



Impact Report 2025-2026

Welcome!

At the heart of our work is a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves the chance to belong, to be heard, and to thrive. Our objectives are to support children and young people 5 – 25 to have fun, make friends and develop their confidence and independence.

We are extremely grateful to all our families and supporters.

This year we have:

- Increased the number of young people support by 3.5%
- Reached more girls: 43.4% compared with 40% last year.
- Increased the proportion of Black African and Caribbean young people we work with from 3% to 10%
- Our Youth Ambassador was a keynote speaker at a local MP event and was quoted in parliament!
- While less new Core Volunteers have been trained, we have had more volunteers working with us over the last year: our volunteers are staying with us longer!
- In this year's survey, 100% of our families would recommend us!



Contents

Introduction	1
Our Year in Numbers	2
What We Do	3
Who We Help	4
Core Service Impact	7
• Confidence	8
• Independence	9
• Social isolation	10
Hear From Our Children	11
The Difference our Volunteers make	12
Volunteer Training	13
Volunteer Demographics	14
	15
	16
Youth Participation	17
Family events	21
Our Income & Expenditure	23
How you can Help	24
Fundraising Events	25
Thank you to our supporters	26
Our staff and Trustees	27



Our Year in Numbers



205

Children and Young People supported through all our services



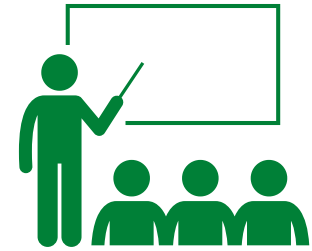
44

Individual families attended our parties



32

Individual young people took part in extra activities such as a respite weekend, Sporting Bears cars, skiing and flying



47

Core Service Volunteers trained



25

25 young people attended our Over 13s Christmas Party



14

14 community and fundraising events held



210

Volunteers supported us this year across our services



10

Young people gave their views and spoke at 10 events to improve local services

What we do

Our mission

Our mission is to address the challenges of isolation and exclusion experienced by children and young people with additional needs and disabilities aged 5 - 25 years

Our vision

To champion the right for inclusion for all children and young people with additional needs and disabilities across Berkshire, through our partnerships with families, volunteers, activity leaders and other voluntary and statutory sector organisations.

My child loves attending Me2Club sessions, the staff are very supportive.



What we offer

Me2 Club is an inclusion charity for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in the Wokingham and Reading Boroughs. We offer a variety of different activities to increase children and young people's confidence and independence as well as helping them make new friends.

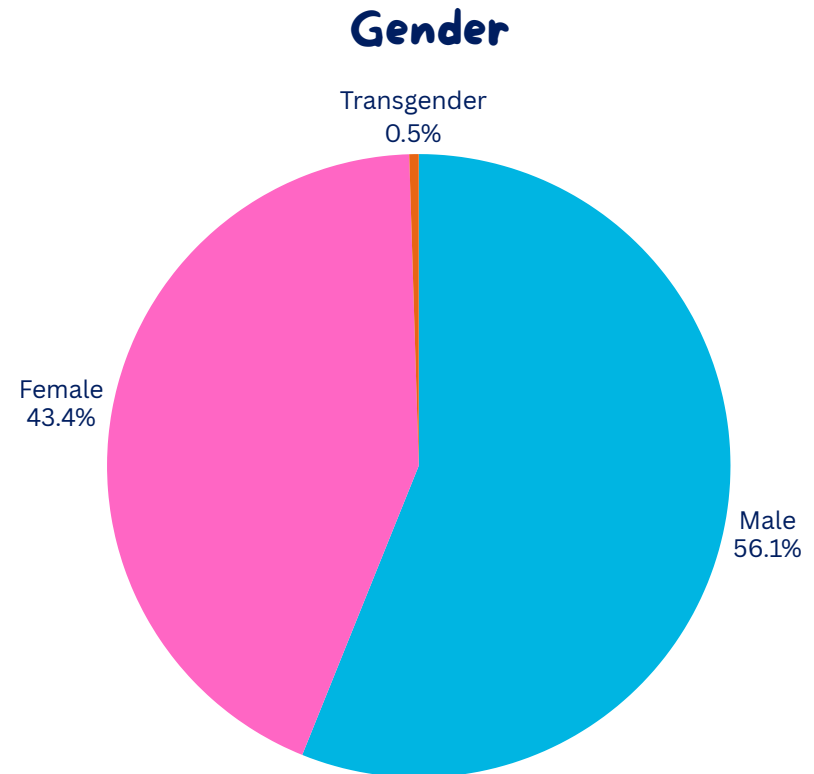
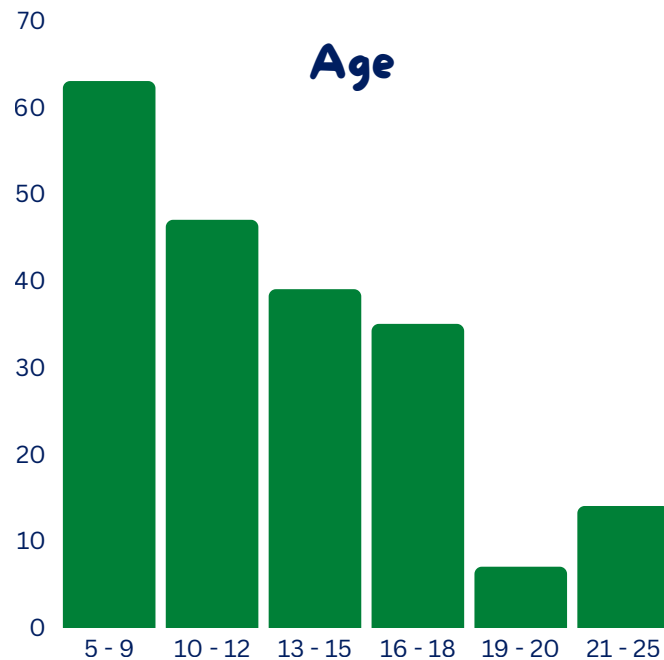
We supported 109 children and young people aged 5-19 to take part in mainstream leisure activities by recruiting and training volunteers to 'buddy' 1:1 with them (2:1 when required) so they can join in and have fun. With our help they can access a wide range of activities including sports clubs, uniformed groups and drama classes. We do not require a formal diagnosis to offer support.

96 young people took part in our youth participation programme for young people, plus another two that have a volunteer buddy too. Our groups include TeenW&Rd monthly teen group, "Say YES" and "Special United" SEND youth forums, and our Young Mental Health Champions.

Who we help

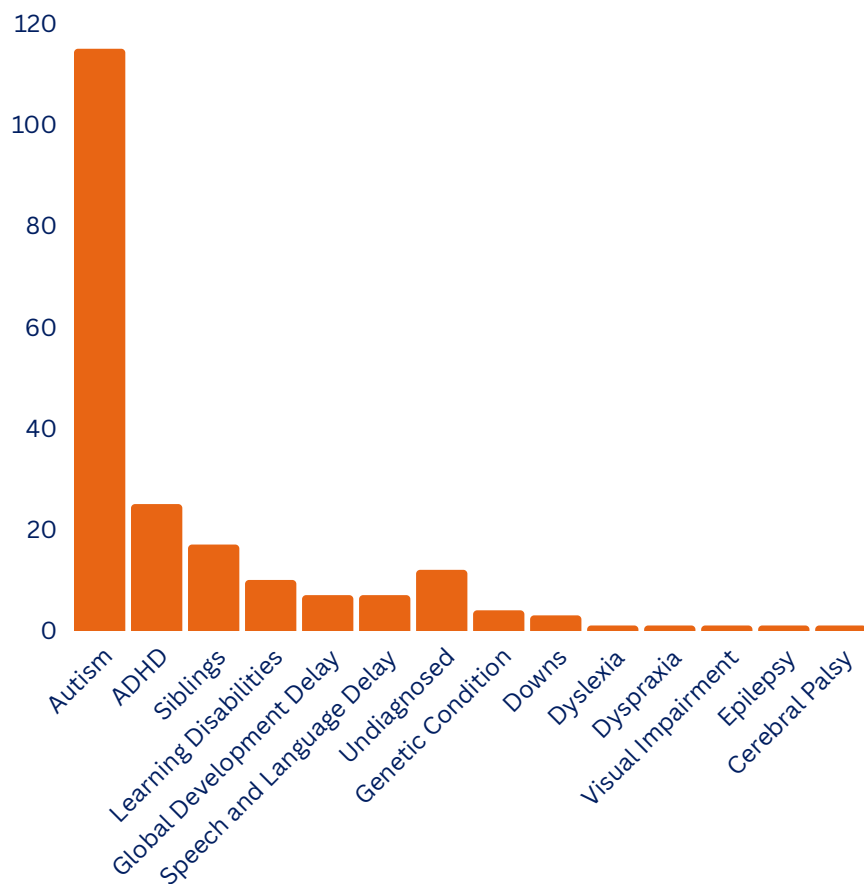
Our Core Service and Participation groups supported 205 children and young people over the past year, a 3.5% increase on last year. Some of the children and young people accessed more than one of these services.

We are proud to support children, families and volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds. The majority of the children accessing our support were aged between 5 and 12, a key stage in life when mainstream activities offer valuable opportunities to socialise, build confidence, and develop new skills. It is also vital that support continues if children need it and our participation programme has been developed with our young people. Last year we supported more young people between 13-25 due to our increased participation offer.



Who we help

Additional Needs & Disabilities



The majority of the children and young people we support across all of our services are neurodivergent. The chart shows the children's main additional need but many of the children have multiple other needs in addition to the need shown here.

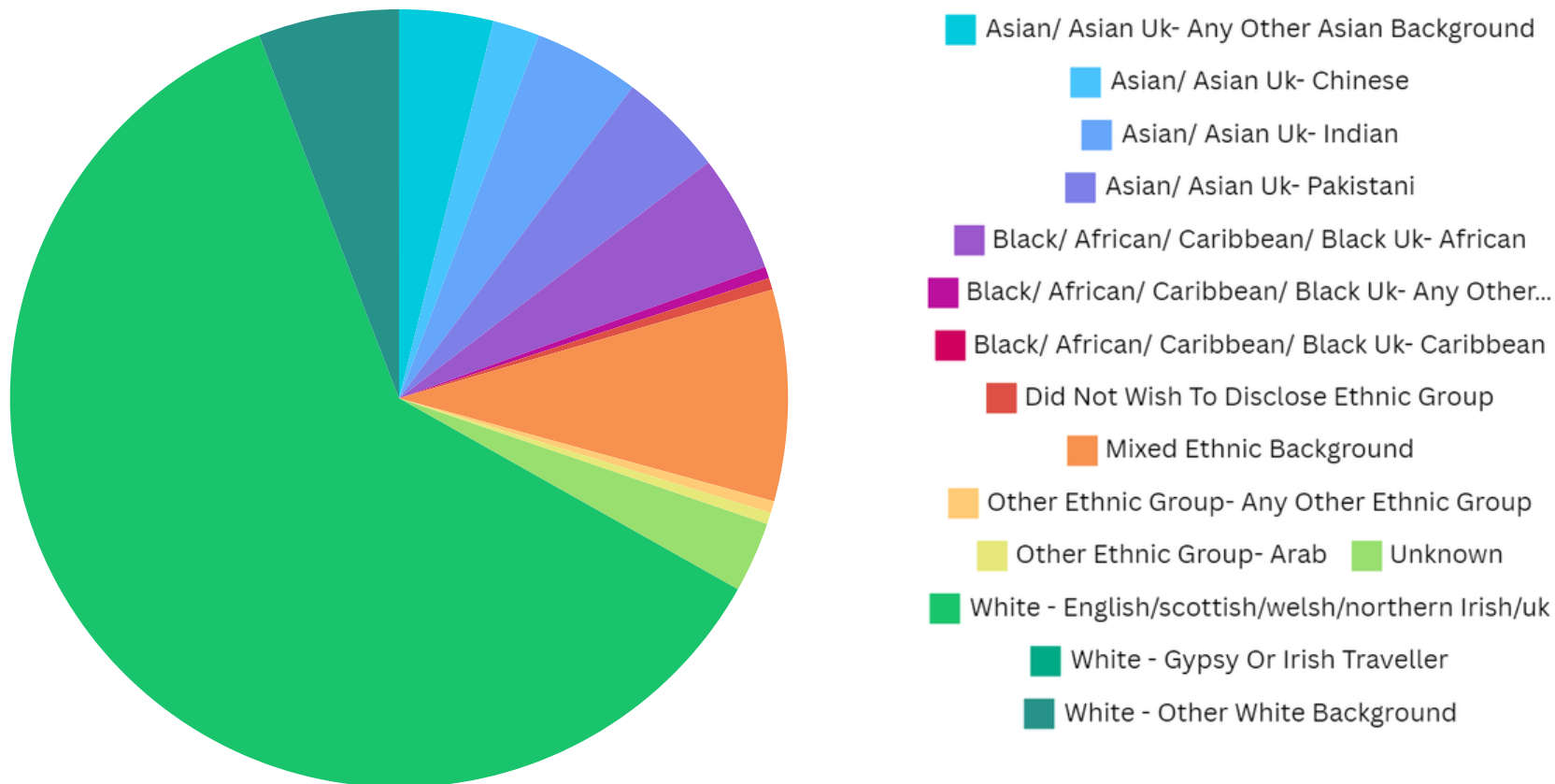
We do not require a diagnosis for our support as we know how difficult it can be to gain a diagnosis and we do not want this to be a barrier for children and young people to access our services.

Who we help

Ethnicities

Me2 Club are passionate about welcoming children and young people from a wide variety of backgrounds into all our services. We are pleased to have reached so many other communities and hope to expand our reach to the new global racial majority populations in Wokingham which are underrepresented among our families.

60% of all children accessing our services live in Wokingham and Reading 40%



Core Service Impact

Our core service is designed to open up opportunities for children to take part in activities they might otherwise miss out on. Beyond participation, we focus on building each child's confidence, encouraging greater independence, and helping to reduce feelings of social isolation. For some children, the long-term goal is to gain enough confidence and skills to attend these activities without volunteer support.

Every family we supported this year said they would recommend Me2 Club to others, a powerful reflection of the impact we're making. Many shared heartfelt feedback about the difference the service has made, with several highlighting that, without Me2 Club, their child simply wouldn't have the opportunity to take part in mainstream activities.



"A Huge difference-Making inaccessible services accessible"
Me2 Club Parent

"Having a Me2 Volunteer has absolutley made A's participation in Beavers and now cubs possible. A used to run off, and even now may struggle to join in activities, so having someone to support him or just be there when he needs a moment out is so important. Me2 club is really helping A to build on his streghths, and build resilience in areas he struggles due to his Autism. Mant thanks Me2club".
Me2Club Parent

Our Core Service supports children with additional needs at activities around Wokingham and Reading. This service enables children to attend uniform groups, swimming lessons, drama

classes, sports clubs and martial arts. Each child is matched with a carefully selected, trained volunteer who attend with them each week to provide the individual support each child needs.

This year we have supported 108 children and young people with 77 from Wokingham and 31 from Reading.



100% of
families would
recommend
Me2 Club

Core Service Impact on Confidence



With the dedicated support of our volunteers, children are empowered to believe in themselves and explore what they're capable of achieving. This positive impact is echoed in the feedback we received from both volunteers and parents.

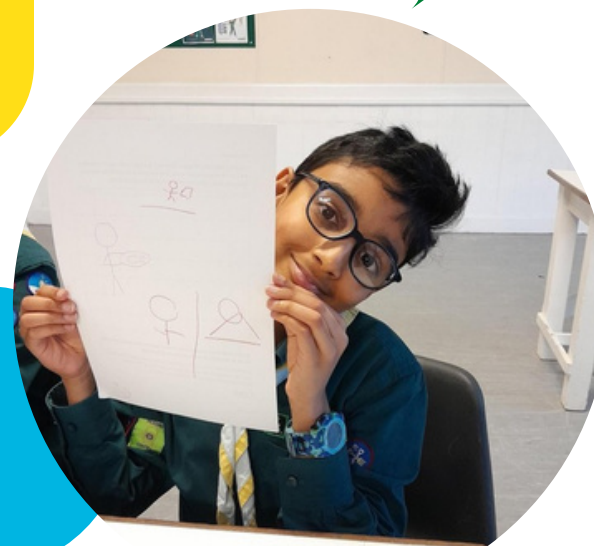
An incredible 75% of parents and carers observed a boost in their child's confidence, with 55% rating that change as a 4 or 5, highlighting a meaningful and lasting difference in how their children see themselves and engage with the world around them.

"He is more confident attending the group"
Me2club Parent



75% reported
a boost in
thier childs
confidence.

*"It has really helped Z to socialise with
other children of their spectrums,
increased their vocalisation levels,
more confidence and form of
therapeutic for her"*
Me2 Club Parent



Core Service Impact on Independence



When families first join our service, many parents and carers attend activities alongside their children, as it's often the only way they can take part. With the support of a Me2 Club volunteer, children begin to attend more independently, taking part without a parent present. Over time, many children grow in confidence and need less support from their volunteer.

Parents frequently tell us that this growing independence doesn't just benefit their child at Me2 Club activities, it often encourages them to try new clubs and experiences beyond our service. This year, 63% of parent carers reported an increase in their child's independence, showing a significant step forward in their personal development.



63% of
Parents said
their child's
independence
increased

"E thrives in the swimming lessons he attends with his volunteer A at Carnival Hub. He previously attended a SEN class there, but made little progress. He needs someone in the pool with him and A does a very good job keeping him focused on what the teacher is asking him to do. He enjoys A a lot and is moving up through the stages at a good pace. Last year he moved from 3 to 4, this year he is expected to advance to stage 5. Thank you, Me2!". "
Me2 Club parent

"Great to be part of it."
Me2 Club Child

Core Service Impact on Social Isolation



Children with additional needs and disabilities often face social isolation, as joining in with leisure activities can be challenging due to barriers like accessibility, lack of understanding, or difficulties with social interaction.

With the consistent support of a trusted volunteer, children are able to take part more regularly, feel more at ease, and begin to build meaningful connections. Our service helps create inclusive opportunities where children can make local friends, engage with a wider peer group, and enjoy activities they might not otherwise be able to access.

"I's improving his communication and interaction"
Me2 Club parent



"He's able to join in the activity which is good for his wellbeing"
Me2 Club Parent



47% of parents and carers reported that their child increased in sociability and connectedness. For many of the children we support, who often experience significant social isolation before joining Me2 Club, this represents a powerful and positive shift in their ability to build relationships and feel part of a community.

Hear from our Children

Hearing directly from the children about their experiences with Me2 Club is incredibly important to us. We invited feedback from those who had been matched with their volunteer for over a term, and we were delighted by the positive responses they shared about both the charity and their volunteers.

77% rated their enjoyment of their activity with their volunteer as 5/5

100%
of children said they
felt happy attending
their activity



The top 5 things children enjoyed about their activity were:

- It makes me happy
- I enjoy the activity
- I like seeing my volunteer
- I get to do something without my parents
- I learn new things



"Thank you are truly lifesavers!"
Me2 Club Parent

100%
of children felt
having a volunteer
helps them



The difference our volunteers make

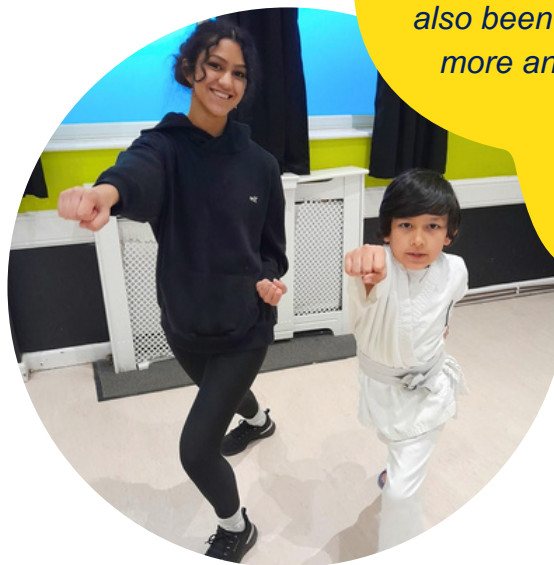
This year, in total, 210 volunteers contributed to our work, including 108 who were directly involved in our core service. Their support enabled children to access and enjoy a wide range of activities that might otherwise be out of reach.

Feedback from our matched volunteer surveys shows that volunteers see first-hand the difference consistent 1:1 support can make. They reported children becoming more comfortable attending their activities, increasingly taking part, trying new experiences and developing their confidence and independence.

Our surveys also demonstrate the commitment volunteers make to their young people. In January 2026, 59% of responding volunteers had been matched with their young person for between six months and one year, with others continuing their matches beyond a year. These relationships provide children with something incredibly valuable: a consistent person beside them who encourages them to participate, belong and achieve.

“Yes. She is more independent in the activities, more confident and self-assured. She knows I am there to help so she will often give many activities a try and ask for help if she struggles. She has also been interacting with her peers a lot more and enjoys playing with them.”

Me2 Club Volunteer



“She has started interacting with the other children more and has made a friend. She answers more questions and is also able to swim on her own more often.”

Me2 Club Volunteer



We're proud that 100% of our exiting core service volunteers rated their experience as 'good' or 'excellent.' Just as importantly, all of them used their volunteering experience to support applications for employment or further study. We're thrilled that being part of Me2 Club has helped them take meaningful steps towards their career or education goals.

Volunteer Induction Training

“Thoroughly enjoying the experience. I feel valued by Joe, his parents and the Scout leaders. I feel like I'm having some impact.”

Me2 Club Volunteer



During 2025/26, we welcomed and trained 47 new volunteers across 3 training sessions held throughout the year. Our training is designed to ensure volunteers feel confident, knowledgeable and well-prepared to provide meaningful 1:1 support to children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

The comprehensive programme covers understanding additional needs and disabilities, effective communication, behaviour as communication, safeguarding, manual handling, and the role and responsibilities of a Me2 Club volunteer.

By investing in high-quality training from the very beginning, we help our volunteers develop the skills and understanding they need to build positive relationships, adapt their support to each individual child and, ultimately, help children feel included, confident and able to participate in the activities they enjoy.

We continually review and enhance our training to ensure it meets the evolving needs of the children we support and the volunteers who play such a vital role in their lives. We are incredibly proud that so many of our volunteers describe the training as both empowering and impactful:

- 99% of volunteers trained increased their knowledge of additional needs after attending Volunteer Induction Training increasing their ratings of their knowledge from an average 5.2/10 to 8.9/10.
- 85% felt more ready to be matched after completing training, improving their ratings of confidence in being matched from an average 6.5/10 to 8.5/10 after training
- 99% of volunteers rated their experience of training as 'Good', 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'
- 100% of volunteers felt that the training met the objectives

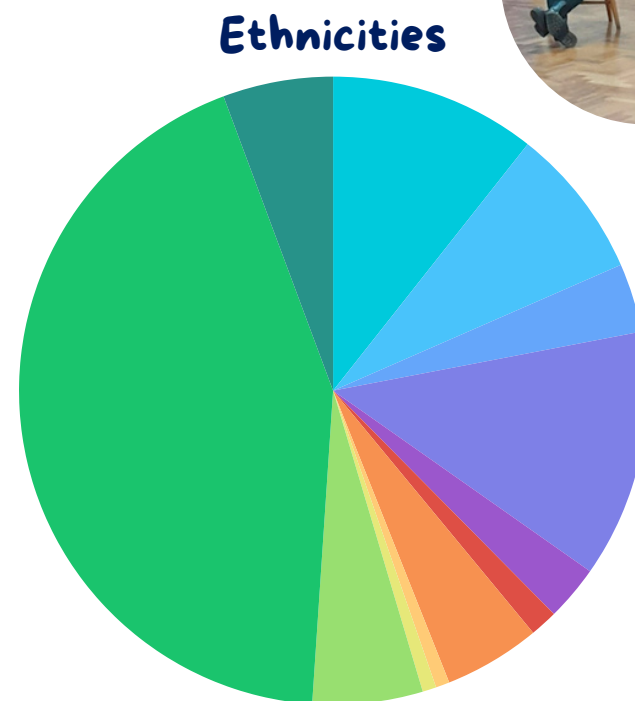
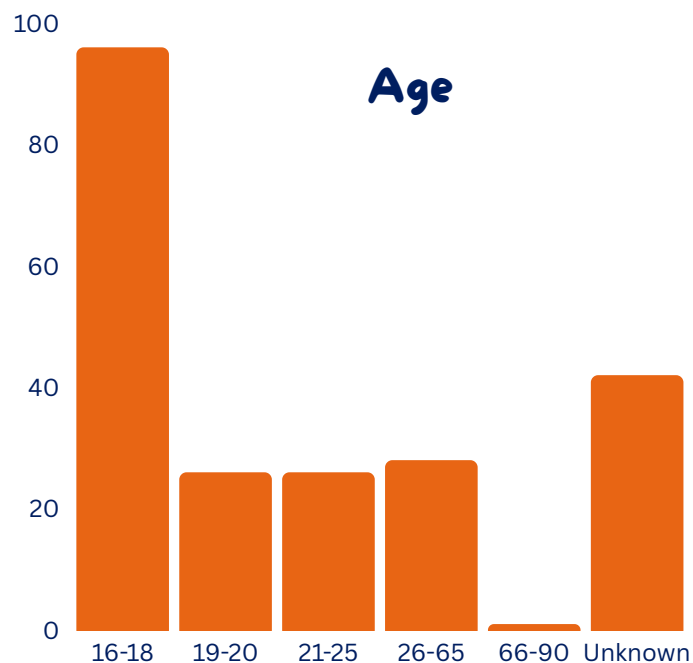
“I love the experience. It is rewarding and I have a great time!”

Me2club Volunteer

Our Volunteer Demographics

The majority of our volunteers are aged 16–18, which is often a great match for the children we support, many of whom benefit from having a peer-like volunteer by their side. Our young volunteers bring energy, empathy and relatability, helping children feel more comfortable and confident when taking part in activities.

Because the children and young people we support have a wide range of needs, it's vital that our volunteer team reflects diversity in age, experience and background. This helps us carefully match each child with a volunteer who suits their individual personality and support requirements.

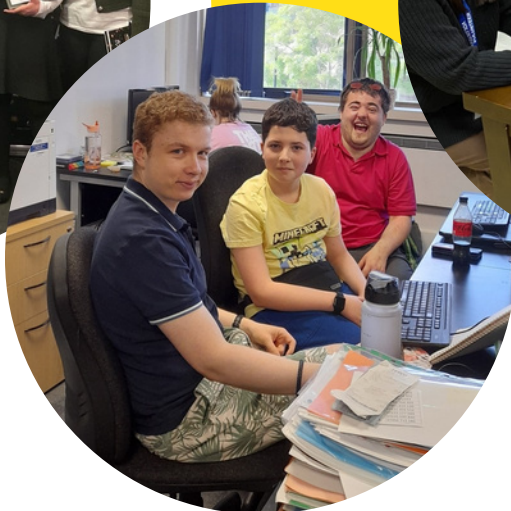


Youth Participation

We run the Reading and Wokingham SEND youth forums, our young Mental Health Champions and TeenW&Rd.

We are proud to announce that we supported 50% more young people with our participation programme this year!

98 young
people have
been involved
in
participation
this year



Our Wokingham SEND Youth Forum

Our forum continues to grow with 36% more young people taking part this year! The forum gives young people a much needed voice in the development of local services. In the last year, young people have had a voice in:

- A new Preparing for Adulthood video
- Local employment
- The Adult Social Care website
- CAMHS
- SESLIP Inclusion Project in the South East
- The new Neurodiversity tool

Our Youth Forum reached
30
young people
this year



"I get to help improve things for the future."
Young person

"The Forum plays an essential role in ensuring that young people with additional needs and/or disabilities have a meaningful voice in shaping the education, health and social care services they receive." Service Manager

"The staff are absolutely brilliant."
Me2 Club Parent



Our Reading SEND Youth Forum

Special United membership has increased 40%. We have regular support from the Reading SEND Local Offer team. We have helped young people have a say in

- Yearly targets for Reading
- The new neurodiversity tool
- Short Breaks
- Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) for SEND
- Schools



Our Youth
Forum reached
35
young people
this year

"It's brilliant, my daughter really looks forward to it."
Me2 Club Parent Carer

"Gives us a space free of burdens where we feel safe."

Me2 Club Young Person



Young Mental Health Champions - Include Me2

Our Mental Health Champions choose various social actions to improve things for other young people with additional needs.

In the last year:

- Young people gave their views on Wokingham's proposed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- 5 champions took part in our Takeover Day speaking to our CEO and one of our Trustees about the charity, what they liked and what they wanted to improve on.
- 3 young people attended the launch of Wokingham's Ordinarily Available Provision, speaking in front of about 100 headteachers, SENCos and Local Authority staff about improving mental health for young people with additional needs.
- One Champion was a keynote speaker at an MP event and later quoted in parliament.
- 3 young people helped interview for new Trainee Children and Young People's Wellbeing Practitioners at the local CAMHS.
- 4 Champions spoke at the Wokingham Borough Council Children's Overview and Scrutiny Board.
- One of our Young Mental Health Champions was highly commended by BBC Radio Berkshire for her work at Me2 Club.
- One Champion attended the Berkshire Judicial Service, meeting local dignitaries.
- Young people shared their views for the school nurse consultation in Wokingham.
- One champion was short listed for the President's Award: Youth Work Champion 2025 at Berkshire Youth



**"She loves meetings
and activities with
Me2club."
Me2 Club Parent**

***"I have made
friends and have
fun."
Young person***

**22 Reading and Wokingham
young people took part in
youth social action with us
in the last year!**



TeenW&Rd - our Teen Club

Our teen club meet monthly over a takeaway. They choose trips to go on and how they will fundraise for these trips - resolving any disagreements themselves.

In the last year we have been to Legoland, the cinema, swimming and an ice cream parlour. We have also had an amazing talk about online safety from Olly's Work.

Our over 13s Christmas party was attended by 20 young people.



**"My child loves attending Me2Club sessions, the staff are very supportive."
Me2 Club Parent**

**"Me2 Club is my favourite club."
Young Person**



31 Reading and Wokingham young people took part in the last year!

Other Opportunities for Our Young People



Me2 Club are committed to coproduction (doing with our young people rather than to them) as well as enabling them to develop their confidence and independence. As well as our core service and groups, we are always looking for ways to involve our young people in the running of our charity.

Five young people took part in our annual Takeover Day in May 2025, meeting a Trustee and the senior leadership team, taking over our social media and more!

Young people also helped us with interviewing our two new Activities and Volunteer Coordinators.

Young people also had the opportunity to attend an accessible session at the Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park and attend a residential weekend (8 young people), skiing (5 young people) and flying a small aircraft with Phab. A residential weekend was a key ask from our young people!

16 young people and their siblings enjoyed riding in sports cars as part of Sporting Bears.



Family events

In 2025/2026, Me2 Club hosted three inclusive family events designed to bring children, young people and their families together in a safe, welcoming space where everyone feels valued and understood. These events offered opportunities for families to relax, have fun and connect with others in an environment that celebrates inclusion.

Our Easter Party in April was a joyful afternoon filled with hands-on activities. The celebration ended with a special visit from the Easter Bunny, who delighted everyone by handing out Easter eggs.

We hosted our Summer Party at TVAP, where children enjoyed the chance to cool off in the splash area and take part in a variety of fun activities.

Our Family Christmas Party brought festive cheer, featuring a special visit from Santa who delivered gifts to all our children, young people and their siblings, Along with fun activities from Jingle the Elf.

A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers and supporters who made the family events possible through their time and dedication.



"We have loved the Me2 parties enjoying time as a family at a inclusive event we have got to know other parents from the groups and became friends."

Me2 Club Parent

In addition to our family events, we enabled 15 families to attend Sporting Bears Dream Rides event. The children, parents and siblings got to ride in a variety of sports, rally and super cars.

Family events



Our Income & Expenditure

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support we've received from Trusts and Foundations, organisations and individuals, both new and longstanding. Your support plays a vital role in helping us grow and develop our services, ensuring that children and young people with additional needs and disabilities can fully take part and thrive.

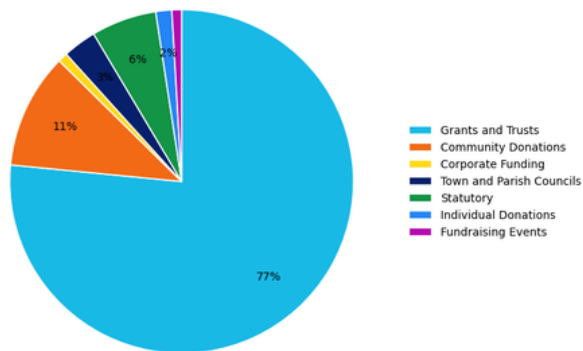
While the past year brought significant fundraising challenges, with rising demand and increased competition for limited funding, we remain hopeful and determined. The financial pressures are real, but so is our commitment to finding sustainable solutions.

The charts below show how funds were raised in 2025–26 and how they were spent to deliver our mission. As we look to the future, we know we need support more than ever. That's why we're actively exploring new funding opportunities and broadening our income streams to secure the long-term impact of our work.

Together, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to be included and supported.

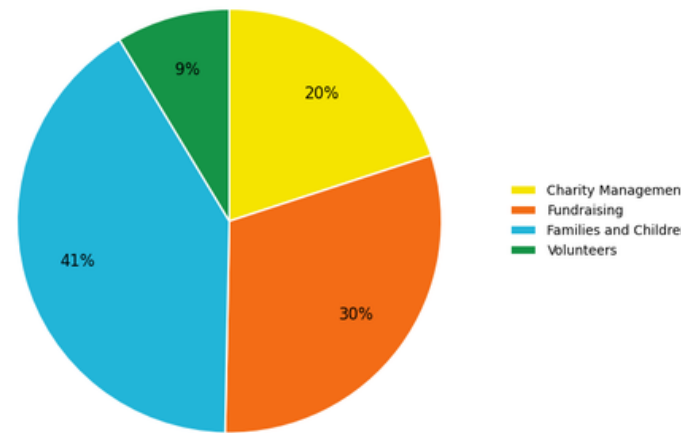
Income

Grants and Trusts	£187,075
Community Donations	£26,492
Corporate Funding	£2,226
Town and Parish Councils	£7,700
Statutory	£15,000
Individual Donations	£3,678
Fundraising Events	£2,226
Total	£245,353



Expenditure

Charity Management	£45,949
Fundraising	£69,852
Families and children	£94,416
Volunteers	£19,932
Total	£230,149



How you can help

Every week, we hear from families whose children are waiting for a chance to join in, to attend Scouts, dance classes, swimming or youth clubs. Activities that help them feel included and connected. Without Me2 Club, many of these children simply wouldn't have access to those experiences.

Fundraising is what makes this possible. It pays for the specialist training of our volunteers, personalised support for families and the inclusive events that bring everyone together. Your support means we can say yes to more children, more smiles and more opportunities to belong.

Together, we can build inclusive communities, one child, one volunteer, one activity at a time.



Ways You Can Fundraise and Support Us

Host a fundraiser

Coffee mornings, quizzes, raffles, or parties, fun events that raise vital funds.

Take on a challenge

Run, cycle, skydive, set yourself a goal and get sponsored!

Celebrate with a cause

Set up a birthday fundraiser or ask for donations in lieu of gifts.

Workplace giving

Nominate Me2 Club as your Charity of the Year or match staff donations.

Spread the word

Follow us on social media and share our mission with your network.



The need for our support is growing and so is the urgency to raise vital funds. Whether it's £5 or £500, a sponsored walk or a monthly gift, every act of generosity helps make inclusion possible.

To get involved or talk about how you can help, please contact Lucy at lucy@me2club.org.uk.

We'd love to hear from you.



Ways to Donate to Me2Club



You can donate online via our website, through platforms like JustGiving, or even by playing the Wokingham Community Lottery. If you're thinking about giving monthly, here's how your donation could help:

- **£5 a month** could help us recruit and train new volunteers to support children waiting for a buddy
- **£10 a month** could give a whole family the chance to attend one of our inclusive parties (Easter, Summer or Christmas)
- **£25 a month** could support a child to attend their weekly club or activity with a 1:1 volunteer for a term
- **£100 a month** could fund a child's assessment, specialist volunteer matching, and termly support visits

To start your gift, visit www.me2club.org.uk or contact hannah@me2club.org.uk



JustGiving™



Give as you Live

 **easyfundraising**



Perfect for one-off gifts, monthly donations, or launching your own fundraiser.

- Set up a regular donation
- Make a quick one-off gift
- Create a fundraising page for your event or challenge

Shop online and raise free donations for Me2 Club at no extra cost to you!

- Works with 6,000+ stores (including Tesco, M&S, Booking.com)
- Donate while doing your weekly shop or booking a holiday
- Raise money effortlessly while you shop

Turn your everyday spending into donations similar to Give as You Live.

- Available through 7,500+ retailers
- Ideal for families and businesses doing regular online shopping
- Quick setup, long-term impact

Support local and win big! When you buy a £1 ticket, 50p goes directly to Me2 Club, and you could win up to £25,000!

- Play weekly from just £1
- Chance to win prizes every Saturday



Fundraising events: Community and Me2club events



In May, we held our Golf Day at Hennerton Golf course.



In May, we also attended Reading Children's Festival



In May we attended the Wokingham May fayre



In May we attended the Woodley Carnival



In August we attended Reading Pride



In December we attended the Wokingham Winter Carnival



In January we held our Quiz Night

Corporate Fundraising and Individual Challenges



We had fun at the Johnson & Johnson Family BBQ



Didya from RAD IT Solutions ran the Fleet Half Marathon for us.



Johnson & Johnson ran a company Football match for us.



Johnson & Johnson ran a company car wash for us.



Ascot race course



Thank you to all our supporters

Trusts and Foundations

- Souter Charitable Trust
- Pixel Fund
- BCF and Lapland UK
- Edgar E Lawley Foundation
- Squire Patton Boggs Charitable Trust
- The Colefax Charitable trust
- Masonic Charitable Foundation
- AMMCO Trust
- The Good Exchange
- Miller Homes Community Fund
- National Lottery Community Fund
- BBC Children in Need
- The Henry Smith Charity
- Postcode Lottery
- Garfield Western Foundation

Corporates

- Aquarius Water Solutions
- Enterprise Foundation
- Costco
- Johnson and Johnson
- Royal Ascot
- Rad Group

Groups

- Earley and Woodley Arts Group
- Wokingham Lions
- Brighter Futures for Children
- Earley Town Council
- Emmbrook School
- Easthampstead Rotary Club
- Twyford Parish Council
- Finchampstead Parish Council
- Sonning Parish Council
- Twyford Scouts
- Winnersh Parish Council
- Wokingham Borough Council
- Wokingham Town Council
- Wokingham Without Council
- Woodley Town Council
- The Big Give
- Arborfield and Newlands Parish Council

Thank you to all our supporters; local community groups, local businesses, schools, town councils, Rotaries, Lions clubs & individuals who supported us in 2025/2026

Our Trustees & Staff Team

We would like to recognise the dedication and commitment of our staff team. Through their hard work, creativity and determination, they have continued to support families, recruit and train volunteers, and create opportunities for children and young people to have their voices heard within our local communities.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Emma Hillier and Ellie Kearsley to the Me2Club team as our new Activities & Volunteers Coordinators.

We have also been proud to see several team members progress in their careers and move on to new opportunities. We thank them for their contribution to Me2Club and wish them every success for the future.

Current Staff Team

- Ramona Bridgman – Participation Coordinator & SLT
- Hannah Norris – Fundraising Manager & SLT
- Lucy Milsom – Community Fundraiser
- Sabrina Marsh – Core Service Support Officer
- Emma Hillier – Activities & Volunteers Coordinator
- Ellie Kearsley – Activities & Volunteers Coordinator

Good Luck and Farewell

- Chin Davies – Chief Executive Officer
- Vicky Fisher – Senior Activities & Volunteers Coordinator
- Nikki Fisher, Louise Butler, Charlotte Randall, Patrick Prichett & Erin O'Connell – Activities & Volunteers Coordinators

Trustees:

- Sonia Aulak - Chair of Trustees
- Matt Johnson - Treasurer
- Giles Cross,
- Jade Whatley – Trustees

Good Luck and Farwell

- Kate Sims - Secretary
- Amanda Coale - Trustee
- Dawn Bellamy -Trustee
- Donna Breadmore - Trustee

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible Board of Trustees, who generously give their time and expertise to ensure Me2 Club continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.





"Just a huge thank you. I didn't realise just how much of an impact it would have on us."

"The Me2 Club team are fantastic, always putting the young people at the forefront of everything they do."

www.me2club.org.uk

info@me2club.org.uk
07931 302512

"Everyone who works at Me2 Club is amazing. The support, the activities, the range of clubs, organising volunteers, communication...I could go on!"

© Me2 Club 2023.
Registered charity in England and Wales
Charity number: 1140812
Company number: 7557636