

2025

KDE
DANCE

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT

Alt Text: A photograph of a woman holding her baby.

Letter from Katie

OUR VISION

Hello,

I am a choreographer, facilitator and producer working to increase confidence in creative and digital skills whilst supporting services to increase positive physical and emotional wellbeing.

2025 was an exciting year of creative growth, marked by the development of new work, the expansion of delivery programmes, and meaningful engagement with people of all ages, from babies to pensioners.

Thank you to every participant, supporter, partner and funder, we could not do the impactful work we do without your support.

This is our third annual report on our activities.

I hope you find it an good read!

Katie

"Their wellbeing was increased by celebrating what they enjoy doing at school – a massive benefit."

Teacher @ Thamesmead School

Each year I write down three things that I want to achieve through my work. 2025's were:

LEARNING

I wanted to learn new methods for evaluating our projects in order to further understand the impact we are making and be able to evidence this.

EVERYONE

I wanted my work to reach people across different life stages by creating at least one dedicated opportunity for each age group.

NEW SPACES

I wanted to develop partnerships with settings where movement-based interventions could have a meaningful impact, particularly where such activity was not already available or delivered on a regular basis.



Alt Text: A photograph of two children who are looking into the distance. One is holding a flag.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS

79

NUMBER OF
WORKSHOPS

924

APPROXIMATE
PARTICIPANTS
REACH

1

INTERNSHIPS

7

SECTOR SERVICE
TYPES

6

FUNDERS

16

NUMBER OF
PERFORMANCES/
SHOWS

390

APPROXIMATE
AUDIENCE REACH

22

PARTNERS
COLLABORATED
WITH

4

COMPETITONS
JUDGED

22

ARTISTS/CREATIVES
SUPPORTED

3

CORE TEAM
MEMBERS

6

CPD SESSIONS/TALKS
DELIVERED

2

NEW WORKS
CREATED

1

ARTIST
MENTORSHIP

WHERE WE WORKED

"It is wonderful to see the emphasis of the learning is based on the individual - 'who' they are - what they find interesting/important - not (as is all too often in the education system) just on what they can achieve."

Nikki Boyle, Teacher @ Thamesmead School

ON THE MAP

1. Ashford (Surrey)
2. Bexhill
3. Brighton
4. Canterbury
5. Derby
6. Eastbourne
7. Firle
8. Guildford
9. Hastings
10. Ickleton
11. Laughton
12. Ockendon
13. Penistone
14. Penryn
15. Portsmouth
16. Seascale
17. Shepperton
18. Stanwell
19. Wannock

NOT ON THE MAP

Online
LA



DELIVERY

This year we have loved working with all generations, from babies 12 months and under, school children, family festivals, community events to people living in care and rest homes.

CREATE

I partnered with Create to deliver their Creative:Connection offer, bringing together young people with Periodic Limb Movement Disorders and students from a mainstream school. Through shared creative activities, the project fostered connection, understanding, and collaboration across schools.

EQUAL ARTS



I have collaborated with Equal Arts to continue to deliver movement and creative classes at care and rest homes in Bexhill.

Residents have grown in confidence, being able to lead the group, input their own ideas and remember movement phrases.



ACTION FOR CARERS SURREY

With support from the Escalate Arts Community Strand we have brought the magic of motion capture to young carers, creating space for them to have fun, bond with others who are also carers and learn new skills.

"LEO GREW IN CONFIDENCE THROUGHOUT THE SESSION. IT WAS LOVELY TO SEE HIM SHARING HIS IDEAS AND TAKING PART IN ALL THE ACTIVITIES AND BEING PROUD OF HIMSELF. THANK YOU SO MUCH."

Parent and Action for Carers Surrey Team
Member

"YOU HAVE CREATED A PLAYGROUND FOR THEM. IT GIVES THEM CONFIDENCE AND THEY ARE ALL TRYING REALLY HARD."

Care Staff

"SHE REALLY CHANGED THEM"

Resident about change in mood of other residents

Alt Text: A photograph of a man holding a ball in a care home and another photo of two children who have just connected their motion capture suits and are lifting their arms in celebration.

DELIVERY

This year we were lucky enough to be able to continue to tour our motion capture and dance show and engagement programme '*Playscape: How to Build a Galaxy*'.

RURAL COMMUNITIES



Programmed by Jury for Joy, Everyone Here's long-term citizens' jury in West Cumbria we brought the excitement of digital dance to communities who do not normally get to engage with performance work.

SCHOOLS



With the support of Escalate Arts School Commission Strand we have been delivering *Creative Futures: Behind the Movement* at Thamesmead School.

Creative Futures: Behind the Movement celebrates collaboration, innovation, and the next generation of creative talent.

The programme gave year 9 and year 10 students the chance to explore four creative career pathways within the KDE Dance team while responding to real creative briefs (music, dance, documentation and 3D design).

"IT IS REALLY NICE TO HAVE YOU TRAVEL HERE. WE DON'T HAVE FESTIVALS."

"IT WAS SO RELAXING. I THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT AND THAT IT SHOULD GO AROUND SCHOOLS IN CUMBRIA TO INSPIRE MORE KIDS TO GO FOR THEIR DREAMS."

Audience Members



Alt Text: Two photographs of a dance performance. Performers wear dark clothes and motion capture suits and there are projections behind them. Another photo of people watching the show.

WORK HIGHLIGHT

A Dance for Us - A dance and cello performance for babies 0 - 12 months and their carers.

Performed by dancer and doula Laura Carless and new mum and cellist Rachel Dawson, this work creates a safe and nurturing space for carers and their babies to collectively reflect on the often-unspoken experiences of becoming and growing into a carer.

The piece combines live looped cello, song, dance, and verbatim text gathered from conversations with new parents. It weaves together moments of intimacy, exhaustion, joy, and quiet resilience, from the rhythm of rocking a baby to sleep, to the surreal stillness of late-night feeds, to the small triumphs of simply making it out of the house.



This show was kindly commissioned by Jessica Cheetham after she spent three years researching and co-creating with parents and very young children, alongside her DYCP research into who was not currently making early years work but had the skills to do so.

Alt Text: A photography of two women looking at a baby bump and carers stood up with their babies.



PAST AND FUTURE

“A BEAUTIFUL SENSORY EXPERIENCE THAT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF THE EARLY DAYS OF MOTHERHOOD - THE UPS AND DOWNS AND DAILY ACTIVITIES.”

“ENGAGING, MOVING, WELCOMING, SWEET, TENDER, CARING. I WAS MOVED TO TEARS IN THE COLLECTIVE SLOW DANCE. IT TOUCHED ME DEEPLY.”

Audience Members, Carer



2025

Alongside making all of these projects happen under the KDE Dance banner, I also worked with other organisations and individuals in the arts. Some 2025 highlights include:

Being a Creative Producer at **Hastings Commons** as part of OBX, they're creative technology hub. This created the opportunity for me to produce Commoning the Programme 2, a project that supported members of the refugee and asylum seeker community to learn all about programming and to create their own commission brief.

Working with the **De La Warr Pavilion** supporting fundraising and donation strategies .

Alt Text: A photograph of a dancer holding a balloon and a parent and their child drawing.



PAST AND FUTURE

2026

In 2026 we will be taking our work to new performance spaces:

Thanks to support from **Arts Council England National Lottery** we will be taking our motion capture and dance offer to staff, and patients (both community and inpatients) at UK hospitals.

We will also report more thoroughly on our activities, helping to clearly articulate and evidence the importance of arts and culture in supporting wellbeing and addressing workforce skills gaps.



“THIS WAS MY FIRST POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OF DARKNESS.”

Audience Member, Refugee

“IT WAS SO GOOD. I APPRECIATE HOW MUCH WORK WOULD HAVE GONE INTO IT AND HOW SKILLED YOU HAVE TO BE TO GET IT RIGHT.”

Audience Member, Rural Location

Alt Text: A photograph of people watching a performance and the performers.

**“Engaging, moving,
welcoming, sweet, tender,
caring. I was moved to
tears in the collective slow
dance. It touched me
deeply.”**

**Audience
Member,
Carer**

Alt Text: A photograph of a baby watching a show.



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Alt Text: A photograph of a woman filming a dance performance.