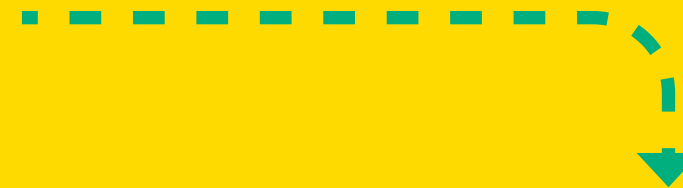


**Helping young
people write
their story**



Impact report



2025/26

superpoweragency.com





"I enjoyed the fun tasks and being creative with writing. I learned that everyone is different. We all have our own abilities and that our views on the world can impact your writing."

Emmanuella, John Paul Academy

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A Note from the CEO

As we celebrate ten years of the Super Power Agency, I find myself reflecting on what inspired us in the very beginning. It was a belief that every young person deserves to know that their voice matters and that their ideas deserve to be heard.

Our ambition has never changed. We want to create a Scotland where every child grows up knowing that creativity belongs to them - where writing feels joyful rather than intimidating. Strong literacy skills are incredibly important, but confidence comes first. When young people begin to believe in themselves, everything else becomes possible.

This has been another remarkable year for the Super Power Agency. We worked with 1,271 young people across 20 schools in Edinburgh and Glasgow, strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones. It has also been a year of stability and commitment from our brilliant staff team. This year marks my seventh year with the Super Power Agency, and I still feel incredibly privileged to work alongside people who care so deeply about creating opportunities for young



people. Together, we've built an organisation that doesn't just teach writing, but creates spaces where young people feel safe to be imaginative and unapologetically themselves.

This year also marked an important moment in our governance journey. We said goodbye to our Chair, whose guidance helped shape the organisation into what it is today. At the same time, we were delighted to welcome Lisa Otty as our new Chair. Lisa joins us at an exciting moment as we celebrate our first decade and begin shaping our next.

Throughout this report you'll read stories from classrooms, libraries, theatres and community spaces. More importantly, you'll hear directly from the young people themselves. Their words are the most powerful reminder of why creative writing matters.

One of the things I love most about the Super Power Agency is that young people's voices are always at the heart. Behind every statistic is a young person who found the confidence to put pen to paper and share an idea. I hope their words inspire you to pick up a pen yourself!

Looking ahead, one of my biggest ambitions for 2026/27 is to establish a Youth Board. If we truly believe that young people's voices matter, then they should help shape the future of our organisation too. I want the next chapter of the Super Power Agency to be written alongside the young people we exist to inspire, ensuring their ideas continue to influence the decisions we make.

None of what you'll read in these pages would be possible without the schools who open their doors to us, the volunteers who give their time so generously, our trustees, partners and the funders who continue to believe in our mission.

Thank you for being part of our story over the past ten years and for helping us ensure that more young people across Scotland discover the confidence to write their story.



Super Power Agency

Our year in numbers

195 

creative writing
workshops

 1271

young people
participated



20

schools
worked
with



24

student teachers
supported through
professional learning



14

publications

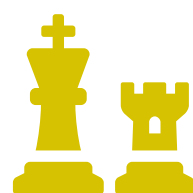
1

podcast
series



1

board
game



1102.5

classroom
volunteering hours

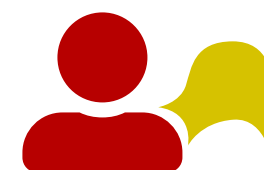


232 

online
volunteering hours

54 

community Ambassador
volunteering hours



122

new volunteers

4



week long
summer school

Countless
Scotland
world cup
stories



26

stage
plays



2

global anthology
contribution

Measuring What Matters

For many years, we measured our success by the number of workshops we delivered, the books we published and the young people we reached. These achievements remain important, but during 2025/26 we took an important step forward in understanding the difference our work makes. We want to tell the story of the impact our work has, not just report on numbers.

This year, we refined our approach to monitoring and evaluation to focus not only on what we do, but on the lasting changes we hope to see in the young people we work with.

Working alongside Evaluation Support Scotland, we developed five organisational outcomes that now shape every Super Power Agency programme. These outcomes reflect our mission to use creativity as the catalyst for confidence in literacy.

Throughout this report, you'll see these outcomes brought to life through the voices of young people alongside the evidence we gather through feedback, observation and evaluation.

Ultimately, our ambition is simple: to help every young person discover that their words matter and that their voice deserves to be heard.



Our Five Outcomes

1**Young people have an increased interest in writing**

We look for growing enthusiasm, increased participation, greater pride in their work and a willingness to continue writing beyond our workshops.

2**Young people's self-belief is improved**

We want every participant to leave our programmes feeling more confident in themselves and what they can achieve.

3**Young people's engagement in school is improved**

We work alongside teachers to create experiences that increase confidence, encourage collaboration and help pupils see school as a place where their ideas are valued.

4**Access to creative opportunities is more equitable amongst young people**

We focus our work in communities where opportunities can be limited, ensuring creativity is available to everyone.

5**Partners value creativity more**

Through long-term partnerships and teacher development, we aim to build communities where creativity is recognised as an essential part of every young person's education.

"I was going to skive off today, but I'm glad I didn't."

OUTCOME 1

Young people have an increased interest in writing

At the Super Power Agency, we believe that before young people can improve their writing, they need to believe that writing is something worth doing. When writing becomes less pressured or intimidating young people begin to approach it with curiosity instead of caution.

Throughout 2025/26, we saw hundreds of young people discover this for themselves.

In Edinburgh, Primary 6 pupils at across 5 schools spent eight weeks exploring a mysterious Time Capsule filled with intriguing objects. Each pupil selected an object to inspire their own story, gradually building characters, plots and worlds that came together in their published anthology. Every young person became an author.

The transformation within the classroom was remarkable. Teachers described pupils who had previously been reluctant writers becoming increasingly engaged, while the atmosphere in the classroom shifted towards one of creativity and excitement.

Across Glasgow, our Time Capsule programme inspired more than 250 pupils to create stories filled with singing strawberries, dinosaur eggs, teleporting paintings and fearless young adventurers. These wonderfully imaginative ideas became *Amazing Magical Time Capsule Stories That Will Make Your Mind Go POW!!!*, celebrating every participant as a published author.

Elsewhere, pupils imagined haunted theatres, explored life after the apocalypse, wrote letters, speeches and poems, and even recorded their own podcast series. Although every project looked different, they all shared the same starting point: giving young people permission to enjoy writing.



The impact could be seen in the feedback we collected throughout the year.

- 91% of pupils said they enjoyed writing more after taking part.
- 81% of Glasgow primary pupils said they planned to continue writing stories after the project.
- 93% wanted to work with the Super Power Agency again.
- 88% agree that they feel more likely to write in their free time now

These figures tell an encouraging story, but it is the voices of the young people themselves that best capture the impact. In response to the question 'who encourages you to write most?' a young person wrote, "Nobody, honestly just me when I think of stories."



Impact in Action

We know we cannot be in every classroom, which is why sharing our approach with future teachers is such an important part of our work.

This year, we were delighted to visit Moray House School of Education and deliver a session for English PGDE teachers, introducing them to the Super Power Agency pedagogy and the principles behind our creative writing approach. The session gave trainee teachers the opportunity to experience our methods first-hand, exploring how storytelling can help young people develop confidence and creativity.

For many future teachers, it was an opportunity to see writing differently. The impact of this session extends far beyond one workshop. By equipping future teachers with new ways to engage young people, we are helping to create more classrooms where every pupil feels that their ideas, experiences and stories are worth sharing.



"The workshop gave me the confidence to be creative in how I deliver creative writing lessons within my own classroom. It showed me the scope of what you can do to encourage creative writing and gave me practical tools for my teacher toolbox."

Trainee Teacher

"It was amazing and I wrote one of the best stories I've ever written."

OUTCOME 2

Young people's self-belief is improved

Throughout this year, we watched hundreds of young people become more willing to celebrate their creativity and write their stories.

At Leith Academy, S2 pupils took part in Half-Time Team Talk, writing motivational speeches inspired by sports coaches, friends and the people who encourage them. While writing the speeches came naturally to many, reading them aloud was another matter.

One pupil summed up the experience:

"I LOVE WRITING!! Mostly creative writing! I love story writing! Woohoo! (I don't really like speaking though)."

Their comment reminds us that confidence isn't about removing fear completely. Sometimes it's about creating an environment where young people feel safe enough to have a go.

Meanwhile, at Tynecastle High School, pupils became interviewers, preparing questions and recording conversations for Tynecastle Talks Podcast series. Many had never interviewed an adult they didn't know before, let alone spoken into professional recording equipment. Over eight weeks, they developed communication skills and the confidence to lead meaningful conversations.



The impact could be seen in the feedback we collected throughout the year.

- 96% of Parsons Green pupils said working with the Super Power Agency volunteers helped them develop their writing.
- 100% of participants in our Women in Rail project felt proud of their writing
- 94% of John Paul Academy participants felt proud of their writing by the end of the project.
- 83% of pupils overall felt more confident sharing their ideas after taking part.



Impact in Action

A key project was our Pen Pals Project at John Paul Academy. Thirty-one S2 pupils were each matched with an adult volunteer from a wide range of backgrounds across the community. Through structured letter writing over several weeks, young people exchanged stories and experiences, developing their writing skills while building relationships with people they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

The Pen Pals Project showed that confidence can be built through meaningful relationships. By giving young people the opportunity to be listened to, valued and understood, we helped them recognise the importance of their own voices and their place within a wider community.



"You come here, and you give us your time, but it's more than that, you give us something extra. You become that role model. That is inspirational for our young people. So, thank you very much for all that you do."



Mr Owen, Headteacher John Paul Academy

"It was the most fun I ever had at school."

OUTCOME 3

Young people's engagement in school is improved

We want young people to leave our sessions with a greater sense of creative confidence, not just in English lessons, but at home, after school and beyond. When a young person chooses to keep writing, joins an after-school group or shares their work with family, we know we've achieved something lasting.

For many of the young people we work with, school can be a challenging place. Some struggle to see themselves as successful learners. Our workshops offer a different experience as there are no right or wrong answers.

One of the most powerful moments in every Super Power Agency project comes when young people receive their published books. For some, it is the first time they have taken home something from school that celebrates their achievements.. These books become lasting reminders of their achievement, helping to reframe how they see themselves and how others see them too.

In addition to this, we also want to actively choose to pursue writing beyond the classroom. While many of our programmes take place during the school day, the Writing Room offers something different. Running as a free after-school writing group in both Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Writing Room provides a welcoming creative space where young people can come together simply to write. We saw this programme have its biggest success at John Paul Academy in Glasgow where the young people spent an entire year, writing together after school every Wednesday afternoon. One young person wrote six different screenplays over the course of the year, another found the confidence to complete their very first script.



For us, this is what positive engagement looks like.

- 69% of pupils said they were more likely to write in their spare time after taking part.
- 81% of Glasgow primary pupils said they planned to continue writing stories after the workshops.
- 22 young people attended our Glasgow Writing Room during the year.



Impact in Action

Following our project with S2 pupils at Portobello High School, teacher Mrs Allen reflected on the difference the project had made, not only to pupils' writing, but to how they saw themselves.

She said:

"The project created space to celebrate their creativity, their capacity to enjoy language and be entertained by great ideas. In doing so, it built their confidence and helped them to see themselves as writers."



She went on to say that at parents' evening, a young person told her that he expected her to repeat the comments he had heard throughout his school life – that "he didn't focus, didn't finish his work and was lazy".

Instead, she showed his mum the story he had written for the Super Power Agency anthology. His mum responded by talking about the poetry she had written herself and how proud she was of her son. "We agreed her son is a star."

Moments like these remind us why publication matters. A book is far more than the final output of a writing project. For some young people, it is the first time they have been recognised for what they can do, rather than defined by what they find difficult. It creates a positive memory of school, strengthens relationships with teachers and families, and encourages young people to continue engaging with creativity long after the workshop has ended.

"I loved that I could pour out my creativeness"

OUTCOME 4

Access to creative opportunities is more equitable amongst young people

At the Super Power Agency, we believe that creativity should never depend on where a young person lives or whether they can afford to take part. Many of the schools and communities we work alongside are located in areas of high social and economic deprivation, where access to arts and cultural opportunities can be limited. We know that school holidays can widen this gap further, with many families unable to access creative classes.

That's why we are committed to removing barriers to participation.

Throughout 2025/26, we delivered 195 creative writing workshops, working across Edinburgh and Glasgow. Our programmes reached young people in schools and community spaces where equitable access to creativity is needed most.

This year, we also expanded our holiday programmes, ensuring that creativity didn't stop when the school term ended. Across Edinburgh and Glasgow, we delivered four week-long Summer Schools, each running over four full days and offered completely free of charge. Every Summer School included healthy lunches and travel bursaries.

Alongside these programmes, we also delivered free one-day holiday workshops, including our popular Spooky Tales creative writing day, giving young people additional opportunities to write and explore their creativity during the school holidays.

Throughout the year, young people became published authors, poets, podcasters, performers and game designers. They explored theatres, recorded in professional studios, created board games.



For us, this is what positive engagement looks like.

- 1271 young people took part in our programmes.
- 20 schools partnered with the Super Power Agency.
- 4 free Summer Schools delivered across Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- 14 creative publications produced, ensuring every young person became a published creator.

Impact in Action

This year, we partnered with The Ripple Project, a community organisation serving Restalrig and Craightinny, to deliver a ten-week after-school project for children aged 7–11.

Working together each week, the group created The Ripple Murder Mystery - their very own board game. They developed story and characters, designed clues and even acted out their game live

This was offered free of charge and the project gave young people a safe, creative space to collaborate and be creative.

By bringing high-quality creative opportunities into the heart of the community, we help ensure that every child has the chance to create, regardless of their circumstances.

"My hands hurt from writing"



OUTCOME 5

Partners value creativity more

2025/26 was a landmark year for partnerships at the Super Power Agency. As a small charity, collaboration is central to everything we do. By working with organisations across the arts, education, transport, engineering and publishing sectors, we created opportunities that would not have been possible alone.

These partnerships helped young people experience creativity in new ways, meet inspiring professionals and see their work celebrated far beyond the classroom.

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Throughout the year, we were proud to:

- Take part in the Edinburgh International Book Festival Schools Gala Day, celebrating young people's creativity as part of one of the world's leading literary festivals.
- Partner with COWI, QTS and Forte Engineering on our Women in Rail project, creating a children's book that celebrates women working in STEM and encourages more girls to imagine futures in engineering and transport.
- Continue exciting partnerships with organisations including Leith Theatre, Bespoken Media and The Skinny, creating opportunities for young people to perform, record podcasts, review Fringe performances and see their creativity celebrated in professional settings.
- Work with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) on Poems on the Subway, where eight schools created more than 350 poems exploring Glasgow, belonging and connection.
- Deliver a poetry project with Edinburgh Makar Michael Pedersen, encouraging young people to explore their identity through poetry.



"I've participated in a few projects and beheld first-hand the sublime work they're doing and the huge impact it has. Crucially, they're reaching not just the keenest but kids with lower levels of literacy, and thus lower levels of confidence, and empowering them through language. The whole process is handled with compassion, savvy and candour, so as the effects are not fleeting but lasting."

Michael Pedersen, Edinburgh Makar

Alongside these partnerships, we continued to invest in teachers. One of the strongest indicators of impact is the number of schools choosing to work with us again. This year, every Glasgow primary school involved in our Time Capsule programme booked to take part again next year, reflecting the value teachers place on the Super Power Agency workshop.

Together with our partners, we are helping to create communities where creativity is celebrated, young people's voices are valued and every child knows that their story deserves to be heard.

Impact in Action

One of our most ambitious partnerships this year was Poems on the Subway, delivered with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).

Working with eight schools across Glasgow, including primary, secondary and ASN settings, we supported around 170 young people to write more than 350 original poems inspired by Glasgow, community and connection.

Through creative workshops, they explored their identities and reflected on the places they call home.

The impact extends far beyond the workshops. Later this year, a selection of the poems will be displayed throughout the Glasgow Subway network as part of SPT's 130th anniversary celebrations, where they will be read by thousands of passengers every day.

For the young people involved, it is a powerful reminder that their voices belong in public spaces and that their ideas can shape how others experience their city.





Published Voices

Every Super Power Agency project ends with something tangible. When a young person holds a book with their name inside, hears their own voice on a podcast, or sees their poem displayed for the public to read, they receive a powerful message: your ideas matter.

This year, every young person who took part in a Super Power Agency programme became a published creator.

"My favourite part of the workshop was finding out mine and everyone else's stories were going to be in a book!"



"Now I want to keep writing and have lots of other books written by me!"



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Edinburgh Publications

- *The Forgotten Library* – Parsons Green Primary School P6
- *Many Stories Still to Be Told* – Victoria Primary School P6
- *Who Gave These Kids Pencils?* – Leith Academy S1
- *Legendary Leith Lines* – Leith Academy S2
- *Drama, Pigeons and Ghosts* – Oh My! – Lorne Primary School P7
- *An Eerie End of the World* – Portobello High School S2
- *Cute, Creepy and Everything In Between* - Summer School
- *Cook Like a Champ* - Edinburgh Champions Board
- *Tynecastle Talks* – podcast series by Tynecastle High School S2
- *The Ripple Murder Mystery* – board game created by young people at The Ripple

Glasgow Publications

- *Amazing Magical Time Capsule Stories That Will Make Your Mind Go POW!!!* – P6 Anthology
- *Anonymous Friends: A Glasgow Pen Pals Project* – John Paul Academy S2
- *Time Travel 101* – St Mungo's S2
- *The Subway Poetry Anthology* – P5-S6
- *Imagination: Beginnings, Middles and Ends and Organisation* - Summer School
- *Women in Rail Publication*
- *Simoa's Magical Adventures* – Stirling High School S1 -S3

Together, these publications represent hundreds of stories, poems, speeches, interviews and creative ideas that may never have existed without the encouragement of teachers, volunteers and the belief that every young person's imagination deserves to be celebrated.

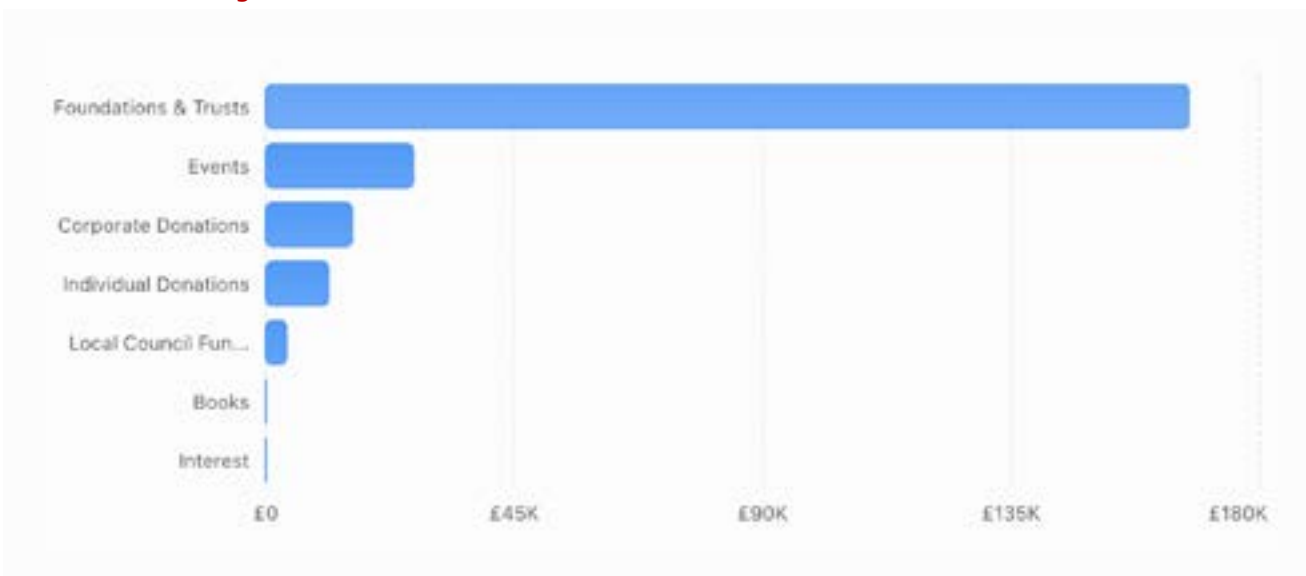


Fundraising

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our funders, corporate sponsors, community fundraisers and individual donors. Thank you for believing in the power of young people’s voices and making this work possible.



Our income by source



Our Supporters

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Allied Vehicles | Jackpot Trust |
| Amazon Literary Partnership | John Thaw Foundation |
| Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust | Lady Marion Gibson Trust |
| Basil Death Charitable Trust | Leigh Trust |
| Blackford Trust | Leith Benevolent Society |
| Christina Mary Hendrie Foundation | Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust |
| Conundrum Trust | MBILI Charitable Trust |
| Cordis Charitable Trust | The Merchants House of Glasgow |
| COWI | MetLife Foundation |
| CRH Charitable Trust | Nancie Massey Charitable Trust |
| Dickon Fund | The National Lottery Community Fund |
| DWF Foundation | Pettigrew Foundation |
| The City of Edinburgh Council | QTS |
| Edinburgh Trades Trust | Robert Haldane Charitable Trust |
| Forte Engineering | Ross & Liddell |
| Garfield Weston Foundation | Big Give |
| Gledswood Trust | The Four Barrows Charitable Trust |
| Harapan Trust | Trefoil |
| The Hedley Foundation | W M Foundation |
| Hugh Fraser Foundation | Walter Scott & Partners |
| The Iain Stewart Foundation | Wiggin Charitable Foundation |
| Impact Funding Partners | William Syson Foundation |
| Iron Bridge Trust | Women in Rail |

And all those who choose to remain anonymous. You are superheroes.

A Decade of Storytelling

This year, we proudly celebrate a decade of the Super Power Agency. Over the past ten years, together with our incredible community of young people, volunteers, schools, funders and partners, we have:

- Reached 12,000 young people
- Published 72 anthologies of youth writing
- Worked across 6 Scottish local authorities
- Welcomed 600+ volunteers
- Built partnerships with 55 schools
- Kept our programmes 100% free for schools and young people
- Raised £1.45 million to deliver our life-changing work



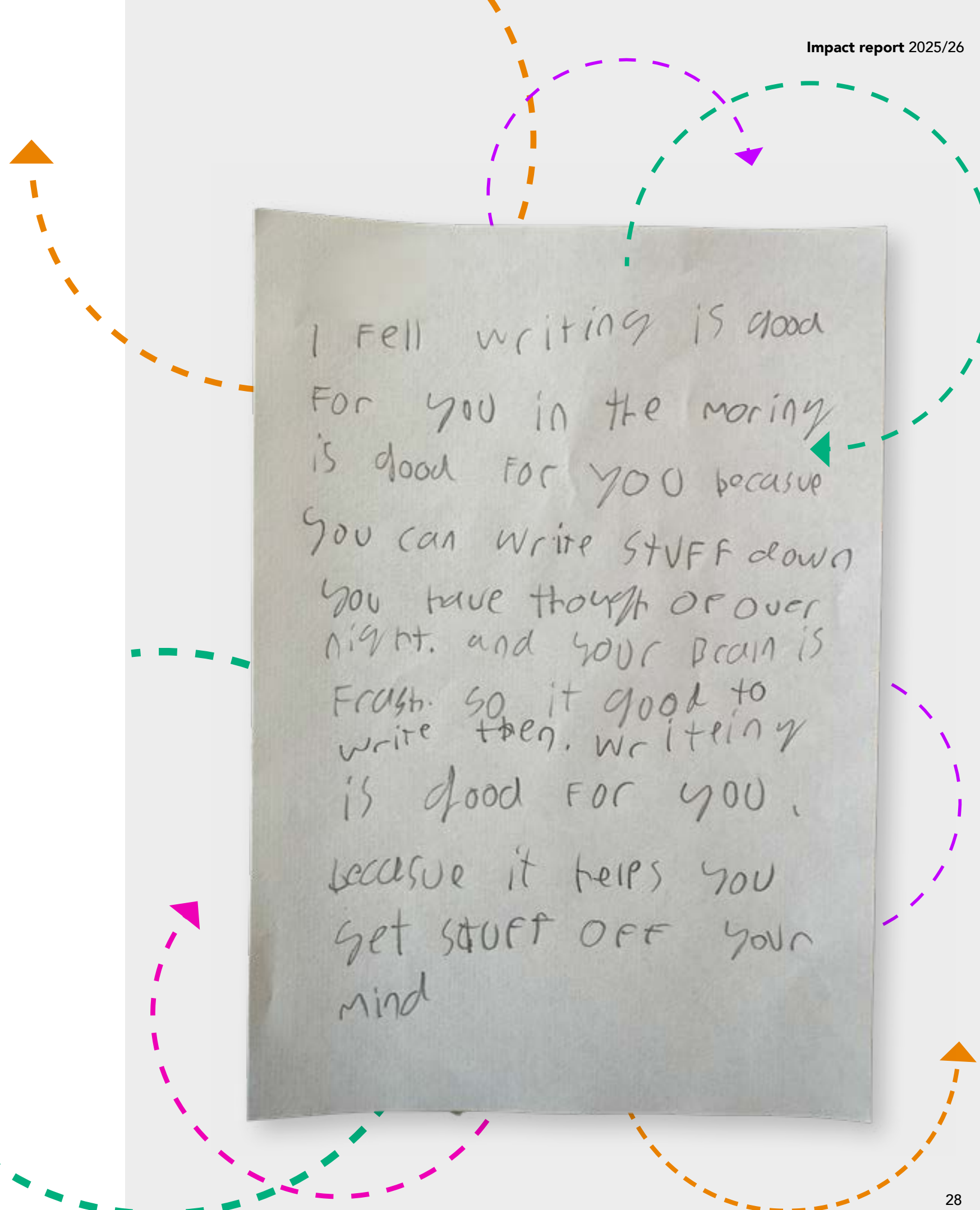
Looking ahead

As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we are looking firmly to the future. During the 2026/27 academic year, we plan to deliver 60 creative writing programmes, supporting 1,465 children and young people across Edinburgh and Glasgow. Every programme will remain free, ensuring equitable access to creativity.

Our Young Writers/Young Voices programme will continue to support secondary pupils who are finding it difficult to engage with school, while our Transition Workshops will work with pupils in P6, P7 and S1, helping them build confidence around the move to secondary school.

Alongside these programmes, we will grow our Secret Stories collaborative writing project and continue our specialist Wellbeing Hub work, providing intensive creative support for young people with additional support needs. Beyond the classroom, our community workshops, holiday programmes and summer schools will ensure that young people can continue writing throughout the year.

As demand for our work continues to grow, so does our ambition. We will strengthen partnerships with schools, libraries and youth organisations, expand our volunteer community, and continue refining how we measure our impact, ensuring that young people's voices remain at the heart of everything we do.



I Fell writing is good
For you in the morning
is good for you because
you can write STUFF down
you have thought of over
night. and your brain is
fresh. so it good to
write then. writing
is good for you.
because it helps you
get stuff off your
mind



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