

# The Outsiders Project Impact Report



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## Welcome to The Outsiders Project

Let us introduce ourselves. We are Debbie, Gary, Geoff, Lisa and Neil. We are just some of the many people who have found support through this incredible project, and whose lives have been changed for the better since we took those first steps to join the group.

We haven't looked back, and hundreds of others haven't either.

Our stories are told in this report.

We never believed in ourselves.  
We never believed we were writers.



## Welcome to The Outsiders Project

The Outsiders Project brings people together who have previously felt on the edges of society; ex-offenders, domestic abuse victims, former sex workers, sufferers of poor mental health, or in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction.

In this report, we show how the project has had a profound, life-changing and positive impact on our lives.

The Outsiders Project has amplified our voices, along with many more like us.

Through the power of creative writing, we have thrived in many other ways too. We have grown in confidence, resilience and creative expression. We have learned how to manage our health. We have developed lasting friendships. We no longer feel isolated, and we feel stronger and more able to tackle life's challenges and look forward to a positive and fulfilling life.

The Outsiders Project is truly transformational and this report is a testament of the far-reaching impact it has had on us and our fellow participants.

*“I work with people who experience significant mental health challenges but also have offending histories or involvement with the criminal justice services.*

*We were very fortunate to have one of the creative writing facilitators from The Outsiders Project come in to run creative writing workshops on the wards and it was great to hear the person’s stories as opposed to it being their diagnosis or their offending history.*

*Some of the people we work with it is really challenging to reintegrate them back into the community. as they are doubly stigmatised because of their mental health diagnosis and their offending history.*

*We have built a relationship with The Outsiders Project and have been able to get people who have felt very excluded to be able to come along and be part of the workshops and that helps them reconnect and rebuild their lives and be a part of something when they have spent so long being excluded. It really contributes to supporting their mental health recovery and that in turn reduces the likelihood of reoffending in the future.”*

Chloe Darby, Occupational Therapist, Community Mental Health Forensic Team, Dorset Healthcare University, NHS Foundation Trust

## Why The Outsiders Project is needed

### **The context of poor mental health, addictions and the effect on society**

The NHS monthly statistics data tracker (<https://digital.nhs.uk>) estimates that the cost of mental ill health in England is £300 billion per year, reflecting lost productivity, healthcare costs and wider social consequences. NHS data showed that in April 2025 alone, over 1.9 million people in England were in contact with NHS funded mental health services. The Big Mental Health Report 2025, published by the Centre for Mental Health, also recorded that one in four adults in England experience poor mental health each year, equating to 14 million people at any one time. This includes depression, anxiety and other common mental health disorders.

### **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole**

According to Public Health Dorset, 20% of adults in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) are recorded as having a common mental health condition (representing 80,000 people in a population of approximately 400,000).

The Government’s Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Profile (last updated in November 2025) provides local level data, which shows that poor mental health varies significantly across regions and is often associated with socioeconomic factors.

Boscombe, where our project is based, ranks in the lowest 10% of deprived neighbourhoods in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (Gov.uk).

Consequently, the known link between poor mental health and addictions poses a high risk to those who live within the catchment of The Outsiders Project.

The Office for National Statistics recorded that in BCP, in 2025, there were 1,800-2,000 adults in registered treatment for drug misuse and a further 1,200-1,400 people formally registered in specialist alcohol treatment programmes. It is widely accepted that the costs associated with addiction and related challenges can be significantly reduced through appropriate intervention and support.

The Outsiders Project can play a crucial role in addressing these issues with its focus on solutions by providing a safe space for vulnerable people to meet, which reduces isolation, which in turn helps people to manage their health and wellbeing, while creating friendships and developing skills to manage and stabilise lives.

This report demonstrates that the programmes provided by The Outsiders Project can present a more economical and sustainable alternative to government spending in health, housing and social sectors and may well reduce the overall cost of dealing with shattered lives. Investing in well-structured creative projects like The Outsiders Project will result in a better future for us all.

*“I’ve got normal work and normal people and I’ve got my recovery stuff and my family, but if I didn’t have the creative part of my life, I’d feel less. There is a lot of giving in the project. There is a lot of love”*

*“I have worked for over 40 years as a medical practitioner and been heavily involved in addiction services in Boscombe, including Streetscene and the Providence Community Addiction Services.*

*I cannot stress the importance of creative projects like The Outsiders Project in providing vital support networks and delivering meaningful activities for people struggling with their health.*

*Creativity has the power to transform lives, and this project has truly had transformative impact on many people I have met at the addiction services. Being part of the project has helped them to turn their lives around and find something positive and sustainable to be part of.”*

## What is The Outsiders Project?

**The Outsiders Project amplifies the voices of those often marginalised and unheard.**

**Through creativity, we show that people sidelined from society can create work of outstanding quality and worth, leading to positive outcomes in health and well-being, employment, education and training**

Since its beginnings in 2018, The Outsiders Project has been nurturing excellent, high-quality creative work from people who never thought they could write, let alone tell their story, or perform on a stage.

The project is run by and for the outsiders.

*“The Outsiders Project gives individuals a sense of belonging beyond recovery, trauma or time in institutions.”*

The project is a celebration of the personal development that the writing experience can bring. It acknowledges that our community has had challenging life experiences, and it embraces the many ways that the creative writing process can explore sensitive memories and ideas.

This happens in a uniquely safe space, where creative writing forms a bond of trust. Participants are able to express deeply personal perspectives and lived experiences without fear.

Our skilled workshop leaders’ direct developments with sensitivity and compassion. Each of our workshop leaders are themselves outsiders, having come through the project. They are now supporting others to find strength, confidence and meaning, through writing and creativity.

*“The Outsiders Project has had a big impact on me. I have a new identity, a purpose and friendships. I am now a writer, a social contributor and I am a community member”*



**Impact that counts**

Over the 7 years, highlights of the project include:

- 4,320 registered attendances
- 840 creative workshops delivered
- 3 workshops delivered each week for 40 weeks a year
- 45 an average of 45 participants per week
- 350 participants engaged with our outreach programmes
- 12 workshop leaders trained
- 660 prisoners reached across 44 prison visits
- 500 hours of mentoring provided
- 31 freelance people employed
- 23,000 visitors to our performances, events and online engagement
- 50+ volunteers involved

**Personal Development**

Although unquantifiable, it is important to record that through participation in The Outsiders Project, participants have grown in self-awareness, flexibility, compassion, discipline and resilience; these attributes are arguably necessary for a stable and successful life. Their evidence is recorded in this report within each My Story case study.

*“I can still find life tough, I am still chaotic... but my words remain, and the writing group is the one thing I will do above all else. It literally saved my life, I have learned so much in the last 12 or so years. When everything seemed to be falling apart I always have my words and the people around me who believed in me when I did not believe in myself.”*



## Our Objectives

The Outsiders Project focuses on five important objectives delivered through creative writing

- 01 Providing a safe space for vulnerable people to meet**
- 02 Developing skills to manage and stabilise lives**
- 03 Managing health and wellbeing**
- 04 Reducing isolation and loneliness**
- 05 Creating friendships**

**To achieve our five objectives we offer:**

- creative workshops
- mentoring
- 1-1's
- support and referrals
- theatre performances
- outreach workshops
- workshops in prisons, mental health centres, recovery centres
- networking
- personal development support
- training and leadership skills
- access to employment
- support groups
- taking control and steering the programme
- regular contact and follow up to all mentoring
- developing life skills
- lasting friendships
- positive impact on local area
- community engagement and involvement
- volunteering

In the following pages, we'll share descriptions of the activities and projects that have been delivered by The Outsiders Project to help achieve these important goals.

## Our Objectives

### Objective 01: Providing a safe space for vulnerable people to meet.

**Vital to the success of the project, has been the provision of a safe and welcoming space for the groups to meet. The Outsiders Project is delivered from The Old School House (TOSH) in Boscombe, an area of multiple deprivation where most of our participants live. TOSH offers a safe space where vulnerable people who are often dealing with similar challenges can be supported by their peers and members of the project.**

#### Writing in Safety

The weekly writing workshops are the first step for participants to join the project, often they are introduced from a friend or through word of mouth or a referral. Our Code of Conduct provides a clear and safe structure to the workshops (attached to the report). As participants grow in confidence and develop new skills, they become involved in other aspects of the project, when they feel ready and able to do so.

In total 840 creative workshops have taken place since 2018 3 workshops per week x 40 weeks per year, reaching an average of 45 participants per week

#### Sharing in Safety

Our programme gives participants the opportunity to share work with other members of the writing workshops in our 'Lock-Ins', developed during the pandemic. This

develops confidence, self-belief and presentation skills.

**15 Lock-Ins delivered since 2020 with 735 attending.**

#### Supporting a Safe Environment for LGBTQ+

In 2025 the group proposed a new workshop specifically for the LGBTQ+ community. Since January 2025, 154 registered LGBTQ+ attendances

#### Safe Homes Network

Developed in partnership with performance and theatre spaces across the country, The Outsiders Project launched the Safe Homes Network. The objective was to create safe spaces for performers with a set of clear guidelines agreed at each venue. This includes alcohol free spaces, a safe quiet space, additional time to set up and rehearse.

**5 organisations signed up to the Network**

*"The workshops really are a safe space, most people are sharing real personal stuff often for the first time."*

*"I'm thankful for the key worker who signposted me to The Outsiders Project when I was scared. This decision has given me a brighter future."*

#### Outreach work to create safe space links

To establish safe routes to joining the project, our workshop leaders deliver workshops in the community to connect with specialist services. These introductions, help to break down the barriers and encourage new participants to join the workshops. Regular outreach workshops are delivered at:

##### St Ann's Hospital, Bournemouth

Workshops delivered in their specialist psychiatric hospital providing acute in-patient mental health care for adults. **15 in-patients attended workshops 5 of those released joined The Outsiders Project.**

##### Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA)

Termly workshops delivered for women who have experienced domestic abuse, offering a safe first step into writing and self-expression. **72 women attended workshops**

#### We Are With You

Termly workshops with the drug and alcohol advisory service running in Boscombe. **Average attendees 20 x 3 times a year 12 people signed up to our workshops**

#### Dorset Mind

Workshops helping people in Dorset experiencing mental health problems to access the vital support they need. **12 people attended a series of three workshops and 2 people signed up to our writing workshops.**



## Our Stories: Neil

**When Neil first joined the workshops, he was shy, unable to read aloud, could not make any eye contact or speak in the workshop. His route to recovery has seen a complete transformation, now a workshop leader, our rep on the prisons tour, a published writer, performer and facilitator, and now starting a creative writing degree.**

“Someone signposted me to The Outsiders Project from another local writing project and I know that The Outsiders Project is a much better fit for me. I didn’t use to write. I used to be told that I wasn’t good at anything while I was at school. I was told that I couldn’t write but I wrote in rehab and just continued. I have been through a transformation from the person not wanting to express myself, always with my head down, to now being part of a project and being able to step out and perform something that I have written. There was a transformative moment in one of the informal Lock-ins when I got feedback which made me realise that I could continue with writing. It’s like a stepping stone really – each time we write or perform, we get feedback and we realise that we can take another step.

From being a participant at the start and watching the workshop leaders, I’ve been supported to be able to step a little bit further out and move on. Now I lead one of the weekly workshops as well as guiding and mentoring the new ones. People send me their work as I give sensitive feedback. I have also guided others when they are getting ready for a performance by helping them to stay mentally and physically connected. I remember what it was like and I’m able to help. The way we support each other is organic and it just works. I had someone who always encouraged me and enabled me to keep going. There is always someone there and there will always be someone else coming up. I know that the groups will always be changing. When I first joined, we were all recovering addicts, but the groups are not all like that now. I have built deep friendships at The Outsiders Project. We care about each other and there is such a sense of unity. In this creative arena, we get vulnerable at times, and we expose stuff, but we go through these things together and get closer through it. These friendships have lasted and developed. By guiding others, it has helped me realise that this is where I fit. I would like to do more workshop facilitating. I’d like to write and publish a short story collection and make a living through writing. I know that I have found writing which is the thing that I believe I am here to do. I found my purpose.”

## Our Objectives

### Objective 02: Developing skills to manage and stabilise lives

**The real-life benefits of The Outsiders Project are long-lasting and life changing. Upskilling within the project has seen participants develop the confidence to re-enter employment, register on further and higher education courses, work as freelance workshop leaders and professional trainers. Skills built mean our participants have returned to work following long periods of unemployment, the self-belief gained from attending the workshops were given as evidence of how they felt able to start work again.**

#### **Skills development within the project contributing to employment opportunities**

Our programmes are all delivered by people with lived experience, who come through our workshop programmes, passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation of participants. From our seven years of experience, we know the best results are achieved when those leading workshops have gone through the same challenges and life experiences as the participants. They genuinely bring an authentic voice to connect and communicate with the participants, understanding their needs and identifying what support is required to achieve personal goals and outcomes. We also recognise they need support, and this is provided through our upskilling/training programme.

#### **Our Projects: Peer Mentoring and Workshop Leading**

Mentoring others has become central to the ethos of the project and is now a virtuous circle of support. The effect of peer mentoring is that individuals get personal encouragement to develop their writing skills, and this in turn nurtures their sense of self and belonging which continues to support their health and wellbeing. The mentoring encourages those ready to take the step to becoming workshop leaders.

#### **Further and Higher Education**

The programme has seen our members develop the confidence and skills to go on to further and higher education, something they never believed they could do before joining the project. Examples include completing an English degree at Birbeck, University of London, counselling qualifications, and social work training.

## Workshop Leaders Employment



#### **Employment resulting from skills developed**

Building confidence and greater resilience has seen our members moving from unemployment to employment. Employment includes CQC Registered Manager, social workers, support workers in rehabilitation centres and young people's drug and alcohol support centre, counselling and teaching.

Seetec, a careers service, helping people return to work referred 12 people to The Outsiders Project between 2024 and 2025. 11 of these went on to secure successful employment.

#### **Employment in the Creative Sector**

The creative skills developed has given many of the participants the self-belief to take their knowledge and experience beyond the workshops. From running workshops, to publishing their writing and poetry, it has

led to further professional development and employment. Just a few examples include a member becoming an ambassador for the Poverty, Truth Commission, also commissioning her to write a play; work published by Bournemouth University, a songwriter signed to Nothing Fancy Records, with a year-long tour, including Glastonbury, being employed as a workshop leader at Forest Forge Theatre Company.

#### **Developing Creative & Literary Skills**

The project develops a wide range of technical skills beyond writing: from skills in editing, proof-reading, publishing; presentation and performance skills to managing live events, radio interviews, community events as well as building tech skills in stage management, lighting and sound, giving wider employment opportunities in the events sector.



## Our Stories: Geoff

**Geoff worked as a sound technician and stage manager in London through the 80's and early 90's. He was a founding member of Vita Nova in 1999 and managed Bournemouth youth services live performance project (Baseline) for 3 years. In 2018 Geoff started his company Headlighting, who do production lighting and specialise in site specific small to medium size productions. Geoff is now tech for The Outsiders Project and helps manage the BAD (Boscombe Arts Depot) building.**

“I’m the sound and lighting technician for The Outsiders Project. I’m also the caretaker as I look after the BAD building and do all the safety tests. Sometimes, I make creative or technical suggestions for productions; if there is a job, it will get done. If anything needs a technical edge, I get the call. Previously, I worked my way up through the ranks from the age of 15. My start was in live music. I was kicked out of school and put in a Pupil Referral Unit – I was a tearaway. There was a teacher who picked up on my love of music. He was in a cover band, and he took me to his gig – I worked on the sound desk that night and that was my launch.

I went on to build a career in live sound for corporate jobs and I was on the cusp of setting up my own sound and lighting business when Covid locked us down. Then my arthritis kicked in and I’m now registered disabled. Before lockdown, I was reasonably stable. Lockdown happened and it all went wrong: health, mental health and business. It was a really bad time. The Outsiders Project saved my sanity. Without it, it would have been a different outcome.

For The Outsiders Project, I am paid for the productions when we do the shows and when we tour but I volunteer for the many other events. We built the BAD theatre space during lockdown and we put in the recording studio in 2020. I’ve developed a range of skills with The Outsiders Project as I used to work in venues that were pre-rigged and I didn’t have to think about Health and Safety but I have now been trained for responsibility for Health and Safety Management through the project. This has taken me into a much safer work world. I’m also quite competent with sound recording now, which is a step up from being a sound technician.

With Outsiders, there are challenges: the people are delicate. The Outsiders Project lets people be who they are without trying to mould them into something. The beauty lies in their personalities but sometimes this is the challenge. I’ve developed my listening skills as I don’t have the answers to people’s mental health issues or struggles but I’ve found that listening is enough. As the technician, I can see what the audience sees in a performance because I always sit at the back. I’ve seen people discussing what has happened with joy in their eyes. I’ve seen people deep in thought about what they have just experienced. I get to see how important it is. For example, for the people who are in early recovery who come and see our performances, the work inspires hope; not about recovery but about what they can achieve.”

Our Objectives

Objective 03: Managing health and wellbeing

Criteria of need

100% of participants meet our criteria of ‘any person over 18 who previously was or is currently experiencing challenges in any of the following areas: physical limitations; addiction; low income; domestic or sexual abuse; homeless/vulnerably housed; leaver of care; leaver of prison; institutional abuse; refugees/displaced people and those seeking asylum; long term users of mental health services.’

Personal development

Participants join the programme at all stages in the management of their health and well-being journey. The Outsiders Project’s model presents a route map which offers participants pathways so they can be inspired to take different approaches to making changes in their lives. We develop the route through the peer support and mentoring programme, facilitating the small steps that lead to lasting change. While every individual’s journey is different, and rarely smooth and linear, the programme is designed to help people build belief and motivation and develop new ways of thinking and behaving.

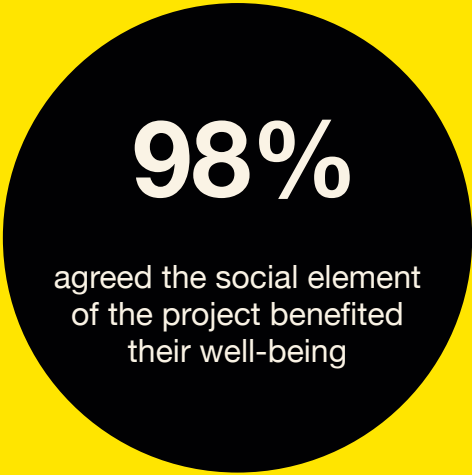
From this route map, we know that many of our participants report less recourse back

to medication or return to institutional rehab when engaged with creative opportunities. Our feedback shows that through their engagement with the project, participants have grown in self-awareness, flexibility, compassion, discipline and resilience. These attributes are fundamental for a stable and successful life.

Referrals

An average of 30 referrals per year are directed from social prescribers, GPs, doctors, health and well-being coaches.

When participants were asked about the impact the project had on their health and well-being.



Signposting

Signposting from local organisations brings up to 100 recommendations each year. Key signposting for example in 2025 included: Safe and Sound 20; Create Your Community 50; Bournemouth Foodbank 10.

Signposting comes from many organisations, the most frequent include:

St Ann’s Hospital, BCHA, We are With You, Bournemouth Foodbank, Safe and Sound, Streetscene, Dorset Mind, Body Positive, Footprints, Artful Scribe, Poverty Truth Commission, Weston College, Help and Care, Vita Nova, Health Science University, The Providence Project.





## Our Stories: Debbie

**Debbie has lived in Bournemouth for 25 years, after moving here to go into treatment for alcohol addiction. She joined the Outsiders writing workshops in 2019 and has been gaining confidence to allow her voice to be heard ever since. Debbie manages severe trauma partly due to brain damage from childhood cancer and years of extreme domestic abuse and periods of homelessness.**

“I heard about The Outsiders Project through a friend. I went to the women’s group first and had an amazing welcome. Before TOP, I was going through pretty tough times. I didn’t have a purpose or an identity. I had addiction and mental health issues. Since I’ve joined TOP, I’ve come to see myself as a writer. I have a place where I belong and it’s a bit like being in a family.

At first, I had no confidence but as my confidence grew, I went to the Lock-ins and shared my writing there. It’s not just doing the workshops though – it’s the planning, the writing, the thinking and sometimes the rehearsals. We are all writers and what we write about is so personal, but we have a bond as we are in recovery. Our backgrounds mean that we give and receive so much empathy.

It all started with the workshops but now I’ve become a workshop leader too. The fact that I’ve started leading workshops has taught me a lot about myself. I didn’t realise that I could hold a room, or that I could have leadership qualities. It’s through the workshop leading itself that I’ve begun to enjoy every aspect of the work.

I still pinch myself when I think about the impact that being part of TOP has had on my life. Six years ago, if anyone had suggested that I would be writing, leading workshops, going on a radio show, writing a podcast, communicating with my local MP, visiting the House of Lords as a commissioner for the Poverty Truth Network who have now asked me to write a one-woman play), I would have said, ‘No way!’. Yet, it’s true.

I’ve also co-edited and written a chapter (The Lived Experience) for a textbook, Poverty in the UK, by Mel Hughes at Bournemouth University. I am proud that my poem, Radiotherapy, which was animated by filmmaker Corrianna Clarke, has been used as a resource at Poole and Dorset County Hospitals and screened at the BEAF festival and Winchester Film Festivals. The Outsiders Project has had a big impact on me. I have a new identity, a purpose and friendships. I am now a writer, a social contributor and I am a community member”.

Our Objectives

Objective 04: Reducing isolation and loneliness

Establishing routine and purpose by attending writing workshops

Isolation and loneliness can severely impact mental and physical health, acting as major risk factors for depression, anxiety and cognitive decline. Chronic loneliness can create a “loop,” where fear of social situations leads to further isolation. The COVID-19 pandemic created increased levels of isolation and loneliness, with over 3.7 million people recorded as lonely in the UK. (Mental Health Foundation report)

**Regularity of Attendance**  
Since 2021, there have been 4,320 registered attendances.

In 2021, 50% of attendees returned regularly. By 2022 return attendance rate was up to 72%.From 2023-25 this rate increased to 90%

**Support during the Pandemic**  
Continuing the workshops online during the pandemic provided a lifeline for many of the participants, who already struggled with loneliness and isolation. Weekly workshops created a meeting point giving reassurance and support during this difficult time.

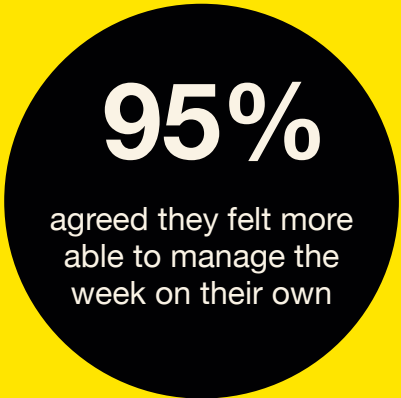
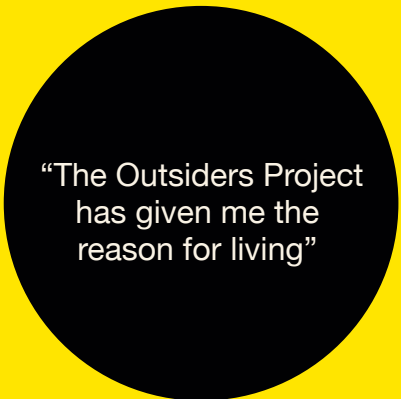
**During the Pandemic:**  
40 online workshops delivered  
20 participants regularly taking part in online workshops  
4 Lock-Ins delivered IRL

100 participants in our International Tattoo project  
100 Tattoo Stories created

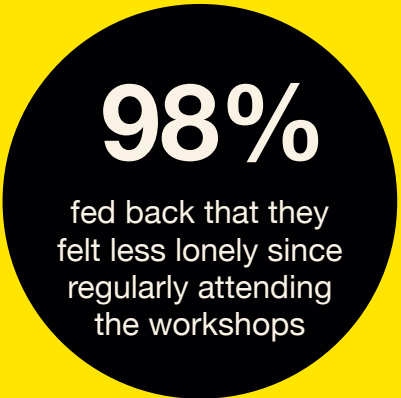
**Participant Led Networking**  
As participants gain confidence and self-belief, they begin to build new friendships which in turn help them to join other activities established by the participants. The setting up of the WhatsApp group, the development of their own social events has seen new groups meeting outside of the workshops and run by them. Visits to the theatre, meeting to share their work, all help to keep them in touch, support one another and reducing their isolation.

**Sustained support**  
25 long-time regulars of the group meet on a weekly basis outside of the workshops.

When asked about reducing isolation



*“Before I came to the project, I was fresh out of the hospital with no friends. When I am unwell, I stop talking to people. The Outsiders are my favourite group of people in the world. People are so, so supportive. I feel I can totally be myself. The consistency of weekly workshops and lock-in makes me really feel part of something.”*



## Our Objectives

### Objective 05: Creating Friendships

The creation of lasting friendships is one of the most powerful outcomes of the project. Many of the participants arrive at their first workshop feeling isolated or disconnected but through writing and by sharing their stories in a safe and supportive space, they gain confidence and build genuine connections. These friendships often continue well beyond the workshops, with people meeting up socially, offering support and staying in touch for years.

#### Social networking online

Keeping in touch in-between the workshops and events is a key to building up the friendships and connections that go beyond the weekly sessions. Social networks begin on the WhatsApp groups, where participants can post work in progress, get feedback and find support. The social networks are not just for the participants, the workshop leaders develop their skills and encourage one another.

46 members actively post on the Whats App group

#### The start of a real-world social network

Social outings set a further network of support, either organised by the project or progressively these are being set up by the participants. Visits have been organised to see theatre performances, to attend live poetry

and music events, travelling to London, Bristol, Southampton and Poole.

#### Costa Coffee Thursdays

The Outsiders have established their own weekly Thursday meet-up in a café in Boscombe, independent of the project. Other groups have formed, a walking group, attending performances and other social events, all created from finding friendships in the project.

#### Open mic nights

As individuals develop greater confidence, they have started to perform at local open mic nights and poetry evenings. Members of the group now regularly perform at Chaplin's & The Cellar Bar in Boscombe and The Four Horsemen in Bournemouth.

100%

of participants  
reported feeling happier  
after attending the  
workshops

*"I am a bit of a loner,  
but I consider  
everyone in the group  
as my friend. It has  
really helped me meet  
new people".*

98%

felt more connected  
to the community  
because of being part  
of the project

*"I just love TOP, I am so  
so lucky to be part of it.  
I can't imagine anything  
else having such an effect  
on me. Finding something  
so wonderful outside of  
mental health settings is  
so rare".*

100%

would recommend The  
Outsiders Project to a  
friend

# Our Projects: Performances, Presentations and Publications

“The writing process for our performances follow one important rule: each word has to be written, spoken and performed by the outsiders themselves – their stories, their words, their voices.”

## A History of Performances

|      |                                                                                                                                       |      |                                                                                             |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2018 | <b>The Vodka Hunters</b><br><i>Old NHS Building, Boscombe</i><br>3 performances, 4 performers,<br>sell out attendance, 150 audience   |      | <b>Merry F*****g Christmas</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>10 performers 93 audience   |
| 2019 | <b>Secret Voices</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>6 performances, 12<br>performers, 560 audience                                  |      | 2023 <b>Public Lock-In</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>12 performers Audience 66       |
|      | <b>The Truth About Men one-man<br/>show, Scott Lavene</b><br><i>Shelley Manor</i><br>1 performer 150 audience                         |      | <b>Tattoo</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>7 performers, 75 audience                    |
| 2020 | <b>Tattoo International Online<br/>Project</b><br>100 stories, 100 tattoos                                                            |      | <b>The Scripts The Thing</b><br><i>Dorchester Arts</i><br>2 performers 300 audience         |
|      | <b>Tattoo Exhibition</b><br><i>windows of Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>6 stories, 6 tattoos, 1,000's viewed                             |      | <b>Tattoo</b><br><i>Mast Southampton</i><br>7 Performers, 37 audience                       |
| 2021 | <b>Tattoo</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>2 performances, 6 performers,196<br>audience                                           |      | <b>Merry F***Christmas</b><br><i>Mast Southampton</i><br>7 performers, 5 audience           |
|      | <b>Public Lock-In</b><br><i>Bournemouth Arts Depot</i><br>10 performers, 46 audience                                                  | 2024 | <b>Home</b><br><i>Bournemouth Writing Festival</i><br>3 performers, 20 participants         |
|      | <b>Merry F*****g Christmas,</b><br><i>Bournemouth Arts Depot</i><br>10 performers, 50 audience                                        |      | <b>Public Lock-in</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>8 performers, 43 audience            |
| 2022 | <b>Public Lock-In</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>15 performers 40 audience                                                      |      | <b>Public Lock-in</b><br><i>Southampton Library</i><br>8 performers, 37 audience<br>2025    |
|      | <b>Addiction Recovery Arts Network</b><br><i>Launch conference,</i><br><i>University of West London</i><br>3 performers, 150 audience | 2025 | <b>Tattoo</b><br><i>Palace Court Theatre</i><br>7 performers 230 audience                   |
|      | <b>Public Lock-in</b><br><i>Boscombe Arts Depot</i><br>12 performers, 31 audience                                                     |      | <b>Tattoo</b><br><i>Lighthouse Poole</i><br>7 performers, 175 audience                      |
|      |                                                                                                                                       |      | <b>Tattoo</b><br><i>Forest Arts Centre</i><br><i>Hampshire</i><br>7 performers, 72 audience |

## Our Projects: Performances, Presentations and Publications



Since 2018 participants from the workshops have had the opportunity to develop their writing for public performances. From the first performance, *The Vodka Hunters*, staged in a disused warehouse, with 4 performers and an audience of 150, to our most ambitious work, *Tattoo*, a project started during COVID, which went on to tour to 5 venues, Southampton, New Milton, Bournemouth, Poole and Corsham and performed at our B.A.D. space in Boscombe, reached over 1,500 people.

The writing process for our performances follow one important rule: each word has to be written, spoken and performed by the outsiders themselves – their stories, their words, their voices.

## In total we have:

**16**

Created 16  
new works

**23,000**

Engaged with 23,000  
audience members IRL  
and online

**31**

Delivered 31  
performances

**37**

Provided  
employment  
for 37 people

*“Outsiders has given  
me a voice, without  
you, during lockdown I  
would’ve lost it, and for  
me, that would’ve been  
devastating.”*

*“Thank you for  
being there  
for me.”*

*“So honoured to be in the  
audience, to hear people  
speak a truth. Stunned by  
so much support, clarity,  
care, love. Thanks for  
sharing and for your truths.”*

*“The Outsiders performances this year at the Kneehigh Asylum were the best things I’ve seen and heard for a decade. It has changed the way I think about the stories we tell. And that goes for every single person in the audiences.” Anna Maria Murphy Kneehigh Theatre*

*“Congratulations- so funny, so surprising, so moving. Such ownership, such wit, such honesty- the writing is superb, the direction clear and the concept unlike anything else. Truly giving voice, space and time to stories unheard”*

*“I found your performances over-whelming and so, so powerful. Thank you for sharing them with us.... I wasn’t sure until the end that you weren’t professionals. You’ve all got a real talent and I’m so glad I was able to see your work.....I just wish that more people could hear your voices.”*

*The Truth About Men was an astonishing evening at the theatre. Scott delivers a captivating show that is textured with the sort of colour and truth that is only achievable from lived experience. It’s a brilliant piece of musical story telling that I would recommend to anyone.” Theatre Royal, Plymouth*

## Our Projects: Performances, Presentations and Publications

The Creative Team  
of producers, technicians,  
performers and mentors

Beth Bainbridge  
Caroline Beale Johnson  
Neil Benad  
Cecile Berbezy  
Jo Billingham  
Claire Blackmore  
Clare Blackwell  
Jimmy Burnett  
Jane Cartwright  
Gail Cecil  
Nat Cook  
Jane Feaver  
Phoenix Ford  
Charlie Hall  
Ian Hawker  
Debbie James  
Deena Kashfi Jackman  
Allie Kenward  
Scott Lavene

Garry Lee  
Nell Leyshon  
Ninon Leyshon  
Paul Martin  
Si McCormack  
Ryan McCormack  
Carol Maund  
Shelley Mitchell  
Emma L Norry  
Patrick O’Kane  
Gary Pierre  
Oscar Ridding  
Lisa Rivers  
Rebecca Russell  
Alex Shore  
Geoff Stevens  
Andy Turk  
Laura Wilson  
Claire Wyburn

## Covid Never Stopped Us Delivering support at a distance

420

Participants have  
attended the public  
Lock-Ins

11

Online Zoom  
Workshops

15

Lock-Ins have taken  
place at Bournemouth  
Arts Depot since  
September 2020

15

Attendees at each  
Online Zoom  
Workshop

15-25

participants attend  
each Lock-In on  
average

As the doors closed on the world during the pandemic, our project became even more vital in keeping people connected. For those living on their own, the weekly workshops continued online, providing a lifeline for the group, helping them through the isolation and loneliness of the lock-down.

Despite the restrictions, the group remained committed to keeping in contact and created a programme that connected people across the world. Through additional funding from Arts Council England's Recovery funds and Lottery Community funds, the group launched an online project, Tattoo, which was to be a new performance work before lockdown restricted their activity.

The members started to gather stories from voices not traditionally represented in the arts, attracting work from across the world. A collection of the images and stories were developed into an exhibition in the shop windows in our pop-up building B.A.D. in

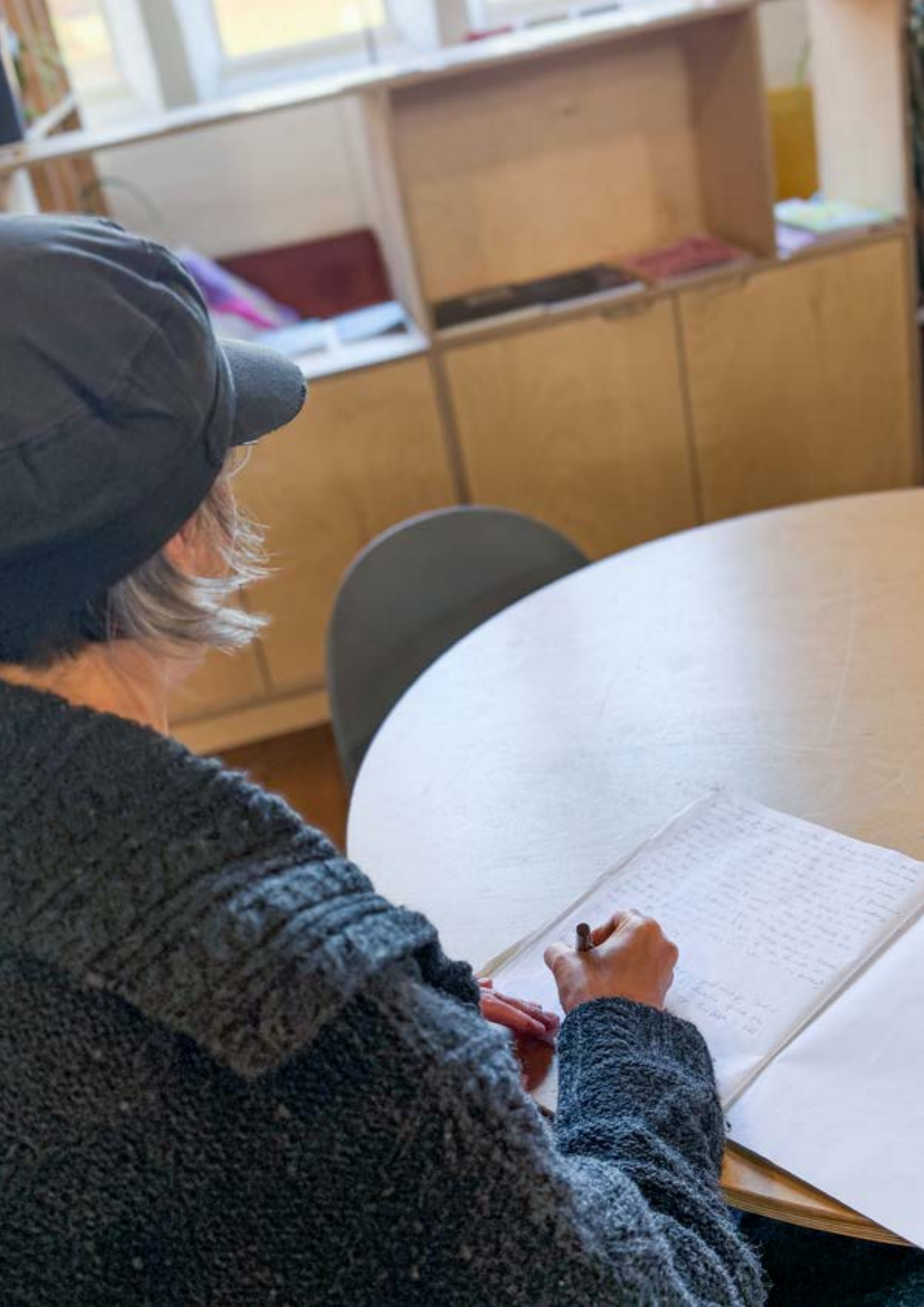
Boscombe and four of our participants created films from their stories.

Out of the adversity of the lock-down, the group produced an exhibition, publication and a performance which continued to tour until 2025. An unexpected outcome from this project was the creation of a vast new network of national and international connections which will be important for the development of future collaborations.

### Lock-Ins

Lock-Ins also began during Covid lockdown to address the needs of participants who wanted to continue coming together in a safe environment that met social distancing guidelines. During a Lock-In, writers share their work to a group of their peers and receive structured, positive, critical feedback. Public Lock-Ins welcome a wider audience to see the work-in-progress





## Our Stories: Lisa

**Lisa joined the writing workshops in 2019 and travels on public transport each week, taking over an hour each way. Lisa manages dystonia, ME, PTSD and currently autistic burnout, as well as supporting and advocating for her autistic son.**

“I found The Outsiders Project through a Google search and have attended workshops since 2019. I’ve made friends through these workshops. I get to know people slowly; the friendships and our creative sharing embrace experiences that are ordinarily required to be papered over or expunged from relationships. I think The Outsiders Project fulfils an important and needed role that is fundamental to enabling sidelined and silenced voices to be heard.

As well as finding support from the weekly workshops, I also regularly take part in the Lock-Ins. I’ve contributed to these sessions since it was first safe for me to travel following the Covid outbreak. The Lock-ins give a space to be able to explore material and audience perception and response, including how this is shaped by presentation and delivery. Also, and indispensably, to experience other people’s work and how boundaries may be shifted. Lock-ins extend the progression of what is begun in the workshops as we dip our toes into the water of public reaction.

I’ve begun compiling pieces towards looking at the potential of publication and know that The Outsiders Project is able to support with this. I’d also like to be involved in future productions.”

## Our Projects: The Prison Project



The impact of The Outsiders Project reaches beyond the work delivered in our local community, linking nationally to prisons, mental health organisations, safe houses, rehab, drug and alcohol centres.

In 2022 our first prisons project was developed in partnership with Weston College Prison Education Department. All the workshops delivered in the prisons were led by Outsiders workshop leaders. Their lived experience created an instant connection and understanding with the participants, establishing a 'safe space', where they felt comfortable to ask questions, express opinions, and share their stories through the writing exercises.

Most had never told their stories to anyone before but felt comfortable enough to express them in these workshops. Through the prisons project we set up the Burnett Prize for Writing in 2024 publishing work from the prisoners who joined the workshops.

**660**

prisoners  
reached

**5**

new one-person  
performances  
created

**132**

hours of  
contact time

**44**

prisons visited

**60**

staff involved

**16-20**

prisoners engaged  
each session

**990**

hours of  
employment

**4**

members of project  
employed

### Prisons visited

HMP Channings Wood, Portland, Guys Marsh, Dartmoor, Bristol, Coldingley, Send, Rochester, Maidstone, Downview, Leyhill, Eastwood Park, Exeter, Five Wells

## The Prison Project Objectives



- |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 Promote The Outsiders Project to wider, hard-to reach audiences and raise the project's profile. | 04 Giving space for discussion between those currently serving sentences and those with direct lived experiences |
| 02 Recruit unheard voices who are getting released from prison into the BCP area                    | 05 Encouraging writing and emphasise the value of unheard voices and stories                                     |
| 03 Provide employment and professional development opportunities for our workshop leaders           | 06 Showcasing radical approaches to creative writing to prison education staff                                   |

***“The generosity of spirit is what makes this group particularly special.”***

Amanda, Prison Librarian, HMP Channings Wood

***“I’ve been here 5 years and I’ve never experienced anything like this.”***

English and ESOL Tutor @ HMP Send

***“What makes The Outsiders Project unique is empowering people with lived experience of the criminal justice system to empower others still within the CJS. It’s doubly beneficial. I’ve worked with TOP since 2018 - through the lockdown and out the other side on a variety of projects in both women’s and men’s prisons. During the 2020 lockdown when I was trying to keep creative projects running whilst prisoners were locked up for 23hrs a day the partnerships with TOP was vital. To have monologues created by people in prison voiced by people who were former prisoners and to have those TOP voiced monologues played back to the creators in prison was magical.”***

David Kendal Penned Up Prisons Project Co-Director

## Our Stories: Gary



**Gary spent his early life up to age 35 in and out of various prisons, but has completely transformed his life and has spent the last 16 years helping drug and alcohol addicts. Gary had extremely low level of literacy after a life in prison and drug abuse. He started writing after seeing The Vodka Hunters and joined the creative writing workshops. He had always been attracted by performance and writing, but never had the opportunity to start until he took part in Secret Voices. helping others at entry points of the project, providing support and feedback for their own work. His fear and lack of confidence around printed material is slowly disappearing.**

“I think the Prison Project happened almost by accident. The creator of Penned Up (a prison playwriting project) saw some of our work at Bournemouth Emerging Arts Festival and we were asked to tour to prisons. The Outsiders Project made the connections through Weston College, and we have now worked in many prisons. Our stories are relevant to prisoners. I had been through the system, and I could share my experience with the prisoners. There is a connection; it is through all those years of pain and grief. I realised that there is something that I could communicate to people – that there is a way out.

In prison, the prisoners are working with someone who has been through all the stuff that they have been through and that it is alright to express it in writing. On the days, when we are there on tour, they are lifted. We show them that they can escape through writing. That is powerful. They know that there is a way out. We get them hooked in the performance in the morning with our stories. We open them up. Literally, the body and the attention. Then, in the afternoon, they’re putting their hands up and wanting to join in. They are also learning some of the skills of how to write – the spelling, the sentences and all the English. All the things that the English teachers are trying to teach.

I went into this project as an ex-offender. I went in because it was worthwhile employment. I went in to further my development. I came out completely overwhelmed with the reception of our work and an understanding that we as a group had stumbled upon an amazing formula for engaging learners and HMP staff every time we performed and facilitated a workshop. The enthusiasm of the participants has inspired me enormously. I really wish this had been available to me when I was coming through the system.”

Image: Dan Bowhay

## Our Projects: Outreach Reaching wider audiences



**Partnerships and collaborations build new connections with local and national organisations, continuing to build opportunities for the project and experience, employment and skills development for all the contributors.**

**Sharing the skills of our team continues our objective to reach new audiences and support vulnerable and marginalised individuals both locally and nationally. Some of the connections we have made over the last seven years illustrate the national partnerships we have developed which have impacted many people and communities.**



### **Paperchains Project Prison Tour, Publication and Performance 2020**

Building on links established with the criminal justice system, The Outsiders Project was commissioned to create a publication, Paperchains from David Kendall, Director of the annual Penned-Up Festival. The festival is run by prisoners, giving their voice to organise and deliver events for and by them.

During lockdown Paperchains was created with stories from offenders and people with experience of homelessness. Our prison workshop lead, Gary Lee co-wrote a show to accompany the publication, which toured to 11 prisons.

The legacy of the project was the production of a reading and writing pack which has reached many 1,000's of prisoners.

*"The Covid-19 lockdowns were significant for all of us," he said. "But while some of us have support to fall back on, others had a very different experience." Ruddock*

*Director Jo Billingham  
Performer Gary Lee  
Tech Geoff Stevens  
Voice-overs Mark Gee, Daniel Lear, and Bianca Rose  
Sound design John Ravenov  
Script by Gary Lee, Nell Leyshon and Sam Ruddock, along with all the authors of individual pieces.*

Published by Story Machine

Paperchains toured to 11 prisons, HMP Dartmoor, Exeter, Guys Marsh, Channings Wood, Portland, Erlestone, Leyhill, Eastwood Park, Bristol. It also toured to the National Centre for Writing, Norwich and The Hay Literature Festival

**Engaged 1,250 participants/audiences  
Employed 9 freelancers education pack distributed to every prison library**

## **BEAF Arts Summer Festivals 2023 and 2024**

Each year since 2019, The Outsiders Project has delivered performances, workshops and activities to connect with wider audiences in Bournemouth. Our performances, Secret Voices, The Truth about Men and Tattoo were all premiered at the BEAF festival. In 2023 and 2024 as part of the BEAF Art Pavilion, the project undertook research for the proposed LGBTQ+ workshops to directly engage with local audiences before setting up the weekly workshop

## **LGBTQ+ Pilot 2 workshop leaders, 4 workshops, 35 audience**

## **Poverty Truth Commission**

In 2024 Debbie James became a Community Commissioner for the Poverty Truth Commission. Debbie was commissioned to complete a chapter in the publication, The Lived Experience, Poverty in the UK, by Nell Hughes at Bournemouth University 2026

## **Addiction Recovery Arts Network Conference, University Of West London 2022**

The ARA Network was launched in 2022, operating nationally to support and promote the arts as both a pathway to recovery and a powerful form of expression for those affected by addiction. It produces the quarterly Performing Recovery Magazine, podcast, newsletter and events. The Outsider Project was one of the founding members of the Network and were invited as keynote contributors to the conference along with a performance to recognise the work achieved by the project.

## **3 performed excerpts from Tattoo delivered to 150 attendees, academics, national NGO's and specialist recovery support organisations**

## **The Scripts the Thing, Dorchester Arts 2023**

A celebration of new writing for theatre, TV, film, radio taking place across five different venues in Dorchester. The Outsiders Project was invited to present work and talk about the project.

## **2 performers 300 audience**

## **Art Commission, The Radiotherapy Project, NHS resource pack 2023**

Individually our mentoring programme has given our writers opportunities to develop their writing for commissions and collaborations. Debbie James, worked together with artist, Corrianna Clarke to produce an animated film, incorporating her autobiographical poem, speaking of her memory of radiotherapy treatment whilst experiencing childhood cancer. The final animation was screened to NHS staff to increase conversations, visibility and understanding of the issues raised by Debbie's lived experience.

*Animator Corrianna Clarke  
Audio Producer Jo Tyler  
Words Debbie James*

## **2023 screened at BEAF Festival seen by over 1,000 2023/24 screened to 150+ NHS staff at Poole Hospital's Cancer Services and Dorset County Hospital**



Our Projects: Outreach  
Reaching wider audiences

Words of Boscombe

In 2024, The Outsiders Project was invited by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council to lead on a new public art programme in Boscombe. Over a period of 8 weeks, the writers developed short pieces on the theme of identity. Each selected written piece was matched with a visual artist so they could incorporate and reflect the writing in a visual public artwork. The result was 5 works linked to artworks, located along the seafront and town centre of Boscombe.

59 submissions submitted; 5 works were selected.

Writer: Lisa Rivers  
Who was I before life fell as dusk upon sea, & waves unwrapped me?  
Artist: Techmoon -  
Boscombe Promenade Facilities Block Frontage

Writer: Paul Martin  
Like the ocean I roar, like a bird I fly, alive  
Artist: LucanArt  
Fisherman’s Walk Cliff Lift

Writer: Neil Benad  
Smiles miles long, each season a song, somewhere special to belong  
Artist: Joe Lillington  
East Clifftop Shelter

Writer: Allie Kenward  
Identity finds me on shorelines, hopeful, awaiting brand new air  
Artist: Lee Jones  
Boscombe Bus Station

Writer: Phoenix Ford  
Footprints mark fleeting moments, etching stories in the shoreline’s memory  
Artist: Ellie Fryer  
Boscombe Beach Lodges mini zigzag

Bournemouth Writing Festival 2024 and 2025

An annual festival launched in 2024, The Outsiders Project has been invited to deliver talks, workshops and performances.

2024

Excerpts from current writing, 7 performers, audience 175

Panel and workshop delivered by 2 workshop leaders, audience 25

Winners of the Bournemouth Writers Prize awarded to TOP writer, Gary Lee

Bournemouth University commissioned Home, publishing work by 30 writers from The Outsiders Project

2025

Tattoo, Palace Court Theatre 7 performers 230 audience

Workshop delivered by 1 workshop leader, audience 15



## How the Project Works structure, accountability and ownership

Right from the start, the key objective of The Outsiders Project has been to empower the community to lead on the project's development and to create its vision for the future. From its inception, members of the community have been involved in creating the project. It began because of a community need, following the closure of a local centre which primarily supported people in recovery. Those who had been involved wanted to develop a new service that would continue this support but would reach a wider group of people and would be led by the local community. The original group are now joined by new members and form the project's core steering group. It is their collective ownership that drives the activity and keeps it firmly connected to the community it serves.

It is their connections which bring new participants to the project, and they advocate for the work in their communities, with word of mouth being the most powerful marketing tool. They turn their incredible creative writing developed in the workshops into performances which are presented to our local community, so they can see what they have achieved. For some participants, they have never written before, or felt capable of doing so, but the mindful and nurturing environment created by all involved leads to the most positive and unexpected results.



### Steering Group

The steering group meets on a quarterly basis to review progress; to input ideas and to monitor outputs and outcomes to make sure the programme continues to reach the local communities and has a measurable impact on participants. The steering group also oversees the programme of activities and makes decisions for events to be organised which share the outputs of the project with the wider community. These events form an important celebration of achievements for the participants and also provide positive evidence on the success of the programme.

### Board of Trustees

The Outsiders Project is one of the programmes delivered by the charity Recreate Dorset. A member of the Steering Group is nominated as a Trustee of the charity, continuing our strategy of providing opportunities for members of the project to be involved in governance and leadership. The current Trustee in 2026 is Gail Cecil who has been involved with The Outsiders Project since it began, and from her own route

to recovery, is now Manager at the Provident in Southampton. Gail has considerable lived experience to bring to the Board.

### Steering Group Members

9 members of the project manage the steering group, which meets quarterly.

Debbie James, Geoff Stevens, Gary Krishna, Gail Cecil, Allie Kenward, Charlie Hall, Jo Billingham, Neil Benad and Si MacCormack.

### Volunteers and volunteering

The project offers opportunities for our volunteer team to become involved and over the seven years up to 50+ volunteers have supported the project. Roles vary from supporting the workshop leaders in the weekly workshops, promoting the project, helping at the performances and lock-ins and working on marketing, distribution and events administration.

## How the Project Works

### Code of Conduct for The Outsiders Project

**“We’d like to share The Code of Conduct for The Outsiders Project, as we feel this truly explains how the project has set clear expectations which have shaped our behaviours, our personal development and our values.”**

#### **1. Workshops Expectations**

Be punctual and arrive in time for the workshop to start.  
If you can’t commit, please tell us so someone else can have your place.  
This is a creative writing/photography/art workshop; this is not a group therapy session.  
We operate a mobile phone free workshop space (unless access to your phone is required for emergency reasons).  
We encourage original work and do not accept the submission of any writing created using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.  
Anyone who arrives under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave for the safety of the workshop.  
This is a welcoming space and there is a zero tolerance of aggression, violence, discrimination, ableism, ageism, sexism, racism, heterosexism, transphobia, culturism. Some of the work we produce may contain personal information, so we all need to respect that this is a confidential space. However, if the facilitator feels there is a safeguarding issue regarding the safety of a participant or others then the relevant authorities might be informed.

#### **2. Relationships**

We all acknowledge this is a grey area as we share ideas and stories through making art. This can result in friendships and relationships.  
We are aware that relationships may develop between participants, but please be mindful that this shouldn’t impact the workshop.

For people in recovery, there can be many overlaps between personal and professional life. It can help to separate out our creative work from recovery/therapy/everyday issues. For staff and volunteers, we need to be careful around the line between work relationships and friendships. For example, staff and volunteers will not invite you into their homes unless they also know you very well personally for more than 2 years before your attendance at the workshops.  
If you stop attending workshops, or a staff member or volunteer stop working for the project, then a work friendship might develop into a normal friendship.

#### **3. Boundaries**

We keep boundaries in mind so that we are all safe - participants, staff and volunteers. Please be punctual at all times, and commit to the workshop or activity. If you don’t, and you don’t have a good reason, you might be asked to stop attending so that someone else can have your place.  
If you miss an appointment for an activity or a 1:1 session, you will need to rebook. When we meet 1:1, it will be in a public place - either in the TOSH building, or a cafe.  
We are all aware that the relationships are professional.  
A staff member might have a solely professional relationship with a participant, or it might develop into a working relationship which feels like a friendship, but it will still maintain professional boundaries.

#### **4. Disclosure**

Due to the nature of the project, subjects may be disclosed within the workshop/activity which need to be kept confidential. However, if the facilitator feels there is a potential safeguarding issue raised within the workshop regarding the safety of a participant or others then the relevant authorities would be informed.  
Staff members need to remember all activity is in a professional setting and you must not disclose your personal information unless it helps the purpose of the workshop/activity. This could be disclosed as a third person if it helps to keep you safe.

#### **5. Inclusion and Tolerance**

There is a zero tolerance of aggression, violence, discrimination, ableism, ageism, sexism, racism, heterosexism, transphobia, culturism.  
We welcome everyone and make them feel welcome.

#### **6. Lone Working Policy**

All 1:1 sessions are held in public or peopled spaces, eg TOSH or a cafe.  
When working 1:1 in BAD we have an extra person, a chaperone, present in the building and keep a record of who attends. There is a sign in and out sheet at the door.  
Keyholders and Fire Wardens use the WhatsApp group.  
Emergency procedure: ring the WhatsApp group or the directors.

Lone maintenance visits are restricted to under one hour and the WhatsApp group needs to be informed.

If a technician is setting up an event, then they can be lone working for up to two hours and the WhatsApp group needs to be informed.  
Give and Take policy - if someone has volunteered a lot of time to the project, they can with permission use the building to rehearse or record.

#### **7. Signposting**

Extra signposting in addition to the safeguarding guidelines are on the website:  
Mental Health - The Bournemouth Retreat.  
Open from 4.30pm - 11.30pm every day.  
Urgent mental health number: 0800 652 0190 (Connections - they will signpost)  
Support for substance misuse - We are with you - 01202 558855  
Sexual assault or Rape (recent or historical) -The Shores, 0800 970 9954, Madeira Road, Bournemouth

#### **8. Grievance procedure**

If there is a problem with the code of conduct, you can appeal through the safeguarding guidelines on the BEAF website.

## Publications, Articles, Video and Podcasts

### Publication

#### Tattoo 2020

**Editor: Nell Leyshon**

Published by The Outsiders Project  
30 works from TOP writers

#### Lock-In 2021

**Editor: Nell Leyshon**

Published by The Outsiders Project  
18 works from TOP writers

#### Paperchains: Our Stories from Lockdown 2021

**Edited by Sam Ruddock**

Published by Story Machine  
30 stories from Lockdown, from people with experience of prison, homelessness, addiction, and families of people in the armed forces.

#### Paperchains Live video 2022

**Animation voiceover Stephen Fry**

#### Home 2025, The Bournemouth Journal Outreach Series

Produced by staff and students MA in Creative Writing and Publishing, Bournemouth University  
Published 30 works from The Outsiders Project writers

#### Press and Media

#### Bournemouth Echo

**Review The Vodka Hunters 28 April 2018**

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/16191173.review-vodka-hunters-3-wickham-road-boscombe/>

**The Guardian 08 May 2019 Secret Voices**

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2019/may/08/secret-voices-outsiders-project-boscombe>

#### The Bookseller June 20 2020

**Launch of Paperchains**

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/author-smith-launches-paperchains-highlight-marginalised-lock-down-voices-1208559>

**The Guardian 11 August 2020 Tattoo**

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/aug/11/outsidere-project-survivors-tattoos-crack-butterflies-addiction>

#### The Bookseller June 8 2021

**Funding for Paperchains Tour**

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/paperchains-project-receives-arts-council-funding-1262503>

#### The Big Issue 7 March 2022

**Stephen Fry to feature in play**

<https://www.bigissue.com/news/social-justice/play-featuring-voice-over-from-stephen-fry-to-tour-prisons-this-spring-paperchains/>

#### Stourbridge News 11 March 2022

**Paperchains at Hay Festival**

<https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/19986049.authors-lockdown-project-paperchains-bound-hay-festival/>

#### Story Machine May 2022

<https://storymachines.co.uk/paperchains-live-hay-festival/#:~:text=Starring%20Gary%20Lee%20and%20created,premiere%20%40%20The%20Outsiders%20Project.>

### Film

#### Moving Margins Arts

**University Bournemouth BA**

**(Hons) Film Production**

**BBC South News Report 21 June 2025**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1ZL16PpfVsxvmybJe\\_utzzxE86-lxgUUR](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1ZL16PpfVsxvmybJe_utzzxE86-lxgUUR)

### YouTube

#### Tattoo 2020

**featuring Beth, Shelley, Gary, Ryan and Scott**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6-M9WuAcNI&t=15s>

#### Podcast series 2022

**Shelley** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSFkM\\_nyj1g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSFkM_nyj1g)

**Jimmy** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzHz5N-v-Z0>

**Gary Pierre** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZc0L8P\\_4rE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZc0L8P_4rE)

**Gary Krishna** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQDp02bYljM>

**Debbie** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtuj\\_XfXeis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtuj_XfXeis)

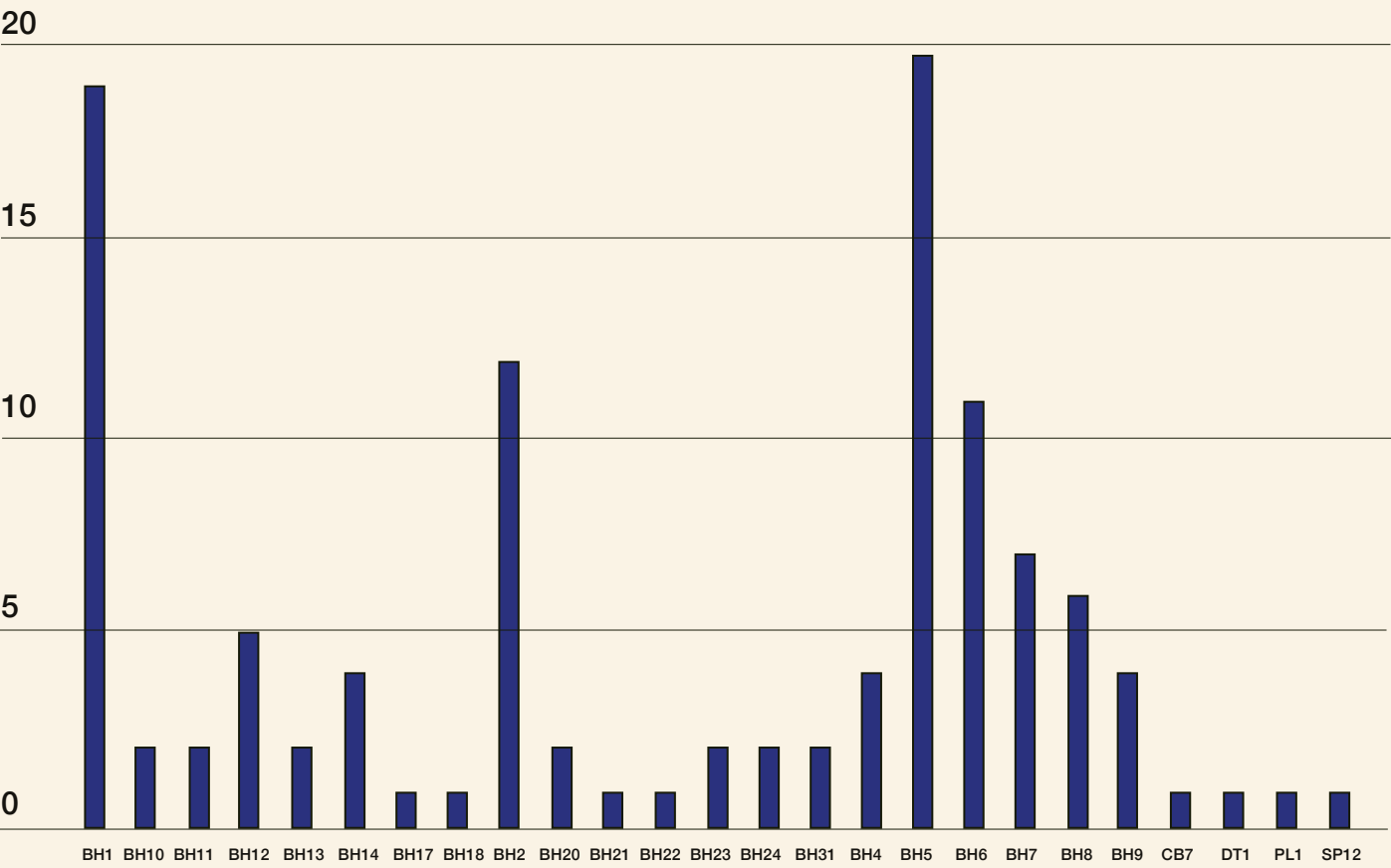
**Bournemouth Writing Festival July 2024**

**Gary lee interviewed by festival**

**Director Dominic Wong**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b76w4TOz55g>

2025 Participant’s Survey



Our most recent user survey provides further evidence on key statistical information, figures here are from our 2025 survey.

From feedback on where people found out about The Outsiders Project, we know our key successful strategies for reaching people are 27% from friends; 14% from workshop leader contacts; 10% from We Are With You (our outreach workshops); and 8% from Community Mondays workshops.

This gives good evidence that our outreach programmes are working in bringing new people to the workshops, and that the connection with other activities happening in TOSH is also a powerful route to sign up new participants.

Referrals from We Are With You is important as feedback of people deciding whether or not to come along to a workshop, the

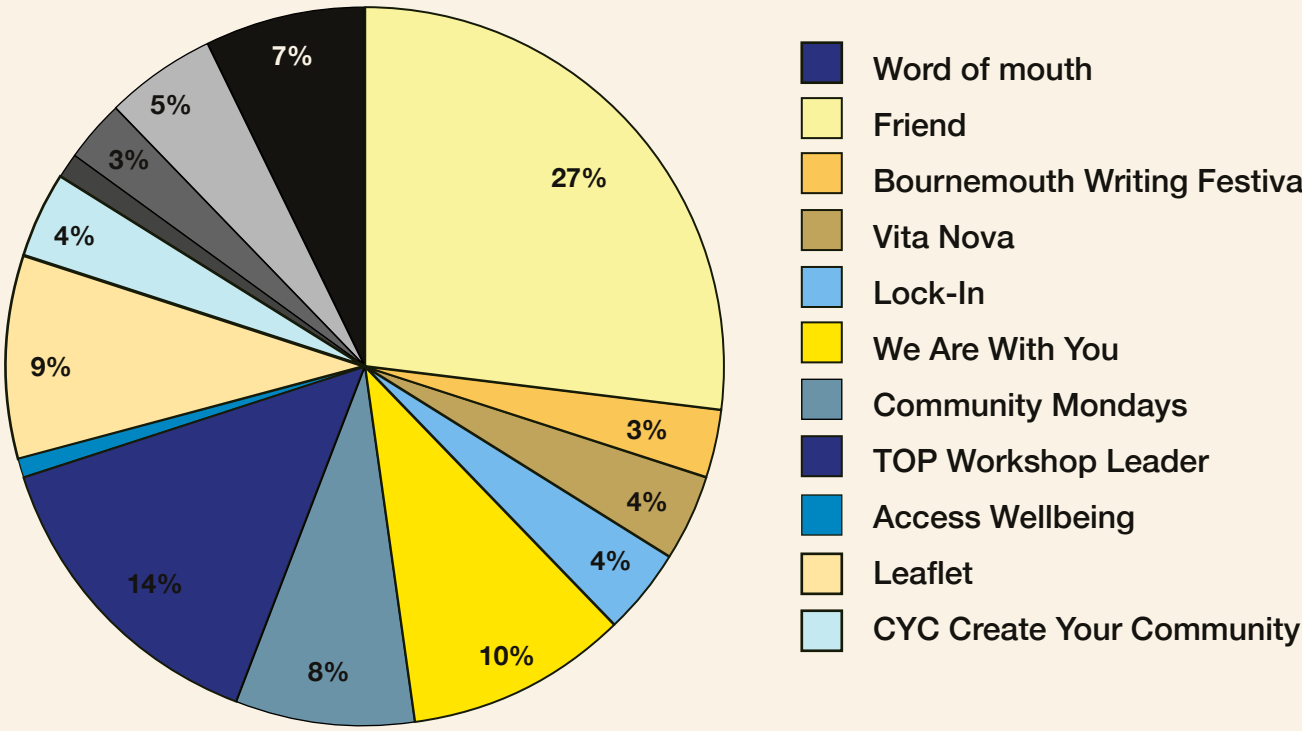
introduction of our workshops gives attendees the confidence to come along because they have met our workshop leaders and have felt comfortable to then visit on their own, knowing there will be a familiar face at a new and unknown venue.

Our stats show we predominately are reaching residents in 4 key postcodes, BH1, BH2, BH5 and BH6 but have participants attending from 21 BH postcodes with a small % out of BH.

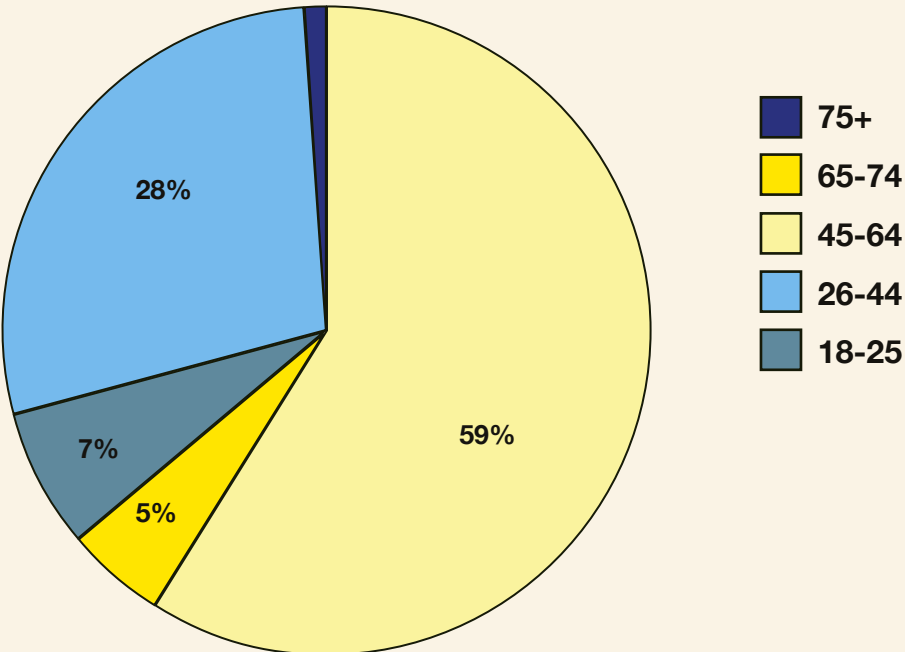
- BH1: Bournemouth town centre, East Cliff, Springbourne, and Boscombe town centre
- BH2: Bournemouth town centre and West Cliff
- BH5: Boscombe West and East Cliff
- BH6: Boscombe East and Southbourne

Stats on age range for participants show 58% are 45 – 64 and 28% from the 26 – 44 age band.

How participants heard about The Outsiders Project workshops



Age Range



**Supporters and funders**

**Arts Council England, Literature Works, BEAF, People’s Health Trust, Lottery Community Fund, Alpine Fellowship, Sovereign Centre, Talbot Village Trust, Hampstead Theatre, Kneehigh Theatre, Recreate Dorset, Dorset Community Fund**

**Impact Report consultant Rachel Dickinson**

**Founder and Director Nell Leyshon**

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