

# CREATE

ARTS.ORG.UK

## IMPACT REPORT 2025/26

The UK's leading charity empowering lives,  
reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing  
through the creative arts

## **CHAIR**

Tony Cates

## **FOUNDING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Nicky Goulder MBE

## **PATRONS**

Sir Matthew Bourne OBE, Esther Freud, Dame Evelyn Glennie CH DBE, Howard Goodall CBE, Shobana Jeyasingh CBE, Tim Marlow OBE, Nicholas McCarthy, Lord Moynihan, Susannah Simons, Isy Suttie

## **AMBASSADORS**

Eddie Donaldson OBE, Alistair DK Johnston CMG

## **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

Abi

## **TRUSTEES**

John Broadis, Holly Khan, Marit Meyer-Bell, Vanessa Sharp, Carol Topolski, Simone Wright

## CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Our vision, achievements, aims	4
Who we work with	5
Theory of impact / Outcomes	6
Our impact / Awards	7
Our social value	8
Key lessons learnt	9
Where we worked	10
Our professional artists	11
2025/26 at a glance	12
smart UK partnership	14
National Year of Reading 2026	15
Children in care / care leavers	16
Young psychiatric hospital patients	17
Disabled (SEND) children	18
Disabled (SEND) adults	19
Young carers	20
Adult carers	21
Older people	22
Prisoners	23
Young refugees and migrants	24
Survivors of modern slavery	25
Feedback	26
What our partners say	27
Sustainability	30
Volunteering	32
How to support us	33
A big thank you	34



## FOREWORD

In these uncertain times, when isolation and mental illness are increasingly prevalent, it is more important than ever to ensure that the most disadvantaged people in our society have access to the wellbeing benefits of the creative arts.

Create directly focuses on this need. For the past 20 years, I have acted as Create's Development Council Chair, then Trustee and now Ambassador, and I have seen first-hand how the charity's creative arts workshops transform the lives of its participants.

Throughout a long career in the financial sector, I was fortunate to have been surrounded by innovative and brilliant professionals. Creative approaches to our work meant we were able to make a difference in our business and for our clients, and it was this creativity that they most valued. Away from business, with my involvement in music, design and restoration, I know how creativity can positively impact mood, change perception, inspire, and provide comfort. This is why I, together with my wife (who is an artist), have supported Create for so long.

Last year's three-year leadership gift to Create, recognising the charity's capable management, clear business strategy and high-quality delivery, was particularly focused on bringing creativity to carers. We know from experience that caring full-time is all-consuming and can negatively affect mental health. For many years, Create has delivered tailored, multi-artform programmes aimed at providing creative respite for carers, and equipping them with skills and confidence for their future.

From visiting Create workshops, I have witnessed how this funding is already having a major impact in inspiring carers. Create's workshops bring creativity to carers, unleashing skills that have gone unnoticed and building a sense of community support where this has been lacking.

I hope that, as you read this year's Impact Report, you will share our view that Create's purpose, enabled by brilliant professional artists and supported by excellent project management, is worthy of your support, especially at a time of such great need. Your support would make such a difference – and it's a difference you can see.

**Alistair DK Johnston CMG**  
**Create Ambassador**

# OUR VISION AND ACHIEVEMENTS



## OUR AIMS

- 1** To tackle inequality by giving society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people free access to the benefits of the creative arts.
- 2** To engage participants in tailored projects led by exceptional professional artists in areas where provision is poor and engagement is low.
- 3** To listen to, advocate for and give a voice to participants.
- 4** To connect, empower, inspire and upskill participants, developing creativity, raising self-esteem, enriching lives, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.
- 5** To promote the value of creative arts engagement in achieving social outcomes.
- 6** To provide high quality work and training to a diverse pool of professional artists.
- 7** To create a society that is fairer, more caring, more inclusive and more sustainable.

In a challenging year for the arts sector and charities more broadly, it is heartening to see that public awareness of the wide-ranging benefits of creativity is on the rise.

Social prescribing is increasingly embedded in the NHS, which explicitly recommends creative and cultural activities for people with mental health issues, chronic pain, and other conditions. Creative health, which was arguably seen as a specialist topic when I founded Create in 2003, is now widely discussed in Parliament and policy circles.

This awareness continued to grow at the start of 2026, with the publication of Professor Daisy Fancourt's book *Art Cure*. Drawing on the last decade of UCL research into the arts, Fancourt makes a compelling case for the necessity of access to the arts. Create's core belief – that people need to create – is here scientifically proven beyond doubt by evidence drawn from thousands of studies.

Fancourt makes an overwhelming case for the arts as the "fifth pillar of health" alongside diet, sleep, exercise, and nature. The impact of creative arts participation is measurable, producing quantifiable improvements across physical and mental health outcomes.

Here at Create, we have played an important role in this debate through our own online series of "Create Conversations" roundtables. Throughout the year, we brought together experts from academia, charities, business and the creative sector to discuss the intersection of creativity and wellbeing, AI, and leadership.

Create Week (1-7 July 2025) brought the topic of creativity and wellbeing to an even wider audience. We worked with a group of partner organisations to encourage people to participate in creative activities for seven days, designed by our professional artists and made available for free via our website. The campaign reached 2.6 million people, doubling its impact compared to 2024.

The main focus of Create's mission remains the delivery of free high-quality creative arts programmes across the country. We are continuing to expand our reach to make our highly impactful projects accessible to increasing numbers of society's most isolated and marginalised children and adults, enabling them to build skills, connection and wellbeing. In early 2026, we reached a significant milestone when we worked with our 50,000<sup>th</sup> participant since Create was founded. Our recent Social Value survey reported that 98% of participants said Create workshops improved their quality of life and 96% developed their skills.

There is of course much more work to do. While awareness of the link between creativity and wellbeing is growing, practical implementation – and crucially, funding – often lags behind. We hope you will support us as Create continues to bring the power of creativity to those who need it most.

**Nicky Goulder MBE**  
Founding Chief Executive

# WHO WE WORK WITH

To ensure we reach participants in the areas of greatest need, we prioritise partner organisations that receive little or no provision from other arts providers. We select these using poverty indices and government statistics on areas of deprivation alongside data including: disability; pupil premium/entitlement to free school meals; and use of English as an additional language. When choosing locations, we also consider under-provided "Priority Places" such as those identified by Arts Council England and BBC Children in Need.

## OUR EIGHT KEY GROUPS

- Children in care / care leavers
- Disabled children and adults
- Schoolchildren in areas of deprivation
- Young psychiatric hospital patients
- Young and adult carers
- Vulnerable older people
- Prisoners
- Marginalised children and adults (including refugees, migrants, and survivors of modern slavery)

In 2025/26, we worked with 2,509 participants:

**55%**

aged 5-18

**21%**

aged 60+

**60%**

eligible for free school meals

England average 25.7%

**48%**

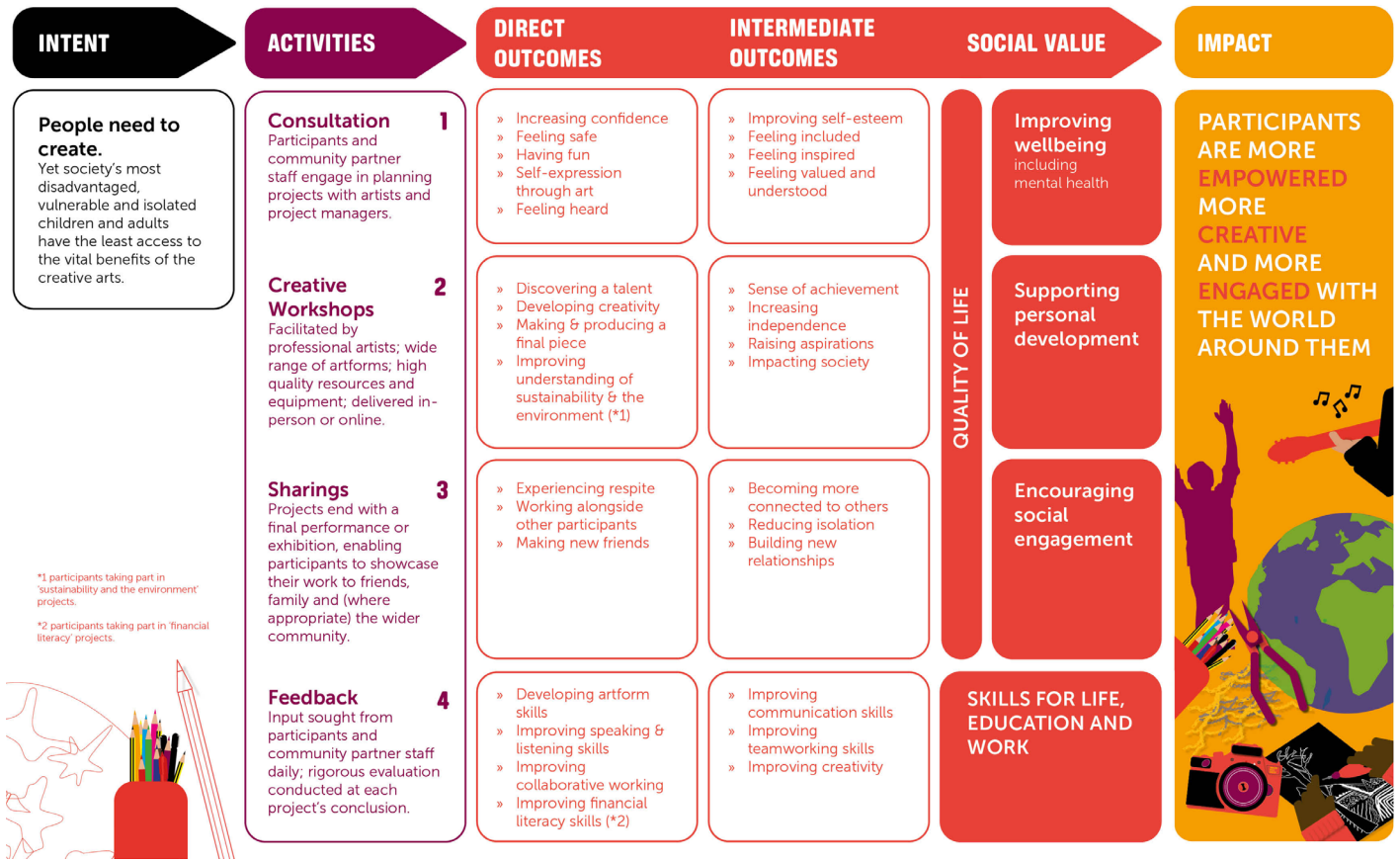
of the global majority

**50%**

with special educational needs /  
disabilities

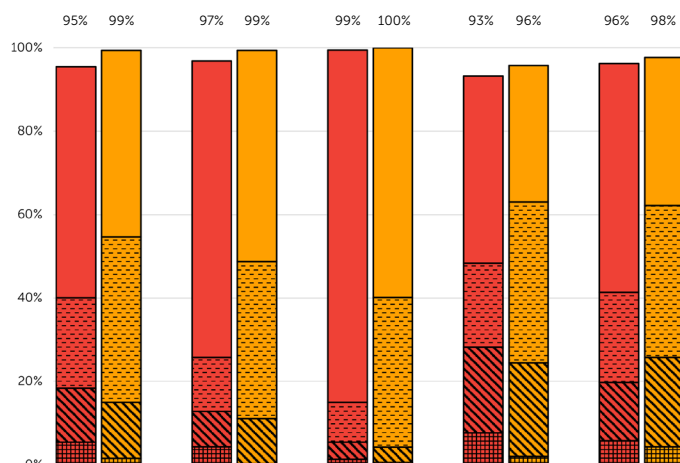
# THEORY OF IMPACT

for participants

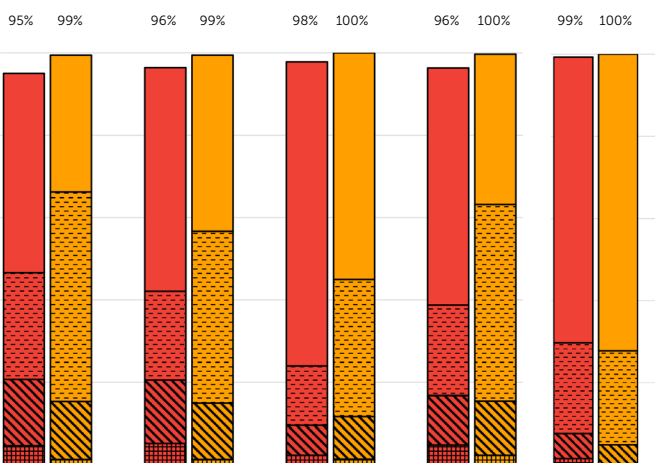


## OUTCOMES: PARTICIPANT SKILLS AND WELLBEING

Improvement in Skills for Life, Education, Work



Improvement in Quality of Life



# OUR IMPACT

## IN 2025/26

**97** projects across the UK

**1,358** creative arts workshops

**2,509** disadvantaged and vulnerable participants

**24,973** hours of contact

**80** professional artists

**120** volunteers donated 1,023 hours

## AWARDS

**146**

awards since 2012

**2025/26**

14 Koestler Awards

Shortlisted for 'Marketing Partnership of the Year' at the Business Charity Awards for our partnership with smart UK

**INCLUDING**



**ThirdSector Business Charity Awards**

## SINCE 2003 ...



**50,430**  
participants



**17,167**  
workshops



**421,875**  
hours of contact



**206**  
professional artists



**£14,433,907**  
income raised



Nicky Goulder, Create's Founding Chief Executive, officially received her MBE from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at an Investiture Ceremony at Buckingham Palace. This was awarded in recognition of "services to Disadvantaged People and to Charity" including her tireless work to expand access to the creative arts, since founding Create in 2003.

# OUR SOCIAL VALUE

In February 2026, we commissioned consultancy Partnership First to undertake an independent evaluation of the Social Value that we provide for the participants, organisations and communities that we work with, and the professional artists who deliver this work.

**Social Value is defined as the:**

**“ POSITIVE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AN ACTIVITY ON STAKEHOLDERS. ”**

Public Services (Social Value Act) UK Cabinet Office 2012

In determining Create's Social Value, Partnership First used a broad evidence base:

**1) Social Value Survey:** Completed by **69%** of recipients: **69** community partners, **41** artists and **six** corporate partners who access volunteering.

**2) Focus Groups:** **Two** focus groups with community partners. **10** organisations took part, representing a diverse range of partners.

**3) Create Data:** Collected from participants and community partner staff during and post-projects across the year.



Disabled children during an *our:stories* storytelling workshop

## KEY FINDINGS

Across all respondent groups, Create is perceived to deliver **consistently high social value**.

- **91%** of all respondents said that Create had a **substantial** or **exceptional** impact on improving the quality of life for participants.

Across all age groups and settings, Create's workshops enabled participants' self-expression, leading to confidence gains and improved wellbeing.

- **83%** of all respondents said that Create had a **substantial** or **exceptional** impact on improving skills for life, education and work

Participants have shown an improvement in a range of communication, teamwork, financial literacy and artform skills that support their creativity, development and engagement with the world around them.

- **92%** of all respondents said that Create had a **substantial** or **exceptional** impact on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Create works with a wide range of different groups, projects are individually tailored, and detailed consultation ensures participants feel safe, valued, understood and included.

**The report concluded that:**

"Social value is not an added benefit of Create's work, but **a core and intentional outcome of its delivery model**. Create consistently delivers **meaningful, coherent and lasting social value** through high quality creative practice and strong partnership working.

"By removing barriers while maintaining artistic excellence, Create enables **people who are often excluded** from creative opportunities to **participate fully, confidently and with dignity**.

"In doing so, Create contributes to **more resilient organisations, thriving individuals and more compassionate communities**."



Create staff members with young carers from Southwark during an *art:space* filmmaking workshop

## KEY LESSONS LEARNT

In 2025/26, UK charities faced more challenges than ever. An increasingly competitive funding environment, rising costs and a shrinking donor base have placed huge pressure on service delivery and organisational infrastructure within the charity sector.

- Amid the cost-of-living crisis, individual donations to charities are decreasing by 10% year-on-year. 49% of those who do not donate say they cannot afford to do so. (Charities Aid Foundation)
- One of the most significant pressures on charities has been the 1.5% increase in employers' National Insurance contributions. This change has had an estimated cost of £1.4bn per year on the charity sector and at Create has been an extra factor adding to pressures, due to general cost increases.
- Trusts, foundations, and public funders continue to face financial pressures, with many reporting unprecedented levels of demand for grant funding. Opportunities for unrestricted funding remain limited.
- The majority of Create's partner organisations are also impacted by these challenges.

As a learning organisation, Create is committed to adopting best practice and navigating these challenges. Measures we have taken to increase our organisational resilience include:

- Create CEO Nicky Goulder successfully applied for a place on the London Growth & Resilience Programme. Run by School for Social Entrepreneurs and supported by City Bridge Foundation, this 18-month programme includes two grants, practical learning, mentoring and buyer connections, all geared towards growing earned income and strengthening financial stability.
- Recognising the need to diversify income streams, we have expanded our corporate partnerships, delivering a range of successful projects in collaboration with new partners Fresh Art Fair, London Graphic Centre and smart UK, among others.
- As we have developed our programmes and team in line with our ambitious seven-year strategy, we have scaled up our organisational capacity with the implementation of a database system. This year we entered Phases II and III of this CRM project, which will transform finance and programme systems and create greater workflow efficiency across the organisation.

# WHERE WE WORKED

## Key



Create project location



Our hubs

## SCOTLAND

Edinburgh.

## MANCHESTER & THE NORTH

Having established our Manchester hub during 2021, we extended our programme across the north of England, working in Bolton, Bury, Cheshire, Durham, Liverpool, Manchester, Rochdale, Sale, Salford, Sefton, St Helens, Wigan & Leigh.

## GREATER LONDON

Barnet, Brent, Bromley, City of London, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster.

## ELSEWHERE

Bedford, Cambridge, Featherstone, Guildford, Nottingham, Ripley, Romsey, South Ockendon, Send, Stafford, St Albans, Watford.



# OUR PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

## OUR ARTISTS

Our programmes are delivered by exceptional artists who share our commitment to empowering lives. All are professionals in their specialist field (eg musicians, photographers, dancers) who have outstanding communication skills and a wealth of experience in leading creative arts projects in community settings.

They act as facilitators, encouraging and motivating our participants to explore their creativity, develop existing and new life skills, become more confident and have fun. All participants' contributions are encouraged and valued: their ideas and the development of their creativity are at the heart of every Create project.

**I TRIED NEW THINGS I HAVEN'T DONE BEFORE AND CONNECTED WITH PARTICIPANTS IN NEW WAYS.**

Artist

## IGNITE



Create staff and artists at an Ignite training session

Create ran two free full-day Ignite CPD sessions for its freelance artists, project managers and staff. The first was centred on trauma-informed project delivery; the second on delivering Create's *our:stories* programme with SEND participants. This featured presentations by literacy and inclusion specialist Dr Helen Hendry from Open University, and teacher and literacy lead James Rowley from Haymerle School.

**I FEEL EMPOWERED TO PLAN A PROJECT THAT IS BESPOKE TO EACH PARTICIPANT.**

Artist

## NURTURING TALENT

Our Nurturing Talent programme gave six emerging artists the opportunity to work as supporting artists on a range of projects, attend professional development training days and work collaboratively to design and deliver their own workshop in a community setting. Each artist received a bursary and collectively supported 205 workshops with 503 participants across the year.



Lucianne at a Nurturing Talent training day

## MEET LUCIANNE

Lucianne is a multidisciplinary textile artist based in the North West. She spoke about the influence of the Nurturing Talent programme on her facilitation and artistic skills.

"I've learned so much doing [the Nurturing Talent programme]. I didn't realise the extent to which you have to be adaptable and flexible in community settings, and how that varies between different groups. That's been a learning curve that I've been on since doing this.

"[The programme] has been absolutely lovely. Every artist that I've worked with has been really supportive, friendly and approachable. There's never been a situation I've been in where I felt uncomfortable or that I didn't know what was going on.

"You really have to believe in your artform, and believe that it is something that is beneficial to other people. A big part of that is you *experiencing* the benefit of it, and I've had first-hand experience of [my practice] as an expressive outlet for wellbeing.

***"People need to create because it's essential to being human. I feel very lucky and privileged to be here and my experience has just been wonderful."***

# 2025/26 AT A GLANCE

1 APRIL 2025

## CEO NICKY GOULDER SPEAKS AT ASSOCIATION ASALÉE CONFERENCE

Nicky spoke in Paris on the "Innovations" stage to an audience of over 500 doctors and nurses about the impact of creative arts programmes on the lives of young and adult carers.

22 APRIL 2025

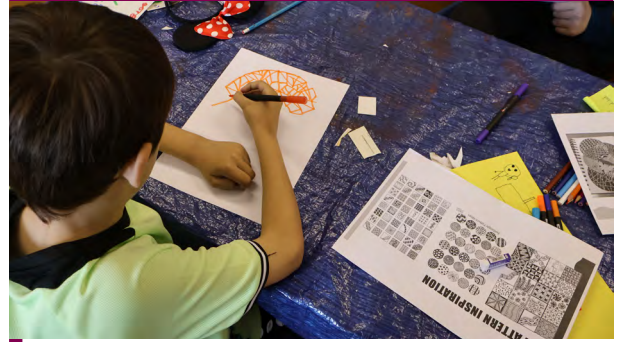
## CEO NICKY GOULDER ATTENDS ST GEORGE'S DAY DRINKS RECEPTION AT 10 DOWNING STREET



1 - 7 JULY 2025

## CREATE WEEK

Thousands of people across the UK and beyond joined Create's annual celebration of the creative arts.



22 AUGUST 2025

## CREATE LAUNCHES MARKETING PARTNERSHIP WITH SMART UK

Create participants, in a series of workshops on the theme 'Open Your Mind', created artwork for a promotional campaign for automotive brand smart UK's smart car.

20 MAY 2025

## CREATE CONVERSATIONS

Our webinar during Creativity and Wellbeing Week explored what makes creative health projects truly effective, and how best to ensure that everyone who needs it has access to the life-enhancing power of the creative arts.

22 AUGUST 2025

## INSPIRED:ARTS SHOWCASE

Young carers from Hammersmith & Fulham came together for a creative showcase of their dance, drama, film and music pieces.



18 JUNE 2025

## CHANGING:MINDS SHOWCASE

Five special schools in Harrow came together for an inspiring showcase of their incredible talent.



29 AUGUST 2025

## PRISONERS ON CREATE PROJECTS WIN 14 KOESTLER AWARDS

Awards included a Platinum for *Soul Mates*, a radio play created by women at HMP & YO1 Low Newton during *Inside Change*.

**24 OCTOBER 2025**  
**MANCHESTER SHOWCASE**  
**THEMED ON INCLUSION**

53 disabled and non-disabled students from Manchester and Salford on *creative:connection* showcased original music celebrating inclusion and creativity, as part of Manchester Literature Festival.



**JANUARY 2026**  
**CREATE BECOMES COUNTRY & TOWN**  
**HOUSE'S CHARITY PARTNER**

Country & Town House selected Create as its official charity partner for 2026. Its support includes advertising in each edition of the magazine, ongoing editorial support across print, online, social media, as well as a partnership with Chelsea Arts Festival in September.

**11 MARCH 2026**  
**YOUNG CARERS ACTION DAY**

Young carers from Brent, Bury, Enfield, Hillingdon & Ealing, and Sutton delivered an online showcase of their 'Fair Futures for Young Carers' themed artwork.



**3 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**CREATE CONVERSATIONS**

Our Create Conversations panel on creativity and AI discussed how the role of human creativity might change when machines can generate artistic output, and how best to navigate the ethical challenges around AI.

**19 NOVEMBER 2025**  
**CREATE CONVERSATIONS**

Our webinar on creativity and leadership looked at why creativity should matter to leaders, and how to ensure that everyone has access to the creative opportunities they need to grow and succeed.

**17 - 25 MARCH 2026**  
**THE BIG GIVE CAMPAIGN**  
**RAISES £16,117**

We exceeded our Big Give "Arts for Impact" campaign target, raising vital funds for our programmes with young and adult carers. The campaign doubles donations received through match funding.

**6 - 27 OCTOBER 2025**  
**ART IS FREEDOM EXHIBITION**

Artwork by survivors of modern slavery was displayed on the Piccadilly Lights and in key locations across London, as part of Hestia's Art is Freedom campaign and in partnership with Ashurst.



**26 MARCH 2026**  
**CREATE'S 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**GALA DINNER RAISES £45,132**



# SMART UK PARTNERSHIP



Disabled pupils create artwork that will feature on the smart UK x Create art car during a *creative:connection* workshop



Adult carers beside the smart UK x Create art car during its tour of London

In collaboration with smart UK and led by e-mobility specialist PR agency Influence Emobility, Create delivered visual art projects with four different participant groups (disabled/mainstream children, young carers, adult carers and vulnerable older people) in London and Salford.

smart UK's award-winning car acted as a blank canvas to spark participants' creativity. The theme 'Open Your Mind' encouraged participants to reflect on what openness, imagination and self-expression mean to them. Following conversations between Create's artists and smart UK, the projects were coordinated so that three colours (red, purple and orange) were used in the final artworks, creating a striking, unified design for a large-scale collaborative piece.

smart UK's livery designer visited the project and later turned the participants' artwork into a bespoke vehicle wrap for the award-winning smart #1 and #3 electric vehicles. The smart x Create art cars were on public display at CarFest South from 22 - 24 August 2025, and a project visit from professional influencers and dancers The London Family brought the participants' artwork to an online audience of 1.5 million on Instagram and 2.2 million on TikTok.

The grand finale of smart UK's collaboration with Create was a joyful celebration of the art car as it toured London on 21 November, visiting participants who had contributed to the vibrant vehicle wrap. In Lewisham, disabled children from Greenvale School and non-disabled children from Forster Park Primary School were joined by the Speaker of Lewisham, Councillor Jacq Paschoud, Deputy Young Mayor, Jimaine Lee and Morgan Seward, the Chair of the Champions of Inclusion group, who met the participants and admired their designs. The car also visited adult carers in City of London and young carers in Enfield.



The smart UK x Create art car

# NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

2026 is the National Year of Reading in the UK, a government-backed campaign delivered by a range of literacy sector charities.

The campaign aims to help more people engage with reading as a leisure activity, which is more relevant than ever: research from National Literacy Trust shows an alarming decline in reading for pleasure. In 2025, just **one in three** children and young people aged 8-18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time. This is a **36%** decrease in reading enjoyment levels since 2005.

## OUR:STORIES

In 2025/26, a Literacy Special Initiative grant from St Paul's Schools Foundation (via The Mercers' Company) funded the first year of Create's four-year *our:stories* programme, aimed at engaging children with special needs (SEND) across London with reading and writing for pleasure.

Create's first year of delivery has delivered important impacts: 96 half-day workshops were delivered with 179 SEND students across eight special schools in London. Pupils explored reading and writing for pleasure through drama, music, storytelling and visual art. **87%** of participants and **97%** of school staff said that participants improved their reading and writing for pleasure.



Disabled children from Hillingdon take part in an *our:stories* storytelling workshop



Create artist and school staff at an *our:stories* CPD training day

As part of *our:stories*, Create delivered staff training CPD sessions with 158 staff members across seven schools. **100%** of attendees rated the training day as 'successful overall', and demand for these sessions significantly exceeded expectations, with schools requesting delivery on inset days to maximise staff attendance.

Create played an active role in four Cohort Learning Days with learning partner the Open University, and peer organisations, sharing best practice. Dr Helen Hendry from the Open University attended a workshop and spoke at Create's *our:stories* artist training day, strengthening artists' knowledge and facilitation practice.

**[THESE SESSIONS] BRING A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE FROM WHAT WE ARE DOING IN CLASS. THEY MOVE AT A SLOWER PACE AND ALLOW PUPILS ACTUALLY TO BE CREATIVE. THROUGHOUT THE SESSIONS WE HAVE SEEN ENGAGEMENT [WITH READING AND WRITING] GROW. THIS DEVELOPS THEIR CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION, WHICH CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR PUPILS ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM. THEIR CONFIDENCE GREW THROUGHOUT THE SESSIONS, THEY WERE HAPPIER COMING AND STAYING FOR A LONGER TIME ... I THINK THIS IS A [GREAT] WAY FOR OUR PUPILS TO EXPLORE LITERACY AND ENGAGE WITH READING.**

*our:stories* partner school staff

# CHILDREN IN CARE / CARE LEAVERS

Building new skills, friendships and enhanced wellbeing

## THE NEED

- In 2025, over **81,000** children in England lived in care. A further **98,000** young people were care leavers aged 18-25. (Department for Education)
- **26%** of 17 year-olds who have lived in care have tried to end their own lives, compared to 7% of teenagers with no care experience. (UCL Social Research Institute)
- **37%** of care leavers aged 19-21 are NEET (not in education, employment or training), compared to 13% of 19-21 year-olds nationwide. (Crisis)
- Children in care have suggested that opportunities to engage in **community activities** with other care experienced young people are important to them. (Coram Voice)

## MEET JAMILLA

"We've been doing stop-frame animation. You need a lot of patience, because it's very time-consuming. But it is actually very worth it and fun, I really enjoyed it. It's rewarding watching it, and just knowing that all of your hard work [has been] put into a film.

"I've become really close with people. When I first came, I was really shy, then I built up a certain amount of trust with them, I could tell them lots of things. Now I can talk freely and that helped build my confidence a lot, because [usually] I don't like meeting people.

"[Being creative] gives you a chance to listen to your body, listen to your mind, just get away from any negative things. It helps you think more positively, it gives you a break.

***"I'm grateful for this opportunity. This is my first time doing something like this, and I wish that there were more opportunities for other people in care, because we don't get to do this stuff."***

## WHAT WE DID

**103 children in care / care leavers in London and Greater Manchester took part in animation, ceramics, music, photography and visual art projects through Create's *change:matters* and *our:voices* programmes. These built confidence, self-esteem, resilience and connections with others.**

**I'VE LEARNT SKILLS, MET NEW PEOPLE AND FEEL MORE CONFIDENT IN MYSELF.**

*our:voices* participant



Photograph taken by a child in care in Bolton

# YOUNG PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Providing a creative outlet for young people living with mental illness

## THE NEED

- Around **1 in 5** children and young people in the UK suffer from a mental health disorder. (NHS England)
- **74%** of teachers say poor mental health support is having a negative impact on pupils' ability to learn. (Young Minds)
- The use of participatory arts across the mental healthcare system can help in relation to **anxiety, depression** and more **severe mental health** problems. (All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing)
- Young people who participate in cultural or creative activities are **38%** more likely to report good health. (Cultural Learning Alliance)

## WHAT WE DID

**Our *creative:tandem* programme empowered 73 young people who had been admitted to mental health units due to serious conditions, including psychotic, depressive, anxiety and eating disorders, self-harm or suicidal thinking.**

**Our professional artists brought art, ceramics, sculpture and textiles workshops into four hospital units in London and Manchester, enabling the young people to build new skills, new relationships and self-esteem, enhancing their wellbeing.**



Artwork created by a young psychiatric hospital patient

## MEET ZAINAB

"I've been [in the unit] for around three to four months. My [mental illness] has stopped me from speaking up or participating in things I enjoy. You get cut off from your hobbies when you're unwell.

"[On this project] we've been making collages with different materials, painting and building with clay. The collages were my favourite; it felt nice to put my piece on my wall.

"We've been sharing our ideas, and finding inspiration. [Creativity] is good for your mental health. It makes you feel more relaxed and it broadens your mind. Getting to know that artistic side of yourself can be very freeing.

"[This project] is really good for patients, because there's not much stuff going on in the ward. Group activities like these can boost your mental wellbeing.

***"You can focus on an art project and really lose yourself in it. And I think that being able to lose yourself is a wonderful thing."***

# DISABLED (SEND) CHILDREN

Improving social skills and building self-confidence

## THE NEED

- Over **1.7 million** pupils in England have special educational needs, representing **19.6%** of all pupils. (GOV.UK)
- The arts are a key platform for disabled children, strongly contributing to inclusion, a culture of non-judgement, and positive mental wellbeing. (SBRG)
- Disabled children have **limited opportunities** to access activities in their local areas, often facing negative attitudes that prevent sustained engagement in these. (C4EO)
- Playing and interacting in inclusive activities helps disabled young people's **social development**, particularly in their understanding of peer culture. (C4EO)



Disabled children from Lambeth take part in an *our:stories* dance workshop

## WHAT WE DID

*creative:connection* brought together 182 disabled and non-disabled children in Essex, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Salford and Watford.

*changing:minds* worked with 119 SEND schoolchildren and young adults in London.

*Our environment:matters* programme delivered climate-themed projects with 121 children at four special schools in Bedford, Liverpool and Sale.

*our:stories* impacted 179 disabled pupils across eight special schools in London.

CREATE HAS GOT TO KNOW THE PUPILS' INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND WAYS OF COMMUNICATING. DIFFERENT ENTRY POINTS WERE CONSIDERED FOR EVERY PUPIL. THE CHILDREN WERE SO ENGAGED, AND I COULD SEE THAT THEY REALLY ENJOYED THE WORKSHOPS!

Teacher

I HAVE HAD THE BEST TIME LEARNING NEW THINGS!

Participant

THIS PROJECT BOOSTED MY HAPPINESS A LOT. I FELT AMAZING AT THE END OF EACH DAY.

Participant

# DISABLED (SEND) ADULTS

Building relationships and experiencing joy

## THE NEED

- Approximately **16 million** people in the UK are disabled, which accounts for **one in four** of the total population. (GOV.UK)
- Disabled people remain significantly **less likely** to participate in cultural and leisure activities than non-disabled people because of inflexibility, exclusion from education and negative attitudes. (Arts Council England)
- **67%** of the British public feel uncomfortable talking to disabled people. (Mencap)
- **24%** of disabled people have experienced attitudes where people expect less of them because of their disability. (Scope UK)

## MEET ANTHONY

"We did the tent dance – we learned how to put the bag on, zip it up. And then we did some drawing [of our own islands]. I drew the beach. [I was] making textures and going to new places.

"[Dancing with other people] made me feel happy and excited. It warmed up the body and [made me feel] full of energy. [I enjoyed] working in a team and meeting new people and seeing old friends. It makes me feel welcome.

***"Being creative, you can learn new things. You can explore!"***

**I ENJOYED MAKING MUSIC AND NOW I FEEL CALM AND HAPPY!**

Participant

## WHAT WE DID

*Our community:matters project with Brent Mencap enabled 24 adults with a learning disability to explore dance, music, sculpture, textiles and writing.*

**F\_\_ HAS GOT AUTISM AND A LEARNING DISABILITY AND CAN GET VERY ANXIOUS IN (EDUCATIONAL) SETTINGS. HE IS AT THE AGE WHERE HE COULD GO TO COLLEGE BUT NOBODY HAS ANY IDEA HOW HE WOULD COPE WITH THAT. THE PROGRESS HE HAS MADE IN THE LAST THREE DAYS IS PHENOMENAL. HE [WENT FROM] BEING REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE, TO TAKING PART FOR A SMALL TIME, TO JOINING IN THE WHOLE GROUP WITH SCULPTURE AND DANCE.**

Staff



Disabled adults from Brent working with sculpture as part of *community:matters*

# YOUNG CARERS

Taking a creative break and focusing on wellbeing

## THE NEED

- A young carer is someone **under 18** who helps look after a family member or a friend who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition or misuses drugs or alcohol. (Carers Trust)
- There are approximately **one million** young carers in the UK. **More than 50,000** children and young adults are caring for at least **50 hours a week**. (Carers Trust)
- **1 in 4** young carers say they feel lonely, and being a young carer is associated with **worse health outcomes**. (The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)

## MEET MICHAEL

"I care for my mother, who has multiple sclerosis. I took on caring responsibilities because my dad has PTSD. I was about six [at the time]. It's pretty challenging and it has become worse over time. As a carer, you get those low points because you're just really stressed and scared about what might happen to the person you're caring for.

"In this project, I've learned that photography is more than just taking pictures. It's [about] actually engaging with the environment around you and thinking about what would be good as a picture.

"At school, you get told to do something, there are guidelines. Whereas [here] it feels like you've been thrown into [the deep end] and you learn how to swim. I mean that in a good way!

***"[Creativity] is a way to express yourself, which is really good for your mental and physical health."***

## WHAT WE DID

We delivered **381** workshops across our *art:space*, *change:matters*, *community:matters* and *inspired:arts* projects.

These enabled **575** young carers to develop their skills, enhance their creativity, build their confidence, connect with their peers and enjoy a break from their caring responsibilities.

Our programme included an online showcase on Young Carers Action Day (11 March 2026), putting young carers' talents and voices at the heart of the event.



Young carers during an *art:space* dance workshop in Southwark

# ADULT CARERS

Providing a social and creative outlet

## THE NEED

- At least **5.8 million** people across the UK are providing unpaid care for an ill, older or disabled family member or friend.  
(Carers UK)
- **66%** of carers say they need more support with their health and wellbeing.  
(Carers UK)
- **65%** of carers said that not being able to take a break from caring was the main reason they felt overwhelmed. (Carers UK)
- When asked what would improve their wellbeing, **68%** of carers said spending time with family and friends and **58%** said engaging in hobbies or interests.  
(Carers UK)

## WHAT WE DID

Our *creative:release* and *creative:voices* projects delivered both in venue and remotely via **Create Live!** reduced the isolation of 384 adult carers in Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Sefton, Surrey, and Wigan and Leigh.

Working collaboratively, they explored their creativity, took a break from their caring responsibilities, built trusting relationships with other carers, and developed social skills and confidence.

## MEET ANIKA

"I care for my mother. She's got various health and morbidity issues, and she's partially blind.

"[When you're a carer] you forget about yourself, about your dreams and goals. I used to love travelling when I was younger. I used to take dance lessons, but since caring, my life is very different. Some days I struggle with anxiety and not feeling great.

"We have been doing mosaics and each created a tile. Firstly, we drew a picture of what we wanted to create. The first thing that came up for me was sunflowers.

"I got emotional seeing the [mosaics] installed outside the building. I'm so proud and everybody's done really unique and beautiful artwork. I never thought I would be able to [achieve] anything like this.

"For these two hours a week, I've been able to escape my duties and just focus on what I'm doing, think about my work and what I want to create. It's been really therapeutic.

***"I can't even put into words how helpful [this project] is. I'm so grateful that this is available."***



Adult carers during a *creative:voices* mosaics workshop in Harrow

# OLDER PEOPLE

Reducing isolation and fostering imagination

## THE NEED

- The Eden Alternative identifies the three plagues of old age as **loneliness**, **helplessness** and **boredom**. (ONS)
- **One in 12** older people report often feeling lonely and **one in seven** have symptoms of mental health problems. (Age UK)
- **5.1 million** older people say life is harder now that more services have gone online, citing the need for in-person connection with community members. (Age UK)
- Older people who regularly take part in arts activities demonstrate higher levels of **physical and mental wellbeing**. (UCL)

## MEET MYRIAM

"[The project] has felt very caring and nurturing. It has been a great opportunity to meet new people. [Being creative] has felt like something that was missing for me in my life. Once I got to a certain age, I thought 'maybe it's too late [to be creative]'. But it's great to get out there and encourage people who think they can't do it."

"Slowing down and saying 'I'm just going to give my interpretation' [through writing] has been good. Acceptance is important for mental health. Different exercises brought up different things for people. It could be quite emotional, but I felt that the facilitator was looking out for us. It's given me the freedom to just go with myself and what I feel, what's coming up at that time."

***"I want to reassure anyone who thinks they can't do it: allow yourself to [do it] and you will feel encouraged and safe."***

## WHAT WE DID

*Our art:links, creative:engagement and creative:links projects improved the quality of life of isolated older people, many living with dementia.*

These projects enabled 272 participants across London and Greater Manchester to express themselves creatively, build new skills, connect with others and have fun.



An art:links visual art project in Southwark with older people

# PRISONERS

Using creativity to empower, upskill and build new relationships

## THE NEED

- The economic and social cost of re-offending in England and Wales is estimated at **£18 billion** per year. (UK Parliament)
- Maintaining family ties can reduce the likeliness of re-offending by **39%**. (Ministry of Justice)
- Engaging in arts projects can **improve prisoners' relationships** within the prison and with their family, enhance self-esteem and improve levels of educational attainment. (Arts Alliance)

## MEET LIAM

"We made a storybook and recorded it so our kids can listen. [My favourite part was] the artwork and the music - it makes you feel good.

"My story is set in a rainforest, it's about a monkey and a sloth who get separated, then find each other at the end. My daughter is one and a half years old, and she's just started making animal noises.

"It was a laugh [working with the group]. I've learnt about teamwork and communication, and I've improved in coordination and listening to others.

"[This project] gives me something for my children. It progresses my skills and builds my confidence.

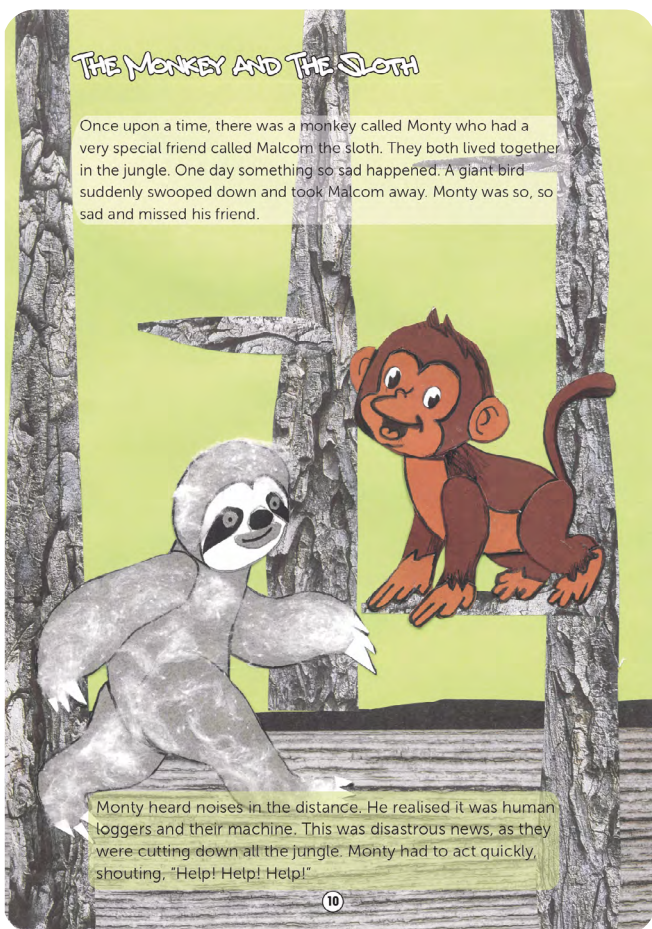
**"[The storybook] helps with communication. It gives my children something to hold on to, something personal that I've given them."**

## WHAT WE DID

We reached 120 male and female prisoners across three prisons through *Free Inside*, *Inside Stories* and *My Parent's in Prison*, enabling them to create jewellery and visual art, make music and write illustrated stories for their children.

**IT WAS A TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT WHICH FOSTERED A SAFE SPACE AND ESCAPISM FROM THE PRISON REGIME. THE ENERGY AND MOOD WAS UPLIFTED AND ALL WERE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THEIR CREATIVE WORK.**

Prison staff



An extract from the storybook HMP Oakwood prisoners created during *Inside Stories*

# YOUNG REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Encouraging self-expression and building a sense of community

## THE NEED

- 61% of asylum seekers experience serious mental distress. (Refugee Council)
- Refugees are five times more likely to have mental health needs than the UK population. (Refugee Council)
- Participating in arts and cultural activities can have a strong impact on the settling process for young refugees and migrants: it can help develop language skills, confidence, and allow individuals to feel more at home. (National Institutes of Health)
- Social groups where refugees have opportunities to come together, explore their own experiences and share them with their peers are important for enhancing wellbeing. (Refugee Council)

## WHAT WE DID

We worked with 27 young refugee and migrant children in Brent through our partnership with Salusbury World. Our *community:matters* programme gave them a chance to develop their creative thinking and self-expression, as well as connect with others and build skills.



Young migrant during a *community:matters* ceramics workshop

## MEET MIKAYLA

"We've been using clay to make different objects. I used clay to make a rocket! It was very fun. We made a bridge and a giant spoon.

"I have done creative things, but this is different because it's more fun and not strict. You can use your own imagination, and you can look cool!

"Normally I just lay down on my bed and watch TV. But [here], we learned how to [create] slabs and do coiling. [It was good to] be collaborative and work together as a team.

***"[Creativity] is important because if you just do the same thing every day, then it gets boring and you're not doing anything fun! There's not a lot of creative things going around, so this made me very happy!"***

THE BENEFITS OF THIS CREATIVE EXPERIENCE ARE SO GOOD. WE COULD SEE CHANGES IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN JUST THREE DAYS. THE PROJECT IMPROVED CONFIDENCE AND ALL THE CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO FORM CREATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE PARTNERSHIPS.

Staff, Salusbury World

# SURVIVORS OF MODERN SLAVERY

Using creativity as a form of self-expression

## THE NEED

- 2025 saw a record high in the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM): **23,411** were referred, a **22%** increase from 2024. (Modern Slavery PEC)
- Survivors frequently suffer from **post-traumatic stress, isolation** and **marginalisation**. (Helen Bamber Foundation)
- Survivors have highlighted the role of support services and community groups in **providing support** and **rebuilding trust**. (Helen Bamber Foundation)

## MEET GABRIEL

"In 2024, I came to London and [was] kidnapped. I was placed in a flat and for the next two months, I worked in the basement of a mass kitchen facility for [up to] 14 hours a day. Any complaint was met with physical abuse. Fortunately, the police [were made] aware of my situation and rescued me.

"[Before I started the Create project] it was the darkest period of my life. I was deeply depressed and scared of leaving the house. I didn't speak to anyone or do anything ... it was a hermit-like existence.

"The first session was amazing. You didn't feel like you had to hide or explain yourself. You could just be. Everyone was releasing so much stress and anxiety while they were painting. There was a calming peace about the whole environment.

"Some of the pieces that I made [were] a way of expressing things that I've gone through. It just felt so right to express in that way. Each piece for me was my way of letting things go. And it helped me a lot.

***"My pieces were like a therapy session. I can honestly say [this project] changed my life. I would be a very different person without it."***

## WHAT WE DID

Art is Freedom is Hestia's annual art exhibition, featuring work created by survivors of modern slavery, delivered in collaboration with Ashurst.

Create delivers painting workshops as part of Hestia's Art is Freedom campaign, where survivors can learn and refine their skills, before submitting their best pieces for the exhibition.

We worked with 16 survivors of modern slavery, enabling them to build new skills and relationships, and use creativity as a tool for self-expression.



Artwork created by a survivor of modern slavery

**[BEING CREATIVE] PROVES THAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING FOR MYSELF. IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE [MY LIFE] IS NOT ALL ABOUT DEALING WITH MY LEGAL CASE ALL THE TIME.**

Participant

# FEEDBACK

We use ongoing feedback to improve the work that we do. Each workshop ends with a feedback circle allowing participants to share how they feel; and at the conclusion of each project we ask all participants, staff, volunteers and artists to complete a short questionnaire. We use a blend of qualitative and quantitative data to create an evaluation report. Below is a snapshot of the year's results.

## WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY

**THE WORKSHOPS WERE THERAPEUTIC AND REWARDING. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TALK OPENLY WITH OTHER PEOPLE IN THE GROUP AND IT'S BROUGHT SO MUCH JOY TO ME. THANK YOU FOR PUSHING ME OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE!**

*Prisoner, Free Inside*

**PROJECTS LIKE THIS HELP MY MOOD. IT'S WONDERFUL BEING CREATIVE AND IT PUTS A BRAKE ON THE DIFFICULTIES OF MY CARING ROLE. ON DAYS WHEN I WAS NOT FEELING 100%, I WOULD FEEL MUCH MORE RELAXED. THE WORKSHOP PROVIDED A SPACE FOR MINDFULNESS, AND FEELINGS OF ANXIETY WERE REPLACED BY FEELINGS OF JOY. I WAS ENCOURAGED TO BRING OUT MY IDEAS, BUILD MY SKILLS AND BECOME MORE CONFIDENT, AND IT WAS A LOVELY WAY TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS THROUGH CREATIVITY.**

*Adult carer, creative:voices*

Young carers from Southwark take part in an *art:space* filmmaking workshop





Adult carers from City of London take part in a *creative:voices* printmaking workshop

## WHAT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS SAY

**I AM CONSTANTLY IMPRESSED BY THE THOROUGH PLANNING BEHIND CREATE PROJECTS. PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS KNOW WHAT CREATIVE POTENTIAL EVERYONE HAS AND THEIR IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS' LEARNING, ENJOYMENT AND EXPRESSION IS CLEAR. AS EACH DAY PROGRESSED, I SAW PARTICIPANTS' IDEAS, CONFIDENCE AND TECHNIQUES DEVELOP. THERE WAS AMAZING INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP ENGAGEMENT, AND SHEER JOY WAS FLOWING FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER. CREATE IS SIMPLY THE BEST!**

Ian Niven, Wellbeing Coordinator, Brent Mencap

**THE PROJECT WAS WONDERFUL AND I FELT SO LUCKY TO BE A PART OF IT! IT WAS ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE AT ALL LEVELS. THE PARTICIPANTS GOT SO IMMERSSED AND REALLY ENJOYED SEEING SOMETHING THEY HAD CREATED. THERE WAS A SENSE OF JOY IN THE ROOM AND THERE WERE LOVELY CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH CREATE HAS BEEN ONE OF UTTER JOY AND THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE FACILITATOR CARRIED US ON THIS WONDERFUL JOURNEY.**

Sharon Seekings, Group Facilitator, Merton Memory Hub



# WHAT OUR FUNDING PARTNERS SAY

## CORPORATE

AS A BRAND THAT VALUES INDIVIDUALITY, SELF-EXPRESSION AND INCLUSIVITY, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PARTNER WITH CREATE IN SUPPORT OF THE INCREDIBLE WORK THAT IT DOES. OUR SMART X CREATE LIVERY PROUDLY DEMONSTRATES THE VALUE OF ARTISTIC FREEDOM AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS.

Jason Allbutt, CEO, Smart UK

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT CREATE AS OUR WHITE STUFF CHARITY PARTNER. THE HUGE IMPACT THEY MAKE TO THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE THEY WORK WITH IS TRULY REMARKABLE - THEIR PASSION, CREATIVITY, AND COMMITMENT SHINE THROUGH IN EVERYTHING THEY DELIVER. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

Tracey Verghese, Managing Director, White Stuff



smart

WHITE STUFF

Artwork created by an older person in Salford during an *art:links* workshop that was included on the smart x Create car





Disabled children from Harrow take part in a *changing:minds* photography workshop

## TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

**CREATE IS IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS FACING SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES THROUGH HIGH-QUALITY, ENGAGING AND INCLUSIVE CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS. THE MERCERS' COMPANY HAVE BEEN PROUDLY FUNDING CREATE SINCE 2024 TO SUPPORT THEIR NEW AND INNOVATIVE OUR:STORIES PROGRAMME BECAUSE WE TRUST IN THEIR EXPERTISE AND PROVEN ABILITY TO DELIVER MEANINGFUL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND ACROSS LONDON. CREATE HAS DELIVERED A SUSTAINED PERIOD OF GROWTH SINCE WE STARTED FUNDING THEM AND YET THE CHARITY HAS MAINTAINED THE STRENGTH AND QUALITY OF ITS PARTNERSHIPS, THE CREATIVITY AND SKILL OF ITS DELIVERY, AND THE IMPACT OF ITS WORK.**

Almaz Zainal, Grant Programme Manager, The Mercers' Company

**CREATE ENABLES SOCIETY'S MOST DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE TO CONNECT, BUILD SKILLS AND IMPROVE THEIR WELLBEING. WE ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTING THE CHARITY'S EXPANSION IN THE NORTH WEST, USING THE POWER OF THE CREATIVE ARTS TO ENHANCE MORE LIVES IN AREAS OF DEPRIVATION, WHERE THERE IS GREATEST NEED. THESE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDE A POSITIVE AND LONG-LASTING VALUE FOR PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE PART OF THIS IMPRESSIVE JOURNEY.**

Stuart Hobley, Director, The Linbury Trust



# SUSTAINABILITY

## ENVIRONMENT:MATTERS

*environment:matters* is Create's project designed to empower disabled children to be creative and learn about the climate crisis.

- 77% of students say they are worried about the climate crisis and its effects. (SOS-UK)
- 51% of secondary school teachers believe that climate change is not embedded in their school's curriculum in a meaningful or relevant way. (Teaching the Future)
- Taking part in creative activities helps disabled young people's social development, particularly in terms of their understanding of peer culture. (Coram)

We delivered *environment:matters* with 121 disabled pupils from special schools in Bedford, Liverpool and Sale. Participants engaged with environmental themes through music, puppetry and visual art workshops. The project successfully raised environmental awareness: 95% of participants and 100% of school staff said that participants' understanding of the environment improved.

**THE STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DYE WITH NATURAL RESOURCES. IT WAS A NEW, SUSTAINABLE WAY OF CREATING ART AND CONTRIBUTED TO LEARNING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.**

School staff



SEND participants view their artwork at a special *environment:matters* showcase event in Liverpool

## WHAT WE'RE DOING

We are committed to contributing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Our projects and practices have a direct impact on SDG goals 3 and 4.



Our Green Committee meets quarterly, scrutinising decision-making and processes alongside targets set out in our Green Action Plan. The CEO reports to the Trustees quarterly.

During the year, we changed the zonal heating in our office to allow for higher efficiency by heating only the used parts of the office. Combined with increased energy awareness by the team, this resulted in a reduction of electricity usage of 9%.

We invested in a new storage system for project materials and supplies. This has already resulted in a small decrease in material usage per project, and we expect further reductions in the years to come.

A new procurement approach gives more emphasis on using suppliers that are environmentally responsible while still economically viable.

90% of respondents to Partnership First's Social Value survey on Create in February 2026 (see page 8), including artists, community partners and corporate partners, said Create made an impact on Sustainability & the Environment outcomes.

**BY MAINTAINING A VALUES-LED APPROACH TO BOTH ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INCLUSION, CREATE POSITIONS ITSELF NOT ONLY TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES, BUT TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO LONG-TERM CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE.**

Partnership First, Social Value Survey



**THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CREATE, FUNDING SUPPORTED INITIATIVES IN LOCAL SCHOOLS, HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE THE WIDER BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT. WORKING WITH SEND STUDENTS MADE THAT IMPACT FEEL PERSONAL AND IMMEDIATE. IT WAS REWARDING TO STEP OUTSIDE OUR USUAL ROLES, CREATE ART TOGETHER AND BUILD GENUINE CONNECTIONS. WE HOPED TO INSPIRE THE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED, BUT LEFT FEELING EQUALLY INSPIRED OURSELVES.**

SEND participant creating visual art during *environment:matters* in Bedford

Margot Smith, ESG Manager, Octopus Energy Generation

# VOLUNTEERING

Where corporate partners provide financial support of our programmes, we offer high quality volunteering opportunities for employees. Below is some of the feedback we have received:

- **100%** felt well informed, briefed and supported by Create during their volunteering.
- **100%** said volunteering improved their wellbeing.
- **100%** said volunteering increased their job satisfaction, and their commitment to and pride in their employer.
- **99%** said volunteering increased their confidence in working with people from different backgrounds and made them more aware of the social issues facing participants.
- **100%** of participants said they enjoyed meeting and working with volunteers.

**IT HAS BEEN A REALLY GREAT EXPERIENCE TO STEP OUTSIDE OUR NORMAL ROUTINE AND SUPPORT OTHERS WITH DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. I FEEL A LOT MORE CONFIDENT WORKING WITH SEND CHILDREN NOW AND IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO SUPPORT SUCH A CAUSE. THIS HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC INTRODUCTION TO CREATE AND I'M INSPIRED TO DO MORE VOLUNTEERING!**

Volunteer on *environment:matters* project with SEND schoolchildren

**I HAVE SEEN FIRST-HAND HOW ART CAN BE USED AS A METHOD OF ENGAGEMENT. IT WAS REALLY NICE TO SEE THE PARTICIPANTS GO FROM BEING RELUCTANT AND UNSURE OF THEMSELVES TO BEING CREATIVE AND PROUD OF WHAT THEY HAD PRODUCED. CREATE WERE BRILLIANT AND I FELT REALLY SUPPORTED BY THEM.**

Volunteer on *art:links* project with older people



Volunteers from Octopus Energy during an *environment:matters* project in Bedford

**THE VOLUNTEERS BROUGHT ENTHUSIASM, KINDNESS, SUPPORT AND WERE FRIENDLY. THEY MADE US FEEL WELCOME AND THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT BEING A CARER MEANS.**

Participant, *creative:release*

**I LOVE MAKING NEW FRIENDS! THEY WERE THE MOST LOVELY VOLUNTEERS EVER AND WORKING WITH THEM MADE ME FEEL MORE CONFIDENT.**

Participant, *environment:matters*



Volunteers from Ashurst working alongside participants making collage during *creative:engagement*

# HOW TO SUPPORT US

## 1. DONATE

If you believe in the power of the creative arts to build skills, increase acceptance, promote inclusion, reduce isolation, enhance wellbeing and empower lives, please consider giving a gift to support our work today.

By making a regular gift to Create, you will maximise your impact on our work. You can support as an individual or a business. Visit [createarts.org.uk](https://createarts.org.uk) for details or email [info@createarts.org.uk](mailto:info@createarts.org.uk).

## 2. FUNDRAISE

You can fundraise with your friends or club, at school or work, or through an organised event. Every pound you raise helps us empower disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adults. We have a wealth of creative ideas and tools for fundraising activities and can help you maximise publicity and reach your target.

## 3. BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

Corporate Partners can sponsor a bespoke programme, fulfil responsible business objectives, engage employees and demonstrate purpose. As a national charity, we can tailor a partnership to inspire joy in young carers through time away from their responsibilities; help young parents in prison write and illustrate stories for their children; give disabled adults the chance to express themselves through music and dance; take the therapeutic benefits of the arts to young patients; or design a new, unique partnership, created just for your company. Find out more: [createarts.org.uk/support-us/corporate-support/](https://createarts.org.uk/support-us/corporate-support/).

## 4. OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

There are other ways to support our work: through a gift in your Will; a gift in memory of a loved one; or celebratory donations to mark a birthday, wedding or anniversary, for example. To discuss any of these options, please contact us: [info@createarts.org.uk](mailto:info@createarts.org.uk).

## 5. SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Our monthly e:create newsletter will keep you up to date with everything that is going on. Sign up here: [createarts.org.uk/newsletter](https://createarts.org.uk/newsletter).

# A BIG THANK YOU

Create would like to thank all those grant-makers, companies and individuals who have supported our work this year, including those who wish to remain anonymous. Without you we simply could not provide our inspirational participants with the creative respite they deserve. This report demonstrates the impact your support has had on many lives, using creativity to instil confidence, build skills and reduce isolation for those experiencing challenges in their lives. You are our heroes. Thank you!

## TRUSTS / FOUNDATIONS / PUBLIC FUNDING

Anonymous  
The 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust  
Aesop Foundation  
The Behrens Foundation  
The Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation  
Bruce Wake Charitable Trust  
CA Redfern Charitable Foundation  
Charles S French Charitable Trust  
The Chartered Accountants' Livery Charity  
Chesterhill Charitable Trust  
The Chetwode Foundation  
The Christopher and Henry Oldfield Trust  
City Bridge Foundation  
Comic Relief  
Coutts Charitable Foundation  
David and Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust  
Deborah Loeb Brice Donor Advised Fund at CAF  
The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust  
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust  
The February Foundation  
The Finborough Foundation  
Fowler Smith and Jones Trust  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
The Headley Trust  
Hyde Park Place Estate Charity  
John Horniman's Children's Trust  
John Lyon's Charity  
The John Thaw Foundation

The Leigh Trust  
The Linbury Trust  
London Freemasons Charity  
Merchant Taylors' Foundation  
Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust  
The Michael Marsh Charitable Trust  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
Network for Social Change Charitable Trust  
Newcomen Collett Foundation  
Prudence Trust  
Q Charitable Trust  
The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation  
Sarah Jane Leigh Charitable Trust  
The Simon Rivett-Carnac Trust  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus CIO  
Southwark Council Neighbourhoods Fund  
St James's Place Charitable Foundation  
St Paul's Schools Foundation (via The Mercers' Company)  
Wates Foundation  
Westminster Almshouses Foundation  
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust  
The Worshipful Company of Coopers  
The Worshipful Company of World Traders



Embroidery created by adult carers in Tower Hamlets during a *creative:release* workshop



An older person from Westminster with their artwork during an *art:links* workshop

# A BIG THANK YOU

## INDIVIDUALS

### Project Funders

Big Give Arts for Impact campaign donors  
In memory of Charlotte Benton  
Johnston Nijman Foundation

### Individual Supporters

Patrick Goold  
Jonathan Quin  
In memory of John Hedley Haggett  
In memory of Victoria Holroyd  
In memory of Graham Jewson  
In memory of Louise Metcalf  
In memory of Elayne Scalan  
In memory of Dawn Stevens  
In memory of Frances Webster

### Create the Difference

**Champion:** Tony Cates; Alistair DK Johnston CMG; Tim & Claire Jones  
**Catalyst:** Anne Baldock; Eddie Donaldson OBE  
**Curator:** Gareth Davies; Philip Emery; Sean Hanson; Adam McNeeney; Susan Paul;  
Mark Sismey-Durrant; Chris and Vanessa Turpin  
**Connector:** Wendy Dempsey; Vanessa Sharp; Colin Sheaf; Martin Waldon  
**Change Maker (Founder Members):** Nicky Goulder MBE; Marit Meyer-Bell  
**Community (Founder Members):** John Broadis; Carol Topolski; Michael Topolski



A disabled adult working on their artwork during a Nurturing Talent workshop delivery day

## COMPANIES

### Corporate Partners

Ashurst  
Barnett Waddingham  
British Land  
Grosvenor Property UK  
Octopus Energy Generation  
Reed Smith  
smart UK  
White Stuff

### Corporate Donors

Foilco - Multiplicity  
Fresh: Art Fair  
Heron Financial  
PsLondon  
Thirteen Creative  
Unethical  
William and Hill

### Create Live! For Business

KPMG  
White Stuff

### Create the Difference

**Pioneer:** Brown-Forman  
**Innovator:** London  
Graphic Centre  
**Collaborator:** Dawn  
Creative

## COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Christina Greenhalgh & Jeremy Rayment  
Besnik Mehmeti  
Paul Thimont  
"A Canvas in Sound" Charity Concert

Centurion Management  
Purple Patch Management  
Rogue Art Exhibition  
Six Arts Charity concert

**All who wish to remain anonymous and those who did not give permission to be credited.**

**Create is deeply grateful to all those additional donors who found us and made gifts via our website, fundraised for us, or made gifts in memory of loved ones. We cannot thank you enough.**

Image (back cover): visual artwork created by young carers in Enfield

The acknowledgements show all gifts over £500. If there is an inadvertent error, please accept our apologies and contact the Create team at [info@createarts.org.uk](mailto:info@createarts.org.uk).

# IMAGINE MAKE CREATE

ARTS.ORG.UK

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Nicky Goulder MBE  
Founding Chief Executive  
E: [nicky@createarts.org.uk](mailto:nicky@createarts.org.uk)  
✕ @nickygoulder

Create  
3rd Floor, 14 Austin Friars  
London  
EC2N 2HE  
T: 020 7374 8485 (London)  
0161 521 0033 (Manchester)

[createarts.org.uk](http://createarts.org.uk)  
f create charity  
✕ @createcharity

Registered charity number 1099733