

YEAR 1 & 2 IMPACT REPORT



April 2026



FIND OUT MORE



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YEAR 1 IMPACT

100% improved skills

Year 1 Courses completed with:

- ✓ AGE WELL EAST
- ✓ LADS NEED DADS
- ✓ WINTERFEST
- ✓ LEVEL BEST CAFE

Reduced isolation & improved wellbeing

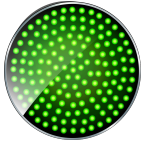


FIND OUT MORE

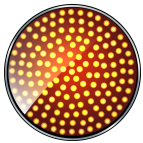


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YEAR 1 IN SUMMARY



- Learner numbers **exceeded**
- Target number of Trained Trainers **exceeded**



- Number of courses delivered **met**
- Number of Community Partners **met**
- Geographical locations **met**
- Diversity of Cohorts (based on Community Partner activity) **met**
- Diversity of individuals backgrounds **partly met** (not fully known as some data withheld)
- Anticipated structure/length of courses (4-5 weeks duration) **partly met**

(Taster days followed by 3-4 week courses have been more popular with Partners in Year 1, is a Lesson Learned & under adjustment for years 2 & 3)



71 **NEW LEARNERS**

Includes Taster Day and Open Day attendees,
Trainers in Training, FYV Participants, Volunteers &
Staff from Community Partners.

9 **NEW TRAINERS**

7 **ORGANISATIONS ATTENDED**

116 **ATTENDANCES**

Q1

Recruitment of Project Managers

Plinth: new database for data capture

Started recruitment of Trainers to train

Purchased Equipment & created Training Kits

Set up Project Team

Developed a logo and a brand

Met with Potential Community Partners

Agreed recording and reporting process with Independent Evaluator

Designed 10 Training Courses and Lesson Plans

Delivered Taster Days to Test Lesson Plans and start training new Trainers



Q2: Community Partner Report



FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING WAS DELIVERED WITH AGE WELL EAST CLIENTS AND STAFF IN OCTOBER 2024. THIS INTRODUCTORY SESSION PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNER FOR THE FIRST TIME AND ENGAGE WITH THEIR OLDER CLIENTS.

THIS REPORT WILL BE SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNER & COMMUNITY LOTTERY FUND.

CONFIDENCE WORKING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

Before the session started we asked how confident individuals felt when working with other people in a group.

The whole group felt comfortable and confident to do this so no adjustments or additional support was needed.

BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS
How confident do you feel about working with other people?



1 - Low 2 3 4 - High

CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE TRAINING

This session provided an overview of interviewing, recording and editing. All except one participant had little or no experience in the topic and therefore didn't feel very confident.

BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS
How confident do you feel on the topic?

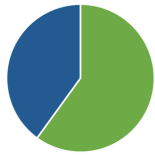


1 - Low 2 3 4 - High

CONFIDENCE AFTER THE TRAINING

All the learners who felt low in confidence improved confidence in the topic

AFTER THE COURSE FINISHES
How confident do you feel on the topic?



1 - Low 2 3 4 - High

ENJOYMENT FACTOR



Everyone attending said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

SATISFACTION

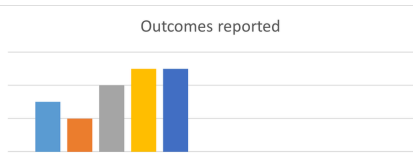


Everyone scored 4 showing an excellent level of satisfaction from the workshop!

100% satisfaction

What Participants said

FEEDBACK



Everyone felt more motivated to learn new things and enjoyed meeting new people!

Absolutely brilliant Thank you!

My inclinations are more towards the written word but I could well think about widening my horizons

It was really good to meet other people and join in with the event

HOW WILL YOU USE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE FUTURE?

'I'm going to sit down with my colleagues to discuss how we can incorporate interviews with clients to maybe publish'

'It made me appreciate that I feel I am confident speaking to new people'

'I will use what I have learned in every day conversation'
'SUPPORTING [AGE WELL EAST] CLIENTS TO SHARE THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCE'

'It will help when I give after dinner speeches!'

'It was really good to meet other people and join in with the event'

'My inclinations are more towards the written word but I could well think about widening my horizons'

Our oldest participant was 1-week away from his 90th birthday!

Target Group:

Older People

Benefit to the Community

Partner:

Building confidence in learning new digital skills

Benefit to Learners:

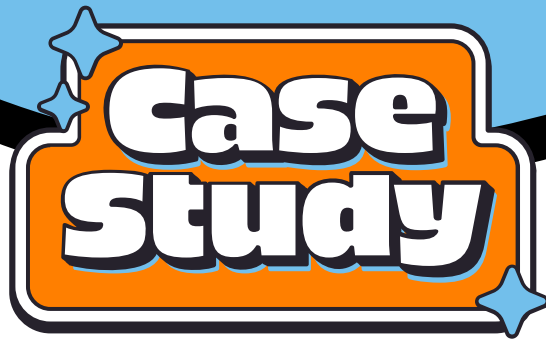
Building friendship groups and developing confidence in digital skills

Key Lesson Learned:

Older people are keen to learn new things but often lack the confidence. Just attending the session for some was a major achievement.



 **AgeWell East**
Empowering people to age well



Soundbites from Anon

I became disabled this year after a hip operation led to an infection and I am now in a wheelchair. Since then, I have felt very isolated rarely leaving the house. (The Community Partner) has encouraged and supported me to attend and take part in the training today.

Meeting new people and getting out of the house has been the most rewarding. I have left the house rarely since I became disabled. On one rare occasion it had taken a lot of effort to get myself organized enough to attend an activity, I was suffering with anxiety about leaving the house, so it took me quite a lot of time to convince myself to go, as a result I was running late but when I arrived I was turned away (by the organiser) and told the doors were now closed.

That incident really knocked any confidence I had left, it took a lot of courage to let myself be vulnerable again and attend today's session, I really had to push myself to be here today but I am so pleased I did!

I really enjoyed the day and met some really interesting people. The interviews meant I was able to ask lots of questions about the people in the room and really get to know them in a short space of time.

'Being able to have time to learn something new has taken my mind off everything, it has really improved my confidence, and I'd definitely do it again'.



FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER 'LADS NEED DADS' (LND) OVER 3 SESSIONS DURING OCTOBER & DECEMBER 2024. SESSION 1 PROVIDED AN INTRODUCTORY SESSION COVERING THE USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT, EDITING SOFTWARE & INTERVIEWING SKILLS. SESSION 2 INCLUDED PLANNING, RECORDING & EDITING INTERVIEWS. THE FINAL SESSION 3 COVERED PODCASTING AND A FIVE MIN PODCAST WAS PLANNED, RECORDED AND EDITED.

CONFIDENCE WORKING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

Before the session started we asked how confident individuals felt when working with other people in a group.

The whole group felt comfortable and confident to do this so no adjustments or additional support was needed.

2 adults from the LND Team attended the training sessions to support the Lads.

Before this session starts - How confident do you feel about working with other people?
1st session



CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE TRAINING

The 1st two sessions provided an overview of interviewing, recording and editing skills. Most of the Lads rated their confidence as 2 or 3 in the topic, only 1 rated their confidence lowest at 1.

Before the course starts - How confident do you feel on the topic of Editing & Recording? (1st session)



CONFIDENCE AFTER THE TRAINING

At the end of the first session and the last session the Lads rated their confidence in the topic. At the end of session 1 the Lads rated their confidence between 2-3. At the end of the last session the Lads rated their confidence as 3-4 showing an increase in everyone's confidence.

End of session - How confident do you feel on the topic? 1st session



End of session - How confident do you feel on the topic? Last session



ENJOYMENT FACTOR

100% ENJOYMENT FACTOR



All the Lads said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

SATISFACTION

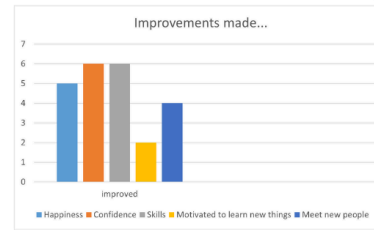
SATISFACTION FACTOR



Everyone rated their satisfaction as 3 or 4 showing a good-excellent level of satisfaction overall.

Everyone 'enjoyed' or 'really enjoyed' the sessions

What Participants said



FEEDBACK

All the Lads felt they had made multiple improvements throughout the training.

Everyone improved confidence and skills. Most felt happier. Two thirds enjoyed the social aspect and meeting new people. One third of the Lads said they were motivated to learn new things.

One participant said they wouldn't use the skills they had learned after the first session but changed this in the final session saying they will be using their editing skills in the future!

I will apply what I have learned to make music as I have learnt how to use Audacity and how to use a hand held recorder

I have learned how to make audio content sound more interesting... I'll try to (continue) to improve my audio editing skills. This has definitely motivated me to pursue these skills further

Learning about open and closed questions has been helpful

Podcasting
This 1-day workshop will help you to plan, host and produce a podcast!
Plus complete lessons on Editing, Mixing & Production in Home Training and Presentation Techniques before doing this session.

WILL YOU USE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE FUTURE?

'Yes, for my Music Programme at Sixth Form College'
'Yes - Team work!'

'Definitely!'
'Yes, Editing on Tik Tok - making audios for it'
'I think these skills will contribute to further learning of audio recording'

Robbie told us 'no not really' after session 1 as he didn't think he would use what he had learned again. After session 3 though he told us he would use his new 'editing' skills in the future!



THIS REPORT IS SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNER & COMMUNITY LOTTERY FUND.

Target Group:

17 year old young men who do not have a father figure in their lives. Some have experienced bereavement and loss.

Benefit to the Community Partner:

LND now have the skills in-house to develop audio content to promote the great work they do!

Benefit to young people:

New confidence and skills which they can develop as a hobby and/or employability skill to add to their CV's.

Key Lesson Learned:

Manage the expectations of the community partner and communicate the structure of the sessions in advance so they understand there are no PowerPoint presentations and the session is 100% bespoke to the group and experiential!

**Year 1 Activity (Q4):
Community Partner Report**



FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER LEVEL BEST CAFE TO DELIVER RADIO SKILLS TRAINING TO YOUNG ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL AND LEARNING DISABILITIES IN MAY 2025. 4 PEOPLE FROM THE GROUP FEEDBACK. THE TRAINING SHOWED THE PARTICIPANTS HOW TO USE RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICE THEIR INTERVIEWING SKILLS. THE RECORDINGS FROM THE COURSE WERE EDITED INTO A RADIO FEATURE WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON THE 15 MAY 2025. TO LISTEN AGAIN PLEASE VISIT: colneradio.net/listen-again

What Participants said


Do you feel more confident about interviewing and speaking to other people?

 **'Yes - I will need to be reminded and supported to do this'**
'Yes definitely'
'Yes - definitely!'
'Yes'

Colne Radio are proud of what the Group at Level Best achieved. Did taking part in the course make you feel happier and/or proud of yourself?

 **'Yes, I am proud of myself'**
'Yes, it made me proud and happier'
'Yes, it made me very proud of all of our trainees who attend with us'
'Yes, it made me feel proud'

What did you enjoy the most about it?

 **'I liked talking about music and food'**
'Learning about interviewing and asking questions, making sure they were not silly questions'
'Seeing the trainees try something new and enjoy themselves'
'Being with the trainers from Colne radio, they were all fun'

Would you recommend the course to other people?

'Yes, take my advice and just be yourself and have fun with it! Just do it!'
'Yes, I think it's a good way of interviewing people. If people are interested in the world of podcasts like me, then go for it!'
'Yes, definitely. Seeing the growth in confidence has been incredible!'
'Yes, it was great!'

'I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and the team for delivering the workshops with our trainees over the last few weeks. It has been really wonderful to see them trying out something new and I have had others who were not involved ask me if they can get involved if it happens again!'

Abi Baty, Trainee & Service Development Manager



Helping people achieve their LEVEL BEST is our business.

levelbestentreprises.co.uk
 Phone: 01206 366059

Target Group:

Adults with Learning & Physical Disabilities currently learning about catering and related skills by working and volunteering within the Level Best Cafe in Colchester.

Benefit to the Community Partner:

Level Best Cafe was able to offer an enhanced programme of learning to their service users.

Recordings were used to create a radio feature to help promote the core work of the cafe, which we hope will reach more potential service users and their families/carers as a result of broadcasting this on Colne Radio.

To Listen Again to this radio feature visit:

<https://colneradio.net/listen-again/>

Benefit to people on the course:

New confidence and skills which they can develop as a hobby and/or employability skill to add to their CV's.

Everyone can learn and develop new skills. People with disabilities have a wide range of interests and hobbies and the recording sessions gave them a great opportunity to express themselves and capture this.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO LEARN?

'I wanted to try out podcasting, I am interested in this skill. I would like other people to understand what it's like to live with a learning disability'

'For our trainees to have a new experience and be able to develop new skills'

'To have fun!'

RECORDING & CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS

This 1-day introductory workshop provides you with an insight into what is needed to make radio and provides the foundation skills needed to progress onto other sessions of interest. Everyone on Finding Your Voice will complete this session first.

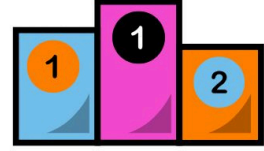


CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE TRAINING

2 members of the group felt quite low in confidence.

1 felt quite confident in the topic before the course started.

One of the participants had done a similar course at school so felt very confident.



CONFIDENCE AFTER THE TRAINING

At the end of the course the 2 people with low confidence had increased their confidence. The whole group did really well in producing content for a Radio Feature. One learner in particular was chosen by the Trainer to be one of our 'Stand out Learners' and an interview with that learner will be broadcast on another Colne Radio programme later in the year.

How do you think you will use what you have learned on the workshop?

'To speak clearer as sometimes I get a bad cough and I have a really deep voice so I need to speak clearly'

'I think I will use those skills, I would like to be able to do a podcast in the future. I have seen this on TikTok and I want to be a part of the podcasting world and talk about any subject we can think of'

'Be able to use the confidence building activities in the future with other trainees. To speak more confidently with customers when I work on front of house in the cafe'

ENJOYMENT FACTOR

100% ENJOYMENT FACTOR



All the participants said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

IMPROVING THE COURSE

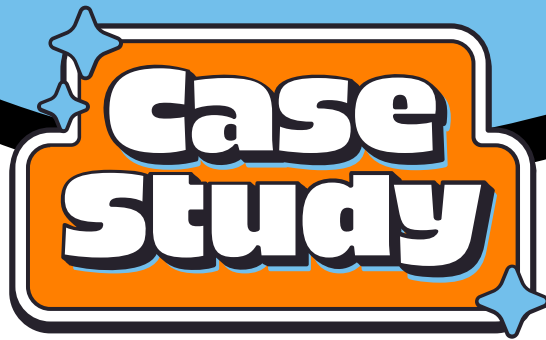
Was there anything you didn't like or would change about the course?

'Not sure'

'No I enjoyed it all. I would just ask for support if I made mistakes, not to correct them for me but help me to correct them myself.'

'No, it was all very good!'

'No'



Soundbites from Anna

I was curious to learn a new skill, to keep up to date with the tech as it has evolved so much since I last recorded any testimony (when I was at university, on a twin tape deck!) I thought the skill would be applicable to my working life but also I am involved in community volunteering and thought it might apply there.

I am often thinking about how I can record voices for a purpose, for example, an ex-service user came to work at the charity, and I thought hers was a great story, so I recorded it. I don't have a clear purpose for it yet, but I think it's really valuable to the charity and the community. I do use quotes from what she said when I'm promoting the charity, and I'm wondering about getting some video footage of what we do and putting her voice over the top. So I am more conscious of the power of the spoken word, even if I don't quite know yet how it will all come together.

I enjoyed meeting new people and learning a new skill. I enjoyed hearing the stories of the people I trained with, and how everyone has a different reason for doing this, and how we are none of us quite sure which direction this new skill will take us, but we are all interested in growing as people and listening to others, and we're happy to see where it goes!

What I'd say to others is...Do it! There are so many different skill levels in a class, and so many different reasons for learning this, but never any pressure, just friendly guidance to help you achieve whatever you'd like to achieve.

**Year 1 Activity (Q4):
Community Partner Report**



FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER WINTERFEST BRIGHTLINGSEA OVER 3 SESSIONS IN NOVEMBER 2024. SESSION 1 PROVIDED AN INTRODUCTORY SESSION COVERING THE USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT, EDITING SOFTWARE & INTERVIEWING SKILLS. SESSION 2 INCLUDED PLANNING, RECORDING & EDITING INTERVIEWS. THE FINAL SESSION 3 ALLOWED THE GROUP TO CREATE, EDIT AND RECORD CONTENT FOR A RADIO FEATURE WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON COLNE RADIO IN DECEMBER 2024.

CONFIDENCE WORKING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

Before the session started we asked how confident individuals felt when working with other people in a group.

The whole group felt comfortable and confident to do this so no adjustments or additional support was needed.

2 x Volunteers from Winterfest attended to support the Learners and were interviewed about the up and coming Winterfest activities.

BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS: How confident do you feel about working with other people?



1-Low #2 #3 #4-High

CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE TRAINING

2/3 of the group felt quite low in confidence, with 1/3 feeling confident in the topic before the course started.

BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS: How confident do you feel on the topic?



1-Low #2 #3 #4-High

CONFIDENCE AFTER THE TRAINING

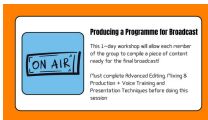
At the end of the course everyone felt so confident in the topic they made a Radio Feature which was broadcast on Colne Radio in December 2024

AFTER THE COURSE FINISHES: How confident do you feel on the topic?



1-Low #2 #3 #4-High

To Listen Again visit:
colneradio.net/listen-again
or copy and paste the following link into your browser:
<https://www.mixcloud.com/ColneRadio/finding-your-voice-winterfest/>



ENJOYMENT FACTOR

100% ENJOYMENT FACTOR



1-Low #2 #3 #4-High

All the participants and volunteers said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

SATISFACTION

SATISFACTION FACTOR

Everyone rated their satisfaction as 4 showing an excellent level of satisfaction.



1-Low #2 #3 #4-High



Everyone was satisfied with the content and pace of the sessions

Target Group:

Residents of the coastal community of Brightlingsea in Tendring where there have been higher numbers of suicide and concerns for mental health and wellbeing of residents.

Benefit to the Community Partner: Winterfest are able to communicate a programme of events during the Winter of 2025 to get isolated and lonely people out in the community to socialise and participate in activities.

Benefit to residents: Building friendship groups and strengthening community cohesion. Improving mental health and wellbeing.

Key Lesson Learned: Multiple Community Groups are able to take part making it more possible to reach all corners of the community.

What Participants said

FEEDBACK



The whole group felt they had made improvements throughout the training.

Everyone improved confidence and skills. They all felt happier. The group said they enjoyed the social aspect and meeting new people. 100% said they were motivated to learn new things.

I enjoyed learning a new skill and it helped my confidence

What I want to get out of the training is... speaking with others and how to record and edit which I could use to record myself reading poems

I will do more interviewing and recording to help with confidence and content



WILL YOU USE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE FUTURE?

'I hope to become a Colne Radio presenter in the future!'
'Yes, it built up my confidence and I did learn new skills I can use'

'I definitely think what I have learned will stand me in good stead for the future'
'Hopefully produce a podcast'





BRIGHTLINGSEA WinterFest

FYV Group 1: Radio Skills Training (Nov 24)

2 people had 1-2-1 Master classes and have become Colne Radio Presenters

3 people returned for an Advanced Podcasting Course

Open Day in Brightlingsea to promote the training to the wider community (Feb 25)

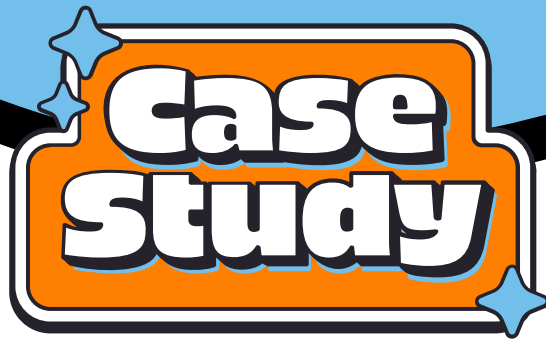
3 new participants for a Podcasting Course

2 new Trainers recruited for Train the Trainer Programme

FYV Group 2: Advanced Podcasting March & April 25

1 new Trainer shadowing experienced Trainer

4 New VCO Podcasts for the Lido, Gamers Group, Spoken Voice (Poetry) Club & Autumn Centre



Soundbites from Anne-Marie

I'm a retired modern languages teacher with good communication skills which I would like to put to good use in this phase of my life. I found out about the course through one of the directors of Colne Radio.

I would like to become part of the training team.

I've learnt new skills about editing interviews and I'm learning to adapt my interview skills to fit radio interviews.

I plan to continue training and attend some courses for beginners so I can help.

I get on well with the people on my course. I hope they feel I have a role to play in the development of this project.

People on my course showed different levels of IT knowledge but, thanks to the trainers, everyone came away feeling they had learnt something new.

What I'd say to others is 'You'll never know unless you try!'

In-kind Support

Est. Value of Voluntary time from the Colne Radio Board

£ 43,890

Value of Voluntary Project Management & Admin support given

£ 6,242

Est. Value of Voluntary time from Presenters & Trainers

£ 82,050

Note: All Volunteer Hours valued at £15 ph except for PM hourly rate valued at £26 ph



New Volunteering Opportunities have been created for Colchester Sixth Form Media Students in Year 2 to gain valuable experience and help grow our social media presence

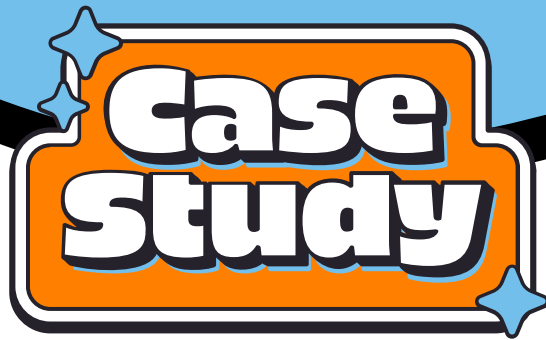
Register as a Volunteer by copying and pasting this link into your browser
<https://app.plinth.org.uk/schema-form/nECl6Qn53Bne2bkefuQx?>

Note: 1 hour given in-kind is valued at £15.00 so this is a reserved estimate

£78,508 was awarded to Colne Radio by the National Lottery Community Fund in Year 1. This has been match funded in-kind by Colne Radio Volunteers to an estimated value of £132,340 making the project excellent value for the funder as well as for those accessing it.

Please capture your voluntary time with Colne Radio 'Finding Your Voice' project here...





Soundbites from Will

After such a long period of uncertainty, this project now means a lot to me, I am so passionate about the work the Colne Radio Team are doing to make a difference to so many people's lives.

I feel like I can share my story, in particular with men who often find it difficult to ask for help or talk about their mental health struggles. We live in a community in North Essex where there are the highest rates of male suicide in Essex, so where our project operates it will make a difference and that makes me feel good and positive about life.

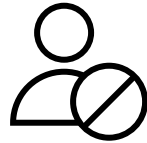
The people I am meeting and the connections I have made through the project will help me develop a network in this sector which is new to me. I am now doing a degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy alongside my role at Colne Radio so making these new connections and meeting a more diverse group of people out in the community will be invaluable.

'The more I speak to external organisations about what we can do and want to achieve the more potential I can see for Legacy Projects from Finding Your Voice.

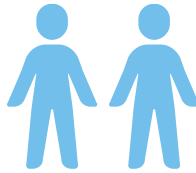
The community partners I have worked with over the first few months of the project are excited and inspired about how it can develop alongside them to help meet their objectives and help promote their good work. I have also been approached by some key community organisations including Essex County Council and Essex University to see how we can tie this project in with County-wide and even international projects, so watch this space, exciting times are ahead for Colne Radio and the legacy of Finding Your Voice!'

Trained Trainers

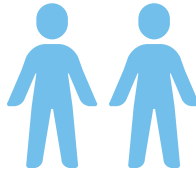
Finding Your Voice
Learners



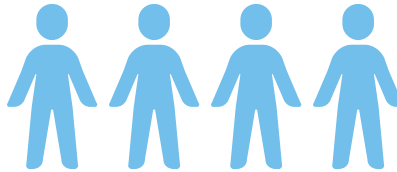
FYV Community Event/
Open Day (mini tasters)



Taster Day Learners
Mock sessions for Trainee Trainers



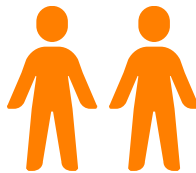
Seeds4Growth
Learners



Colne Radio Volunteers
& Presenters



Lead Trainers
(Course Designers)



We have identified that our 9 newly trained Trainers have come from a number of different sources (some unexpected).

We will aim to recruit Trainers from Finding Your Voice Courses in Year 2 and 3 so that our Learners develop the skills to be able to train either as part as FYV or within the organisation they were referred by/ volunteer with.

Our 2 Lead Trainers who designed the FYV training courses have led on developing practical and technical skills of those training to be Trainers by offering 1-2-1 sessions, master classes and shadowing experienced Trainers.

Trainers Survey



SURVEY - Trained Trainers Only

What aspects of training to be a Trainer did you find most beneficial?

Did the training sessions meet your expectations? Please highlight which one below.

- Yes
- No
- In part, but I'd like to do more to grow my experience/ skills

Please provide any suggestions for improving the training sessions.

Were the trainers knowledgeable and approachable?

How likely are you to recommend training to be a Trainer on the Finding Your Voice Project to others?

What would you like to do next?

I'm interested in developing the following Practical Broadcast Skills:

- Advanced Editing (multi-track)
- Making short radio features
- Advanced Music Presentation
- Identifying stories for broadcast
- Advanced interviewing (location and studio interviews)
- Using your voice for presentation
- Reading the news
- Advanced jingle and promo production
- Writing for the listening ear
- Structuring a news/magazine programme

I'm interested in developing my Training Techniques:

- Teaching techniques for practical skills training
- Course preparation and Design



In February - March 2025 we carried out a survey with our newly trained Trainers to find out what they wanted to do next with regards to professional development.

This kept Trainers engaged in the project and looking forward to year 2. Now all Trainers have an individual learning plan which is being implemented, this is tailored to develop their teaching skills alongside their technical skills.

Additional Trainer Training includes:

- 1-2-1 Sessions with Lead Trainers
- 1-2-1 Sessions with Presenters
- Masterclasses
- Shadowing more experienced Trainers
- Attending community events with other Trainers

Quote from Question: Aspects you have found most beneficial...

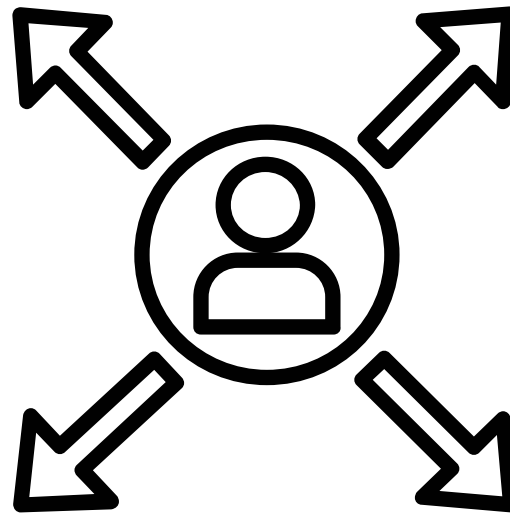
'Finding out my own capabilities, which I had not unlocked until now'

OPPORTUNITIES

The Legacy is growing so the impact is far reaching



Presentation to the Essex University Health Hub to support them in the rehabilitation of people who have suffered Brain Injuries, people with Dementia and Stroke survivors.
Training Occ Health Students in recording & Editing Skills, to aid and improve individuals recovery.



BRINGING UNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY

Working with CVST to reach their Affiliated Community Groups to offer Training opportunities to staff, volunteers and service users so that they can promote essential services and activities to residents in the Tendring District



Recording stories about the Community Voluntary Sector in Essex for Archives.

Tendring
District Council



Improving Digital Skills of residents and working across Council Departments to implement Training to community groups and projects



THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE COLCHESTER

Working with Media Students to give them real life industry experience through Volunteering



SOCIAL IMPACT (Y1)



300 + ORGANISATIONS REACHED

3 INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATIONS

5 Community Partners received courses

2 Councils engaged

10 VCO staff & volunteers received training to help promote local services

1 University Health Hub

VALUE MATCHED BY VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTION

50 reported feeling happier Using new skills for local causes

49 feeling more confident to learning something new

Made new friends

71 Learners

Learned new skills

Positive Impact on 12 Family members & Carers

4 Standout learners identified

GOING INTO YEAR 2

Priorities from Year 2 Project Team Planning Meeting

RECRUITMENT OF
NEW LEARNERS &
TRAINERS

PRIORITY 1

RETENTION &
DEVELOPMENT OF
EXISTING TRAINERS

PRIORITY 2

PRIORITY

ENSURE DIVERSITY OF
COHORTS ACCESSING
TRAINING

PRIORITY 3

DELIVER LONGER
MORE MEANINGFUL
COURSES

PRIORITY 4



YEAR 2 IMPACT

100% improved skills

Year 2 Courses completed with:

- ✓ AFRICAN FAMILIES IN THE UK
- ✓ MARKET FIELD COLLEGE
- ✓ WINTERFEST
- ✓ ABBERTON RURAL TRAINING
- ✓ CVS TENDRING
- ✓ BRIGHTLINGSEA LIDO



FIND OUT MORE



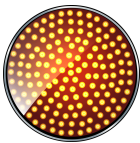
www.colneradio.net

Reduced isolation & improved wellbeing

YEAR 2 IN SUMMARY



- Learner numbers **exceeded**
- Number of courses delivered **exceeded**
- Number of Community Partners **exceeded**



- Geographical locations **met**
- Diversity of Cohorts (based on Community Partner activity) **met**
- Diversity of individuals backgrounds **met**
- Anticipated structure/length of courses (4-5 weeks duration) **met**



67 NEW LEARNERS

6 ORGANISATIONS ATTENDED

235 ATTENDANCES

87 NEW CONTACTS

Q1



Year 2 Activity (Q1): Community Partner Report



FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER CVST TENDING TO DELIVER RADIO SKILLS TRAINING TO 6 MEMBERS OF THEIR AFFILIATED GROUPS WORKING & VOLUNTEERING IN THE TENDING DISTRICT IN JUNE 2025. THE 3-DAY TRAINING COURSE SHOWED THE PARTICIPANTS HOW TO USE RECORDING EQUIPMENT, PRACTICE THEIR INTERVIEWING SKILLS, EDIT, RECORD AND MAKE PODCASTS.

WHAT DID THE GROUP WANT TO LEARN?

Everyone agreed that they would benefit from learning how to record and edit audio, and that it would help them to promote the charities they work and volunteer with.

"I want to learn how to create a podcast so we can share stories of our charity, volunteers and beneficiaries"



"I'd like to learn how to record a podcast, edit a podcast, make the sound good, uploading onto a podcast app"

"Learn how to create and edit a podcast to help share our organisations stories"

"I'd like to be more confident and increase my skills"

CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE TRAINING

RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE SHOWED THAT:



The majority of the Group had some Marketing and Communications skills as this was part of their role within the organisation they worked or volunteered with.

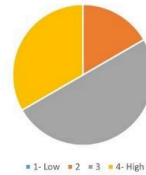


CONFIDENCE AFTER THE TRAINING

6/6

After the course is completed
How confident do you feel on the topic?

At the end of the course everyone said they had grown in confidence and felt they could record, edit and produce a podcast. Over half said their confidence would grow further once they put their new skills into practice in their every day work.



ENJOYMENT FACTOR



100% ENJOYMENT FACTOR

All the participants said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

IMPROVEMENTS

Reported Improvements by the end of the course



There were some significant improvements by the end of the course

- 5/6 reported feeling happier and enjoyed meeting new people.
- 4/6 felt more motivated to learn new things.
- 4/6 confirmed they had learned new skills.

It will help to have t

What Participants said

Would you recommend the course to other people?



Participants attending from CVST said...

"I think this could be really helpful in shaping news and stories from people we support in Tending!"



"This course has helped my confidence in interviewing, recording and especially in editing. It is a 'have fun and interactive' course and everyone is very helpful when you need a hand"

Participants attending from Healthwatch Essex said...



"At the last session I feel very confident! This training has been very useful and I plan to use what I have learnt over these sessions at work @healthwatchessex, on our podcast @hiddenoices"

Better interview skills which can be used making podcasts and Tik Toks at work



Participants attending from Age Well East said...

It will help to have those skills so that we are ready to launch a podcast!

"I think we will be able to record a podcast for Age Well East and interview people. We will also be able to edit the podcast afterwards"

Thank you to all who took part in the Finding Your Voice training! We look forward to hearing about how you have used your new skills in your current role, and how we can work with you and your organisations in the future!



To express your interest in future courses in Tending contact CVST or email will@colneradio.net



Q1



Year 2 Activity (Q1): Community Partner Report



A 5-WEEK FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING COURSE WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER ABBERTON RURAL TRAINING (ART) TO DELIVER RADIO SKILLS TRAINING TO A TOTAL OF 9 YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES ALONGSIDE 2 OF THEIR SUPPORT WORKERS IN JUNE & JULY 2025.

THE TRAINING SHOWED THE PARTICIPANTS HOW TO USE RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICE THEIR INTERVIEWING SKILLS. THE RECORDINGS FROM THE COURSE WERE EDITED INTO A RADIO FEATURE TO LISTEN PLEASE VISIT: colneradio.net/listen-again

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO LEARN?

'I've never done anything like this before. I wanted to learn to record and introduce music'

'I want to learn about DJ-ing'

'Learn new skill'



WHAT WAS LEARNED BY THE GROUP

Over the 5 sessions the group learned how to...

- make a good recording
- plan an interview
- work in pairs
- introduce a song
- make a jingle
- plan a radio show

The group learned how to use recording equipment and experience using a music desk which is used to introduce and play tracks on a radio show.

CONFIDENCE TO USE THE SKILLS

At the end of the course everyone with low confidence had increased their confidence.

The whole group did really well in producing content for a Radio Feature.

1 of the Learners primary form of communication was Makaton (sign language) in session 2 he began to use his voice and took part in an interview with his support worker.

Another student is typically very quiet and rarely used his voice.

With the support of the Trainers he was able to take part in the making of the radio feature.

How do you think you will use what you have learned on the workshop?

'I like working as a group'

'I will use the recording skills again'

'I feel more confident yes, it was happy and cheerful'

'Yes feel more confident, it was very good'

'I feel more confident at the end of the course'

'Yes, I feel more confident speaking to other people'

ENJOYMENT FACTOR

100% ENJOYMENT FACTOR



0-1 low 0-2 0-3 0-4 high

All the participants said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

IMPROVING THE COURSE

Was there anything you didn't like or would change about the course?

'Nothing I would change'

'No, liked taking part very much'

'It was brilliant! More time on the Music Desk next time'

A Parent told us that her son had really enjoyed the course. she said he 'was a different person at home', 'more positive, talkative and excited' about what he was doing with Colne Radio - she told us to 'please come back to do more training with the SEND group' and to 'keep up the good work!'

What Participants said...

At the students end of year Celebration Event we recorded a short video to capture feedback and showcase the impact of the course...



Colne Radio are proud of what the SEND Group at ART achieved. Did taking part in the course make you feel happier and/or proud of yourself?



'I thought it was fun! 'It was Inspiring!'

'I feel happier and I am proud of myself'

'Yes I feel happier'

'Brilliant!'



What did you enjoy the most about it?

'My favorite part was listening to the tracks'

'I enjoyed everything, and recording interview, meeting people, socializing with other people'

'Recording was new learning - enjoyed recording the most - it was very good'

Would you recommend the course to other people?

100% said they would recommend it to others!

The SEND Tutor said 'some of the parents can't believe the difference the course made', he said 'they saw improvements in happiness, wellbeing, confidence and communication'

Following the success of the SEND Students in the Interview & Recording Training, Colne Radio took part in ART's annual Celebration Event. All the students were awarded their Finding Your Voice Certificates of Completion.

Colne Radio has really enjoyed working in partnership with ART and is looking forward to delivering more courses for them in the future!



Quote from Support Worker at ART
'People were focused, they are usually scattered, which showed the course was good and all the participants stayed for all of the sessions'

Q1

In addition to delivering our training courses in Q1 of year 2 we attended the Abberton Rural Training Summer event which presented students with their certificates for courses completed. Here we were able to promote the Training to new organisations such as Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Market Field College which led to working with their SEND students later in the year.



Year 2 Activity (Q2): Community Partner Report



FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER AFRICAN FAMILIES IN THE UK (AFIUK) TO DELIVER RADIO SKILLS TRAINING TO 6 MEMBERS OF THEIR GROUP LEADERS AND YOUTH GROUP IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2025. THE 6-DAY TRAINING COURSE TO THE GROUP LEADERS TRAINED PARTICIPANTS IN MAKING PODCASTS. THE 1-DAY YOUTH GROUP LEARNED HOW TO USE RECORDING EQUIPMENT, PRACTICE INTERVIEW SKILLS, EDIT & RECORD

WHAT DID THE GROUP WANT TO LEARN?

Group Leaders learned how to record and edit audio, and progressed to making a series of Podcasts to be released as part of their work to promote their projects during Black History Month in 2025.



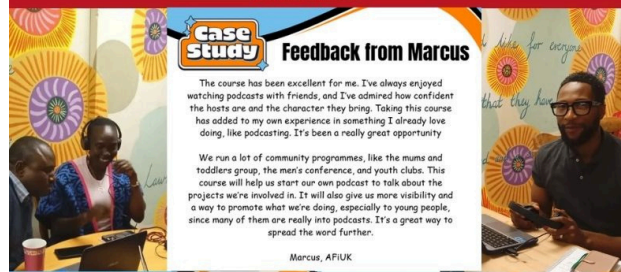
The Youth Group learned how to use the recording equipment and developed their interview techniques.

The young people chose music tracks and introduced them, and gave them a good foundation for making podcasts in the future.



What Participants said

Case studies



Case Study Feedback from Marcus

The course has been excellent for me. I've always enjoyed watching podcasts with friends, and I've admired how confident the hosts are and the character they bring. Taking this course has added to my own experience in something I already love doing, like podcasting. It's been a really great opportunity.

We run a lot of community programmes, like the mums and toddlers group, the men's conference, and youth clubs. This course will help us start our own podcast to talk about the projects we're involved in. It will also give us more visibility and a way to promote what we're doing, especially to young people, since many of them are really into podcasts. It's a great way to spread the word further.

Marcus, AFIUK

Case Study Gertrude's Feedback

What I've liked about the course is the practicality. It's just been hands-on from the beginning, and that has made it very interesting and something I always looked forward to over the three sessions we've had so far.

I think I'm already considering an additional career in radio because it's so interesting. I've enjoyed all the activities: the interviewing, the editing, and just listening to yourself. It's so gratifying. I want to improve on what I've learned and be able to disseminate the activities of the mother and toddler group in particular, and Africa in general.

Gertrude, AFIUK

Case Study Faida's Feedback

The training has been very exciting, and new skills like how to use my radio for Radio 4 podcasts for internet use. Also, it has given me confidence that I can use to share our stories and make connections with other people. I hope I can speak clearer and with confidence to share our mission and the work we do with others, not just here.

I'm going to use my skills I've recently received from African Families in the UK. 'Finding Your Voice' programme. I'm going to use it to connect with families, build networks, and use my communication skills to support other people. I hope I'm going to use it in radio, in podcasts, and maybe even in recording a YouTube channel. I don't know. But also, just in my personal conversations. I think it will really help to ground the work we do with confidence and clear communication.

It's been really nice to have a voice and learn from the experts. The team has been amazing, amazing, amazing. They're so patient and have given us all the master tips. They're the super team, teaching us to be authentic, control our voice, and do interviews both giving and receiving. They showed us how to create spaces to communicate, like podcasts. We even had a masterclass about podcasts and did a lot of practice interviewing, which has been really fun. We're really thankful and grateful.

Student Journalist Volunteer feedback

'My journalism work from the Find Your Voice project was under review. I wanted to share some good news with you. Today I received the highest result in the class for this project, and I was very happy to think back to this experience. I just wanted to say a huge thank you for such a wonderful opportunity and for agreeing to take part in the interview. It truly meant a lot to me and helped me grow as a journalist. I would love to share my multimedia portfolio with you. Here is the link: <https://www.dropbox.com/1c/2vnm69s8u1en3o0unttbn/AN0b251ebj3i0w1fi-5V2?rlz=171ed51ebcbcbzku1u9z5ckv238st=6773051j&dl=0>

If you are working on any new projects in the future and have any space for me, I would be more than happy to get involved. Thank you again, and I hope to stay in touch!



Thank you to all who took part in the Finding Your Voice training! It was a wonderful experience working with African Families in the UK, the Training Team say they have never been so well fed and the hospitality of the group was second to none! We look forward to hearing your Podcast Series soon!

- The Podcasts will promote and highlight the following topics:
- Sickle Cell and Blood Donation
 - Cancer Awareness
 - Mother & Toddler Group
 - Youth Group
 - Prostate Cancer Awareness
 - Pamoja 'Together' Group
 - SEND children



Colne Radio Community Interest Company is a Community Interest Company registered in England & Wales, no. 07579732 whose registered office is at 18 Belle Vue Road, Wombles, Colchester, CO1 3LD.

Q2



AFiUK

African Families in The UK CIC

INCREASED CONFIDENCE

Although the group led an AFIUK activities in Colchester and Tendring, they were not all confident in promoting their services to the public, and felt the current political landscape made them feel vulnerable.

Case Study Feedback from AFIUK Ambassadors

Marcus said "The course has been excellent for me. I've always enjoyed watching podcasts with friends, and I've admired how confident the hosts are and the character they bring. Taking this course has added to my own experience in something I already love doing, like podcasting. It's been a really great opportunity."

Nathanial said, "It's been very beneficial for me. I guess, with confidence and communication skills."

Gadelin said, "I think in the work that we do in the community, communication is a very big part of our work. Being able to speak to people and collect data, and then transmit that data to the community, is a very important one. So this course is important for that purpose."

CONFIDENCE AFTER THE TRAINING

At the end of the course all adult participants said they had grown in confidence and felt they could record, edit and produce a podcast. By session 4 the Group had done additional work to record and produce content for their Podcast series so the Trainers were able to review and edit their work with them into a professional sounding podcast, ready to be broadcast. The podcast series will be available to listen to via their website www.afiuks.org when complete.

6/6



ENJOYMENT FACTOR



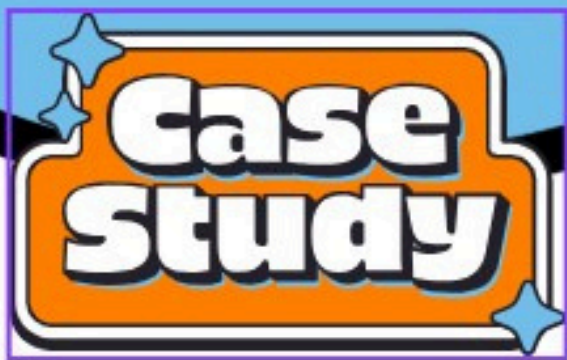
All the participants said they enjoyed their time on the course!

100% enjoyed the experience!

IMPROVEMENTS

- There were some significant improvements by the end of the course
- 6/6 reported feeling happier and enjoyed meeting new people.
 - 6/6 felt more motivated to learn new things.
 - 6/6 confirmed they had learned new skills.
 - 1 new volunteer opportunity created for Student Journalist.
 - 100% confirmed their voices had been heard!



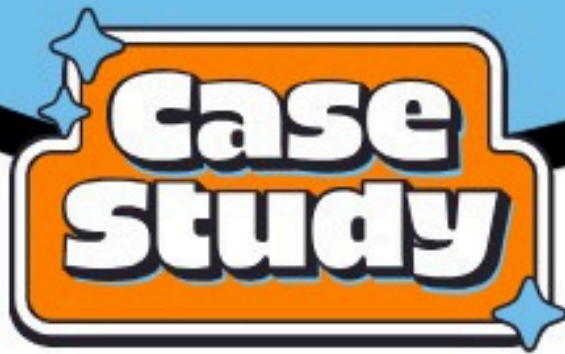


Feedback from Marcus

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We run a lot of community programmes, like the mums and toddlers group, the men's conference, and youth clubs. This course will help us start our own podcast to talk about the projects we're involved in. It will also give us more visibility and a way to promote what we're doing, especially to young people, since many of them are really into podcasts. It's a great way to spread the word further.

Marcus, AFiUK



Gertrude's Feedback

What I've liked about the course is the practicality. It's just been hands-on from the beginning, and that has made it very interesting and something I always looked forward to over the three sessions we've had [so far].

I think I'm already considering an additional career in radio because it's so interesting. I've enjoyed all the activities: the interviewing, the editing, and just listening to yourself. It's so gratifying. I want to improve on what I've learned and be able to disseminate the activities of the mother and toddler group in particular, and Africa in general.

Gertrude, AFiUK

The logo for 'Case Study' is located in the top left corner. It consists of the words 'Case' and 'Study' stacked vertically in a bold, white, rounded font with a black outline. The text is set against an orange background that is shaped like a speech bubble or a rounded rectangle with a white border. There are three small blue starburst icons: one in the top left, one in the top right, and one in the bottom right of the orange shape.

Case Study

Faida's Feedback

The training has been very exciting, and new skills like how to use my radio for Radio 4 podcasts for internet use. Also, it has given me confidence that I can use to share our stories and make connections with other people. I hope I can speak clearer and with confidence to share our mission and the work we do with others, not just here.

I'm going to use my skills I've recently received from African Families in the UK 'Funding Your Voice' programme. I'm going to use it to connect with families, build networks, and use my communication skills to support other people. I hope I'm going to use it in radio, in podcasts, and maybe even in recording a YouTube channel. I don't know. But also, just in my personal conversations, I think it will really help to spread the work we do with confidence and clear communication.

It's been really nice to have a voice and learn from the experts. The team has been amazing, amazing, amazing. They're so patient and have given us all the master tips. They're the super team, teaching us to be authentic, control our voices, and do interviews, both giving and receiving. They showed us how to create spaces to communicate, like podcasts. We even had a masterclass about podcasts and did a lot of practice interviewing, which has been really fun. We're really thankful and grateful.



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Godwin said, 'I think in the work that we do in the community, communication is a very big part of our work. Being able to speak to people and collect data, and then transmit that data to the community, is a very important one. So this course is important for that purpose'



Q2



2025 SILVER

We were very excited to be shortlisted and then win a SILVER award in recognition of our community impact!

Finding Your Voice

'We've been shortlisted for Community Impact Project of the Year!'



We're shortlisted!



**25th October 2025
Bradford**

#CRAs2025

106.6 FM COLNE RADIO
106.6FM | ONLINE | SMART SPEAKER

Colne Radio Community Interest Company is a company registered in England & Wales (Co. no. 07877272) whose registered office is at 36 Belle Vue Road, Wivernhoe, Colchester CO7 9LD



Q3



class of
2026

Year 2 Activity (Q3): Community Partner Report



A 7-WEEK FINDING YOUR VOICE TRAINING COURSE WAS DELIVERED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER MARKET FIELD COLLEGE (MFC) TO DELIVER RADIO SKILLS TRAINING TO A TOTAL OF 9 YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES ALONGSIDE 2 OF THEIR SUPPORT WORKERS IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 26

How will you use the new skills you have learned?

'I have grown in confidence and feel able to speak to new people and to work in a group'

'I have learned new skills and can now record my own interviews'

'I have learned new skills in editing and it has helped me grow in confidence and speak to people'



WHAT WAS LEARNED BY THE GROUP

Over the 7 sessions the group learned how to...

- make a good recording
- plan an interview
- work in pairs
- introduce a song
- make a jingle
- plan a radio show



The group learned how to use recording equipment and experienced using a music desk which is used to introduce and play tracks on a radio show. The group also produced a Podcast episode.

Do you have any feedback on the course?

Tommy said...

'This was a really useful course, the Tutors (Colne Radio Trainers) treated the students really well, they were considerate and kept us involved in all the sessions, and it is the first course I have been on that has been created for children with special educational needs, it has been excellent'



Alex said...

'I thought it was a great course, I enjoyed it, it built my confidence up a lot'



ENJOYMENT FACTOR

100% ENJOYMENT FACTOR



1 = Low 2 = 3 = 4 = High

All the participants said they enjoyed the day!

100% enjoyed the experience!

LESSONS LEARNED

Colne Radio Tutor highlighted...

'This is the first occasion that we have worked with a SEND person from the LGBTQ+ community.

It enabled us to ensure the course was inclusive and that we identified preferred individuals pro-nouns and how they wished to be known. This participant lacked motivation and confidence and found it difficult to engage, so we worked with them 1-2-1 and slowly introduced them to working within the group. This created a pathway for the individual to feel more confident in the group using their chosen identity.'

FEEDBACK FROM STAFF - THE IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Transcribed from interview with Mr Galloway

'Colne Radio are offering us the chance to do something that we wouldn't normally be able to offer in our curriculum. And I think it's a really valuable opportunity and a great chance for you guys to sort of experience something different.'

What is the impact of Colne Radio visiting us?

'Well, as I said, I think it's another aspect, another sort of string to the students' bows. But I think more importantly than that, I think it's a real confidence building exercise. And, looking from the outside in, I've seen a number of students, yourself included, growing confidence as a result of this. And I think that's worth its weight in gold. I think for a student like yourself who would be quite shy, I think for you to be able to express yourself, speak confidently, interview confidently. These are skills that can be applied across a range of different jobs, not just in the media industry, but in multiple, multiple industries. So I think it's absolutely a valuable exercise. And I think the students that I've seen in this class really getting hold of this and really sort of getting stuck in. They've grown in confidence. They've learned some really, really excellent skills, technical and otherwise.'

How does Colne Radio tie into what students are studying?

'So I think it's particularly useful with the pre-production techniques because with that particular unit, which is an exam-based unit, we have to look at planning, we have to look at paperwork and we have to look at turning a concept into a reality. And I think that's exactly what you're doing here. You're planning, you're thinking about the sort of questions that you're going to be asking, you're mapping things out, making sense of, putting things in an organized fashion. Like we talked about Gantt charts ages and ages ago. This is like a living, breathing Gantt chart. So I think actually it's just supporting that and it's also developing the skills that you've already established throughout the course. So I think it kind of dovetails beautifully in with what we've been doing throughout the course and extends those skills and gives them gives us sort of a realistic, sort of a real world scenario. Because I think so far we've been working in a little bubble, in a little MFC shaped bubble, where the students kind of learn practical skills, learn these sort of techniques, but they're not able to apply them in a real world scenario. Whereas I think this, you can actually see how it would work in a real radio station, in a real sort of scenario like that. So I think it's fantastic.'

Market Field College + Colne Radio

We were delighted to welcome Colne Radio to Market Field College for a seven-week programme with our Year 14 Creative Media students, offering them a valuable introduction to the world of broadcasting and podcasting. Throughout the course, students learned how to plan and conduct interviews, develop engaging questions, build confidence in conversation, record and edit audio, and understand how a full radio show comes together from concept to completion.

The progress they made was extraordinary—many began the course quiet and hesitant, yet by the end they had grown into assured, articulate speakers. Their hard work will culminate in a complete radio broadcast, which will be available to listen to on Colne Radio 106.6 FM and via the Market Field College website. Further information on how to tune in will be shared soon.

Every student received a certificate in recognition of their achievement. A heartfelt thank you goes to Will, Justin, Nina and Bill for bringing your enthusiasm, skill and generosity to our college. This partnership has been truly inspiring, and we hope it will spark a passion for media in many more students to come. It's a broadcast you won't want to miss!



MFC made a video and shared on social media:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1FcgBddhpb/>



We can't wait to hear the final version and share it with the students, their families and friends and the whole college. You've all been so patient and supportive, it's been such a positive experience where our students did indeed, find their voices!

Thank You

Q3

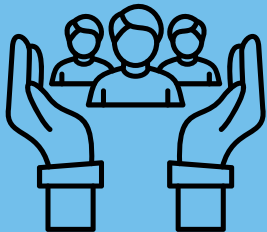


Market Field College · 4h

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Thank You

Reply



13:07



< Market Field College



All

Photos

Reels



Market Field College + Colne Radio

1d · 🌐

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Q4

BRIGHTLINGSEA WinterFest

The Finding Your Voice project has become an embedded part of the Winterfest programme to help reduce isolation and loneliness of residents in the rural and coastal community of Brightlingsea. The course ran over 5 Saturdays in February and March at the Brightlingsea Community Centre. The participants registered to participate via marketing from the Winterfest comms team through their community platforms.

The 6 participants who ranged in age from their 20's to their 70's came with little or no recording and editing experience. After our first session all the participants said they felt confident, and with their agreement we planned the production of a 1 hour radio feature to be completed by the end of the planned sessions.

Over the next 4 sessions everyone pulled together, worked as a team and there was a great atmosphere. The trainers continued to adapt the sessions as the participants picked up some skills quickly, and at times needed extra time on others. This was a really good learning outcome for the team, creating more dynamic session plans and not being fixed proved to be really effective with this group.

By the end of the course we had a 1 hour radio feature which was broadcast on Colne Radio. It was a tremendous achievement. They planned, recorded it, selected and introduced their music and even made some Colne Radio promo jingles as well.

Participant feedback:

Bill said " I've been on lots of courses, I used to work for BT. I was a senior manager and that means lots of courses. I learned that the success of a course is dependant on several things. The main one being the tutors and facilitators, well done to your team for that. Secondly, the participants need to respect and get on with each other. Again that's down to you guys."



Masterclass

Q4 The launch of the “Lido Lovers” Podcast.

Celia Jones attended our first Winterfest FYV training course in Brightlingsea in Year 1. Recently retired Celia moved to Brightlingsea and started swimming at the Lido. Soon she became a volunteer and this progressed to the lead role of Communications and Promotion for the Lido.

Celia decided to enroll in the FYV course to learn new skills. By the end of the first course Celia was recording and editing interviews and even making promotional recordings for the Lido, and these were broadcast on Colne Radio.

Celia had an ambition to launch a Lido podcast, so returned this year for additional training on our 2026 Winterfest course. The training team tailored a series of sessions focused on Podcasting skills. At the end of the sessions it was clear that Celia was ready to go but she was a little nervous. The FYV Trainers spoke to Celia and looked at pieces of her skill set that needed additional support. From this we developed a bespoke Podcast Masterclass session to meet her needs.

One full day focused on the finer planning, production, recording and editing skills. We set up all the equipment needed and with the help of 2 Lido Trustees they helped to plan, record and edit the first episode of the “The Lido Lovers Podcast”. By the end of the session the episode was complete and in ‘the can’, the Brightlingsea Lido now has a Podcast episode recorded, a series of episodes in the planning process, and all the skills and understanding needed to continue on their Podcasting journey.

Celia was our standout learner in year 1 and everyone at Colne Radio and the FYV team are so pleased with how she has embraced new skills and is using them for good use, not only for her own confidence building but a great benefit to a local community asset.



In-kind Support

Est. Value of Voluntary
time from the Colne Radio
Board

£ 48,720

Est. Value of Voluntary
time from Project
Managers, Presenters &
Trainers

£ 84,715

Note: All Volunteer Hours valued at £15 ph except for PM hourly rate valued at £26 ph



4 Volunteering Opportunities have been created for Essex University Journalism Students to gain valuable experience and help capture the impact of the project.

Register as a Volunteer by copying and pasting this link into your browser
<https://app.plinth.org.uk/schema-form/nEC16Qn53Bne2bkefuQx?>

£80,028 was awarded to Colne Radio by the National Lottery Community Fund in Year 2. This has been match funded in-kind by Colne Radio Volunteers to an estimated value of £133,435 making the project excellent value for the funder as well as for those accessing it.

Please capture your voluntary time with Colne Radio 'Finding Your Voice' project here...





SOCIAL IMPACT (Y2)



87 new contacts made

2 INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATIONS

6 Community Partners received courses

100% reported feeling happier

1 Council Engaged

Learned new skills

Using new skills for local causes

VALUE MATCHED BY VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTION

3 Standout learners identified

Made new friends

3.5 sessions attended on average per learner

67 NEW Learners

67 feeling more confident to learning something new

Positive Impact on 49 individuals supporting our participants

Over 225 points of contact as Learners



SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Year 1 & 2

Over the last 2 years the project has grown from strength to strength.

We have exceeded the number of participants we anticipated in training and built on community partnerships, ensuring we reach a diverse group of people.

Since the project began 2 years ago. We have engaged 138 individuals onto the Training; we have made 121 new contacts; we had 404 attendances on courses, 355 of those were as learners and 49 of those played a supporting role to learners such as a support worker or from the community partner organisation.

10 community partners hosted and led on recruiting their service users onto the training because they could identify who most needed support in learning new skills, building confidence and reducing isolation.

All 138 individuals agreed they gained confidence and enjoyed the training.

Many went on to further develop their skills with 1-2-1 masterclasses, supporting community partner promotion and organisations who attended the CVS sessions went on to develop podcasts to raise awareness of their cause.

PRIORITIES FOR YEAR 3

DEEP DIVE INTO
WORKING WITH
SEND GROUPS

PRIORITY 1

COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

PRIORITY 2

PRIORITY

FURTHER INCREASE
DIVERSITY OF
COHORTS ACCESSING
TRAINING

PRIORITY 3

CONTINUE TO
DELIVER LONGER
MORE MEANINGFUL
COURSES

PRIORITY 4

OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUATION OF PROJECT

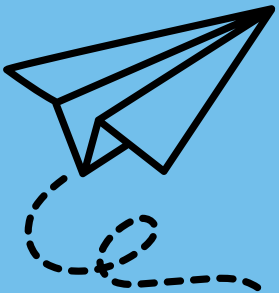
Embed FYV courses into the mainstream curriculum for Young Adults who are SEND

The project has made a significant impact on individuals who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as on their parents/carers and support workers.

As a result, the relationship with community partners have developed and strengthened as organisations have seen for themselves the difference the project has made on building the confidence and skills of their students.

The 'Finding Your Voice' project has enabled individuals to continue to develop their skills which they can use in a work environment, as well as a hobby or interest at home. Whole families have benefitted from their loved ones developing interests and skills outside of home and college, which has reduced loneliness and isolation.

Market Field College and Abberton Rural Training (both organisations supporting young adults with SEND) would like to incorporate Radio skills training into their curriculum from 2027 to help with communication, confidence and socialization, supporting the transition as adults into their communities to volunteer, work and/or continue in mainstream further education.



OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUATION OF PROJECT

Engage diverse groups of people to support community integration

Our work with African Families in the UK (AFiUK) has had a major impact on the organisation and their beneficiaries as well as Colne Radio, and the way we engage with the community and deliver our courses.

The work has been incredibly moving and rewarding, hearing individual stories and the lack of a voice this community has experienced.

Since delivering training for the AFiUK Ambassadors we have also worked with them to develop and deliver a week long Young Ambassadors Programme to enable their youth group to develop confidence in public speaking and leadership skills.

In addition to this we helped AFiUK to launch their first podcast series covering important topics such as mental health and raising awareness of sickle cell disease.

Rachel Walton the CEO of AFiUK is keen to introduce us to more organisations working with minority groups in NE Essex such as Refugee, Asylum and Migrant Action (RAMA). Rachel explained that not only has our work helped raise the profile of AFiUK services but has helped to integrate individuals into the community.



Sustainability of the project

Training Videos

Finding Your Voice Trainers are working on developing a series of Radio Skills training videos. This was identified as an opportunity this year to ensure there is access to a continued programme for the development of radio skills, beyond the lifetime of the project.

Videos will provide an opportunity for those who have attended the training courses to look back and refresh skills, as well as complete master classes online to gain more advanced skills.

It is our intention in Year 3 to develop a library of videos which we can upload to an online channel such as You Tube, to make training accessible to all of our participants and future learners.

This will be a legacy of the project as well as an opportunity for us to continue to grow the project in other ways for future learners.

Our Trained Trainers are also being given the opportunity to further develop their skills in the making and production of training videos.

We have been able to achieve this by using the underspend on the website upgrade from year 2 to year 3.

Colne Radio will be able to use the videos, not only for the advancement of skills for their FYV participants, but for new Volunteers and Presenters in the future.



Colne Radio would like to take this opportunity to thank the players of the National Lottery, and the Community Lottery Fund for providing 3 years worth of core funds alongside the Finding Your Voice Project.

We would also like to thank all the Community Partners for helping to shape the project, and for having the foresight to see the potential benefits for their organisations and service users long-term.

Thank you also to Colne Radio Volunteers, Presenters & Listeners, without you we wouldn't exist.

Last but not least, to the Training Team who are a wealth of experience and expertise; the Colne Radio Board for their voluntary time and dedication to making the project a success; the Independent Evaluator for their support; and to the Project Management Team for all their hard work in getting the project set up and running so smoothly.

The impact of the project is far reaching with the potential to continue the project beyond the current lottery grant. We are therefore looking to expand on the project going into 2027/28 and beyond.

