


DoorstepArts.co.uk

WE ALL MAKE THE STORY HAPPEN

Year at
a Glance

2024-2025



A group of children are performing on a stage. In the foreground, a young girl with pigtails, wearing a light-colored sweatshirt with a cartoon lion's face and a patterned skirt, has her arms raised. Behind her, other children in various colorful outfits are also performing with their arms raised. The background is dark, and the stage is lit with warm, reddish light. The overall scene is energetic and joyful.

The core of Doorstep's work is Participation, which supports children & young people to make original theatre. This takes place via weekly delivery across 15 groups in Torbay.

PARTICIPATION

In 2024-25, there were 7,701 attendances by a core group of 345 children & young people taking part weekly across 441 sessions.



DEEP CORE ENGAGEMENT

A diverse audience of people of various ages is shown clapping in a room with purple stage lighting. The audience includes young people, adults, and an elderly woman in the foreground. The background features a blue bulletin board with various items pinned to it. The overall atmosphere is one of engagement and appreciation.

WIDER RIPPLE

These groups performed to audiences 22 times across the year. Parents, carers, and families also engaged on a weekly basis, creating a total core group of Doorstep 'deep engagement' which reaches 1,380 local people.



PARTICIPATION & PARTNERSHIP

In 2024-25, Doorstep delivered 981 further workshops and sessions across the year, including partnership projects like 'Colour My Street' with Tonic Creatives.

OPEN DOORS

Doorstep led 189
Open Doors sessions
in schools, with 4,469
attendances by
children & young
people.




DEVISING DISCOVERY



Schools outreach programmes included Devising Discovery Outreach, touring TiE shows, the Talking Turns project & Dance CPD for teachers.

PLATFORM



53 Platform events reached an audience of 4,116.

51 of the 53 Scratch & Platform events were children and young people-specific.

The Inspiring Futures project toured in work by Global Majority-led companies like Beyond Face. Their show *Sitting in the Grey* visited 5 Torbay schools in November 24.





Wrap-around engagement formed a key part of Platform. Innovative national touring artists worked with local children & young people in inspiring workshops, residencies, and outreach sessions.





STORIES FROM SCRATCH

Commissioned new work for children & young people via two Scratch bursary schemes:

Spark & Grow and First Steps Touring.

These bursaries provides micro-seed-funding to help bring new work to life.

Work reached primary and secondary-aged audiences in libraries, schools & community hall spaces.


PATHWAYS



In 2024-25, Doorstep Arts supported 'Foot in the Door' assistant artists. These exceptional young people mentor, support, and co-lead sessions, building their skills as Teaching Artists and mentors.

Doorstep's Pathways strand worked directly with 189 young people, supporting their career trajectory and progression.

Doorstep hosted 71 work experience volunteers, representing 14 schools & education settings.



Dialogue Projects included work as the cultural lead for the Life on the Edge project, ongoing exchanges with DreamArts Rep Company and a collaboration with La Manigua in Cuba.

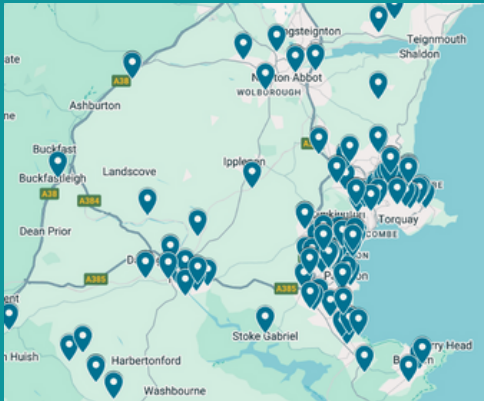
DIALOGUE

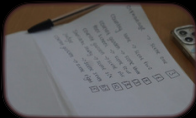
GEOGRAPHY

Doorstep groups draw from a diverse range of local postcodes, creating safe inclusive spaces for social mixing, friendship, and support. Doorstep groups are a key site where young people meet other young people, across school borders.

Doorstep serves as a central hub for many in the rural outskirts as well as those within Torbay.

Groups registers evidence that participants come from 59 different schools & education settings.





#MAKEITHAPPEN

In 2023, Doorstep began to pilot an female-led technical programme, mentoring and supporting the emergence of young women as theatre technicians for small-scale touring.

In 2024-25, this team provided technical support for key performance events across the year.



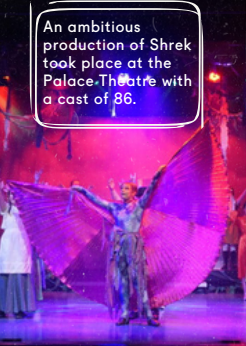
DOORSTEP YOUTH
THEATRE (DYT)



DYT staged an
ambitious
production of
'The Odyssey' at
Lupton House.



An ambitious production of Shrek took place at the Palace Theatre with a cast of 86.



AMBITION



DOORSTEP ARTS STUDIO
COURSES (DAS)

ETHOS OF CARE

In 2024-25, Doorstep continued to evolve a model of feminist, grassroots leadership which honours part-time working, care responsibilities, and collaboration.

This model encourages all members of the team to bring their unique strengths to a person-centred model, built around an Ethos of Care.



Doorstep continue to serve as the only regionally-based NPO in Torbay. Their strategic leadership in Torbay is un-resourced by this funding.

Torbay's population is 139,400. Areas of this size typically have 3-5 NPOs. Exeter has 5 with a population of 134,539. The Isle of Wight has 5 with a population of 140,900.

Doorstep Arts operates a lean, activity-focused model with minimal overheads and no core salaries. Funding prioritises artistic delivery.

FUNDING

NPO funding of £97,319 per year is a standstill figure which remains unchanged from the total originally awarded to the organisation in 2018 as a new NPO.

Doorstep's funding ranks 851st out of 986 National Portfolio organisations. Doorstep are in the bottom 14% of lowest-funded ACE organisations nationally.

Torbay is classed as a highly deprived Levelling Up region with endemic socio-economic deprivation. The region is not yet identified as an ACE Priority Place.

FUNDRAISING



Thanks to exceptional efforts by the team, families, children & young people, new fundraising like the 'From One Theatre to Another' sponsored walk raised much-needed funds.


TASN

Torbay Arts In Schools Network, or TASN, is a regional network composed of 71 partners, led by Doorstep Arts. It serves as the Local Cultural Education Partnership and as a Family Arts Network.

Four CDF micro-commissions were granted to local schools, resulting in 32 sessions reaching 1,248 children.

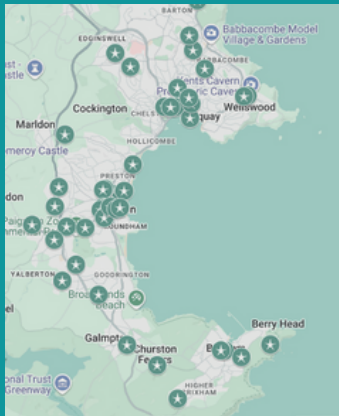
TASN co-hosted the Creative Hero Awards in June 2024, with MED Theatre, Beaford Arts and Daisi.





The Youth Advisory Board meet regularly, led by 4 elected Youth Co-Chairs. They made decisions about policies, reporting, programming, social media, and artistic themes.

GOVERNANCE



'ON THE DOORSTEP'

In 2024-25, Doorstep delivered artistic activity across 68 different venues, providing opportunities for high quality participation on the doorstep of local children & young people.

Some of these venues are the home base sites for weekly sustained delivery - i.e. St Paul's Church Hall in Preston, Stage Left in Paignton or after-school clubs at Brixham and Homelands Primary schools. Other sites are host to visiting outreach workshops, touring theatre shows or takeover days. Doorstep is highly unusual as a core-funded venue-less youth-facing participation organisation.

The 2025 Youth Theatre Census named Doorstep as one of the top 5 youth theatre providers nationally, working in the largest range of venues.

IMPACT

A person in a woodland-themed costume, including a hat with animal ears and a textured tunic, is pointing upwards on a stage. The background is a forest scene with trees and hanging vines.


Total learning and participation activity for 2024-25 was 1,726 events/sessions with a live reach of 19,870 attendances across Torbay.



Total combined activity across all strands was 1,779 events with a total of 23,986 attendances.



Total participant reach in 2024-2025 was 7,353 individuals.

A young girl with curly hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a headband with reindeer antlers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pink. A teal circular graphic element is on the right side of the image.

Total beneficiary reach in 2024-25 was 12,849 local people.









A photograph of two young women with long hair, one red and one blonde, sitting in a theater with rows of red seats. They are leaning towards each other and laughing joyfully. The woman on the right is holding a blue folder or book. The background shows the dark interior of the theater with an exit sign visible on the wall.

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