

Street Dance Report 2024 / 2025

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10/4/2025



**The Hangleton
& Knoll Project**
Working for a better community
in the West of Brighton & Hove
CLG No. 7260539; Reg Charity No. 1139971

Background to the project

HKP street dance project was originally born out of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Back in 2021 we had a few younger girls aged 11 to 13 attending our open access youth provision who had asked to try street dance as a way of having some fun, learning to dance and to be a bit more active. They were particularly keen as they had missed out on opportunities during lockdowns where gatherings and events like 'Let's Dance' had been cancelled. To support this ambition and with a small grant of £500 from the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund we ran a pilot project. It was a success, and the girls wanted it to continue so the project has grown from there. The main barriers to get involved in clubs that young people and parents have told us about are accessibility (location) and the cost. Many of the families in the communities we serve are on low incomes and live in social housing and we are best placed locally at the Hangleton and Knoll Project (HKP) to support children and young people to follow their goals and dreams. HKP has been working at grassroots level in the area delivering youth work and supporting community development for 42 years. Every term we consult with our young members to establish the youth offer and so far, every term they have wanted Street Dance to continue on the



programme. This means that we are continuously seeking partnership support to help with funding to keep the sessions accessible and free. 4 years on and we are still going strong.

What we did this year

We delivered 35 weekly term time classes totalling 53 hours of teaching and youth work support for children and young people 8 – 16 years to learn to dance, perform, lead, make friends and have fun. More about this partnership work with the Y.E.S. project is featured here <https://yesdance.uk/about/>

Our classes have been held at the Dance studio at Hove Fitness Club in Portslade offering a professional and accessible space for young people to learn their routines.

Approach and Performances

Our work is children and young people led, and this means they get to choose the themes, music and are supported to develop their own choreography for performance. This practice fits our youth work values and principles and we are proud to work with the YES project that shares these too.

Take Part Festival Launch Event at the Level 22nd June 2024 / Take Part Local event in Hangleton on Saturday 6th July



Dancers choreographed performances for regular public displays, and this kicked off with the Take Part Launch Event at the Level and then Take Part Local at Hangleton. This was part of a city-wide campaign with BHCC Healthy Lifestyles Team to get residents more active.

Street Dance Winter Showcase with YES Project Sunday 1st December

This year our street dance crew joined forces with Y.E.S. project groups from Crawley to showcase their incredible talent. It was an unforgettable show held at the Dormans Youth Arts Centre. The young people met the challenge with high energy and enthusiasm, and everyone involved felt incredibly proud. This event was supported by Crawley Community Youth Service, the Youth Voice Group, HKP parent / carers and it just goes to show what collaboration across the county can do!

Dance Active Street Dance Performance Saturday 7th December



A huge well done to our HKP Y.E.S. project for their amazing performance at the annual celebration of community dance and movement DANCE ACTIVE held at the Brighton Centre. We joined the Brighton and Hove City Council Dance Active Team to support the young people to wow this year's audience. The young people love to perform and celebrate their hard work, and it motivated them to focus and work hard on their routine in weekly dance sessions.

“What a fab show! Thank you all for making this happen, and to our performers”

“The girls have loved joining your dance class!”

“Thanks for all your incredible hard work for these very lucky young people!”

“Thank you to everyone for your incredible support”

Let's Dance annual celebration of Dance held at the Dome on 21st March

15 young dancers performed at Let's Dance this being our 3rd year of taking part. Let's Dance is the largest celebration of school dance in the whole of the UK. With over 2000 performers involved each year, Let's Dance plays a major role, not only in encouraging our young people to be active, but also in ensuring that dance and physical activity remains a high priority in educational establishments across the city. Let's Dance is organised and managed by Dorothy Stringer School with the help of Varndean College dance leaders.



Socials

This year we have provided young people with the opportunity to socialise as part of their participation in Street Dance. We took them out for dinner at Pinocchio's restaurant in Brighton after their rehearsal at The Dome for an Italian meal. At HKP we believe sharing meals and hanging out together is a really important part of youth work because it helps young people build friendships, feel included, and just relax in a safe space. Eating together breaks down barriers and gives everyone a chance to connect, no matter their background. It also helps develop social skills and they create a sense of community and belonging that can make a big difference in a young person's life.

Distanced Travelled

During the Easter Holidays 2 of our members Elsie and Kristen successfully complete their Dance Leadership Award fully funded by the YES Project. DanceHub's Level 2 Dance Leaders

qualification is nationally recognised and enables successful learners to gain a range of skills that will enable them to assist to lead purposeful and enjoyable dance activity sessions, under indirect supervision. Young people came away from the

experience having developed new skills in planning, leading and evaluating dance sessions. They also are able to lead dance activities which promote a healthy lifestyle and assist in planning and leading a dance activity event. They have increased capabilities of using music and stimulus in dance and using movement and music in dance choreography. They now have the confidence able to lead dance activity sessions independently.



To recognise children and young people's development and achievements through Street Dance we established a Street Dance Digital Badge for Participation which was quality assured and published in October 2023. This year 15 young people as earners of this badge attended regular street dance classes, demonstrated commitment to their peer group, and took part in performance opportunities. They had to demonstrate the following skills: Commitment, Collaboration Coordination, Strong Work Ethic, Self-Discipline, Teamwork, Vocabulary, Choreography, Street Dance Confidence, Professional Growth, Adaptability, Determination plus...

- have demonstrated commitment and determination by attending a minimum of 12 street dance classes and learned what it takes to become a dancer, performed choreographed movements, and expanded their dance move vocabulary.

- increased their knowledge of body awareness and physical control. Shown clear and precise placement of their limbs and body when executing movements, and demonstrated their understanding of proper body alignment, posture, weight and balance, coordination of movement, flexibility and range of motion, strength and endurance, musicality, and rhythm.
- demonstrated excellent collaboration and teamwork skills by working with choreographers, directors, and fellow dancers to prepare for a public performance. Shown trust and respect for their dance partner, and that they can be adaptable and flexible to fit the needs of the production while maintaining self-discipline and a positive attitude.

Planned outcomes that worked

Due to the nature of attendance linked to goals and ambitions working towards performances the participants experienced the euphoric feeling of success. The participants performed in front of the live audiences and joined a wider dance community across the city celebrating the power of dance and performance.

Parent /Carer Feedback

It's a great place for my daughter - she's made new friends and learnt new skills. The live performances have improved her confidence too. And she loves that although the atmosphere at the classes each week is relaxed, with an emphasis on fun and collaboration, the group achieves really good routine outcomes, which she's proud of.

Great place for children to learn to dance of all abilities, my 2 girls have really enjoyed the opportunity to perform with the group and have gained a lot of confidence. Training every Monday they have gained new friendships, is also great that this time is a screen free zone, great form of exercise for the mind and body! The children are learning a great skill for life as exercise should always be fun and enjoyable. Amazing dance teacher that is teaching the children great Musicality skills.

HKP Street Dance is absolutely excellent. My daughter gave it 10/10 friendly, approachable, supportive group, and they give the group the opportunity to perform, which in turn builds confidence and give the guys focus and something to look forward to and work towards, which in turn gives my daughter the willingness to achieve, and feel valued, and also provides a great social outlet for her, 😊

My daughter has been so lucky to be a part of the HKP dance crew. She not only benefits from attending the classes each week, which provide her with great exercise, foster great team spirit and confidence, but she is also had an opportunity to train as a dance leader and participate in multiple shows and events with her crew. This in turn gives her a fantastic sense of accomplishment and pride. Both Rhiannon and Helen are wonderful and so supportive, they have created a fantastic environment for the children to thrive and achieve whilst having fun. Thank you so much 😊

My son loves being a part of the HKP dance crew, he has been lucky enough to be a part of several performances which he has also enjoyed immensely. The group has instilled a great work ethic in Luca and showed him that hard work pays off. He adores Rhiannon and Helen, and he's made some new friends and introduced some other children to the group too. We are so grateful to have such a fantastic facility like HKP serving our community, long may it continue.

Acknowledgments

We can't make all this happen without the support of our partners and funders and since 2021 to date we would like to express our appreciation to:

The Healthy Neighbourhood Fund – administered by HKP and Community

Sport England - Tackling Inequalities Fund

The Healthy Lifestyles Team – Daniel Weiner

Active Sussex – Andy Wright - Strategic Relationship Manager (Children & Young People)

The Y.E.S. Project / DanceHub CIC – Rhiannon Rolf Dance Teacher / Daran Bennett Executive Director