



Crucial Crew 2024 – Impact Report

The Mix – Mid Suffolk

Mid Suffolk District Council

Small Grants

Grant amount: £5,000



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HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Highlights

The Crucial Crew project at The Mix, Mid Suffolk, funded by a £5000 grant, successfully increased personal safety awareness among 998 students from 42 primary schools in 2024. The initiative provided engaging safety education and strengthened community ties, despite a decrease in participation compared to previous years.

Financial Highlights

The Crucial Crew project utilized the £5000 grant to cover venue costs, staff salaries, refreshments, and stationery. These funds ensured the effective delivery of safety education to 998 students from across Mid Suffolk.

Operating Highlights

The project provided a fun and stimulating environment for learning about personal safety, covering topics such as Fire Safety, Drugs & Alcohol, Mindfulness and Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Friendships, CPR, Safe Sugar, and Online Safety. Positive feedback highlighted the educational and enjoyable nature of the activities. The initiative strengthened relationships with local schools and organisations, fostering a sense of community among students before their transition to secondary school.

“These essential messages are delivered in ways that are fun and memorable, but also by people who are outside of school and can keep them safe too.”

CRUCIAL CREW

Crucial Crew is a multi-agency safety event aimed at 10 to 11-year-olds, designed to provide children with vital life skills and safety advice. The program engages Year 6 students through interactive sessions that cover various safety topics, helping them learn how to keep themselves and others safe. It has been running in various locations since 1994, and is delivered by local councils and safety organisations.

- The scheme takes the form of several interactive sessions, often delivered by professionals in their field.
- The sessions include, fire safety, how to dial 999 in an emergency, staying safe on roads, cycling safety, alcohol and drug awareness, anti-social behaviour awareness, staying safe around electricity, first aid, recycling and the environment, staying safe near water and how to stay safe online and using mobile devices.
- As you can see, the diversity of the sessions covered at Crucial Crew are vast and they are being refined and developed every year to adapt to the changes in children's environments.

THE MIX

The Mix, located in Stowmarket, is a youth work charity, working with young people from across Mid Suffolk and beyond. They are dedicated to effective partnerships with agencies, charities and businesses to ensure young people can co-create and access the best youth work support available. The Mix runs a multipurpose facility, a wide range of provisions for young people and have a trading arm that employs young people and invests its profit into the charity to enable the continued growth of their impact.¹

Our Promises | To See You | To Hear You | To Believe in You | To Walk with You

The Mix has been hosting Crucial Crew since 2017, and are dedicated to helping students transition from primary to secondary school by educating them on various aspects of personal health and safety.

The Mix works with several voluntary, community and charity sector organisations who volunteer their time to deliver scenarios at the event. This year these were the School Nurses delivering a session about wellbeing and mindfulness, Turning Point spoke about drugs & alcohol, Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service with their state-of-the-art Fire Pod, Suffolk Constabulary delivering online safety, Army Welfare delivering safe sugar, the Mix team provided a Healthy Friendships session, and First Aid in Education delivering a session on CPR. Scenarios are flexible and are adapted each year to consider contextual issues, as well as to utilise offers of support and partnership availability.

¹ <https://www.themixstowmarket.co.uk>

GRANT EXPENDITURE

£5,000 Contributed Towards:

- **Room Hire**
 - Use of the two main floors at The Mix in Stowmarket
 - For 7-day hire - **£2,730** incl. VAT
- **Staff**
 - Costs for preparation and delivery of sessions
 - 114 hours of youth work delivery
 - 187 hours of planning/support
 - Total: **£3,103**
- **Catering**
 - For activity providers and the youth team supporting the event
 - Average 25 people/day
 - Total: **£2,740.80**

OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Awareness of Personal Safety

Objective: Children and young people become more aware of personal safety as they transition from primary to secondary school.

Indicators:

- Number of schools attending in 2024: **42**
- Number of schools attending in previous years: **41**
- Number of attendees partaking in the event in 2024: **998**
- Number of attendees partaking in previous years: **1028**

Outcome 2: Fun and Stimulating Learning Environment

Objective: The project provides a fun and stimulating environment for children to learn about personal safety and skills on how to react to dangerous/threatening situations.

Indicators:

- **Feedback:**
 - "Always a good range of workshops, covering important topics."
 - "Helps the year 6s be more aware of moving up to high school."
 - "The kids are engaged because it was short and sharp, clear messages, well presented, practical and engaging."
- **Scenario topics delivered:**
 - Fire Safety
 - Drugs & Alcohol
 - Mindfulness and Emotional Wellbeing
 - Healthy Friendships
 - CPR
 - Safe Sugar
 - Online Safety

IMPACT OF PROJECT

Reach

The Crucial Crew project at The Mix successfully increased personal safety awareness among 998 students from 42 primary schools in 2024. Despite a decrease in participation compared to previous years, the project successfully delivered key safety messages and fostered community among students. The decrease was in part due to a couple of regular schools being unable to arrange transportation. That being said, 4 of the schools in attendance were new to both the Crucial Crew event and The Mix.



Impact

The funding enabled The Mix Stowmarket to successfully deliver the Crucial Crew event, reaching 998 Year 6 students from 42 primary schools. This support allowed the organisation to provide essential resources, including catering, staff costs, and room hire. The event helped familiarise young people with The Mix and its services, fostering trust and positive relationships with youth workers who will support them in secondary school. Additionally, the event increased awareness of personal safety and provided a stimulating environment for learning crucial life skills, ultimately establishing The Mix as a key support hub for young people in the community.