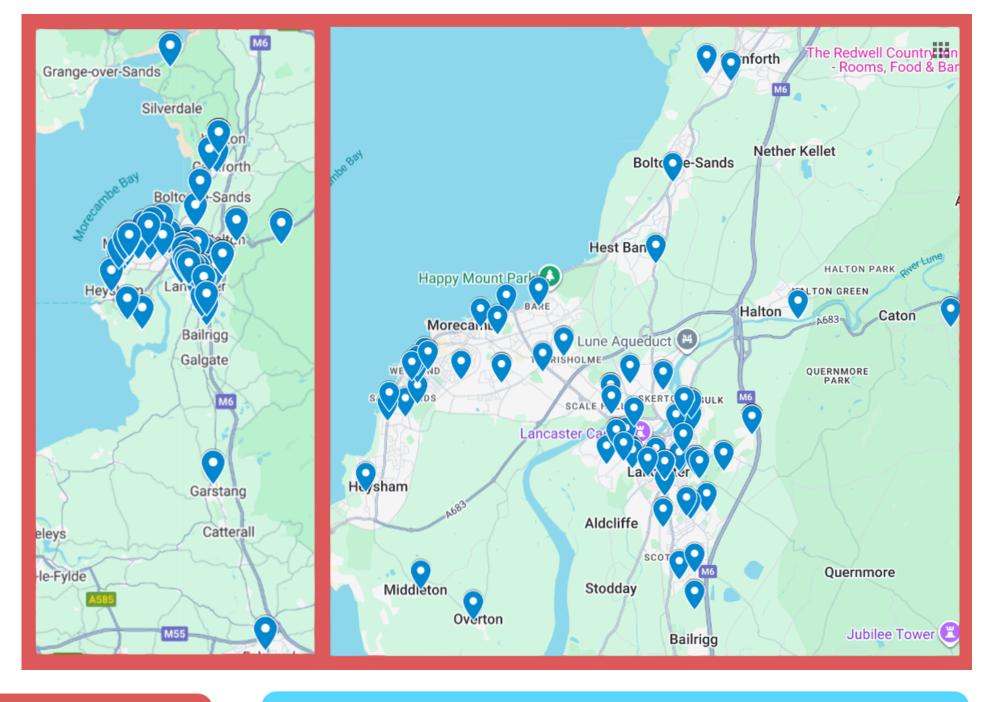
Statistics above based on young people registered for activities (n=110).

Ethnicity note: Lancaster District is 93.1% White British, far above national average (2021 Census)



PARTICIPANTS' SCHOOLS AND LOCATIONS





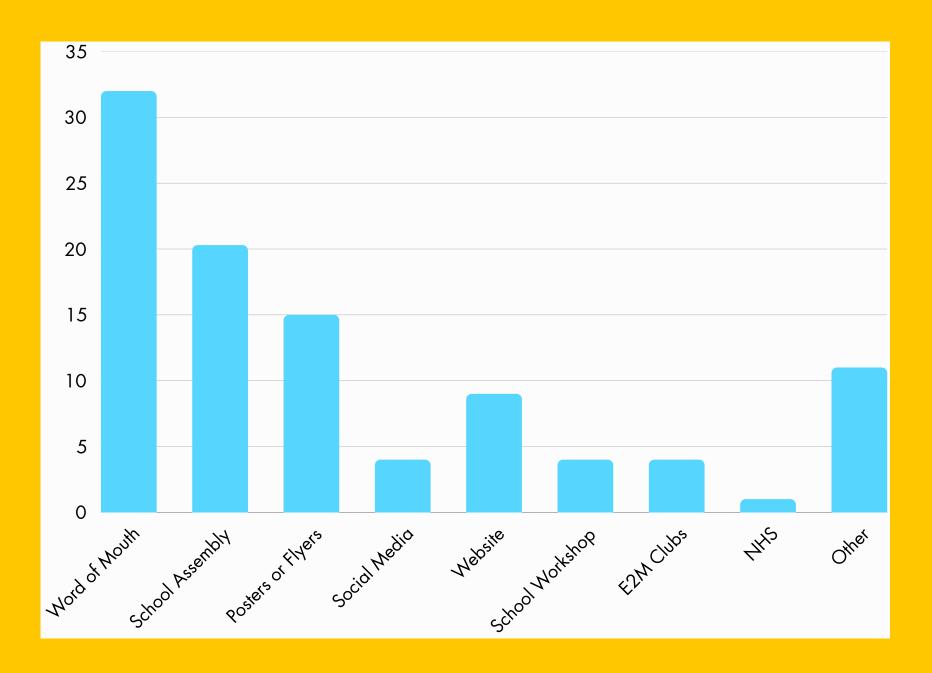
Young people came from 14 different educational settings (8% not in school or home schooled)

20% of participants live in one of the 10% most deprived wards in the country.

12% of participants faced inequalities inc. ADHD, Autism, minor learning disability, AHD, Social Anxiety.



HOW DID THEY HEAR ABOUT ESCAPE2MAKE?



Most participants found out about us through word of mouth or a school assembly, while physical and digital marketing also helped us reach a large number of participants.

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IMPACT

We asked participants what words they would associate with their E2M experience





Of the young people surveyed 63% of them said if they had not engaged with the Summer Escape they would have otherwise been at home "being bored" "doing nothing" "sleeping" "gaming"

From 52 post-project survey responses

98% Enjoyed their activity

93% Learnt something

new

96%

Would attend E2M in the future

88%

Made new friends at the workshop



ACTIVITIES



Drama



Street Band



Photography



Art Workshops



Wild Cooking



LGBTQ+ Quilt-Making



Portrait Painting



Outdoor Woodwork



Black History
Tours



Green Group



THE E2M TEAM STEPPED UP AND DELIVERED FREE DROP-INS ALL SUMMER LONG!



A shortfall in funding did not deter us. The team stepped up and ensured we delivered a full schedule of creative drop-in activities from our Centre EVERY WEEKDAY OF THE SUMMER.

We are so proud of the core staff team at E2M who utilised their artistic talents beautifully to create open-access youth provision during the holidays.

From matchbox art, to t-shirt design, air dry clay to writing your own TV Show, much fun was had by the **154** who came along!



WHERE THE WORKSHOPS TOOK PLACE



Fork 2 Fork

(Lancaster)



Out in the Bay

(Morecambe)



More Music

(Morecambe)



West End Playhouse

(Morecambe)



E2M Centre

(Lancaster)

Since opening our Lancaster City-centre based home in February 2025, we have made an active effort to fill the centre with activities. This helps create a space recognised by young people as safe, welcoming and inclusive - where creativity flourishes and during the Summer they can engage with free activity



WHO WORKED WITH US?



9 Facilitators - leading 5 x 5-session, 1 x 4-session and 3 x 2-day programmes



£12,985 invested into local freelance creative workforce



1 Freelance Event Producer



16 Volunteers, offering248 hours of support for the workshops and event



5 paid WorkshopAssistants, supportingyoung people in sessions



10 event professionals& performers



FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

100%

Enjoyed their experience with 100% of facilitators and 93% assistants and volunteers stating "yes a lot"

100%

Said they felt the project had a positive impact on young people taking part with 82% of facilitators and 87% of assistants and volunteers stating "yes a lot"

100%

Said they had good communication with E2M throughout the process with 91% of facilitators, and 80% of assistants and volunteers stating "yes definitely"

Survey responses from 11 facilitators and 15 workshop assistants/volunteers





QUOTES FROM FACILITATORS, ASSISTANTS & VOLUNTEERS

"I am so proud of the quilt we made and the connections between the young people, myself and them, and the new knowledge they gained! I think textile work is such a helpful life-skill, something as simple as knowing how to sew your own buttons on a piece of clothing if they fall off is really helpful." **Facilitator**

"The young people were engaged and we had fun through creativity" **Facilitator**

"Really fun and joyful! A community of young people listening to each other's voice. Really amazing!" **Volunteer**

"Very caring charity, everyone kind. Young people wonderful to work with" **Workshop Assistant**

WE ASKED FACILITATORS, ASSISTANTS AND VOLUNTEERS TO TELL US **MAGIC MOMENTS** FROM THEIR SESSIONS, HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITES:

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One of the most memorable moments at the event wasn't on the official programme at all, a young boy, simply passing by on his bike, jumped off and joined in by rapping with one of our guest acts. It was a powerful reminder of the inclusive, welcoming culture that E2M works so hard to nurture.

Throughout the day different young people of E2M came over to see me and hang out with me to make sure I wasn't lonely. I am always balled over by the kindness and thoughtfulness of the young people at E2M. I even had a visit from someone who hasn't attended for a while who wants to come back to Press Club and just wanted to be back in the E2M bubble for a moment. E2M is something truly special for a lot

Two attendees struggled to speak English but the other attendees showed great support to both

Two of the young people were brand new to the project and had never done any E2M projects before. One of them is currently awaiting a diagnosis and was very shy on the first day, it was nice to see her come out of her shell, being one of the shyest to bringing her dogs on the final day to show her new friends.

The moment when one of the young people told me that she had gone home and started making a quilt of her own was pretty magical! Earlier in the workshops we had a brilliant moment together where she was learning how to properly thread and work a sewing machine and remarked "I've really learnt something today!".

THE EVENT

The E2M Summer Escape took place across two venues in Lancaster on Saturday 23rd August 2025.

Roaming performers and the E2M street band created a vibrant link between our centre on Church Street and Dalton Square.

An estimated 4.5k members of the public engaged with the event across both sites. 260 people engaged in workshops within the centre.







RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIVITIES

Schedule activities at The Marsh, The Ridge, West End Impact and Stanleys. Broaden our reach into the community, where there's priority of need

WEBSITE

Can we streamline safely what information we ask for at signup stage? Shift over to drop down menus.

MARKETING

Half the amount of printed materials. Use a QR code to "scan for dates and times" to accommodate unprecedented change of plans

RECRUITMENT

Strategic approach to promotion at school assemblies so we do not fatigue this route? We struggled to arrange as many as we ordinarily would. Rotate this per event.

FUNDING

E2M was unsuccessful in its main funding application for Summer activities which meant scaling down the project significantly and saving costs where possible. More thorough "safety nets" to be explored with future projects.

BUDGET

Certain unexpected costs (including hiring a Freelance Event Producer) were not originally budgeted for, which created challenges ensuring the project kept to its budget"

READ MORE ABOUT OUR PROJECTS <u>HERE</u>

