

My Ends Partnership Romford

Impact Report

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2026

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Foreword

As Chair of the Havering Community Safety Partnership, I am proud to introduce this Impact Report for the My Ends Partnership in Romford. This report captures not only the measurable outcomes of our work but also the lived experiences of the communities we serve.

The My Ends Partnership initiative has been a powerful example of what can be achieved when local partnerships are rooted in trust, shared purpose, and a deep understanding of a place. Through the combined efforts of Police, grassroots organisations, youth mentors, trauma-informed practitioners, and key community partners, a 9% reduction in crime (calendar year 2024 – 2025, Metropolitan Police Service crime data) was achieved in St Edward's Ward, helping to promote an increased sense of safety.

This report reflects the dedication of everyone involved—from frontline workers to strategic partners—and highlights the importance of sustained investment in community-led solutions. It also reminds us that safety is not just the absence of harm, but the presence of opportunity, connection, and hope.

As we look ahead, I am committed to building on this momentum, ensuring that our approach remains responsive, inclusive, and grounded in the voices of those most affected. Together, we will continue to create safer, stronger communities for all.

Andrew Blake-Herbert

**Chief Executive Officer, London Borough of Havering
Chair of Havering Community Safety Partnership**

Overview

My Ends Partnership – Romford is a community-led, partnership-driven initiative funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). It was launched to tackle serious youth violence and antisocial behaviour in Romford Town Centre, particularly in St Edwards Ward, identified as Havering's top hotspot for violent crime involving under-25s.

The programme received £280,000 for the 2024 – 2026 period, with funding allocated to grassroots organisations to deliver hyperlocal interventions focused on: Youth engagement, Creative arts, Sports and mentoring and Community safety and awareness.

According to Havering Council's Serious Violence Strategy 2024, Havering recorded the highest proportion of violence and exploitation offences involving individuals under 25 in London— 50.4% of such offences involved at least one person in this age group. Where violence occurs in the borough, it is predominantly youth-related, with a greater share of youth violence than any other London borough.

Romford (St Edward's ward) is a key hotspot for serious youth violence, accounting for 21% of all such offences in Havering and ranking as the seventh-highest ward in London for these incidents (MPS data, calendar year 2025).



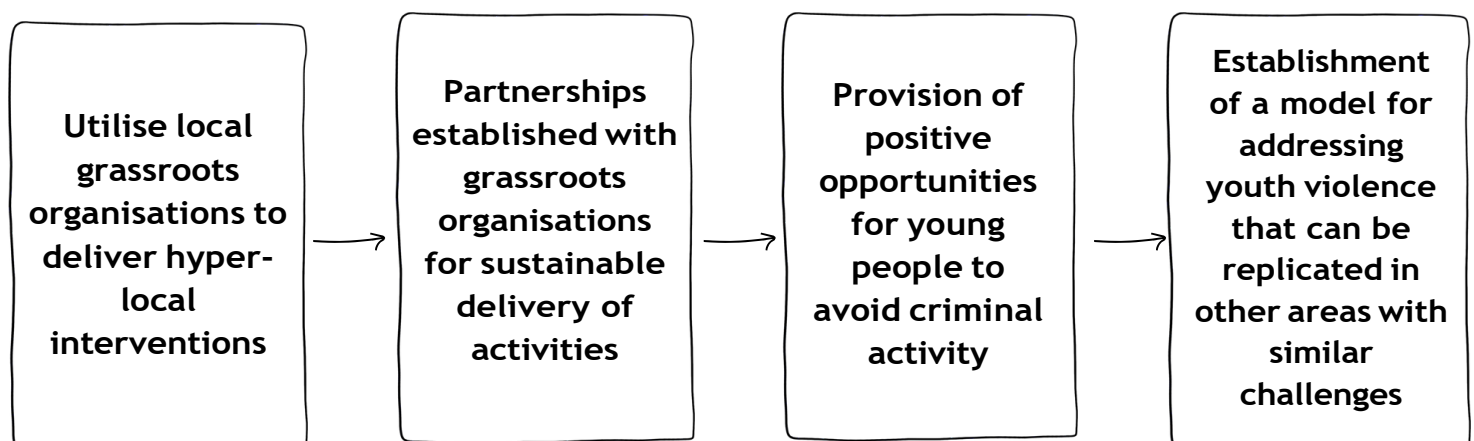
Delivery Model

The My Ends Partnership's Theory of Change is built on the idea that strengthening community connections, increasing access to support, and empowering local residents leads to safer, more resilient neighbourhoods.

By investing in grassroots organisations, creating positive opportunities for young people, and improving collaboration between partners, the programme works to reduce local harm and build long-term community confidence.

Over time, these combined efforts help create a more supportive environment where residents feel heard, included, and able to shape the future of their area.

Theory of Change Model



Key Milestones



ROMFORD UNITY HUB OPENING

The Hub in Romford Town Centre officially launched on 29 January 2025. It was delivered in partnership with Havering Council's Community Safety Partnership and the space was donated by Network Rail – it's a safe hub for all to use!



SOCIAL MEDIA DEBUT

We launched the My Ends Partnership– Romford Instagram as a way to showcase our work and stay connected with the community. By sharing updates, local stories, and collaborations with Havering businesses, the platform helps us reach more residents and strengthen those community links, encouraging people to engage with what we're doing and get involved.



FAMILY FUN DAY

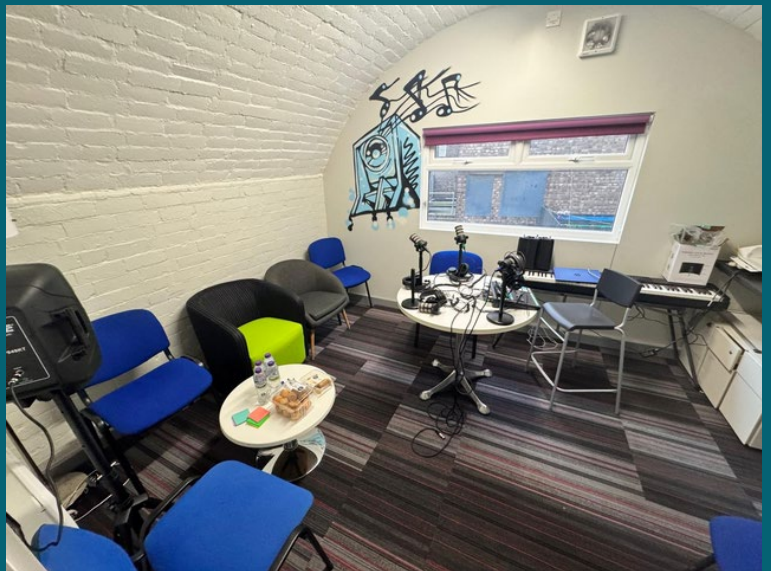
Our family fun day event brought the community together, and gave families a chance to connect, enjoy activities, and meet the dedicated local partners who support the area. The day helped strengthen relationships and encouraged pride and unity across Romford.



AWARDS CEREMONY

Our My Ends Partnership Award Ceremony brought the community together to celebrate the people, partners, and projects that made a real difference in the area. We created a moment to recognise local achievements and highlight positive impact.

Romford Unity Hub



Here's an exclusive sneak peak behind the scenes of our podcasting studio





See the artist behind the murals at the hub.
Thank you Steve for all your hard work!

See more of his work on Instagram @Cize_One

Year One Overview

AIR Network

AIR Network is a specialist mentoring provider delivering services across all London boroughs. For over 17 years, we've supported individuals aged 8-65 through community-based mentoring, wellbeing programmes, youth services, and prison interventions.

With more than two decades of combined experience working alongside some of society's most vulnerable and excluded individuals, AIR Network is a dedicated family of mentors, wellbeing practitioners, and sports coaches with lived experience. We take pride in coming from the same communities as the people we serve fostering trust, understanding, and genuine connection.

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to bridge the gap between young people and their communities by empowering individuals to rebuild their lives through positive engagement, structure, and opportunity. Through our holistic model combining mentoring, wellbeing, and physical activity we help people rediscover their purpose, resilience, and hope.

Celebrating Young People

When CM joined our football sessions, he displayed significant behavioural challenges, confrontational with staff and peers, gets angry quickly, and resistant to structure. On the pitch, frustration often spilled into reckless play and conflict.

But over time, through patience, consistency, and clear values Respect, Teamwork, Integrity, and Cleanliness things began to shift. CM started showing up early, smiling, helping with equipment, and encouraging teammates. His voice, once disruptive, became a source of leadership and positivity.

CM's transformation extended beyond football. He joined a local Sunday league team, maintained commitment to our sessions, and even earned the opportunity to attend an England match at Wembley, a moment he was truly proud of. As he focused on his GCSEs, he demonstrated maturity and discipline, regularly updating us on his progress.

Now, CM is shadowing his father, a qualified electrician, with plans to pursue the same career path, a powerful reflection of his growth and newfound purpose.



Scan to learn
more about the
work AIR
Network do!

Box Up Crime

Box Up Crime uses sport, and boxing in particular, as a tool to inspire, educate and develop young individuals. Since its inception, Box Up Crime has fostered a foundation for social change, raising awareness and building confidence in affected communities. Box Up Crime works closely with schools providing assistance to help with student behaviour and motivation, getting involved as early as possible in the development of an 'at risk' young person to help influence outcomes and improve their life chances.

Boxing

Sport has the power to change lives. We provide young people the opportunity to develop a skill in the sport of boxing. Affiliated with England boxing, young people benefit from learning the disciplined art of boxing in a safe and fun way. We are passionate about providing Box Up hubs to local communities. These hubs provide weekly free boxing sessions accessible for young people between the ages of 7-19.

Education

'The Real Me' curriculum is our own award-winning mentoring and leadership development toolkit, designed through partnership with the University of Arts London, educating young people and addressing challenging behaviors.



A glimpse from our session at Hope Cafe!



Celebrating Young People

AM first attended in September at age 9. He was one of our first junior members. He is now 10 and has attended every week except when he and his family are on holiday. His mum said AM is the driving force – he makes her bring him every week as he enjoys it so much. AM started attending as he loves sport and practiced a lot at home with his dad. His strength and speed have progressed and he is a dedicated boxer who listens to his teachers and puts what he has learnt into action. He has become more confident and made lots of new friends here. He is very competitive but also fair and a team player. His form is great and his dedication to fitness is impressive.

AM has begun to attend Harold Hill Friday sessions too with his cousin.

Youth Unity

Youth Unity CIC is a community interest company dedicated to supporting vulnerable young people and adults affected by issues such as youth violence and exploitation. We work closely with statutory services, charities, and local authorities to deliver mentoring, workshops, and training that build resilience, confidence, and positive life choices.

Our mission is simple, to prevent, prepare, and protect by helping young people make informed decisions that shape safer and healthier futures.

Our work spans across Havering and beyond, offering tailored one-to-one mentoring, accredited training, youth voice projects, and creative engagement initiatives. Through programmes like Ambition and Unlock Your Future, we provide real opportunities for personal growth, employability, and wellbeing.

With the use of our amazing, interactive mobile van, we help coordinate youth diversionary programmes throughout the borough and engage with people of all ages!

“Failing Forwards” Podcast

Failing Forwards is built around a clear mission: giving young people a platform to speak honestly about the challenges they face and how they turn setbacks into growth. The podcast positions itself as raw, unfiltered, and youth-led — a space where real experiences replace stereotypes and where difficult issues are confronted head-on.

We’ve spoken about a range of topics including mental health, social pressures and educational struggles.

Celebrating Young People

One of our young participants, “Ben,” joined Youth Unity struggling with confidence and social isolation. Through over 50 hours of one-to-one mentoring and creative workshops, he rediscovered his passion for art, exhibited at Queens Theatre Romford, and even designed the MyEnds project logo. His transformation, from low self-esteem to self-belief, reflects the impact of consistent support and community collaboration.

Today, Ben continues to thrive, developing his creative career and inspiring others along the way.



Meet the team Shirley, Simeon, Francesca and Riyad (left to right)

Scan here to listen
to our amazing
“Failing Forwards”
Podcast!

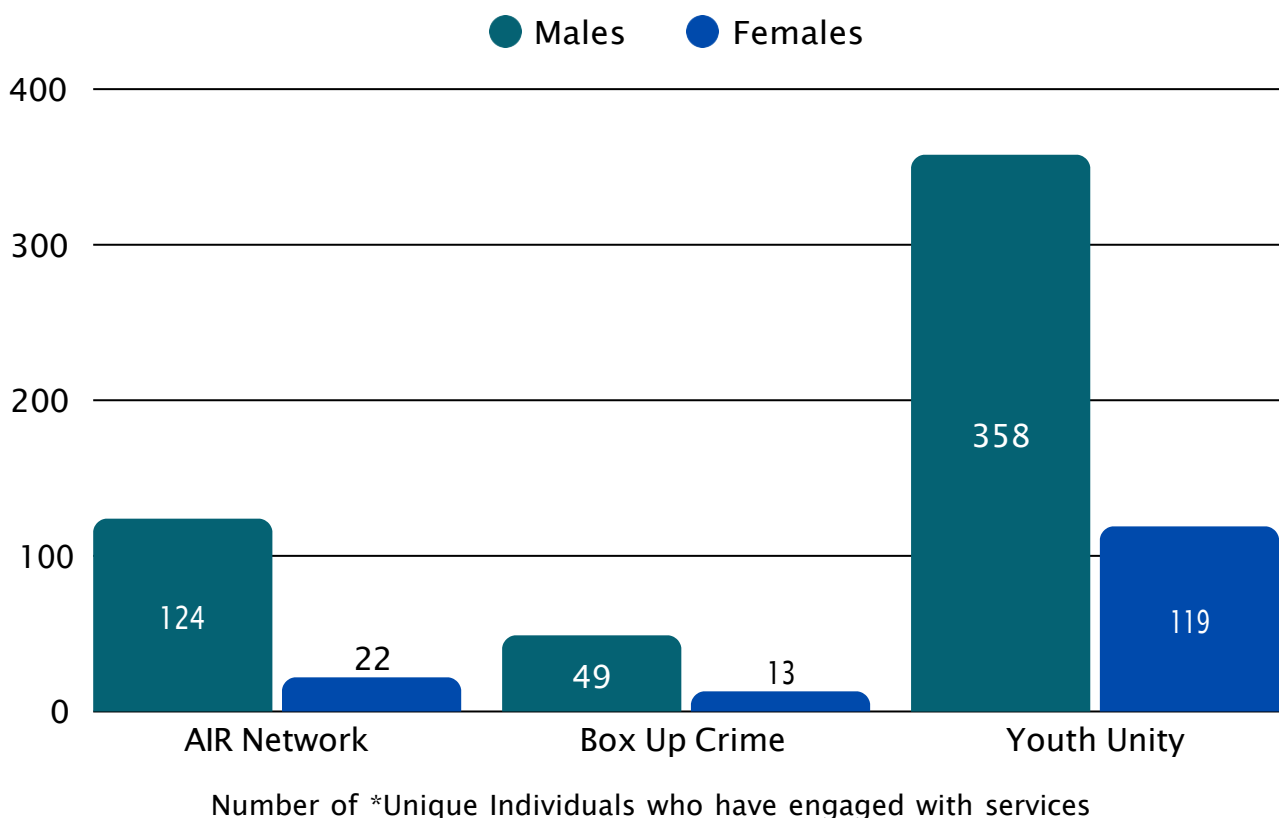


Year One Delivery

July to December 2024

In Year 1 (July–December 2024), the My Ends Partnership partners—AIR Network, Box Up Crime, and Youth Unity—delivered a combined total of 189 sessions.

- AIR Network – 118 sessions – with an average uptake of 18 attendees per session
- Box Up Crime – 32 sessions – with an average uptake of 9 attendees per session
- Youth Unity – 39 sessions – with an average uptake of 34 attendees per session



**Unique Individual – A distinct person who has engaged with the funded services or programmes, counted once for monitoring purposes. This metric ensures accurate reporting of how many people are reached, avoiding inflated numbers from repeat engagements.*

Identifying Gaps

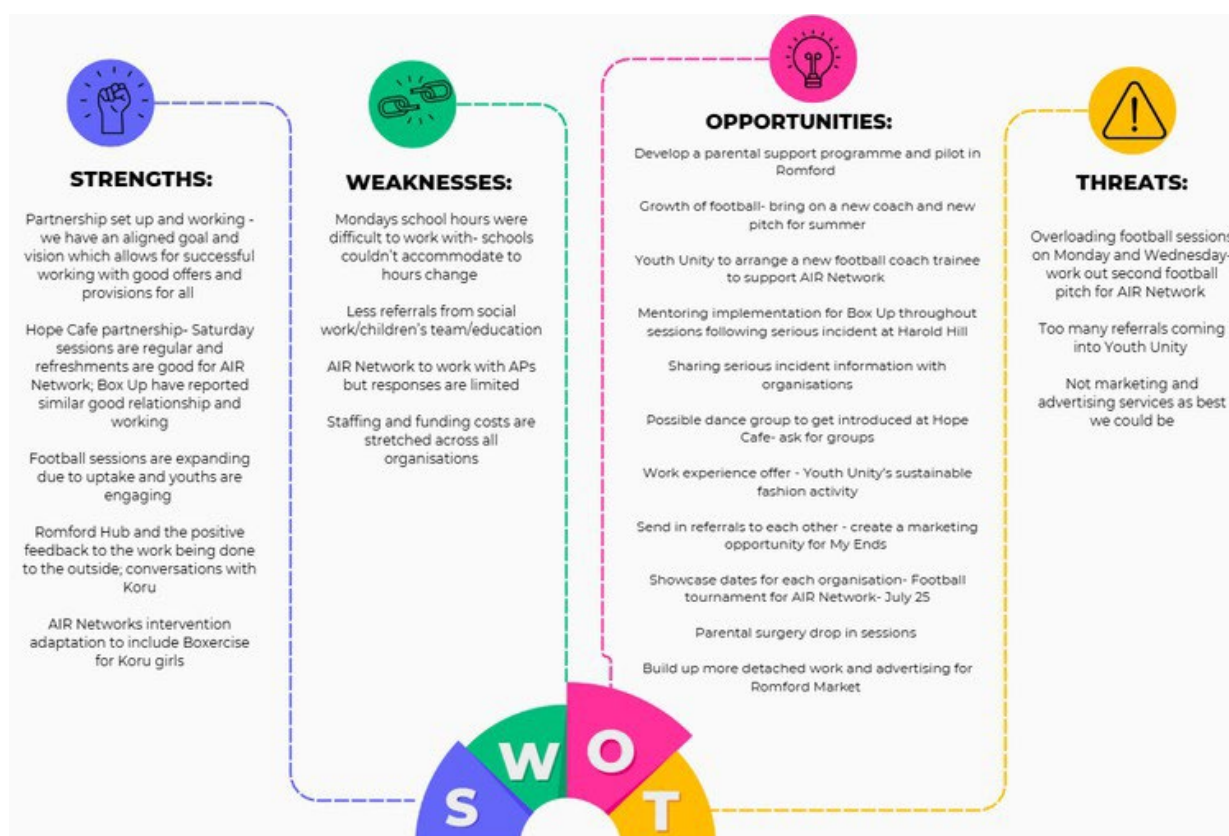
Following the end of the first year of delivering the My Ends Partnership in Romford, the team took part in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis.

Target Setting for Year 2 Delivery



The SWOT analysis and data collected for the first year highlighted a significant imbalance in programme engagement, with a much lower turnout of girls compared to boys. This gender disparity emerged as a key weakness and a barrier to ensuring the programme meets the needs of all young people in the community. In response, the team identified an opportunity to develop and invest in a girls-only offer. By allocating dedicated resources to programmes specifically designed for girls, the aim was to improve participation, create safer and more comfortable spaces, and strengthen overall engagement within the My Ends Partnership.

Along with this, the discussions highlighted the need for a support system for the parents who were reaching out as they felt there was no space for them to ask for help and support.



Powerleague Tournament



On 31st July 2024, the Powerleague in Romford played host to an amazing community event organised by AIR Network. Many of our local partners, children and families came to play football, table tennis, and take part in boxing classes. The fun day saw many children come together to enjoy physical sport activities and even a tasty barbecue!

AIR Network continuously provide support to vulnerable children in the community including working with children who are at risk of, or excluded, from schools.

Year Two Overview

Third Space Youth

Our mission is to work alongside young people and the wider community to deliver a youth work offer that is relevant, supportive, creative and co-produced. We do not position young people as vulnerable or in need of fixing, as we do not subscribe to deficit models of practice. We recognise that some young people have complexities in their lives that need addressing with them in order for them to thrive and flourish; we do this one conversation at a time and with unconditional positive regard. This is really important to us as we believe that we can walk a path alongside young people for the time they need us and at a pace led by them.

As well as offering 1-1 support, we ensure that young people have access to other enrichment activities that create opportunities for social and creative learning. Our ethos is one that will be based on kindness, inclusivity and harnessing the power of communities.

The Third Space Youth CIC, offers range of provision in the Borough and Essex. As part of the My Ends Project, we offer 1-1 mentoring, and referrals have come via Schools; Children's Social Care; Youth Justice Services and Youth Services. Alongside this, we are delivering the WAVE Girls' Project in three Alternative Provisions. This programme has been designed in inclusivity based on what young people have told us. WAVE is a 4 week programme and covers the topics of:

- Consent
- Negotiating Positive Relationships
- How to navigate the negativity of Social Media around Body Image and Identity
- CSE and Online Safety
- RSE: Contraception and STI's
- Planning for a Positive Future



Meet Jane and Jo!



Celebrating Young People

A young woman was referred to us by a Secondary School. "L" was also referred by Social Care as she is on a Child Protection Plan. Worked with alongside her to explore relationships and some risk-taking that was not serving her.

Supporting her with her "Rights" as a care experienced child and with accessing Further Education. She is also attending other youth participation projects in the area now that will help her in her future career. Arranging for her to access dance lessons.

We deliver our mentoring alongside Youth Unity!



Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is a free social group for 17–24s based in Lumiere Cinema in Romford. Each month we experiment with different creative art forms, from bracelet making and gelli plate printing, to mug designing and shrinkles. It is a safe space for young adults to socialise and be true to their own identity. Allies and anyone who is questioning are also welcome.

We provide a safe space for young LGBTQ+ people to meet others while engaging in art and culture. We provide information on local services and signpost to organisations that can offer advice or assistance. Kaleidoscope is also a place to learn about LGBTQ+ history through exhibitions and museum visits.

Since starting Kaleidoscope, the team have worked tirelessly all year round to provide monthly creative workshops for the young adults who attend the sessions. Kaleidoscope also held Pride in Romford earlier in the summer and the East London LGBTQ+ Film Festival is coming up in November. They have also teamed up with Lumiere Cinema to provide mystery LGBTQ+ film nights which are open to everyone, following each Kaleidoscope session.

These film nights are a great opportunity to catch great Queer films on the big screen and to also learn about other people's experiences through the art of film.

We have seen some wonderful people join our group and grow into very confident and hard working adults.

Kaleidoscope runs the first Tuesday of the month at Lumiere Cinema, The Mercury Mall, Romford.



Meet Carrie!



Meet Hannah and Rogue with a young resident!

Follow our
socials to keep
up to date with
our events!



YouThrive



Meet Mike and Sam

YouThrive C.I.C. officially launched in May 2025, founded on 13 years of frontline practice across London and the South East supporting young people, adults on probation, and people in prison.

YouThrive provides early intervention workshops, mentoring, and sports-based engagement. We focus on gangs awareness, online safety, emotional wellbeing, and identity development. Our work supports young people, parents, carers, and professionals, building trust, reducing harm, and helping communities thrive.

The YouThrive parent support programme offers targeted workshops and focus groups that help parents:

- Understand the realities of gang culture and criminal exploitation, including how it affects their children.
- Recognise early warning signs of grooming, coercion, and behavioural changes.
- Build confidence in communicating with their children, fostering trust and openness.

A Story That Stuck With Us

Following a referral from the allocated social worker, YouThrive C.I.C. stepped in to support a young person who had recently moved to a placement outside London. With the young person preparing to move on from the placement as they reached adulthood, professionals were keen to offer an extra layer of support to help them navigate online safety independently, given previous online risks. We coordinated quickly with the placement and social care team to deliver a tailored online safety workshop via Microsoft Teams, designed to build practical skills and confidence before the transition.

We then offered two voluntary follow-up sessions delivered with consistency and care to help the young person build awareness of digital risks, emotional safety, and how identity appears online. These extra sessions were not commissioned; we provided them because keeping young people safe and connected matters to us.

Across both sessions the young person engaged well and showed clear progress in recognising online boundaries, spotting emotional triggers, and using protective behaviours. Gang-related content came up, and we shaped the conversations around the young person's real experiences while supporting emotional regulation, self-harm awareness, and identity development.



Follow our socials to keep up to date with our events and work!

Year Two Delivery

During our second year of service delivery, we invited local grassroots organisations and community partners to apply for funding to help deliver youth work in the areas we had identified as gaps within the My Ends Partnership in Romford. Building on the strong summer engagement from the previous year, we expanded our offer by introducing a wider range of activities, including a summer programme delivered by Steel Warriors and a Family Fun Day. This event created meaningful opportunities for families and children to take part in partner-led sessions while also exploring other council projects throughout the day, strengthening community engagement and enhancing the overall reach of the programme.

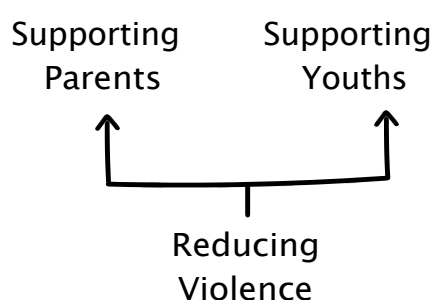
A Two-Prong Approach

The My Ends Partnership– Romford adopted a strategic two-pronged approach to address gang involvement, criminal exploitation, and youth vulnerability. This model recognised that effective prevention and intervention must engage both parents and young people directly.

The dual strategy ensures that:

- Young people are supported in safe, trusted environments, where they can build resilience, access mentorship, and develop positive identities
- Parents are equipped to protect and guide their children, reducing the risk of exploitation

Together, these efforts create a community-wide safety net, aligning with the My Ends Partnership goals of collaborative violence reduction.



A Two-Pronged Approach: Empowering Parents and Continuing to Support Young People

1. Supporting Parents through YouThrive

Throughout our first year of running the youth diversionary activities, we found a number of parents approaching us to ask for support with reaching out to their children.

We commissioned YouThrive to help empower families to act as the first line of defence, creating safer home environments and reducing the risk of youth disengagement or exploitation.

Attendees were asked before the session begins about their level of understanding and confidence around gangs awareness and risks facing youths, they were then asked the same questions at the end of the session.

Since May 2025, we have had a 61% average increase in confidence and 82% average increase in knowledge and understanding of the risks facing youths today. Workshop outcomes include: 76% of attendees gaining knowledge around gangs, and 68% of attendees gaining confidence and understanding around online safety and keeping children safe when using the internet.



6

WORKSHOPS



10

PARENT DROP-INS



108

ATTENDEES

2. Supporting Young People through Service Delivery Partners

As part of the grassroots development of the programme, in our second year we expanded our projects to cover a girls only supportive programme and an LGBTQ+ programme.

Third Space Youth: Offers WAVE training, a contextual-based, trauma-informed, creative approach that supports young women in exploring identity, healthy relationships, and personal safety.

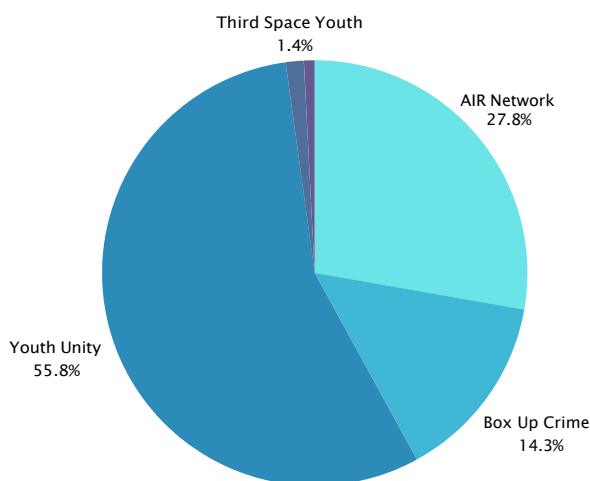
Kaleidoscope: Provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth and allies, with creative workshops, cinema screenings, and outreach at college freshers fairs. Their work fosters inclusion, visibility, and emotional wellbeing.

Year 2 Delivery

January to December 2025

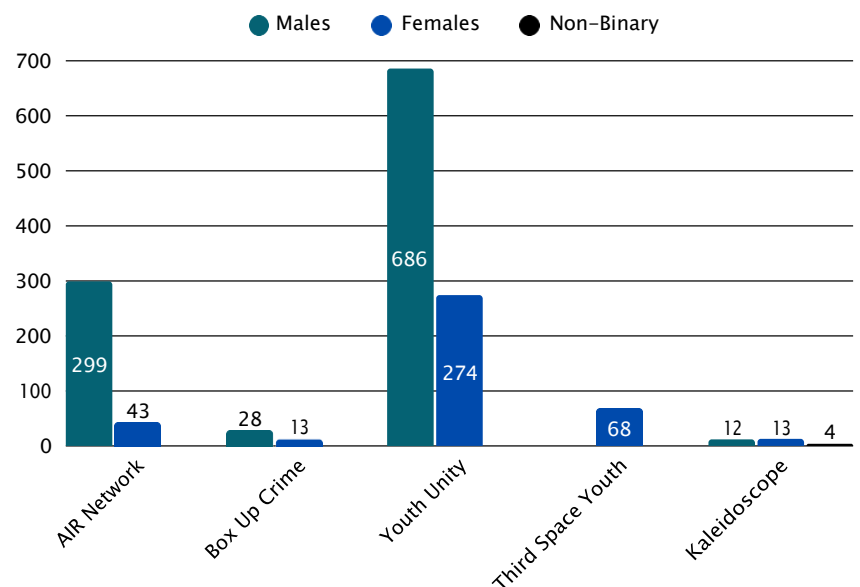
In Year 2 (January–December 2025), the My Ends Partnership partners– AIR Network, Box Up Crime, Youth Unity, Third Space Youth, and Kaleidoscope– delivered a combined total of 716 sessions.

- AIR Network – 248 sessions – with an average uptake of 6 attendees per session
- Box Up Crime – 92 sessions – with an average uptake of 8 attendees per session
- Youth Unity – 304 sessions– with an average uptake of 10 attendees per session
- Third Space Youth – 66 sessions with an average uptake of 3 attendees per session
- Kaleidoscope – 6 sessions– with an average uptake of 7 attendees per session



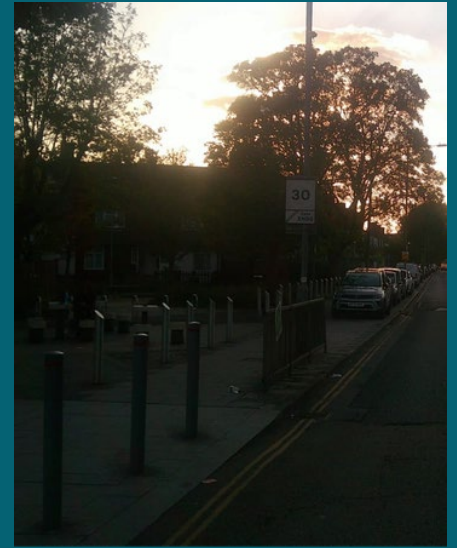
This pie chart illustrates the total number of attendees engaged across all six organisations delivering youth services in Romford between January to December 2025.

This graph highlights the number of Unique Individuals each service provider engaged with from January to December 2025.



What Romford Means to Me

We asked our young people to show us what Romford means to them — and through their lenses, they showed the Romford they know:



August 2025 Family Fun Day

The Family Fun Day in August 2025 was a vibrant celebration that brought together local families, community partners, and supporters for a day filled with joy and connection. With the help of partners ranging from youth organisations to local businesses, the event offered activities for all ages—games, music, food stalls, and creative workshops that kept the energy high throughout.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with families enjoying themselves and partners engaging directly with the community, making the day not only fun but also meaningful in strengthening local ties.



Words from a Parent

"I find that the My Ends Partnership programme has helped [Child A] immensely in the real world, [Child A] is more aware of dangers that are out there and he is more cautious when he is out, though I also find he hasn't learnt from past mistakes as he also still puts himself in danger due to the way he has this 'roadman' mentality.

Despite having talks with Youth Unity and YouThrive previously as to how dangerous this can be. It appears [Child A]'s behaviour out in public has improved a little, though it's a shame I can't say this for home as his attitude at home has escalated rapidly to the point he has myself in tears and has also told myself after school one night he isn't coming home (not stating where he was going to go or do) so again putting himself in potential danger!

Though I am overly happy with the fact he has joined the My Ends Partnership programme, he is learning more than I thought and is more aware of what can happen and also the other fun stuff there is out there for him to do. I can't be more thankful to the My Ends Programme and team for all their support."

August 2025

Steel Warriors Summer

In August 2025, we had Steel Warriors provide sessions at Rise Park Parkour and Outdoor Gym area.

Steel Warriors is a UK charity that tackles knife crime by turning seized knives into something positive. They melt down confiscated knives and transform the steel into free outdoor gyms. These gyms are used for calisthenics training (body-weight exercise) and provide safe, accessible spaces for young people to build confidence, resilience, and be a part of a community.

Beyond the gyms, Steel Warriors runs youth programmes and outreach activities to support young people affected by crime, violence, or social exclusion. The initiative aims to show that lives can be built on steel, not destroyed by it, by converting a symbol of violence into one of strength and opportunity.

“Being part of Steel Warriors really changed how I saw things. I trained in the outdoor gym and met new people. It gave me confidence and helped me learn something new, I’m going to try and continue this”

MP, Aged 16

Meet Tayo- our trainer (furthest left)- and the Steel Warriors team



Words from a Parent

“Robert has been involved with My Place [youth centre] for the past 5–6 years, and Box Up has played a major role in his journey. When he first joined Box Up, he had never tried boxing before, but from the very first session he absolutely loved it. His enthusiasm grew so quickly that we ended up buying him his own boxing bag at home. He told me he wanted to become a professional boxer, and that motivation pushed him to take things even further.

He went on to complete the England Boxing qualification, the online safeguarding course, a Level 3 First Aid at Work qualification, and later achieved his coaching qualification. He also trained at a boxing gym in South London and is now a qualified boxing coach. Today, he coaches the juniors at My Place and contributes meaningfully to the work that Box Up does. The confidence and discipline he gained through boxing have been transformative.

Alongside Box Up, he has accessed many other services at My Place that have supported his personal and professional development. He first attended a Tea and Talk session with Jane Herbert, then joined the band and attended weekly sessions. He learned to play the electric bass, convinced me to buy him one, and even performed at My Place. I still encourage him to pick it back up again.

Although school was difficult for him at first, he went on to attend East London Arts College, where he graduated with a merit.

As a parent, having access to these services has made a tremendous difference in his life. The support, opportunities, and encouragement he received through My Place have helped shape him into who he is today. Everything is accessible, affordable, and genuinely life-changing.”

Robert's Mum

Looking Forward

As we move into the next phase of the My Ends Partnership–Romford, our focus remains firmly rooted in community–led transformation. In Romford, we’ve seen the power of collaboration—whether through weekly Box Up Crime sessions at Hope Café, football sessions with AIR Network and interactive van outreach work with Youth Unity, and the vibrant launch of the Romford Unity Hub. These initiatives have not only offered safe spaces and positive outlets for young people but have also strengthened trust between residents, partners, and local services.

Looking forward, we aim to deepen this impact by expanding youth–led media, creative expression, and safeguarding efforts. From DJ workshops to photo exhibitions, we will continue to amplify local voices and build safer, more inclusive neighbourhoods—where every young person feels seen, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Thank you to our amazing partners, departments within Havering Council, Metropolitan Police Service East Area BCU, and to the My Ends Partnership partners– Third Space Youth, Kaleidoscope, Steel Warriors and YouThrive– who joined us in our second year of delivering programmes in Romford.

Contact Us

For more information on the My Ends Partnership– Romford,
reach out to Community.Safety@haverling.gov.uk