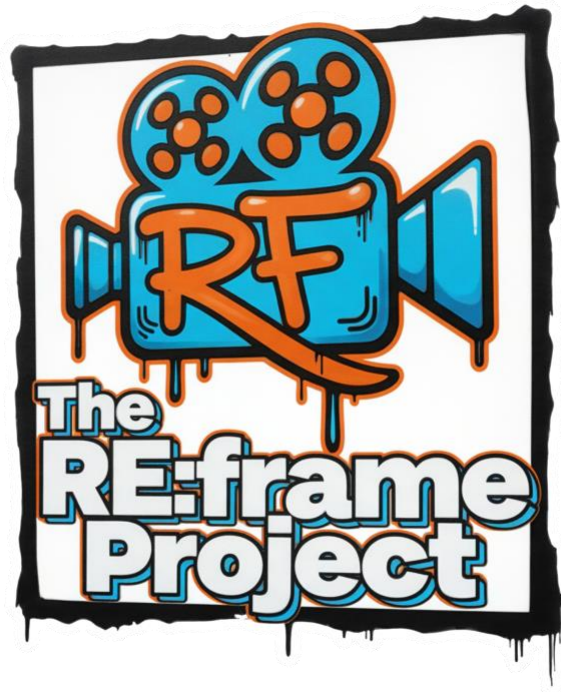




Better Minds. Safer Streets.

“Empowering young people to change perspective through film, creativity, and collaboration - transforming vulnerability into confidence and isolation into belonging. Together we’re building a movement for safer streets, stronger minds, and a future of purpose and pride.”

Duration: 8 Months | **Location:** Colchester, Essex

Project Lead: DB Morgan – Filmmaker, Founder, Proud Neurodiverse Creative

*****Through our recent “BBC Make A Difference Award” win we have the possibility of the world-renowned singer ‘Ollie Murs’ having a cameo role in this innovative project. This pledge was offered in a recent BBC Radio ZOOM ‘vlogcast’ with Gabby Roslin and Ollie Murs for five of the award winners. This feature is due to be aired nationally on Boxing Day morning at 10am.***

Executive Summary

At The Underdog Crew, we believe the most powerful stories are told by those who were never supposed to have a voice. **‘Re:Frame Project’** is an eight-month filmmaking and life-skills training programme that takes 30-50 marginalized and at-risk young people, aged 11-18, and gives them the tools, confidence, and purpose to tell the truth of modern youth culture - from behind and in front of the camera.

Through hands-on industry training, creative mentorship, and therapeutic storytelling, these young people will create two interconnected films: 1) **'The Feed'** – a socially-charged thriller exploring exploitation, violence, and redemption; and 2) Behind **'The Feed'** – a youth-shot documentary chronicling their own creative and emotional journey, designed as a real-world career guidance film for schools and communities.

The **'Re:Frame Project'** responds directly to insights gathered through **Essex's recent VVU Listening Project**, where young people identified a need for belonging, creative opportunity, and safe spaces to express themselves. This project turns those voices into action - offering structure, purpose, and inclusion through film.

The **'Re:Frame Project'** aligns with Essex's shared vision for safer, more connected communities - championing inclusion, creativity, and resilience as proven tools for early intervention and youth empowerment.

The Problem – When the System Fails the Exceptional

Ask any teacher, youth worker, or parent in Essex - our young people are struggling to hold on to hope. Across the UK, 1 in 6 children aged 5–16 have a diagnosable mental health disorder, 1 in 5 in Essex experience ongoing mental health issues, and 60% of autistic young people are NEET. Neurodiverse students are three times more likely to be excluded from school, and half of teachers admit they are unprepared to support neurodiverse learners.

Across Essex, rising youth vulnerability, disconnection, and exposure to negative influences such as antisocial behaviour and exploitation highlight the urgent need for proactive, creative interventions that build resilience and belonging. Findings from the Essex VVU Listening Project echoed these concerns, revealing widespread feelings of disconnection, lack of opportunity, and fear around youth violence and exploitation. These are precisely the issues The **'Re:Frame Project'** aims to address head-on through creativity and collaboration.

Behind each number is a young person quietly disappearing - not because they lack talent or ambition, but because the system wasn't built with them in mind. The rigid, one-size-fits-all model has created a silent epidemic of lost confidence, self-worth, and belonging. We're losing brilliant minds to misunderstanding.

Our Award-Winning Solution – The Underdog Crew Model

We don't just fix young people. We believe in them. The Underdog Crew CIC is a multi-award-winning community film studio that turns creativity into recovery, learning, and opportunity. **Chosen charity of the Colchester Mayor (2025/26) and recent recipient of the BBC Essex "Make a Difference" Award**, our mission is simple: To empower the misunderstood through professional creativity, mentoring, and inclusion.

Our ongoing youth TV drama series, **'The Slip'**, powered by 'Anglian Community Trust' is testament to our professional creative delivery: a multi-award-winning teen drama produced entirely with young people, proving that filmmaking can be a life-changing educational pathway. Now, the **'Re:Frame Project'** represents the next chapter in our evolving Underdog Crew model - a blueprint we aim to replicate regionally, proving that creative intervention works. By combining creative education with structured mentorship, The **'Re:Frame Project'** contributes directly to wider Essex priorities around youth safety, violence prevention, and mental wellbeing - empowering participants to replace risk with responsibility and isolation with inclusion. By embedding the core concerns voiced in the VVU Listening Project (which we participated in) - from youth safety to positive identity and community trust - The **'Re:Frame Project'** transforms consultation into tangible, creative intervention.

Benefits for Young People

The **'Re:Frame Project'** offers young people a place to belong, to be heard, and to grow.

A Voice That Matters. Participants are trusted to tell their stories, discovering that being heard is the first step toward healing.

- **A Place to Belong** – Inclusion and teamwork build pride and social confidence.
- **Therapeutic Reflection** – Creativity becomes self-reflection and recovery.
- **Continuous Mentorship** – Ongoing 'drip-feed empowerment' beyond the project.
- **Family Inclusion** – Shared creative pride reconnects families and strengthens support networks.
- **Positive Citizenship** – Participants learn to collaborate, self-regulate, and contribute to a culture of safety, inclusion, and community pride — reinforcing protective factors that reduce vulnerability and strengthen local cohesion.
- **Regional Relevance** – Developed in response to real youth concerns identified across Essex, the programme offers practical, creative pathways that align with the priorities surfaced in the VVU Listening Project: safety, purpose, belonging, and mental health.

By the end of the project, participants will have:

- Gained creative and professional skills for future employment.
- Reported measurable improvements in wellbeing and confidence.
- Strengthened family and community support networks.

Concept Overview

An 8-month youth empowerment and film-training initiative designed by **The Underdog Crew CIC**, engaging 30 to 50 marginalised and at-risk young people - between 11 and 18 years - including young carers, neurodiverse youth, and those vulnerable to crime, drugs, and county lines. Through hands-on film production, participants gain skills, purpose and belonging while contributing to two powerful outputs:

- **‘The Feed’** – a marketable feature film with international award-winning potential, exploring youth exploitation, violence, and redemption through the authentic voices and the eyes-wide-open lived experience of Gen Z youth.
- **‘Behind The Feed’** – a documentary following participants’ journeys from day 1 to completion, capturing personal transformation and real youth perspectives.
- **‘The Legacy Archive’** in association with **Skool.com**

Alignment & Social Purpose

- Fully aligned with the **Essex VVU Listening Project** and **Essex Police priorities**, responding directly to youth-identified concerns: safety, belonging, opportunity, and mental health.
- Embeds the ethos of the **High Sheriff’s Fund** - community safety, diversion, and inclusion.
- Based on Underdog Crew’s proven model: “Harnessing the power of professional filmmaking and creative pursuits to promote positivity and emotional wellbeing in young adults.”

Methodology: The SENTrepreneur Model

Rooted in the Underdog Crew CIC’s SENTrepreneur manifesto, **RE:frame** operates as a social-enterprise film studio - teaching participants to create, collaborate, and monetise their art sustainably. Following **Alex Ferrari’s Filmtrepreneur** approach, the project integrates professional film-industry training with real-world business acumen: budgeting, production planning, marketing, and audience outreach.

The **RE:frame project** delivers immersive, real-world film production training for 30–50 young people, guided by multi-award-winning industry mentors. Across eight months, participants will engage in the production of the feature film ‘The Feed’ and the behind-the-scenes documentary ‘Behind the Feed’, tracking their personal and emotional growth from day one to the world premiere at Firstsite Colchester in Spring 2027.

Phases include creative development meetings, art and costume design, three months of principal photography, sound design and foley recording, editing workshops, film marketing and release strategy planning, followed by event management for the Firstsite premiere and international festival submissions. Each phase builds both professional skill and emotional intelligence, embedding mentoring and therapeutic reflection throughout.

Partnerships & Collaborative Network

**** ADVISORY/SUPPORT TEAM – confirmed and TBC**

The **RE:frame Project** brings together a coalition of forward-thinking organisations, professionals, and community leaders who share a single purpose - to empower vulnerable young people, amplify their voices, and create lasting change through creativity and connection. Built on trust, truth and collaboration - a living network of professionals and changemakers committed to helping young people reimagine their futures, one frame at a time.

The Underdog Crew CIC **CONFIRMED**

Pooling the entire ecosystem, resources and culture of The Underdog Crew CIC to create another hard-hitting, multi award winning potential project Built from lived experience and professional excellence; not just a project – a movement for social change on the troubled streets of modern Britain.

Peter Dutch: The Anti Loo Roll Brigade **TBC**

Founder Peter Dutch's frontline work tackling knife crime and county lines exploitation has redefined community activism in Essex. His initiative to install Bleed Control Kits in local secondary schools demonstrates the same courageous honesty and "eyes wide open" ethos that defines The **RE:frame Project**. Together, we confront uncomfortable truths with compassion and creative power.

Councillor Pam Cox – MP for Colchester (as 'Colchester Cares' project lead) **TBC**

A modern, empathetic leader, Councillor Pam Cox champions youth welfare, inclusion, and mental health support. Her dedication to understanding and addressing the teen mental health crisis makes her an invaluable ally in ensuring this project reaches policy level influence as well as grassroots impact.

Cris Huddleston - Community360 **CONFIRMED**

Under the passionate leadership of Cris Huddleston, Community360 is undergoing a powerful 'rebrand' that aligns perfectly with the ethos of the **RE:frame Project** - empowering communities through collaboration and visibility. Their belief in The Underdog Crew's transformational work ensures that this project has strategic, civic, and long-term community support.

Salim & Damaris Higah – Boys and Men CIC **CONFIRMED**

Salim and Damaris' extraordinary work empowering local and migrant youth to integrate, self-regulate, and aspire beyond limitation complements the **RE:frame Project's** aims perfectly. Their mentoring expertise brings vital insight into inclusion, cultural identity, and the prevention of radicalisation and exploitation.

Dr Mark Wheeler – iCARP CIC **TBC**

A leading trauma specialist and academic, Dr Wheeler's professional project guidance provides clinical oversight and evidence-based support structures to ensure that A) every participant's

mental health and wellbeing remain at the forefront of delivery, and B) The project presents our dramatic trauma both sympathetically and authentically.

Natalie Barker-Heard – Youth Counsellor, The Underdog Crew **CONFIRMED**

Our in-house youth counsellor brings frontline experience of trauma, youth rape crisis support and recovery, and empowerment through creative therapy. Natalie's ongoing mentorship in this project will ensure that participants feel seen, heard, and supported from start to finish.

Youth Enquiry Service & Teen Talk **TBC**

These essential youth support services will provide authentic **“truth input”** throughout production, ensuring that the stories reflected in both 'The Feed' and 'Behind The Feed' are grounded in real-world experience and that every participant has access to a robust external support network.

Core Components

Training & Empowerment:

Weekly sessions in filmmaking disciplines - scriptwriting, cinematography, sound, editing, and production management. Working together to shape every stage of this innovative project and ensure 'street real' authenticity to every DNA strand of the **RE:frame project**.

Therapeutic Storytelling: Participants process real experiences (trauma, exclusion, identity) through film narratives.

Mentorship & Aftercare: Continuous pastoral support from professionals and trauma-informed counsellors.

Festival & Exhibition: Culminates in a **Spring 2027 premiere** at *Firstsite Colchester*, followed by festival submissions and streaming aggregation to sustain The Underdog Crew fund.

Legacy: The RE:FRAME Skool.com Hub A Living Platform for Lasting Change

As part of the long-term sustainability of **The RE:FRAME Project**, we will launch a digital learning and community hub hosted on the Skool.com platform — an innovative online education environment designed for creative professionals, educators, and learners.

Market Context – Found Footage & Urban Cinema

The rise of accessible digital tools, shifting audience appetite and a hunger for authenticity have fuelled a renaissance in lower-budget, high-impact filmmaking. The 'found footage' aesthetic – originally born in horror but now crossing genres – uses immersive, pseudo-documentary techniques to anchor stories in lived reality. By collapsing the distance between viewer and subject, it brings immediacy, empathy and social relevance to the fore. In the UK, this has evolved

into a new wave of urban- narrative films that reflect the real lives of young people in marginalized spaces. Recent examples like “Blue Story”, “Rye Lane”, “County Lines”, and “Top Boy” demonstrate that audiences are hungry for raw authenticity and moral complexity. “The Feed” sits perfectly within this space – a story grounded in Essex realism yet told with cinematic precision. It leverages the cultural momentum of independent filmmaking to deliver social change through story.

The Transformational Power of Filmmaking

Every year we see this truth in action. Working together through the magical medium of filmmaking changes lives. A film set is a living classroom. Whether serving tea, holding a boom, or directing a scene, every role is vital. Hierarchy dissolves, and what matters is teamwork and shared purpose.

It’s here that young people discover who they are. Positivity and creativity meet to solve problems, overcome challenges, and spark solutions no classroom could ever teach. Filmmaking demands empathy, patience, listening, leadership, and resilience — real-world emotional skills that carry far beyond the camera.

“On a film set, you don’t just make a movie. You make people believe in themselves again.”

Legacy, Impact & Evaluation

Immediate outcomes include completed training, professional film credits, and personal growth. Long-term, Behind the **‘Re:Frame Project’** becomes a national resource for schools and youth organisations. The project archive will form part of The Underdog Crew Legacy Vault, ensuring accessibility and inspiration for future cohorts.

The **‘Re:Frame Project’** will demonstrate how sustained creative engagement directly contributes to wider community wellbeing and youth safety outcomes, complementing Essex’s cross-agency goals of prevention, inclusion, and empowerment. This project will feed directly back into Essex’s wider youth strategy, sharing outcomes that demonstrate how film-based collaboration and mentorship can meet the needs identified in the VVU Listening Project - building community connection and resilience across the region.

The RE:frame [Skool.com](https://www.skool.com) Hub: A Living Platform for Lasting Change

As part of the long-term sustainability of **The RE:frame Project**, we will launch a digital learning and community hub hosted on the [Skool.com](https://www.skool.com) platform - an innovative online education environment designed for creative professionals, educators, and learners.

Skool combines structured course modules, live events, peer discussion, and gamified engagement in one secure ecosystem. It provides the perfect digital home to extend the project’s

legacy far beyond the premiere of ***The Feed***, turning it into a national model of **creative rehabilitation and youth empowerment**.

Through **Skool**, we will host:

- Full recordings of training sessions, workshops, and mentorships.
- Step-by-step filmmaking modules for independent learning.
- The *Behind the Feed* documentary — participants' personal journey of self-discovery and transformation.
- A moderated community feed for alumni, mentors, and new learners to exchange ideas and opportunities.
- Ongoing live events: Q&As with professionals, trauma-informed creative workshops, and interactive screenings.

This hub transforms the original project into a **permanent digital classroom and support network**, accessible to schools, youth services, and individuals seeking positive pathways into the creative industries.

Embedding VVU Listening Project Priorities

The Essex Police **Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) Listening Project** highlights youth-identified needs:

- Safe spaces and trusted adults.
- Positive activities that provide purpose and belonging.
- Opportunities for growth that replace risk with pride.
- Access to support and early intervention networks.

The **Skool** hub will action these principles in practice:

- **VVU Priority**
- **Safe Spaces & Trusted Adults**
- **Positive Activities & Belonging**
- **Opportunities for Growth**
- **Access to Support**

Digital Action via Skool Hub

- Moderated digital environment with trained mentors, counsellors, and industry professionals offering guidance and pastoral care.
- Interactive filmmaking challenges, creative feedback sessions, and peer collaboration to maintain engagement post-project.
- Online micro-courses in film, design, editing, and storytelling — pathways to education, volunteering, and employment.
- Signposting portal linking users to verified youth services, mental health resources, and career guidance.

Personal Transformation – Stories That Speak Truth

Every participant of **The RE:frame Project** will become both filmmaker and subject - sharing their real experiences through *Behind the Feed*. These reflections will form the emotional core of the Skool hub's educational library, showing the project's life-changing impact through lived experience:

"I thought film was just about cameras - but it made me realise I could tell my story without violence."

"The set became my safe space. I came for film - I stayed because it felt like family. Instead of running the streets, I was running cables and camera gear. Now I want to teach others."

These authentic stories will serve as both **peer-led prevention tools** and **educational case studies**, helping schools and youth services understand the emotional and social impact of creative intervention.

Signposting & Youth Support Network

The hub will feature a **dedicated signposting section** for young users seeking help, linking directly to:

- **The Youth Enquiry Service (YES)**
- **Teen Talk**
- **Boys and Men CIC**
- **iCARP CIC Mental Health Services (Dr Mark Wheeler)**
- **The Anti Loo Roll Brigade** knife-crime awareness programme
- **Kooth** and **YoungMinds** for online mental-health support

Each listing will include direct contact details, eligibility info, and stories from users who've accessed support successfully - normalising help-seeking behaviour and reinforcing that **asking for help is an act of courage, not weakness**.

Educational & Community Integration

We will offer schools, colleges, and youth services secure access to the Skool hub through a "Creative Citizenship Partnership" - a low-cost, license-free programme enabling teachers to use the platform as:

- A **curriculum-aligned module** for PSHE, Media, or Employability Studies.
- A **drop-in safe space** for youth support workers to use in group or mentoring settings.
- A **community showcase** for regional youth film and art projects, extending *The Feed's* legacy into the next generation.

This model ensures that **The RE:FRAME Project** continues to deliver measurable community outcomes - long after the cameras stop rolling.

Legacy Value

For a modest investment of **£100 per month for 24 months**, the Skool hub provides a two-year digital infrastructure for:

- Alumni support and mentorship continuity.
- Replication of the **RE:FRAME** model in other regions.
- Sustained school and youth-service partnerships.
- Archiving of films, stories, and measurable outcomes.

The Skool Hub ensures that what begins as a local intervention in Colchester becomes a blueprint for creative youth empowerment across the UK - a story still being written by those it first inspired.

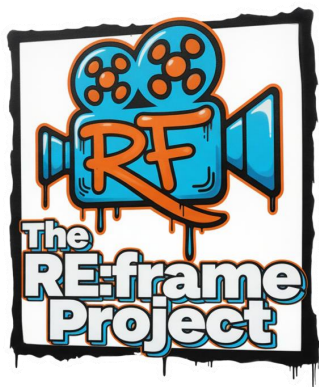
Closing Statement

The Psychological concept by DB Morgan (Project Lead)

*“Creative rehabilitation means giving young people authorship of their own stories before the world writes them instead. At The Underdog Crew, we transform creativity into emotional alchemy – using film not simply as art, but as a conduit for healing, self-recognition, and purpose. Our impact on marginalised youth across the region is unparalleled, reflected in our recent **BBC Make a Difference Award win** and selection as **Colchester City Mayor’s Charity** for 2025/26.*

*“A live film set is a crucible of transformation – where collaboration, trust, and vision converge. In a generation conditioned for instant gratification amid relentless noise, Gen Z need not discipline but invitation; not control, but connection. The Underdog Crew understand this deeply. Our projects are cinematic journeys that pulse with adrenaline yet whisper empathy – engaging those society too easily overlooks, and inviting them not just to take part, but to belong. Participants leave empowered long after the cameras stop rolling – equipped not only with creative and career skills, but with the emotional intelligence to survive and thrive. The **RE:frame Project** turns creative collaboration into early intervention, helping young people re-author their lives and step confidently into safer, stronger futures.”*

We’re not here to entertain - we’re here to change lives. The **‘Re:Frame Project’** is more than a film project; it’s proof that creativity can rebuild communities from within. With your support, we will help young people transform isolation into connection, risk into resilience, and potential into purpose - shaping a safer, stronger Essex for all.



Project Contact

Dominic Beresford-Morgan

**Project Director | Proud Neuro-diverse artiste
Anti Bullying Ambassador & Champion Of The Misunderstood**

UNDERDOG CREW STUDIOS
www.underdogcrew.org | db@underdogcrew.org | 07498 606258

THE UNDERDOG CREW CIC

Company registration number: 14530067