



Crucial Crew 2024 – Impact Report

The Bridge - Babergh

Babergh District Council

Small Grants

Grant amount: £5,000



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HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Highlights

The Crucial Crew project at The Bridge, Babergh, funded by a £5000 grant, successfully increased personal safety awareness among 444 students from 15 primary schools in 2024. The initiative provided engaging safety education, supported 10 volunteer roles, and strengthened community ties, despite a decrease in participation compared to previous years.

Financial Highlights

The Crucial Crew project utilized the £5000 grant to cover venue costs, staff salaries, refreshments, and stationery. These funds ensured the effective delivery of safety education to 444 students and supported 10 volunteer roles.

Operating Highlights

The project provided a fun and stimulating environment for learning about personal safety, covering topics such as River Safety, Emergency Calls, First Aid, Defibrillator Training, Recognising Antisocial Behaviour, Fire Safety, Personal Boundaries & Consent, and Recycling. Positive feedback highlighted the educational and enjoyable nature of the activities. The initiative also supported 10 volunteer roles and strengthened relationships with local schools and organisations, fostering a sense of community among students before their transition to secondary school.

“It was a great afternoon [...] The activities, although serious, were fun and informative and a lot was learned by all. I for one had a great time accompanying the children in their groups.”

CRUCIAL CREW

Crucial Crew is a multi-agency safety event aimed at 10 to 11-year-olds, designed to provide children with vital life skills and safety advice. The program engages Year 6 students through interactive sessions that cover various safety topics, helping them learn how to keep themselves and others safe. It has been running in various locations, including Sudbury, since 1999, and is delivered by local councils and safety organisations.

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

THE BRIDGE

The Bridge, located in Sudbury, is a unique social enterprise established in 1995 to support the community's most vulnerable. They are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment to help those living with learning disabilities, dementia, and mental health issues. They take great pride in being a safe and inclusive space for all, where everyone feels welcomed and accepted without judgement.¹

Creating a sense of purpose and belonging | Our core services centre around food, health, creativity, and life skills, creating an inclusive system that promotes growth and personal development. There are so many ways for the

Since 2023, with support from the previous Crucial Crew host - Sudbury Rotary Club - The Bridge now hosts Crucial Crew at Sudbury Arts Centre - one of The Bridge Project's partners.

“The Arts Centre will work closely with local schools and educational groups to provide opportunities for younger people to engage with this unique space. A whole host of events and workshops will also provide young audiences with various activities to get involved in.”

Jake Millar, *former* Project Manager at The Churches Conservation Trust ²

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

² <https://sudburyartscentre.com/stories-and-learning/education/>

GRANT EXPENDITURE

£5,000 Covered:

- **Venue Hire**
 - Use of Sudbury Arts Centre - £600 + VAT per day
 - For 5-day hire - **£3,600** incl. VAT
- **Staff**
 - Provision of 2 staff members for planning, implementation and management of the event.
 - 1 additional member of staff, qualified to run the First Aid activity
- **Stationary & Supplies**
 - Purchasing and printing of all required items.
- **Refreshments**
 - Regular provision of tea, coffee, and biscuits for facilitators and volunteers.

£1,400

Volunteering

The project also supported 10 volunteer roles, including:

- Welcome Stewards
- Refreshments
- Activity Support Roles

OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Awareness of Personal Safety

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

Indicators:

- Number of schools attending in 2024: **15**
- Number of schools attending in previous years: **22**
- Number of attendees partaking in the event in 2024: **444**
- Number of attendees partaking in previous years: **550**

Outcome 2: Fun and Stimulating Learning Environment

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

Indicators:

- **Feedback:**
 - *"We learned so much, for the fire-safety bit we went in a kind of caravan that was made to look like a bedroom, which had fake smoke in it. We learned how to identify fire hazards, how to get help and how to get out safely."*
 - *"It was a great afternoon [...] The activities, although serious, were fun and informative and a lot was learned by all. I for one had a great time accompanying the children in their groups."*
- **Scenario topics delivered:**
 - River Safety
 - How to Make an Emergency Call
 - Emergency First Aid
 - Defibrillator Training
 - Recognising Antisocial Behaviour
 - Fire Safety Simulator Training
 - Personal Boundaries & Consent Awareness
 - Importance of Recycling.

IMPACT OF PROJECT

Reach

The Crucial Crew project at The Bridge, Babergh, successfully increased personal safety awareness among 444 students from 15 primary schools in 2024. It further supported 10 volunteer roles. Despite a decrease in participation compared to previous years, the project successfully delivered key safety messages and fostered community among students.



Impact

The funding enabled the delivery of Crucial Crew, teaching children how to keep themselves, others, and the environment safe. It also helped build relationships with schools and key organisations and introduced children to a local heritage site. The funding provided the opportunity for children to engage with the community and to meet peers from other schools, allowing a sense of community among students to be fostered before their transition to secondary school. Furthermore, the positive feedback received highlighted the educational and enjoyable nature of the activities.

