



# E2M REFLECTIONS 2025

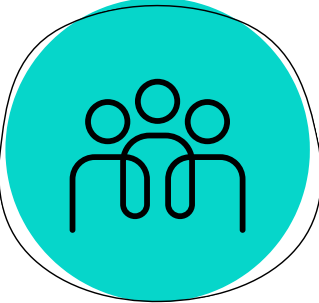
**A look back at E2M's milestones in 2025**

- **Who have we reached?**
- **What have we achieved?**
- **What happens next?**





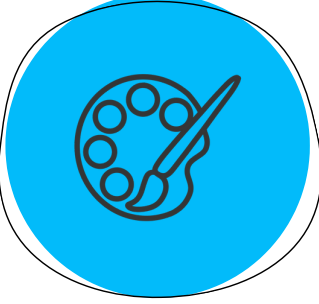
# E2M's 2025



Who have E2M reached?



The Centre



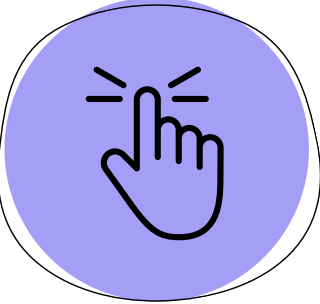
Our Clubs



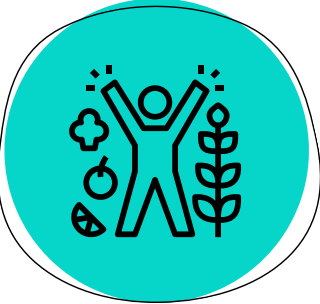
Our Projects



Our Alternative Provision



Connect



Welcoming 2026





# Who we reached in 2025?



**243**  
unique young  
people  
participated

**458**  
registrations  
from young  
people

**48%**  
of participants are  
facing inequalities

**100%**  
of young people surveyed  
enjoyed their involvement

Participants report feeling **23%** better during E2M  
sessions compared to every day life

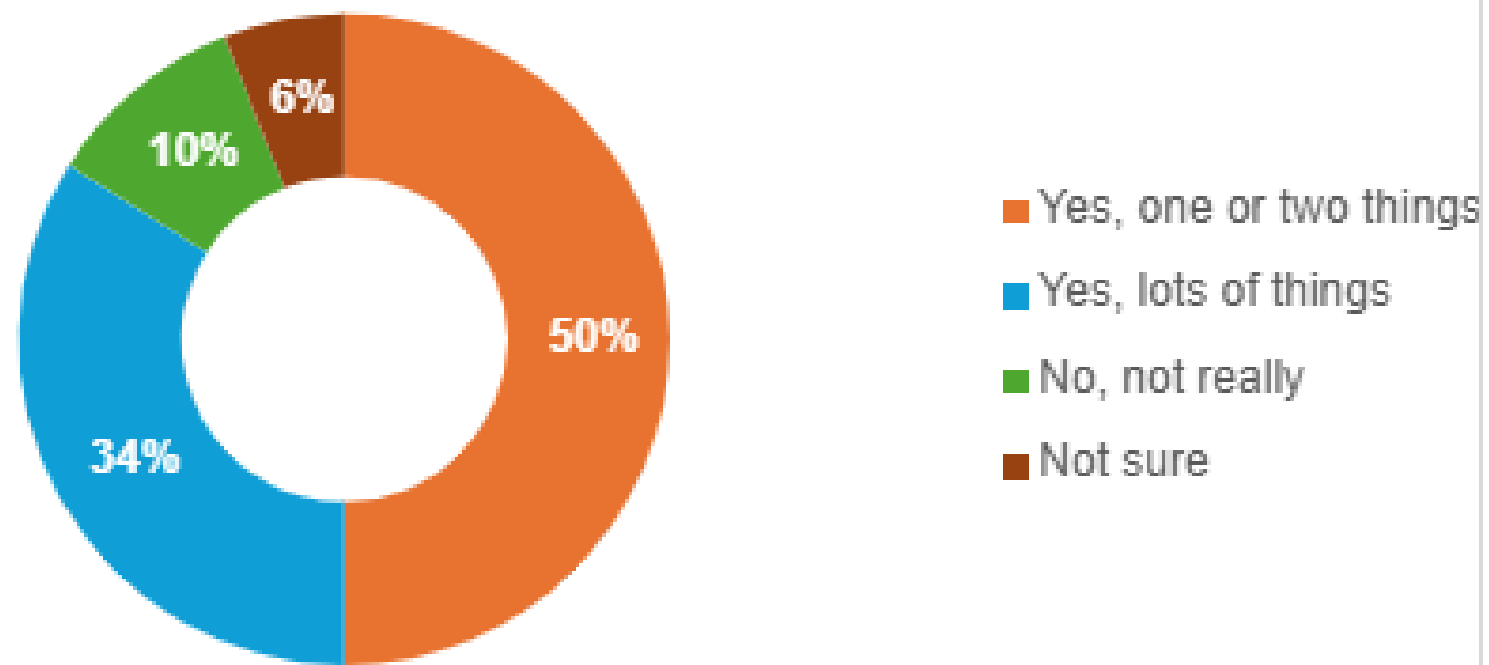
**52%** Female  
**37%** Male  
**4%** Non-Binary/Gender Fluid  
**7%** Prefer Not to Say

**20%** Aged 12 or Under  
**55%** Aged 13-15  
**25%** Aged 16 or Over

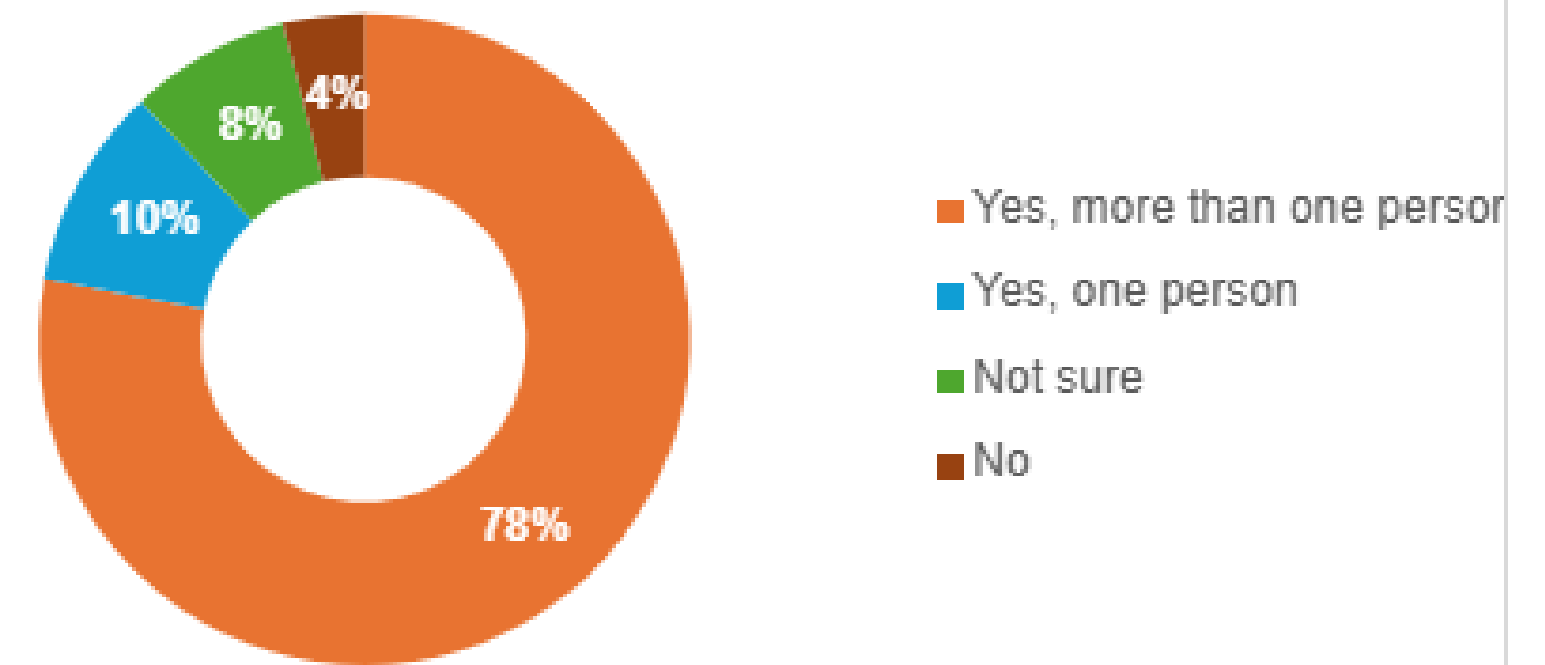
**17%**  
of participants are either home-schooled or not  
in full-time education; more than any 1  
educational institution



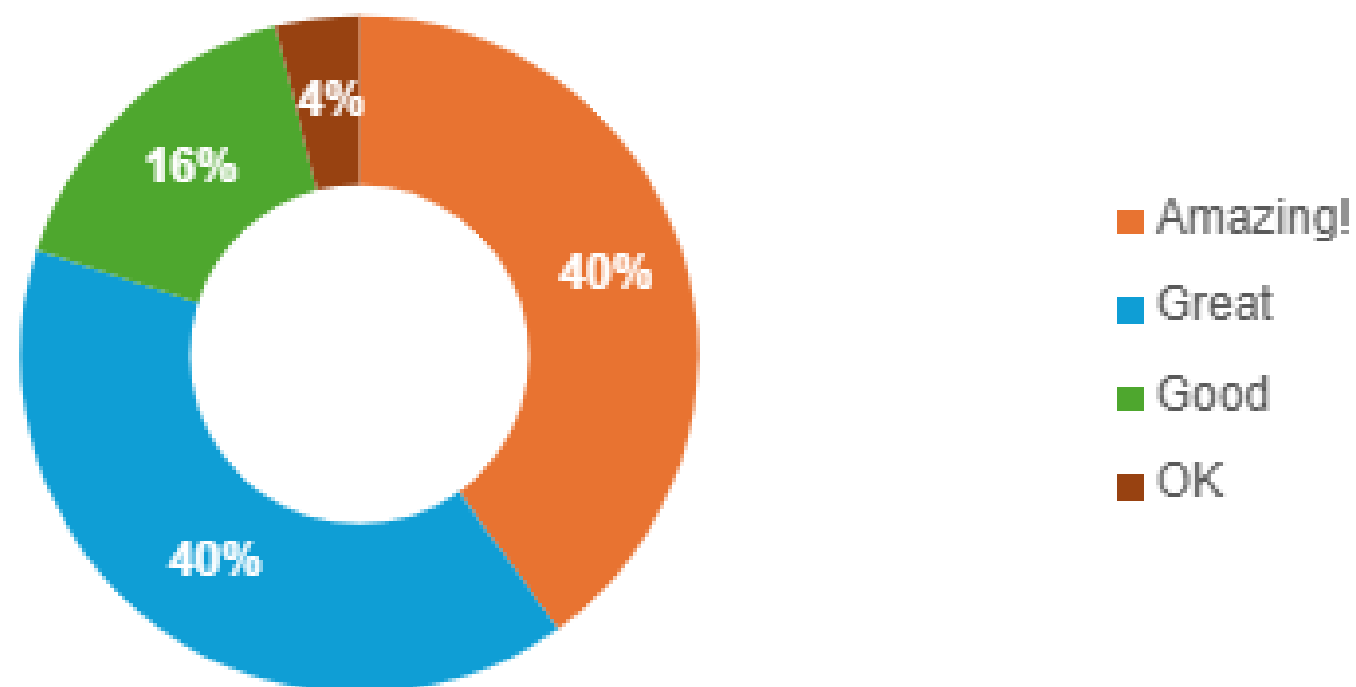
### DID YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW FROM THIS ACTIVITY?



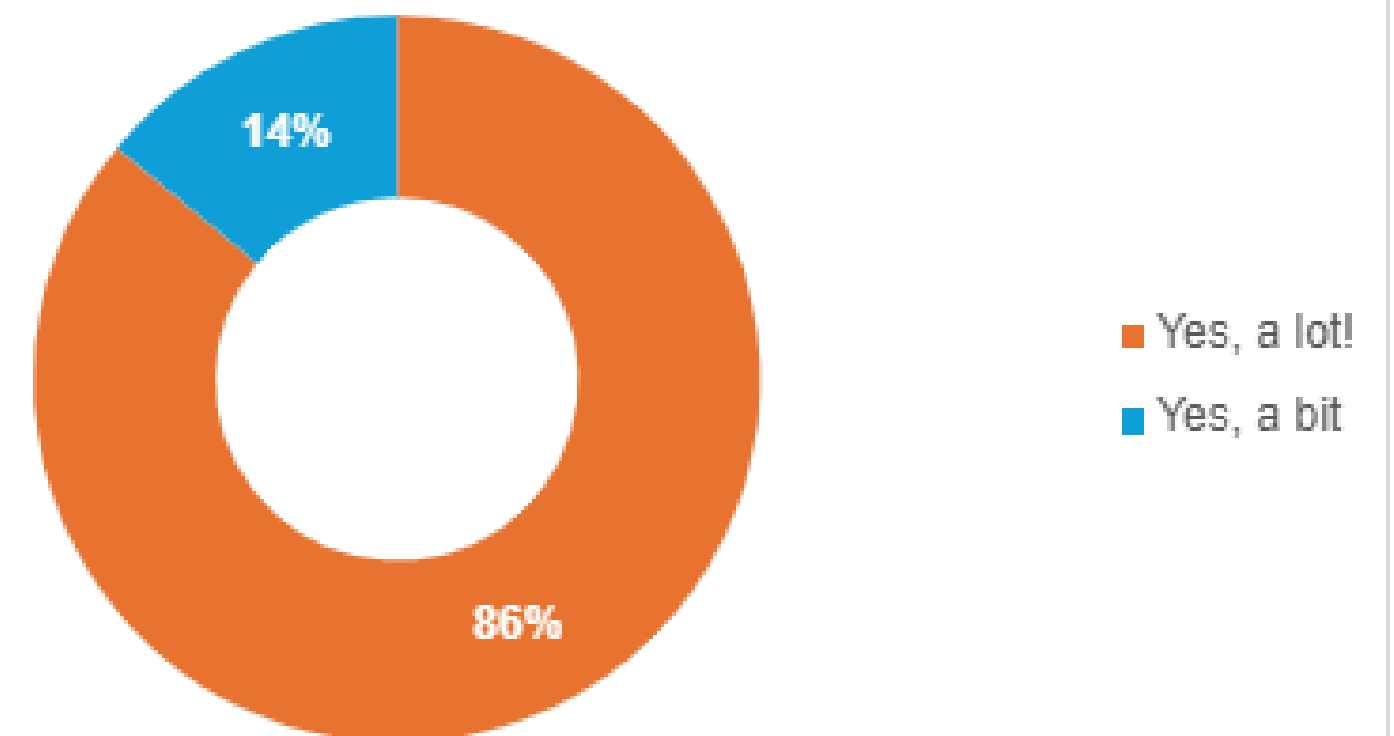
### DID YOU GET ON WITH ANYONE YOU MET DURING THIS ACTIVITY?



### HOW DOES TAKING PART IN THIS ACTIVITY MAKE YOU FEEL?



### DO YOU ENJOY THIS ACTIVITY?





# The Centre

**Allowed for Escape Sessions and half-term drop-ins**

**Co-designed by young people to meet their needs**

**Communal art resources mean project/club art materials are cheaper**

**An inclusive, safe, welcoming and accessible space**

**Collaborative short term projects with Lancaster University, Friends of the Lancaster City Museum, Full of Noises, Jwllrs and more!**

**Available for venue hire to like-minded organisations: already used by Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Visible presence on the high street attracts attention**

**Allows visits from care workers, mental health practitioners and vulnerable young people to chat to team members**



**"It's Like walking into a hug,** so many friendly faces to put a smile on your face, so welcoming, I felt right at home as soon as I walked in"

*Workshop Participant*



# Escape Sessions & Drop-Ins

## Escape Sessions

Youth-led weekly sessions that are excellent gateways to engaging with E2M. These are held every Wednesday night by our brilliant Centre Manager, Kriss Foster.

These sessions are popular enough that starting in 2026 we will hold a second weekly session on a Saturday afternoon, run by our Producer, Holly.

Escape Sessions over Spring 2025 contributed to an incredible exhibition opening, Fragments, which saw E2M open its doors to local artists and residents to enjoy an entirely youth-led art exhibition



## Drop-In Sessions

During school breaks, the E2M team have hosted daytime drop-in sessions as part of their roles.

This allows for low-cost, open access youth provision for all, every weekday that schools are not open, to help provide a safe space for young people to avoid boredom, loneliness and mental health struggles





# Short-Term Projects in the Centre

## Dungeons & Dragons

E2M received sponsorship directly from Wizards of the Coast, based in the USA, to support an officially endorsed D&D club, which has been one of the most popular sessions E2M has ever held



## Wavelength

In a project co-designed by Lancaster University and Morecambe Bay Curriculum Used drawing, sound recording, making, and imaginative discussion to dream up some weird and wonderful communication devices. Exchanged magical machines with young people on the other side of Morecambe Bay, in Barrow in Furness, collaborating with arts organisation, Full of Noises.



## Finding Your Voice

In this collaboration with Jwllrs and Lancaster University, we introduced young people to the histories of contemporary art practices and explored using your voice to create artworks. This culminated in coming together as a community through a shared public display of artworks, across painting, printing, performance and poetry.





# WHAT PEOPLE HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE SPACE

*"It's a beautiful, playful space and a real celebration of creativity. I love that every time I come in, there's something new and awesome that has been made."*

**Workshop Facilitator**



*"It is a place to be free and it helps me to feel seen and have fun ."*

**Participant**

*"It's my happy place."*

**Participant**



*"I like the creative resources I have access to."*

**Participant**

*"A space to relax which is not home ."*

**Participant**

*"The space is practical, accessible, and inviting. It gives the sense of belonging (for staff and participants), promoting self-agency in young people."*

**Workshop Assistant**



# Our Clubs





# E2M CLUBS

## CRAFT CLUB

FACILITATED BY ROSIE TACON-GLASS

**29**

young people registered

**76%**

live in one of the most deprived wards in the country

***"It's slay!"***

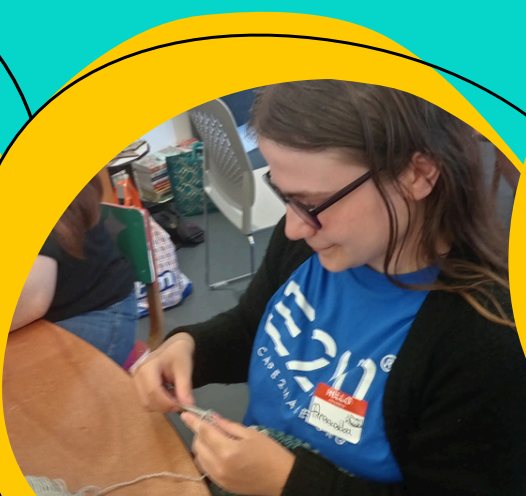
Workshop Participant

Highlights:

- Contributed to Morecambe Maritime Festival
- Welcomed brilliant new facilitator, Rosie
- Learned how to use sewing machines

Looking Forward:

- Collaboration with Lancaster Sewing Cafe on sustainable fashion show



## FILM CLUB

FACILITATED BY ETHAN WARD

**51**

young people registered

**52%**

are facing inequalities based on ethnicity, disability or where they live

***"...soaking up knowledge and absorbing happiness"***

Workshop Participant

Highlights:

- Suicide Prevention film made with Lancaster District CVS
- Explored young peoples' challenges collaboratively with Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission & Stanley's Community Centre

Looking Forward:

- Murder Mystery at Lancaster City Museum to show at LA1 Shorts





# E2M CLUBS

## PRESS CLUB

FACILITATED BY MOLLIE RAY

41

young people registered

14%

home-schooled or not in full-time education

Highlights:

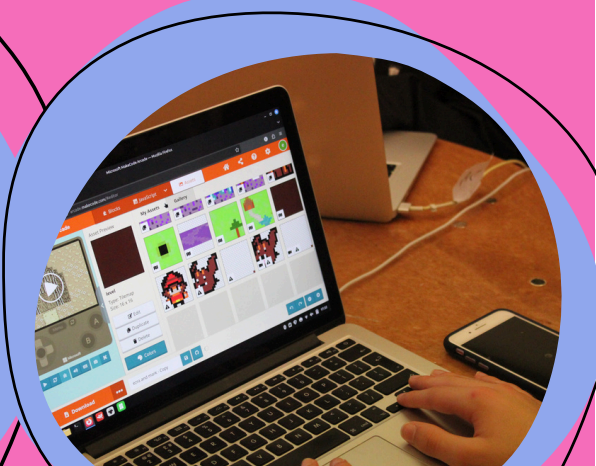
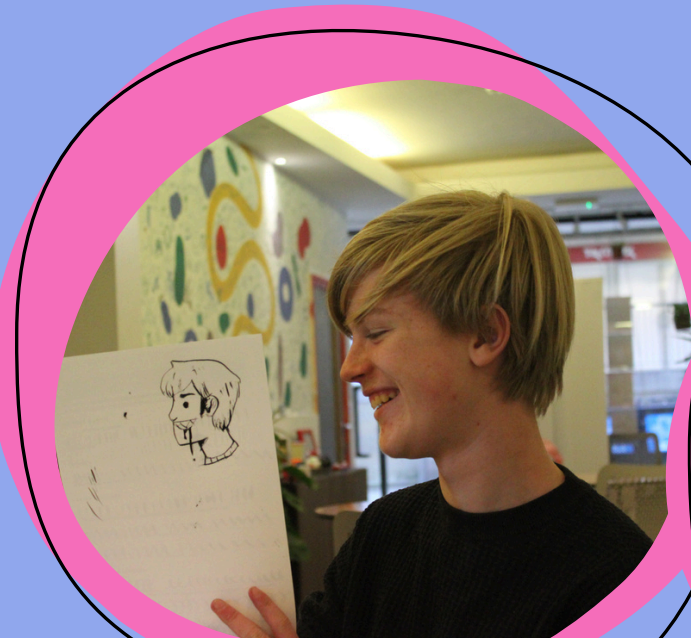
- Collaborated with Litfest on project about using language in art
- Explored Lancashire folklore by making a local folklore zine

Looking Forward:

- Focused sessions on careers in book illustration in 2026

*"It helps rejuvenate your wellbeing"*

Workshop Participant



## MAKERS CLUB

FACILITATED BY BIL BAS

26

young people registered

31%

home-schooled or not in full-time education

Highlights:

- Made a functioning Arcade machine that was usable at Light Up Lancaster Explore Week
- Has been full with a Waiting List since its start

Looking Forward:

- Trips planned to professional innovative Making Studio

*"E2M is a great place to learn and meet people"*

Workshop Participant



# E2M CLUBS

## BICYCLE CLUB

FACILITATED BY YIM LO & DEBORAH SIMMONS

6

young people registered

60%

aged 16 or over

### To Note:

- This club ended in May 2025 as the facilitators retired
- Left a positive impact on the young people involved
- Based in Morecambe



## DRAMA CLUB

FACILITATED BY CIARA MORIARTY

13

young people registered

62%

live in one of the most deprived wards in the country

*"It's much better than I expected"*

Workshop Participant

### Highlights:

- Started in October 2025
- A collaboration in partnership with The Dukes Theatre, The Performance Studios and the West End Playhouse
- Based in Morecambe

### Looking Forward:

- First Showcase Night at The Dukes in May 2026



# WHAT PARENTS & FAMILY HAD TO SAY

*"When they come out of a session they feel confident, and express how they feel about it. This is early days for them after changing to home schooling but I have seen a more improved confident relaxed granddaughter. From January this year I felt I had 'lost' them, the anxiety over school shut them down and it was a scary time.... my granddaughter is no longer 'lost' or shut down and that's a lovely thing to see again."*

**Grandparent of Participant**



*"My son, doesn't enjoy school and struggles with low mood, so finding activities he can enjoy has been so helpful. I have really noticed he can take pride in learning a skill and feels better about himself by mastering something when he might not feel he was good at anything. The DND club has given him something to look forward to when facing a hard week at school. It really is an anchor that his week builds up to and he gets so much enjoyment from it. The chance to be in a space with like-minded young people is also really helping him feel better about himself. I have noticed he spends more of his time off screens in his own time since he has more outside interests that E2M has sparked off!"*

**Parent of Participant**



# Volunteering with Escape2Make

In 2025 it was announced that Escape2Make will receive the **King's Award for Voluntary Service**, equivalent to an MBE.

## 1,830 Hours Volunteered in 2025

**693** Volunteered Hours during our regular provision

**239** Volunteered Hours during our E2M Fair

**248** Volunteered Hours during our Summer Escape

**510** Volunteered Hours from Trustees and Advisor support

**140** Volunteered Hours giving E2M additional support outside of sessions





# WHAT OUR FREELANCERS HAD TO SAY

*"Congratulations for being a wonderful organisation doing extremely valuable work giving young people in the area a stronger voice, enabling pride and confidence for a brighter future."*

**Workshop Facilitator**

*"My favourite thing is seeing young people grow in confidence, not only creatively but socially. We see this all the time in Press Club and it's a privilege to witness/be a part of."*

**Workshop Facilitator**



*"The fact that they are coming back regularly means that they feel safe, included and relaxed to spend the whole session with us each week."*

**Workshop Assistant for Escape Sessions / Drop-Ins**

*"I love teaching young people skills that they wouldn't learn at school but are useful in life, and I love spending time with them."*

**Workshop Volunteer**

*"Working for E2M is always fun, chilled and a lovely atmosphere. Everyone is very kind and supportive, an ethos that spreads to the young people too."*

**Workshop Facilitator**



# Our Projects

## **E2M Fair - February 2025**

A celebration of the opening of the E2M Centre. A week of workshops leading to taking over Lancaster for a day with drop-in workshops at Lancaster City Museum, Lancaster Castle, The Dukes Theatre, St Nics Arcade and more!

**115 Young People  
Participated**

**970 Members of the  
Public Actively Engaged**



## **Summer Escape - August 2025**

A whole Summer packed with incredible creative workshops designed to escape loneliness and poor mental health, leading to a Summer-celebration in Dalton Square and the E2M Centre, showcasing incredible works of art!

**100 Young People  
Participated**

**4,500 Members of the  
Public Engaged**





# Our Alternative Provision

E2M & Lancashire Youth Challenge have co-developed a bridging programme to support young people who are facing Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). This involves a 5-week program of creative and active movement workshops that are intended to build self-confidence and encourage participants to engage with learning.

More than 20% secondary school pupils are reported to be **"persistently absent" from school** (Gov. statistics, 2025)



This work is done in conjunction with local secondary schools to work together to remove barriers to accessing education.

*"Makes me want to come to school more and make more friends."*

*Could we have a thing like this in school?"*

(EBSA Participant, Spring 2025)





# EBSA - WAVE 1

## SPRING 2025

### The Aim

To empower young people to have the resilience and practical tools to understand and better manage their emotional health and well being



### RESULTS FROM FIRST WAVE

**23**  
young people engaged  
across 3 schools

**81%**  
average attendance in our EBSA  
sessions

**9**

participants saw an immediate  
increase in school attendance

*"For most of our pupils, we did not know the specific challenges they face. It was very helpful to get them in an environment where they felt comfortable beginning to share."*

**School Staff Member**

### The Output

Re engage students on a weekly basis who find it difficult to engage in a school environment



### The Outcome

Students feel better equipped to return to school with a renewed enthusiasm

Schools to be provided with individualised learning packs containing ways to suit the needs of the participants' learning styles and remove barriers to attendance





# Connect

Beginning in 2025, E2M has begun sending its magic out to other communities to do remote workshops that help us reach young people who may not otherwise take part in our core offer

In 2025, we have held Connect workshops with:

**Wave Forward / Brewery Arts  
Centre, Kendal**

**Lancashire County Council Refugee  
Resettlement Team**

**The Gregson Centre (Bonfire Night  
Parade)**

**Light Up Lancaster Explore Week**

**More Music Three Degrees Festival**

**LDCVS Reach Festival**

E2M's gross income for Connect workshops in 2025 has  
been **£2,700**





# Connect

**Over 300  
young people  
and families  
reached with  
Connect  
activity**

**Forged  
connections in  
Preston &  
Kendal for the  
first time ever**

**Allowed E2M  
to work with  
communities  
who we  
wouldn't  
otherwise  
reach**



**Our Connect workshops  
have included:**

- Pottery
- Badge-Making
- T-Shirt Design
- Tattoo Design
- Christmas Decoration Making
- Stop Motion Animation
- Collage
- UV Painting
- Instrument Making





# In 2026...



Ensure activity is held every half-term break and have the Centre feel “full”



Diversify activities by adding more clubs, including Pottery Club



Hold successful projects led by our new Producer: Cabaret & Heritage Festival



Continue to work with young people who are not in education - expand out alternative provision offer



Use Connect to reach young people outside of Lancaster & Morecambe



# WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS HAD TO SAY AT OUR REFLECTIONS EVENT

*"I think E2M is a really vital space for young people to come and socialise, learn new skills, enjoy a break from the outside world and find their confidence."*

**Reflections Attendee**

*"Young people need positive opportunities to make the most of their talents. This is one great place to do it."*

**Reflections Attendee**

*"This is SO important - young people need a space to connect, be creative and immerse themselves in something enjoyable. Vital for mental health and community building."*

**Reflections Attendee**

*"In a world that's increasingly focused on screens this brings people together face to face."*

**Reflections Attendee**





# OUR WORK WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR FUNDERS IN 2025



**Vera Wolstencroft**  
**Rebecca Scott**  
**Systems Forecasting**  
**Joseph A Jones**  
**Scalability**  
**Robert Webb**

# THANK YOU



**And all our generous donors  
and supporters**



# THANK YOU

Now enjoy a film made by  
Creative Lancashire that  
captures our work and how  
vital it is - view [here](#)

Visit Escape2Make at:  
**[www.escape2make.org](http://www.escape2make.org)**  
or contact:  
**[info@escape2make.org](mailto:info@escape2make.org)**

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