



IMPACT REPORT 2026



2026 ESCAPE2MAKE CABARET

THE E2M CABARET TOOK TO THE STAGE AT THE PLATFORM IN MORECAMBE!

On 22nd February 2026, the roof of the Platform in Morecambe was raised as local young people sang, danced, conjured and amazed with a vibrant Cabaret performance delivered after a week of creative workshops.

11-18-year-olds had free access to a diverse range of skills all facilitated in safe spaces by professionals. Many new tricks were learned, many new friends were made and lots of laughs were had.

Over the Half Term holidays, **62** young people signed up to experience **33 FREE** workshops across **8** activities. They played in a band, baked, performed their own comedy routines, created stunning theatre backdrops, created alter egos, performed live improv, danced and wowed with magic tricks!
They even live streamed the event for all to see!

We successfully raised over **£44,699** for the Cabaret.

We are grateful for every contribution that made this possible, which included:

Generous support from

- **Millions Hours Fund**
- **Crowdfund Lancashire**
- **Lancashire County Council**
- **The Penhale Fund**
- **Edith Masheder
You Are the Star Trust**
- **Mighty House Estates**



**CROWDFUND
LANCASHIRE**

**Edith Masheder
You Are the Star Trust**

MIGHTYHOUSE
ESTATES



**Funded by
UK Government**

Businesses and Individuals were very generous with their In-Kind support.

A total value of **£1873.57** and we appreciated every penny!

2 night
stay for our
competition
prize

Castle View
Boutique Cottage

Flotation
Experience
for our
competition
prize



Hospitality
Staffing of
event and
clear up

GALLICO LOUNGE
CAFÉ BAR

Fabrics for
our Glow in the
Dark
Workshops



Gift
Hamper
for our
competition
prize



Ingredients
for our Baking
workshops

ASDA

Table linen
for the
event



Secret
Cinema Voucher
for our
competition
prize



Ingredients
for our Baking
workshops



PARTICIPATION

62

sign-ups in total for our workshop programmes

48

Of those sign-ups were **unique** young people aged 11-18

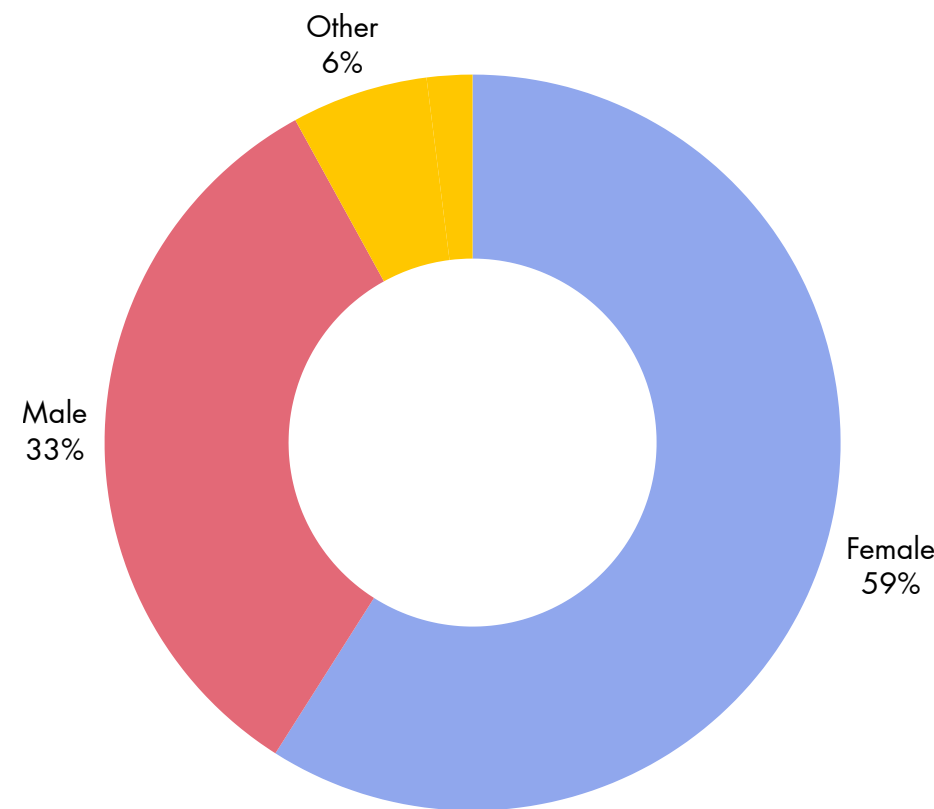
83%

Of the sign-ups (40) attended the workshops and event



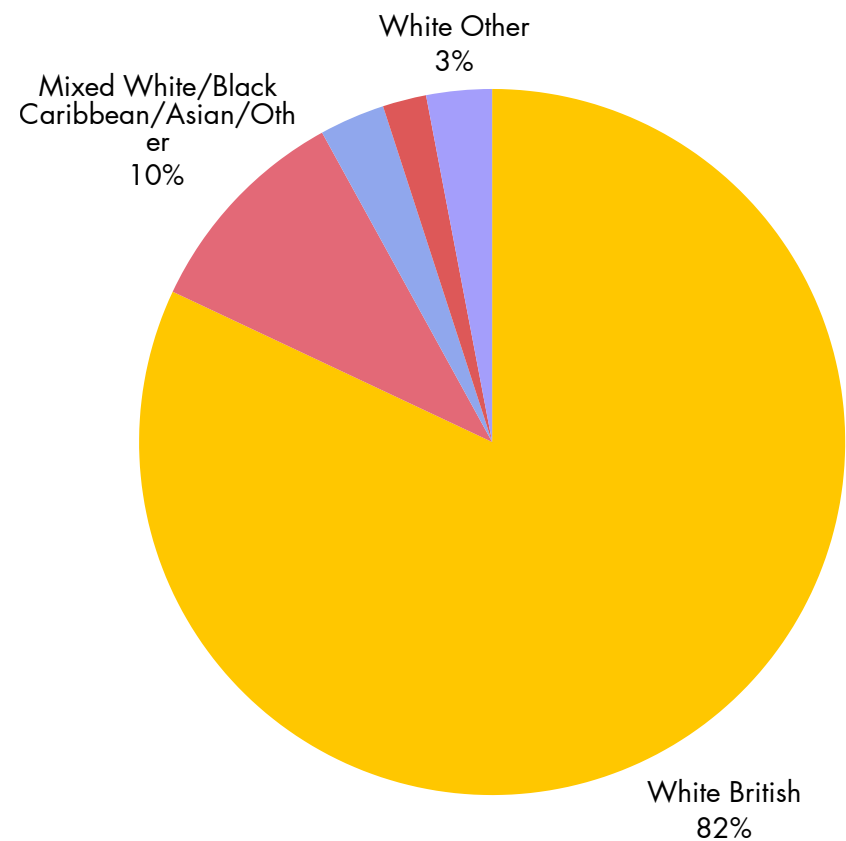
WHO ARE OUR PARTICIPANTS?

GENDER



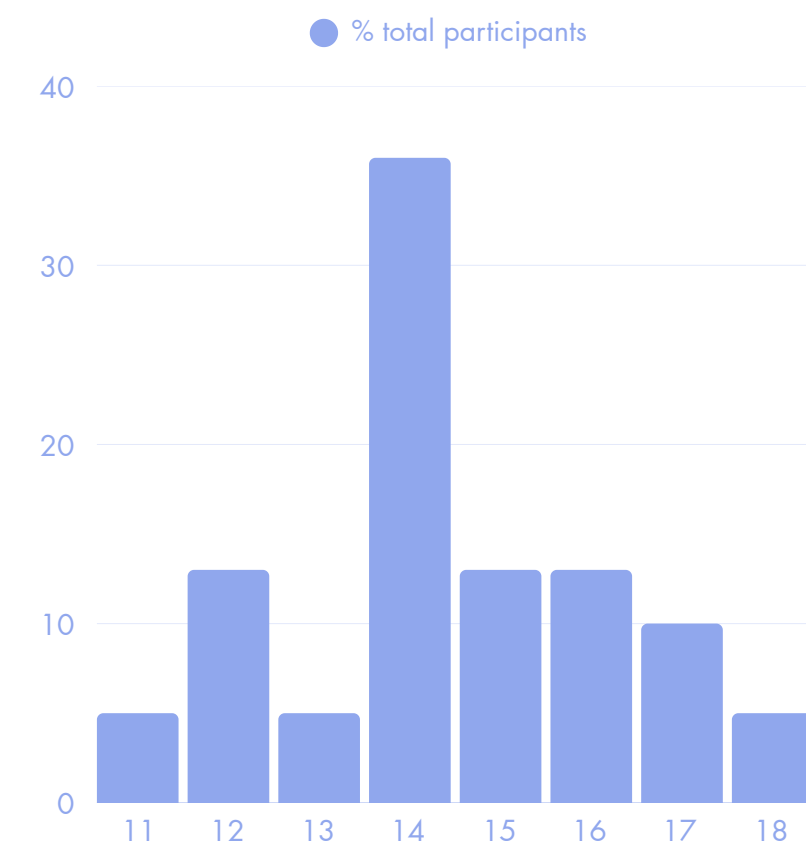
59% identified as female
33% identified as male
6% non-binary/gender fluid/other
2% prefer not to say

ETHNICITY



82% White British
3% White Other
10% Mixed White/Black Caribbean/Asian/Other
2% Black
3% Mixed Other

AGE

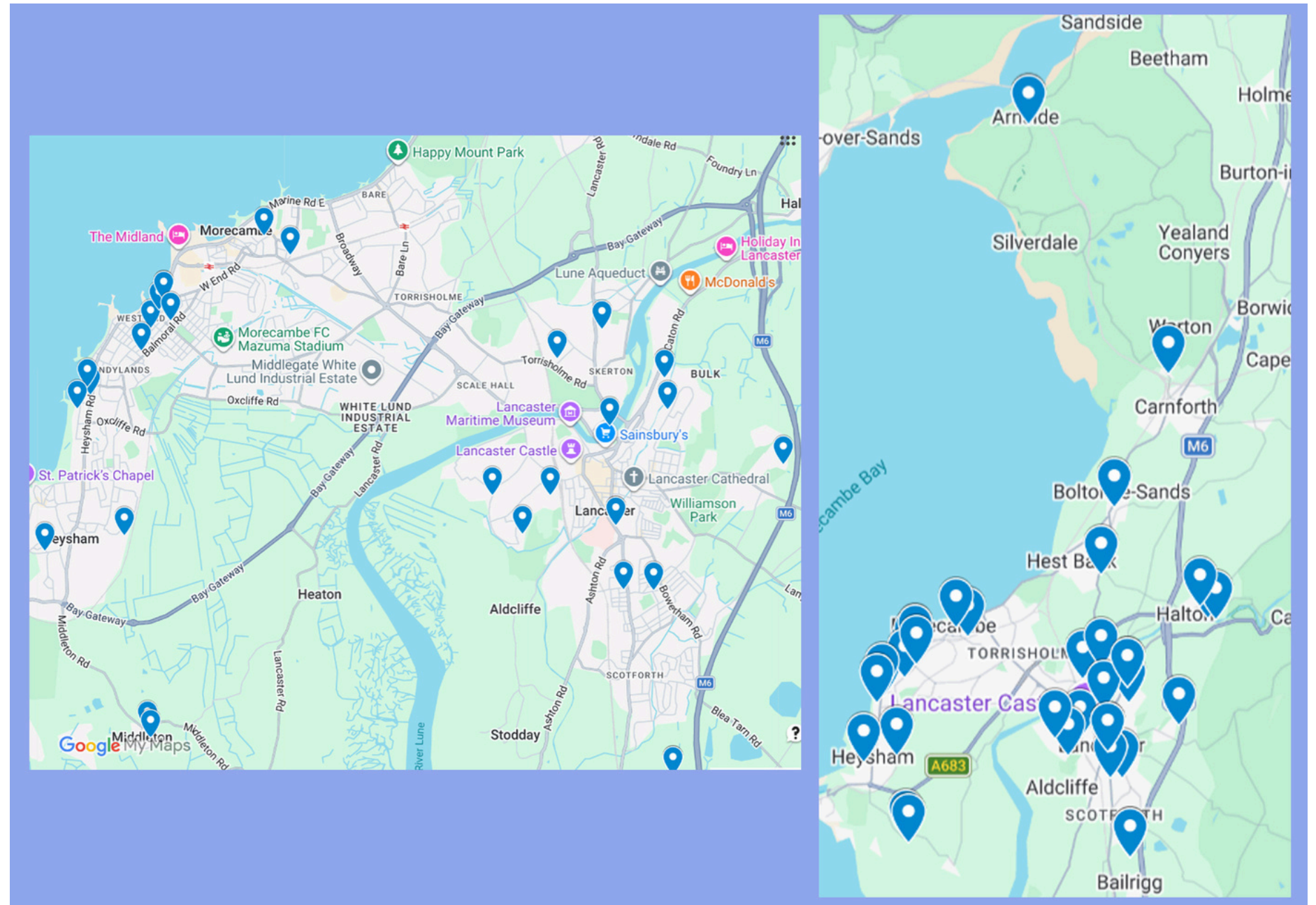
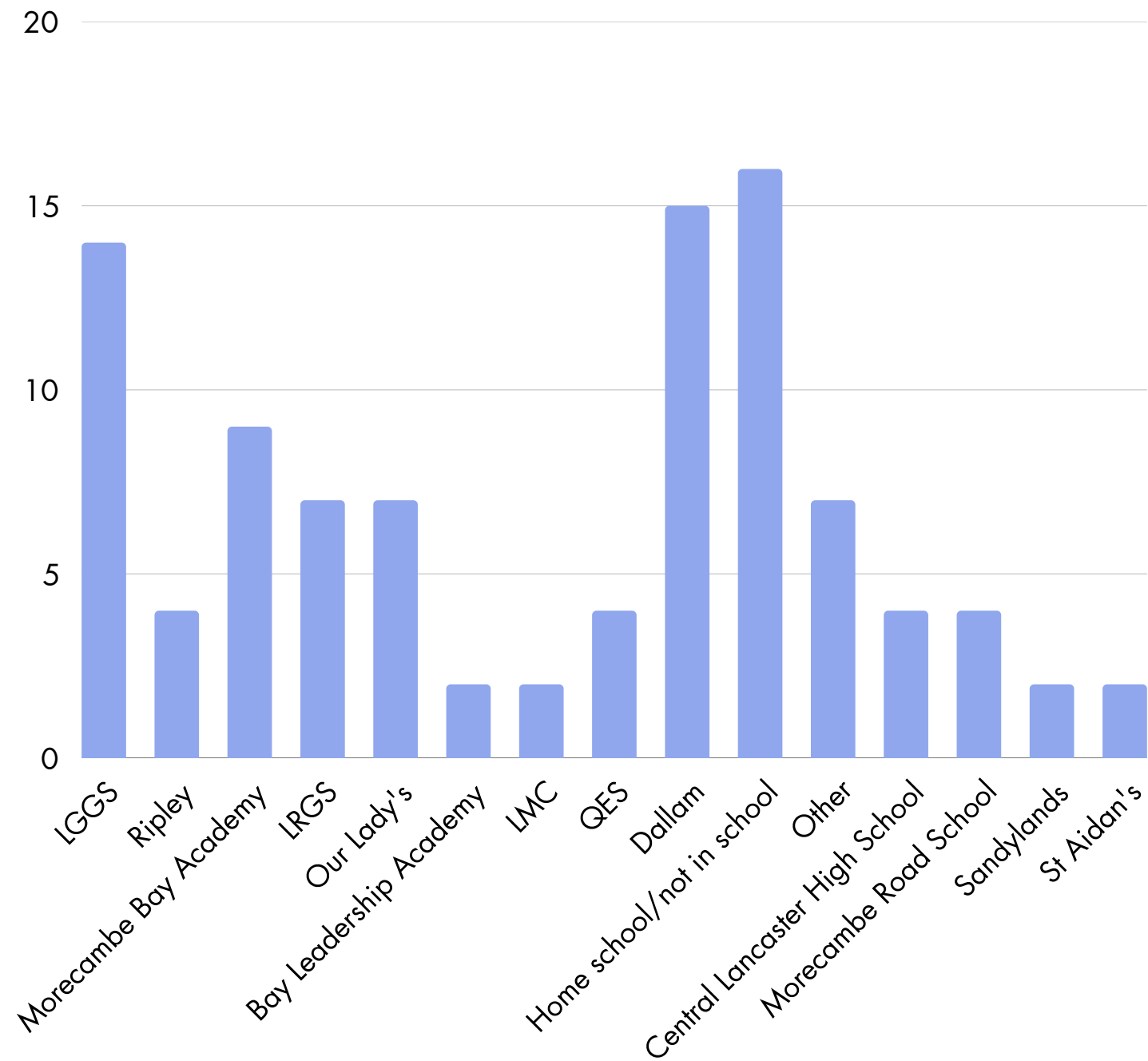


15% aged 12 or under
57% aged 13-15
28% aged 16 or over

Statistics above based on young people **WHO ATTENDED** activities (n=40).

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

PARTICIPANTS' SCHOOLS AND LOCATIONS

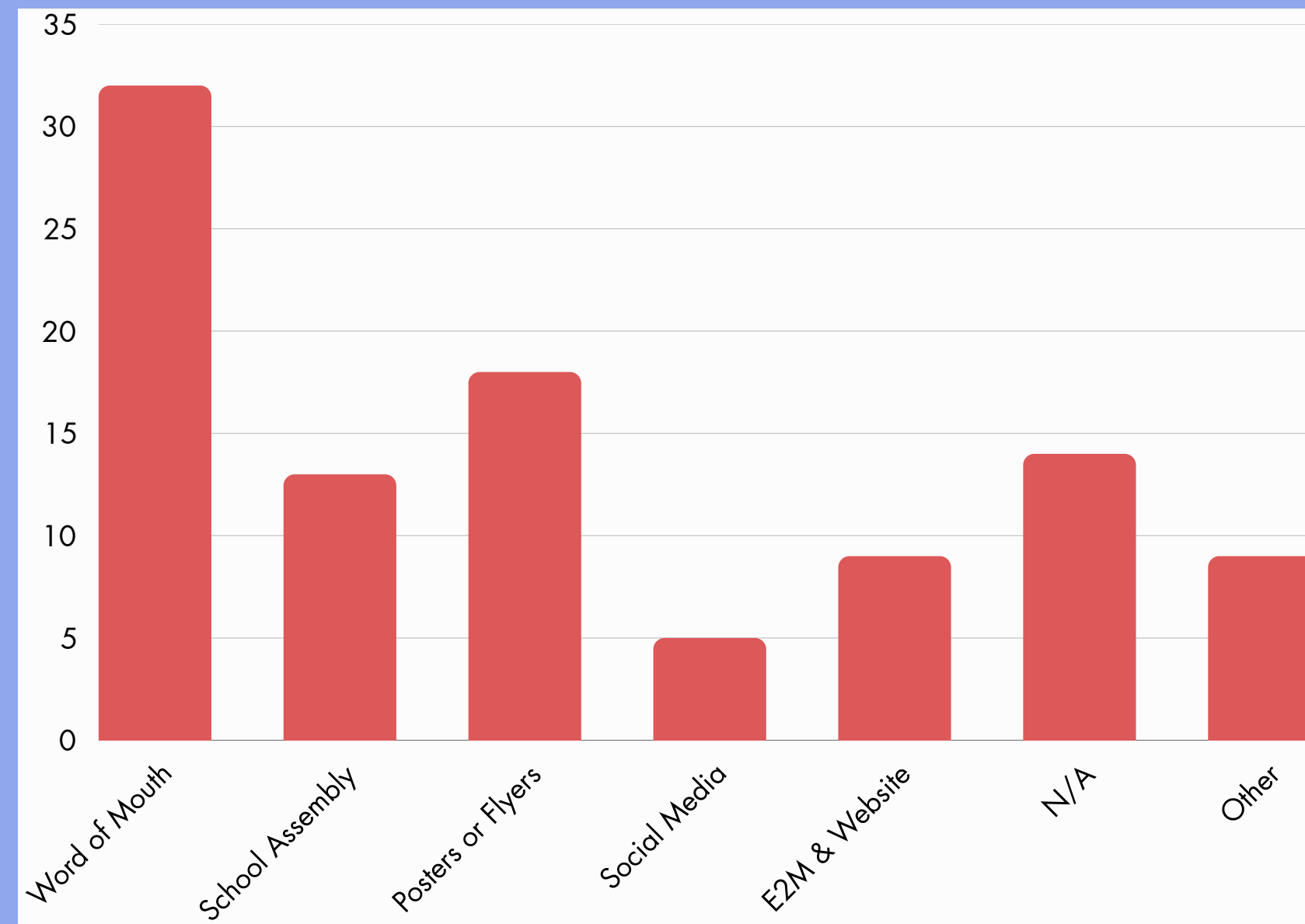


Young people came from **15** different educational settings (**16%** not in school or home schooled)

34% of participants live in one of the **20%** most deprived wards in the country.

55% of participants faced inequalities inc. socio-economic & personal challenges

HOW DID THEY HEAR ABOUT ESCAPE2MAKE?



Most participants found out about us through word of mouth and printed marketing. School Assemblies continues to recruit well for us.

From 40 respondents to the question 'How did you hear about us?'

IMPACT

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



Of the young people surveyed
76% of them said if they had not engaged with the Cabaret they would have otherwise been at home stating
**“don’t know what I would do” “doing nothing”
“sleeping” “on computer”**

From 40 post-project survey responses

100%

Enjoyed their activity
88% “a lot”

88%

Learnt something new

100%

Would attend E2M again

87%

Made new friends at the workshop. 85%
“More than one”



**QUOTES
FROM THE
PARTICIPANTS**

“It’s a free accepting space”

“It is perfect, just keep doing what you do!”

**“It's really fun and there's something for everyone.
You will see me again!”**

**“Making friends and laughing with people!”
When asked about their favourite part of E2M**

“Do it! Go with friends if you are scared ”

**“You make a lot of new friends.
Thanks for running the activities!”**

“It’s friendly, laid back and fun”

“I come every year! ”

ACTIVITIES



Cabaret Band



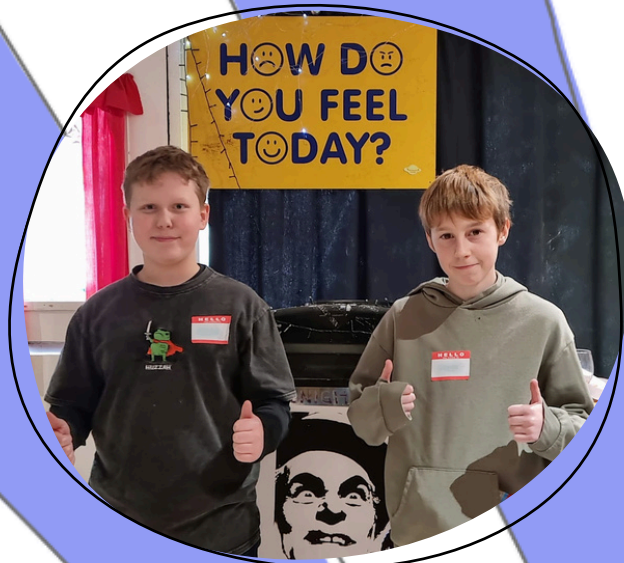
Magic



Alter-Ego



Baking



Stand Up
Comedy



Contemporary
Dance



Glow in the
Dark Art



Livestreaming

WHO WORKED WITH US?



8 Facilitators - leading 5 x 5-sessions, and 2 x 2-day programmes



8 paid Workshop Assistants, supporting young people in sessions & **1 Event Wellbeing Youth Worker** who supported young people at the event



£12,850 invested into local freelance creative workforce



8 Volunteers, offering **192.5 hours** of support for the workshops and event



4 event professionals & performers

WHERE THE WORKSHOPS TOOK PLACE

“E2M centre is phenomenal, easy to use and welcoming. The kitchen at St Thomas' was amazing!
The platform was perfect for the cabaret.” **Facilitator**



St Thomas's
(Lancaster)



More Music
(Morecambe)



West End Playhouse
(Morecambe)



E2M Centre
(Lancaster)

The Half Term workshops were equally distributed across both Lancaster and Morecambe venues.

100% of our facilitators, workshop assistants & volunteers were happy with the venues, with **81% stating “yes definitely”**

FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

100%

Enjoyed their experience with 100% of facilitators, workshop assistants and volunteers stating “yes a lot”

100%

Said they felt the project had a positive impact on young people taking part with 100% of facilitators, workshop assistants and volunteers stating “yes a lot”

100%

Said they had good communication with E2M throughout the process with 75% of facilitators, workshop assistants and volunteers stating “yes definitely”

Survey responses from 17 facilitators, workshop assistants & volunteers





QUOTES FROM FACILITATORS, ASSISTANTS & VOLUNTEERS

“It was a beautiful, fun and vibrant event. It made me so happy to see all the young people I've known as quiet and unsure a couple of years ago strutting around on the stage beaming, it made my heart sing!”

Workshop Assistant

“LOVE WHAT YOU DO, HOW YOU DO IT, AND WHAT YOU STAND FOR. I wish you'd've been around when I was a teen.”

Facilitator

“A joy to see the young people grow in confidence and be vulnerable with their fears and emotions! the groups support for each other was also heartwarming.” **Facilitator**

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

One “moment of magic” that stands out was watching a young girl grow in confidence over the course of a project. She began by learning just three simple tricks, but by the end, she was confidently teaching them back to me and asking to speak more during the performance. Seeing her step into that confidence and take ownership of her skills was incredibly rewarding.

I've seen so many young people flourish over the years, their confidence shone through and it was clear to see they enjoyed their respective roles. I also really loved the inclusion of the 'alter ego' workshops, which was a great way to play with identity and gender roles as young people explore who they are and want to become. I saw young people cheering one another on, and celebrating each other's performances, which was just wonderful.

Felt proud to witness the team of adults at work to support the young people rather than give them instructions. Well done E2M - you work magic.

One young person arrived at the first workshop extremely quiet and avoided eye contact. Over the weeks we saw their confidence grow as they began to feel more comfortable in the space. At our cabaret event they approached a team member to ask for help when someone felt unwell, showing both confidence and care. Later that evening they stood centre stage performing with the band

For me it was seeing X up on stage with a new lease of happiness and bounciness. They had seemed quiet and unsure of themselves in some previous sessions, but they had recently shared something with us and were quite emotional about it, you could see how much it meant to them to have such a warm reception. I'm always proud to be a part of the welcoming, safe space E2M have created for so many people, me included.

THE EVENT

**The E2M Cabaret took place at The Platform in Morecambe
Sunday 22nd February 2026.**

It was a chance for the young people to connect with the community by delivering a wonderful 3 hour live show!

Over 100 guests took to their seats and enjoyed the entertainment while savouring food from Global Village Cafe and the Cabaret Baking Workshops.

The audience was made up of family, local community, local businesses, councillors, funders, sponsors and representative attending on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire... more on that in a moment!



THE E2M FILM CLUB, PRESS CLUB & DRAMA CLUB JOINED IN THE FUN!



Also showcased at the Cabaret were the talents of members of the FILM CLUB, PRESS CLUB and DRAMA CLUB

The Film Club had recently made a superb film at Lancaster Museum which premiered at the event.

The Drama Club bravely performed LIVE improv in front of over 100 guests!

The Press Club created characters for short illustrated films AND designed the event programmes that took pride of place on the guest tables!

DRUMROLL.....WE WERE BESTOWED THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE!



A night of incredible memories was made even more special as we were presented with the King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

CEO Kyle McKenzie was presented with the award by a representative on behalf of Amanda Parker, Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire

The moment was an opportunity to also invite to the stage just some of the incredible volunteers that make it possible for us to do what we do.

This one was for all of you!!





THE CABARET EVENT

view the [livestream](#)



QUOTES FROM THE EVENT

"This has all been so lovely to see. The young people getting together, being part of the community. It's heartwarming, good for the soul"

Cabaret Guest

"I cannot believe this is all free for them (the young people) it's brilliant, it really is"

Cabaret Guest

"My son has absolutely loved it! He is full of it all when he comes home, he's buzzing. I've never seen him like that!"

Parent

"It's astonishing to think that none of these performances existed a week ago"

Cabaret Guest

"I am really impressed; it takes a lot of courage to get up there and do what they've done tonight! Amazing!"

Cabaret Guest

"She is more confident, happier in her own skin and more sociable."

Parent

"My elder child was really cheered up at this stressful time in her GCSE year. Some constructive creative sessions were exactly what she needed"

Parent

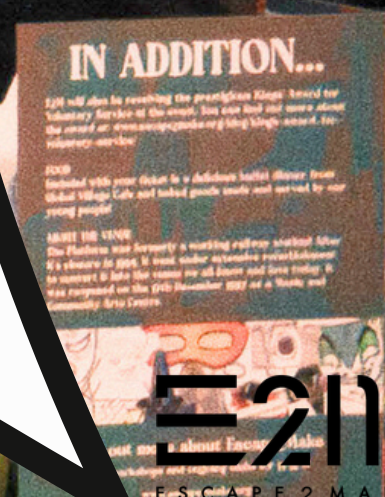
"They really looked forward to going every day. The fact that they actually performed was a complete unexpected miracle."

Parent

"She was self-motivated to attend all sessions and confident about the end performance."

Parent

"He's really loved the workshops, but I am not sure he will perform this evening"
(Parent of young person who performed live in two separate activities and punched the air when he came off stage!)



QUOTES FROM SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

“What a performance!

You were certainly very busy in the half term week leading up to the performance. You have got a great group of teenagers together - who are willing to put themselves forward on a stage. The compares were great, the front of house staff were very friendly, the opening number with a band were exciting and set the scene for the evening. There were so many strong points. Jane particularly praised the two stand-up comics. The volunteers in Escape to Make T shirts were certainly helping the younger performers but allowing them to perform on their own. All performers did well. The food was great.

All performers and organisers should be congratulated on putting on this show as it brought together a wide and diverse group of youngsters who were prepared to put themselves on show in front of a crowd. Also, congratulations on receiving the Kings Award - amazing.

John Entwistle (Penhale Fund)

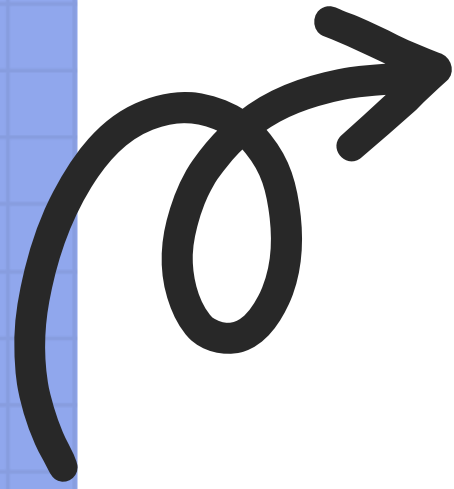
“An amazing night.

So pleased I came. The achievement of all the young people was a credit to E2M and to themselves. It takes a lot of courage to stand on stage and perform. A massive well done to all.”

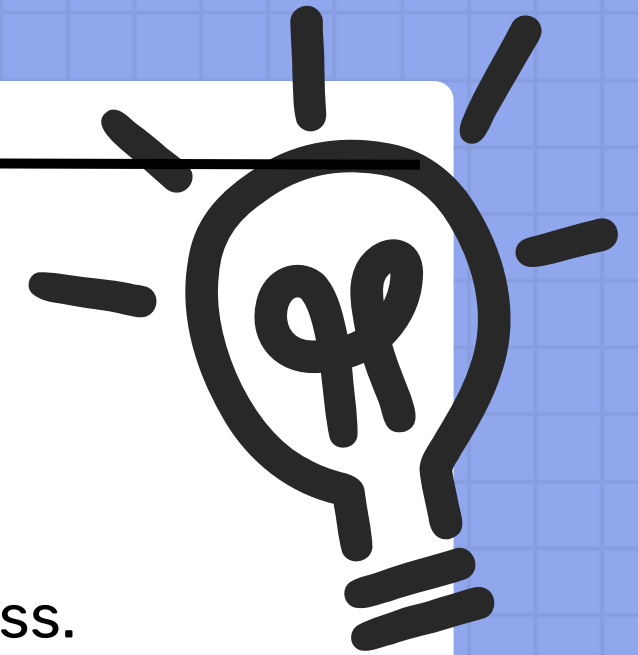
Ruth Blake (ASDA)

“It was such a special evening, we were completely blown away by it all!”

(Standfast and Barracks)



RECOMMENDATIONS



WEBSITE

Discuss with website provider any improvements that can be made in our sign up process.

MARKETING

For our next community event we want to experiment with more boosted posts and introduce them earlier. For our printed marketing we decided on the same amount of printed passports but fewer posters / flyers (passports work well for school assemblies)

ACTIVITIES

We agreed that we need a certain amount of performance-based activity. However our 2 most popular activities were not performance. We agreed to explore more non-performance workshops. these could be "behind the scenes skills" such as prop making, costume design.

This is a point to discuss with Youth Board

RECRUITMENT

Book in more school assemblies and in-person recruitment to increase sign-ups in previous large-scale events this has been one of our most successful methods. The use of a tablet to sign up participants at assemblies was also agreed as you can guide them through the process and it happens while they are engaged.


READ MORE ABOUT OUR PROJECTS HERE



GET IN TOUCH

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