

Mission Statement 2025

The Underdog Crew CIC – Youth Empowerment Project

A not-for-profit community interest organisation | Company No: 14530067

‘Underdog Crew Studios’ is a creative community where young people who have been misunderstood, marginalised, or written off can rediscover who they are. Through filmmaking, music, and hands-on creativity, we help them rebuild confidence, find purpose, and believe in their own potential.

Underdog Crew Studios isn't just a place - it's a feeling. We are a small community built on empathy, tolerance, and the celebration of difference. We open our doors to anyone who's ever felt left out, misunderstood, or overlooked - whether that's a young person, a parent, or someone just looking for a safe place to breathe again.

Our mission is to help people rediscover who they are. We do that through creativity, kindness, and genuine connection. Our studio, our minivan, our workshops - they're simply tools to break down barriers and remind every person that they matter.

We're made of lived experience. Many of us are the kids we now support, or the parents who once fought for a child to be seen. We've walked those paths, we know the frustration, and we understand how heavy that journey can feel. Because we've been there, we can meet each person with real understanding - not theory, not policy, but empathy that comes from living it.

Our work happens quietly, through small victories that add up to real change. We see confidence grow. We see friendships form. We see young people who once said "I can't" start to believe that maybe they can.

Our programmes reach young people aged 9–18 through partnerships with schools, health and wellbeing networks, and local GP surgeries. Referrals come from trusted organisations including **Lads Need Dads, Action for Family Carers, Essex Young Carers, Bright Lives CIC, Autism Anglia, Essex Youth Services, and Youth Enquiry Services**. Together we offer early-intervention support that changes lives quietly but profoundly.

We've been recognised along the way - through local partnerships with schools, health teams, and community groups - not because of awards or publicity, but because what we do works. When traditional systems can't always keep up, we step in to offer a bridge: listening, guiding, and helping until the right support is in place.

We don't chase numbers or tick boxes. We focus on people. Every decision we make starts with one question: *What's best for the young person?*

We don't do politics. We don't do religion. We do people - real people, finding hope, direction, and a sense of belonging. The Underdog Crew CIC exists because everyone deserves to be understood. We're here to build confidence, spark creativity, and remind people - especially those who've been written off - that they still have something incredible to give.

We build confidence through teamwork, self-expression, and positive risk-taking. We promote inclusivity, self-worth, and ambition, encouraging creative problem-solving and ownership of choices. Our simple framework - **Positivity, Energy, and Focus (PEF)** - helps each participant move from "*I can't*" to "*I can.*"

Recognised locally as a trusted alternative-education partner and proud **BBC Essex "Make a Difference" Award** recipient, we're proving that real change happens when compassion leads the way. Doctors, teachers, and social-care professionals now see Underdog Crew as a bridge for young people waiting for specialist mental-health support.

We listen, we motivate, we encourage, and we develop. We're not here to fix anyone; we're here to remind them they were never broken.

Dom Morgan (Underdog Crew Founder)