

Community Rail

Aim: Increase confident access to rail.

Why: To contribute to improved health, wellbeing, equal opportunity and sustainability for all people.

- National grassroots movement
- 75 community rail partnerships (CRPs) + 1,300 station volunteer groups with c. 10,000 volunteers.
- Collaborate with rail industry and community partners
- Accrediting body = Community Rail Network



Community Rail Network (CRN)

Community Rail Network 'Pillars':

- (i) be a voice for local communities on rail (and transport)
- (ii) promote sustainable, healthy, accessible travel
- (iii) bring communities together and support diversity and inclusion
- (iv) support social and economic development.

Department for Transport's Community Rail Development Strategy, for which Community Rail Network is the Government's lead delivery partner

www.communityrail.org.uk

Aim: connect the local community to the railway network and deliver initiatives that improve the rail services and facilities.

- (1) rail safety and respectful travel
- (2) connecting people and places
- (3) supporting confidence development and accessibility to travel by rail
- (4) encouraging a more diverse workforce within the rail industry

How: work in collaboration with other rail, community, faith, youth and educational partners as well as Local Authorities to deliver a variety of activities and projects such as visual arts, gardening, walking, performing arts and rail excursions.

- 8 members of staff + team of freelancers
- Community focus + education team (TrainEd)
- Accredited by Community Rail Network

CRL

Community Rail Lancashire

Community Rail Lancashire



3 (of many!) Projects:

- TrainEd
- Try The Train
- Feel Good Field Trips



Connect the community to the railway and educate them about safety, careers and sustainability whilst giving them the confidence to travel. We offer fully costed session to schools and community groups across parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

April – June 2024

2741 in
total

39.05% of
pupils
FSM

17% of
pupils
EAL



Team



Karen Bennett

Education Team
Lead



Katie Douglas

Accessibility and Inclusion
Officer



Shahiesta Raja

Education Development
Officer.
Ethnic Diversity Lead
Schools Lead for west region



Dave Savage

Community Rail
Officer.
Feel good field trips project
lead



Catherine Kingdom

Education Development
Officer.
Schools Lead for east region
Try the Train lead



Accrington EcoFest Community Rail Week Women in Rail Awards Stations of Welcome





Feel Good Field Trips

Started: March 2022

Funded by: Avanti West Coast

Aim: provide 5,000 children 4-18 yrs with the chance to go on on a free, enriching and educational day out.

When: 2023-2024

- Most of the pupils receive free school meals.
- Many will have never had the opportunity to go on such a special field trip – some won't have even been on a train before.



Feel Good Field Trips

Feel Good Field Trip facts January 2023 – 13th March 2024

2678 students been on a Feel Good Field Trip

455 staff to support the students

110 trips at **35** different venues

230 Avanti West Coast train journeys

13840 miles covered on the WCML

£13.8 million social value for the project in 2023



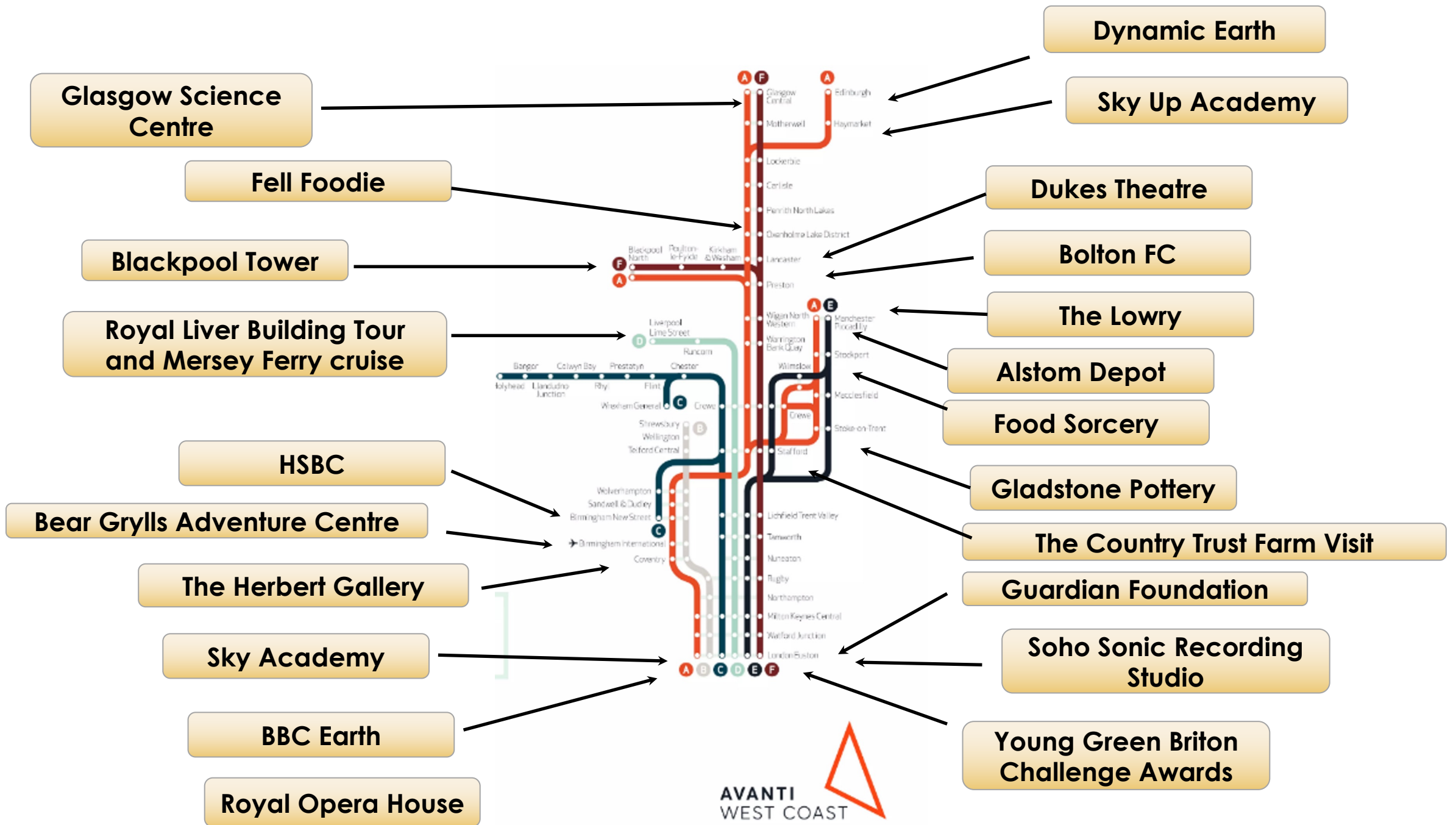
Feel Good Field Trips

- ▶ Rail Safety Talk
- ▶ Travel on an Avanti train (seats reserved)
- ▶ Lunch for students and staff
- ▶ A unique experience at a destination along the West Coast Main Line
- ▶ A Feel Good Field Trip activity booklet, pen and a copy of Arlo's Adventures rail safety book

How was your experience on Avanti trains?

Wonderful - there was an unavoidable cancellation due to an accident but all staff we engaged with were so friendly and helpful! The trains were clean and well furnished. Information was clear and well presented.

For some, it was their first experience on the train so the travel aspect of the trip was an adventure in itself. I've taught for 15 years and been on many trips-this was the best.





Feel Good Field Trips

Rate your Feel Good Field Trip experience?

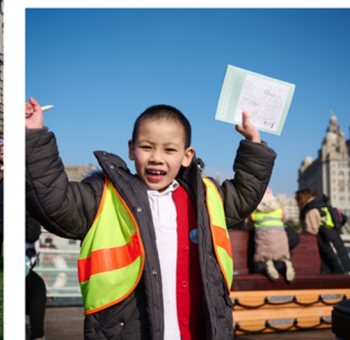
92/98 gave their field trip a score of 10/10

90% of schools surveyed said they are likely/very likely to use a train in the future for a school trip

On 94% of the trips there was at least one student experience travelling on a train for the first time

Award winning project

Feel Good Field Trips won an award at the Community Rail Awards in Swansea. The project was also shortlisted for an award at The Spotlight Rail Awards.





Feel Good Field Trips

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TRAFNIDIAETH CYMRU
TRANSPORT FOR WALES



Over 100 trips supported by a Community Rail Officer





Try The Train

Aim: To support people of all ages to become more confident in accessing rail services and to encourage future independent rail travel.

Groups: approx. 10 per group

Journey Planning: 3 x sessions

Train Trips: 2 x trips

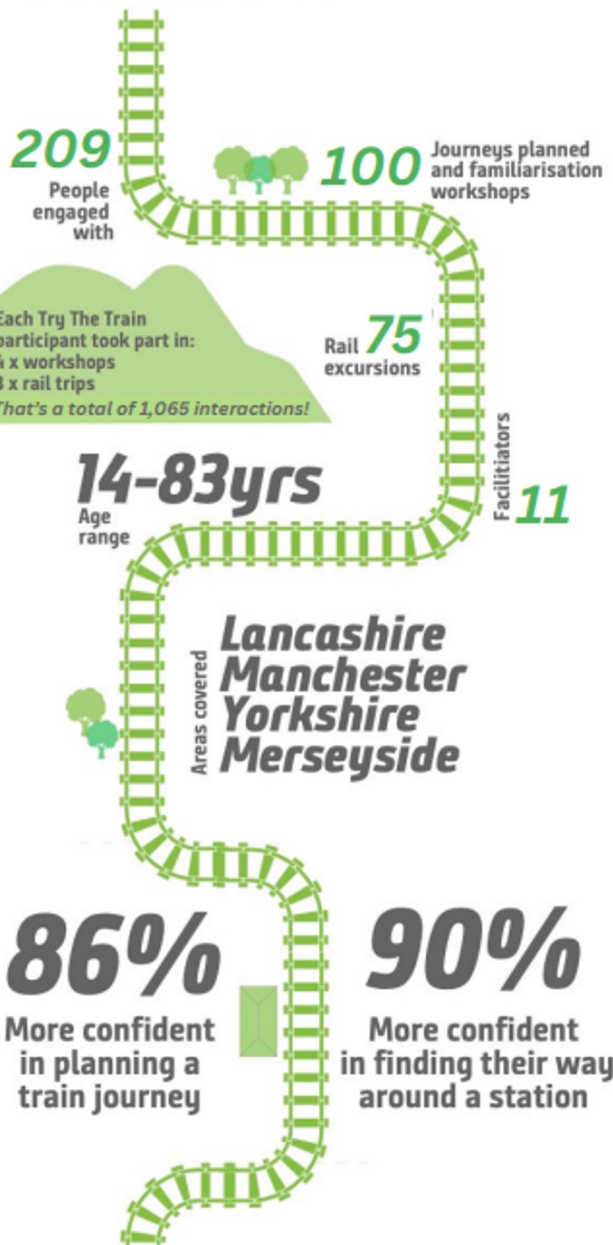
Delivery: Community Rail and other community-based partners.

Resources: Print based, film, audio and virtual reality

Location: Across the Northern network

Who?: A wide range of community and educational partners





Programme outline

Facilitator will meet with the group leader to find out about the group participants.



Workshop 1



Rail experience 1



Workshop 2

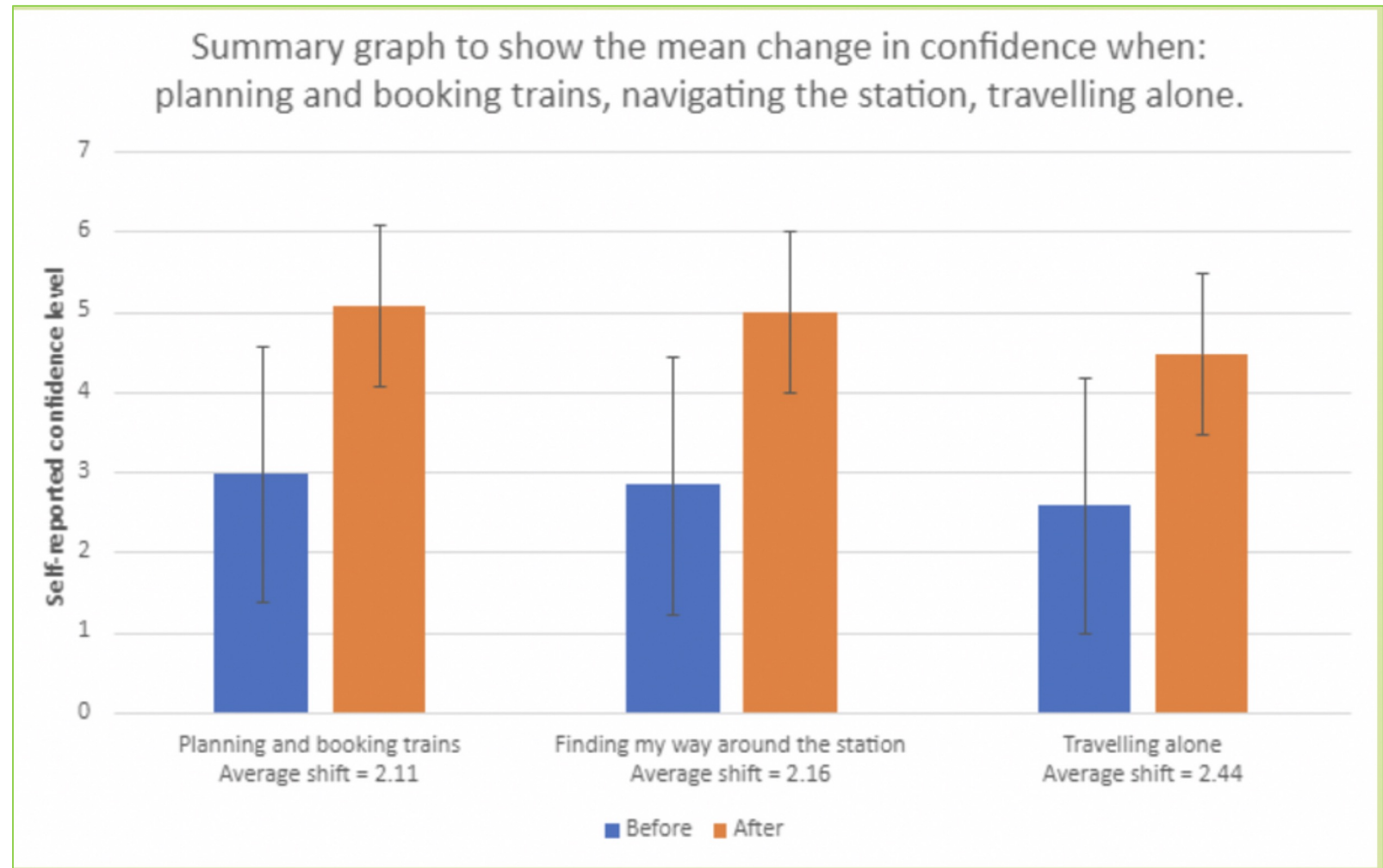


Rail experience 2 / Workshop 3

Three months later participants have told us that they have been revisiting places as well as going to new places on the train.



Susan is now planning to go to Edinburgh in 2024 on the train. She hadn't thought of using the train to get there before Try the Train.





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www.trythetrain.org.uk

Thank you and please feel free to get in touch

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