

Spring '26

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Impact Report

DaM Fest 2026 - Crawley's Festival of Dance and Movement



DanceHub

Spring '26

DaM Fest '26 at a glance

1,450+ Performers



70 different local
community Dance
and Movement
groups and Schools



Dancers aged
3-86+ years



3,000+ Audience
Members



Key Impacts and Outcomes:

- Provided a **platform and united** local people via Dance and Movement from a **diverse range of communities**.
- Produced events that **increased confidence, community connection** and **wellbeing** across participants.
- Provided opportunities for **local creatives to create and showcase new work**.
- Gave young people **opportunities to develop, lead and learn**.
- Raised the **profile and reputation of DanceHub in Crawley** (and Sussex) for future ambitions

Impact Report

DaM Fest 2026 - Crawley's Festival of Dance and Movement



DanceHub

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Summary of DaM Fest 2026:

DaM Fest runs annually and aims to **unite communities, showcase** and **inspire** local people through **diverse and accessible Dance and Movement events and activities**, in a spirit of **positivity, inclusivity and empowerment**. DaM Fest'26 marked the **second festival** produced by DanceHub in Crawley and took place over 6 events in the town.

DaM Fest 2026 Key Events:

28th February 2026: Y.E.S Project Launch across key neighbourhoods; Broadfield, Bewbush, West Green and in Town Centre.

6th, 7th and 8th March 2026: Forward Motion 2026 at The Hawth Theatre

9th and 10th March 2026: Let's Dance Crawley 2026 at The Hawth Theatre

14th March 2026: Adult and Junior Discovery Day at K2 Crawley

9th and 10th April 2026:
Y.E.S Project Easter Intensive

25th April 2026:
International Dance Day 2026 celebration in Town Centre

Impact Report

DaM Fest 2026 - Crawley's Festival of Dance and Movement



DanceHub

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A focus on inclusivity, diverse representation and accessibility:

DaM Fest aims to showcase a **true representation of Crawley**, the most ethnically diverse area in West Sussex (2021 census). To do this DanceHub worked hard to **include communities who may usually face barriers** and are often **under represented** at events and activities.

Throughout DaM Fest '26 a **diverse range** of dance styles were showcased including **Bollywood, Egyptian Belly Dancing, Irish Dance, Bharatnatyam, Line Dancing and more.**



15.4% of the Crawley community identify as Asian or Asian British (2021 census). Across DaM Fest '26, **8 out of the 37 community dance groups involved** represented **South Asian communities**, equating to 21% of groups involved.

Ensuring events and activities are **inclusive and accessible** for people with **disabilities and SEND** is embedded into DanceHub's ethos. Across DaM Fest '26, **4 inclusive SEND groups** performed, providing **40 dancers** the opportunity to **develop confidence, creativity and activity levels.**



Spring '26

A focus on inclusivity, diverse representation and accessibility



DanceHub believe Dance and Movement should be **accessible to all** regardless of background or **socio-economic status**. DaM Fest '26 delivered a range of **free events**, aiming to **reduce financial barriers to Dance and Movement**.

Via The Y.E.S Project in schools and community settings **100+ young people from disadvantaged and deprived areas** in Crawley were supported to perform at DaM Fest '26 through **free to access Dance and Movement classes**.



DaM Fest '26 was such a fun, and enjoyable experience that I am ever so proud to be a part of. Throughout the festival I got to help in leadership at key events....It really gave me so much necessary experience to assist in my future and also to help me become more knowledgeable within the Dance and Movement.

Through **Youth Leadership pathways** and opportunities, **12 young people** from disadvantaged and deprived areas in Crawley were **supported to access paid leadership experiences** across DaM Fest '26.

Forward Motion 2026:

Presented by DanceHub CIC in partnership with **Crawley Borough Council** and **The Hawth**, Forward Motion aims to **engage with and showcase the diverse cultures and communities within Crawley**.

821 Performers



34 different
community Dance
and Movement
groups



Dancers aged
3-86+ years



1,514 Audience
Members



“I would like to express my sincere gratitude for giving me the opportunity to perform at such a popular and prestigious FORWARD MOTION 2026 at such a wonderful Hawth theatre. It was truly an honour to be part of an event of this scale and reputation” -
Crawley Community Dance Leader and Dance Artist



Let's Dance Crawley 2026:

Let's Dance Crawley **brings together schools and colleges** from across Crawley in an exciting and engaging celebration of Dance and Movement.

It is an **inclusive and accessible space** for schools and colleges to come together and perform on The Hawth stage within a **supportive and encouraging environment**.

602 Performers



33 different schools
and groups



1,204 Audience
members



"It was a night to remember and something the children will remember for ever! We had such an amazing evening and my staff commented on how fantastic everything was arranged/ organised and they truly loved being there. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to perform and we absolutely hope to be there next year!" - Crawley School Teacher.



Adult and Junior Discovery Day:

In partnership with **Everyone Active at K2 Crawley**, we hosted an exciting day of **free junior and adult dance taster sessions**, featuring talented local dance creatives, groups, and teachers. Space at K2 Crawley was provided free of charge via the **Community Champions scheme**.

Across the day participants explored a variety of styles such as **Line Dance, StreetDance, Classical Indian Dance and 50+ Contemporary**.

33 attendees



7 free workshops delivered



5 Community Dance organisations worked with



Y.E.S Project Easter Intensive:

In partnership with **Everyone Active at K2 Crawley**, we delivered the first ever Y.E.S project Easter Intensive. Building upon our delivery of a Y.E.S Project Summer intensive held at Brighton Marina Studios, **young people asked** for an Easter event held in Crawley.

This engaged local Young People from Crawley over the Easter holidays, providing them with an opportunity to **keep active, come together** and have **new experiences** through the delivery of **Dance and Movement workshops**.

22 attendees



6 free workshops delivered



5 different Y.E.S Projects involved



International Dance Day 2026:

DanceHub's Celebration of International Dance Day in Crawley brings together different **local dance groups** to celebrate **Dance, Movement, Culture and Crawley**. We invited the community to join us for a day of **incredible performances as we brought the joy of dance to Crawley Town Centre**.

190 Performers



15 community
dance groups



350+ Audience
members



"Saturday's event was amazing. Diva's children and parents were absolutely buzzing. As always, it was well organised by you and your team, so a massive thank you to you all" - Crawley Dance teacher



Youth Voice and Young Leaders throughout DaM Fest '26:

- Young people involved in the **planning** of DaM Fest '26 through **Youth Voice sessions**
- Young Leaders assisted at all DaM Fest '26 events
- Across the Festival **12 young leaders were supported to be in leadership positions** at events.
- **6 young people as choreographers and assistants** to create dance pieces for DaM Fest '26



Putting Young People in the lead:

- Raises **future aspirations**
- Improves **confidence, wellbeing and employability skills**
- Provides **practical experiences** to **develop transferable skills**
- Helps them to **reach their potential**
- Helps them to feel **seen, heard and valued in their community**.

Working with Crawley College:

Throughout DaM Fest '26, **10 Crawley College Media students** attended events as a work experience opportunity to create a DaM Fest '26 documentary .

Students were in charge of **scheduling, story boarding, creating and editing** the documentary. Different roles included **show runner, interviewer, videographer, photographer and more**.

DanceHub hope to **build on this relationship** going forward and work with Crawley College to **provide more work experiences** for their Media students and collaborate via **Y.E.S Media**.



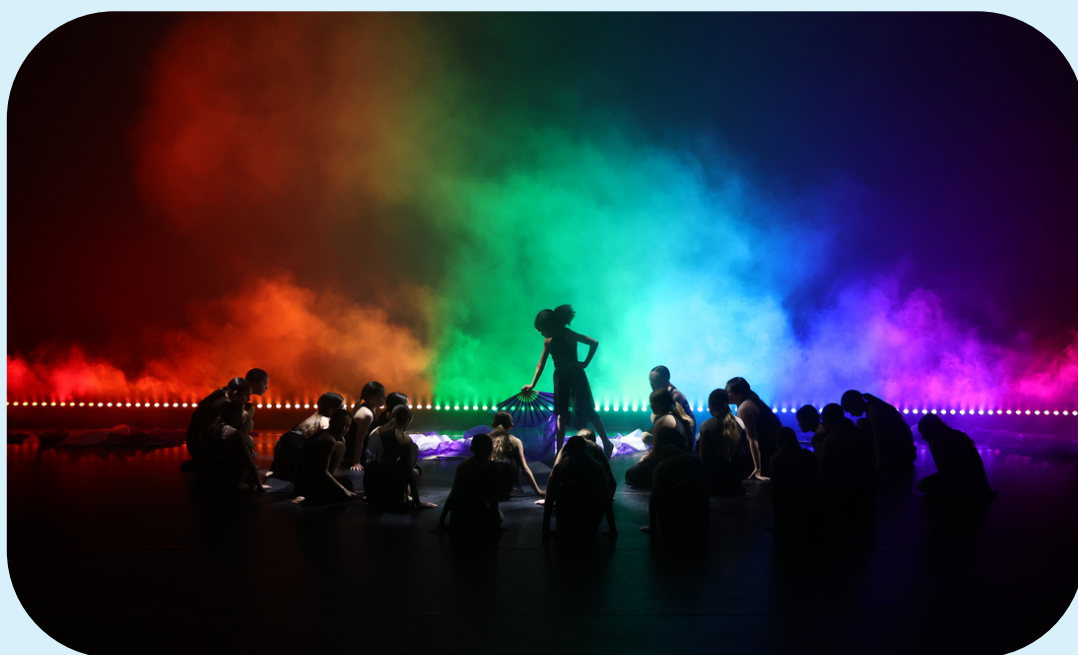
New partnerships, connections and creatives:

Across DaM Fest '26, **DanceHub connected with 3 new Dance and Movement community groups in Crawley**, providing them with **opportunities to get involved and showcase their work for the rest of the community to see.**

DaM Fest '26 created **new relationships** between DanceHub and **local businesses.** Working with **RPD Foundation** via their CSR initiative Global company **Creative Technology** provided DanceHub with **professional standard lighting free of charge** for use at Forward Motion and Let's Dance Crawley.

DaM Fest benefitted other local creatives, providing new work opportunities for videographers, photographers, local dance teachers photographers, lighting technicians and stage managers.

DaM Fest '26 **provided a platform for young people from Crawley to explore their creative ambitions.** Whether through **choreography, events assisting or becoming paid teaching assistants** through the Y.E.S Project in preparation for DaM Fest 2026 or via **Media opportunities.**



Future plans and ambitions:

- **More dance development initiatives** – reaching out to more local communities who are not yet represented in DaM Fest, **listen to their needs and support them to access or create opportunities.**
- **Youth Development Pathway** expansion – **working with partners such as Crawley Community Youth Services (CCYS)** to provide **training qualifications and work experiences.**
- **Growth of the Y.E.S Media initiative** – supporting young people to **develop via media and content creation** opportunities, working with local businesses, colleges and professionals to up-skill and train.
- **DaM Fest '27** – building on the success of DaM Fest '25 and '26 to **engage more local people and diverse communities, providing platforms and inclusive opportunities for local people,** organisations and schools to develop and come together through dance and movement.
- Working **with CCYS** to **create new facilities** including a **dance studio and media centre** to **support young people to flourish artistically,** providing **creative hubs** for youth dance, media, music and art.

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