

CRL

Community Rail Lancashire

Education Report Quarter 2 April- June 2025



TrainEd



April - June 2025

- Sophia joins the team
- Community Rail Week
- Launch of Feel Good Futures
- 200 Stories of Railway Pride launch and hand out
- Lancashire Science Festival
- Accrington EcoFest
- Groups go on Yorkshire Dales Explorer
- Try The Train National Rail Awards judging
- Leeds Station Safety Week
- Rail Safety Week



About TrainEd

Our mission is to 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 sessions to schools and community groups across parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Numbers we've engaged with (excluding FGFT and Try The Train)

Age	Amount
Early Years (4 and under)	74
KS1 (5-7)	556
KS2 (7-11)	1612
KS3 (11-14)	1049
KS4/GCSE (14-16)	68
KS5/Post 16	189
18+	366



Male	Female
1833	2081

3,914in
total

32% of
pupils
FSM

15% of
participants
EAL





Karen Bennett

Education Team Leader



Shahiesta Raja

Education Development Officer



Catherine Kingdom

Education Development Officer



TrainEd Team



Katie Douglas

Accessibility and
Inclusion officer



Dave Savage

Education Development Officer



Sophia Sanderson

SEND Officer

CRL Education Support for other CRPs

Karen and Catherine are currently liaising with all Northern CRPs to support on Education and Youth Engagement delivery as well as hosting quarterly in-person meetings. The details of which are uploaded onto a shared drive for Northern to see in further detail. The highlights of the Quarter will be displayed here.



More new CRPs
now involved
with TTT

Meetings with
new CRP
officers

CRPs contacted
CK for support
with trips and
activities

Starting to
develop some
activities CRPs
can hand out to
young passengers



CRL Education In-Person meetings

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	Hope 3rd April
Numbers	12 (CRPs, Northern) Held in Hope
Content	Art work at stations Engagement in the countryside - walking between stations How to plan taking a school group out
Actions	Rail safety/ activity book for CRPs to print to be created Links made between CRPs to support each other esp with TTT

Where we've been



Inclusion and Accessibility

- **Hidden Gems:** Supported Internship students and St Stephens Primary School worked with artist Gosha Gibek to create a new artwork for Preston Railway Station which is now up for all to see.
- **Disability Awareness Poster:** Burnley College student Eden has created a poster as part of their BTec course which is now on display at Burnley Manchester Road.
- **University of Lancashire partnership:** We have started a research project to explore travel habits and career barriers within in the rail industry with/for under-representative groups. The report will be launched as part of Railway 200 in November.
- **Thomas Pocklington Trust:** Our first trip out with a group of visually impaired and blind participants was a great success and further plans are in place to do more as well as an art project.
- **Deaf Coffee Morning:** We continue to host a monthly coffee morning at Accrington Station for a group of 20 Deaf people over 55 years.



SEND Education

- Integrated into the wider CRL team and shadowed various education-based sessions.
- Developed a structure of delivery for SEND engagement (named: Rail Experience)
- Created the Rail Experience powerpoint, promotional flyer, expression of interest and feedback forms
- Started to develop a database of relevant SEND contacts
- Connected with 3 x SEND groups: Bridge College, Austick, Pendle View Primary School in order to deliver Rail Experience project and share potential opportunity to take part in staff-based focus group
- Delivered workshop to Bridge College SEND group
- Delivered full Rail Experience project (workshop + trip) to Austick group
- Attended the National Neurodiversity Show in Liverpool and National Autism Society Conference





Hyndburn Business Awards

Dave and Shahiesta represented CRL at the Hyndburn Business Awards where they picked up the prize for “Best Not for Profit Business”. Entrants were asked to demonstrate the positive impact of their activities on the community; strong community engagement and effective balanced leadership.

Try The Train has been awarded more funding from Northern for 25/26. The funding has now been confirmed as Business As Usual in the Northern Annual Business Plan.



Try The Train was able to keep going with groups in the new financial year due a waiting list that we had from the previous year. This has allowed facilitators to arrange groups quickly once the funding was confirmed.

Additional
funding for
TTT from
Motability
Foundation

Number of groups
completed

8

Number of
people involved

72

Current CRPs involved

- CRL - Yorkshire and Lancashire Inc a line specific project on the West of Lancs line
- Bishop Line
- SYMCA
- Yorkshire Coast
- North Notts and Lincs
- Settle & Carlisle
- Tyne Valley
- Penistone Line
- Calder Valley
- Esk Valley

CRPs to aim to get
involved in 25/6

Interested and looking
for groups and/or
facilitators:-

- Northumberland
- Crewe to Manchester/Mid Cheshire
- Cumbria
- High Peak and Hope Valley

Accessible sim has
had some more
funding and is
going to be called
Try The Train and
have a TTT
facilitator called
Catherine



TrainEd

Try The Train has been awarded funding from Motability Foundation for the calendar years 25/26. With this funding we are working with Community Rail Network and other CRPs in England on the Travelling with Confidence programme

The **'Travelling with Confidence' programme**, grant-funded by the **Motability Foundation**, has been developed in light of evidence showing the large proportion of disabled people facing barriers using rail, and how these can be reduce. Research by Scope shows 54% of disabled people often or always feel anxious using public transport, and 30% say difficulties with public transport reduce their mobility.



I now take the train to my work placement.

I have a train pass, it gives me and my mum a discount.

I learnt how to travel on my own.

I feel confident and mature and brave.

We had a fabulous time in the Wonderlab at the Railway Museum. We did lots of experiments.

I also travel to college on the train. Before I did 'Try the Train', I came to college in a taxi.

Places visited:-
Skipton
Leeds
Halifax
Bradford
Glasshoughton
York
Bingley

Number of groups completed

11

Number of people involved

133





200 Stories of Railway Pride Launch

On Saturday 7th June, Karen, Catherine and Sophia attended York Pride to hand out over 100 copies of the newly published book. They marched in the parade with other colleagues from the rail industry including: LNER, Northern, TPE, TRU and National Railway Museum. Participants from the project have been sent copies of the book and goody bags.





Girlguiding Badge Launch

On Saturday 29th March, the Girlguiding badge was officially launched at Hopetown in Darlington. Over 750 girls, aged between 4 and 18, along with their leaders, gathered for the event. They were joined by staff from Network Rail, Community Rail Network, Railway 200, Penistone Line Community Rail Partnership, the BBC, and more.

The girls had a fantastic time learning about the history of the modern railway. They enjoyed a range of activities, including playing in the Wagon Woods, experiencing the immersive *Experiment! The Time Travel Ride*, completing a STEM activity, and visiting the museum.



Feel Good Futures

Feel Good Field Futures builds on the success of the Feel Good Field Trip initiative.

This next phase—Feel Good Futures—is aimed at students aged 14 to 18, providing access to unique learning experiences at venues along the WCML. Each trip shines a spotlight on the vital role of STEM in the rail industry, while also showcasing the diverse and exciting career opportunities available across the sector.

On 24th June, 14 Year 10 students from Runcorn took part in the first Feel Good Futures careers trip. Travelling by train to Liverpool, the day began with an inspiring careers talk delivered by Avanti West Coast staff, who shared insights into the wide range of roles available in the rail industry.

Students then visited Alstom's Edge Hill Train Care Centre for a behind-the-scenes tour, where they explored engineering workshops, learned about depot operations, and even had the unforgettable opportunity to sit in the driver's cab of a Pendolino.





Work with Ethnic Minority Community Groups

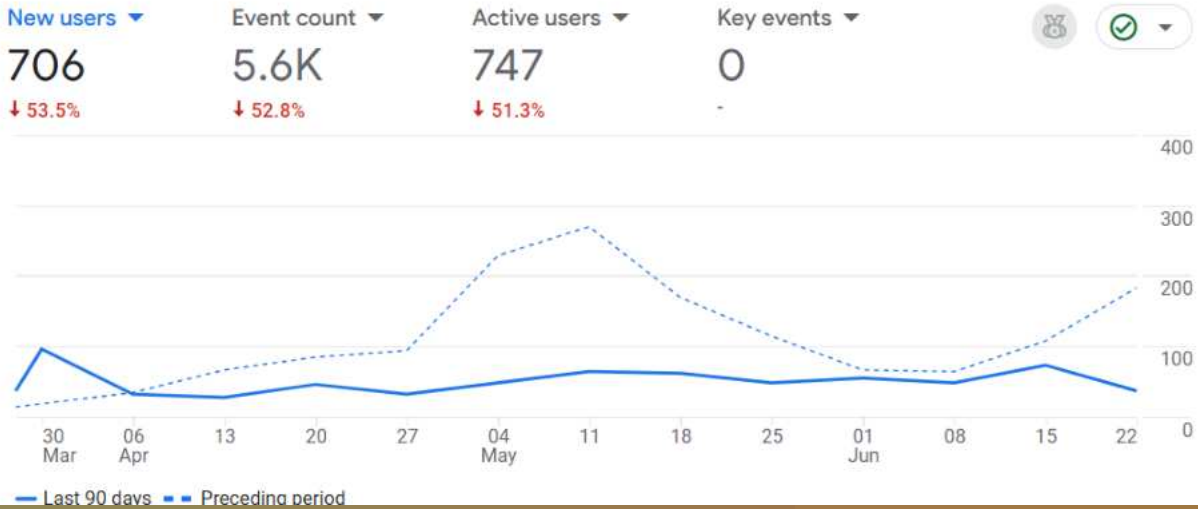
CRL has continued its valuable work with a variety of community groups from ethnic minorities around Lancashire. From working with people who are new to the country to working with people who may have been in the UK for a number of years but have never travelled by train.

The confidence building sessions at the Bunker and on the train have helped people to access green spaces across Lancashire for leisure as well as places for work like Manchester and Preston.

The work with asylum seekers and refugees continues as does the work with domestic violence organisations and ESOL classes, bringing opportunities to isolated parts of the community to improve their physical and mental health.



TrainEd website



Views by Page title and screenshot

PAGE TITLE AND S...	VIEWS
200 Stories of Railwa...	484 ↓ 52.6%
TrainEd - Inclusive ra...	418 ↓ 25.2%
200 stories of Railwa...	79 ↓ 70.4%
Insights & Events - Tr...	118 ↓ 19.7%
Sessions - TrainEd	76 ↓ 40.2%
Projects - TrainEd	62 ↓ 55.7%
Feel Good Field Trips...	4 ↓ 94.9%

Visit the website <https://trained.website/>





Lancashire Science Festival

CRL took part in this year's Lancashire Science Festival, held from 15th-17th May at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in Preston. The popular event attracted around 10,000 visitors across three days. CRL hosted an interactive stand to showcase the wide range of work we do, promote STEM and career opportunities in the rail industry, and engage young people with rail safety and sustainability messages. The Thursday and Friday were dedicated school days, with approximately 350 students visiting our stand each day. On the Saturday, we welcomed hundreds of members of the public and families, all keen to learn more about the railway.

Ecofest

CRL at EcoFest - 14th July

Dave had a busy and enjoyable day at EcoFest in Accrington town centre. Many visitors stopped by to learn about the Eco Station and pick up leaflets. The children especially loved dressing up.



Nw Schools Sustainability Conference

On the 26th June, Dave attended the NW Schools Sustainability Conference at Ewood Park. hundreds of KS2 and KS3 students attended. They explored marketplace stalls and took part in a range of workshops focused on sustainability and climate action.



Muslim Women Hikers on the Yorkshire Dales Explorer!

A group of Muslim women hikers from Zee's Academy in Blackburn utilized the Yorkshire Dales Explorer to explore the Yorkshire Dales. This initiative promotes inclusivity and sustainable travel, allowing access to iconic hiking spots like Malham Cove and the Ribblehead Viaduct. The experience highlighted the empowerment and confidence-building that outdoor activities offer, particularly for groups overcoming cultural and logistical barriers. Collaborations with organizations like Community Rail Lancashire have made such adventures more accessible, fostering representation, connection, and identity expression in nature.

The group did the Appleby Circular walk with the Lancashire Rail Ramblers and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Community Rail Week

This year saw the Bunker transformed into everything from a classroom to a theatre to a bazaar! It became a hub of community activity throughout the week and welcomed hundreds of visitors from schools and the general public.

One of the days saw Stations of Welcome set up a boutique bazaar for refugee and asylum seeker families to be able to prepare for Eid by buying clothing and jewelry at a nominal cost. It gave many families access to affordable occasional wear and also introduced them to the world of Community Rail!

They managed to raise over £200 for charity as well as providing much needed clothing to some very grateful families.



Community Rail Week

Other activities in the bunker during Community Rail Week included:

- Eco Station open day for over 80 students.
- A bee workshop led by a local Beekeepers group on World Bee Day.
- A rail 200 theatre performance by Gare Du Nord





Karen's Secondment

Since January 2023, Karen has been undertaking a secondment at the Community Rail Network as Education and Youth Engagement Advisor. She now chairs the Education Network in her CRN time. Karen continues to lead the TrainEd education team and works at Community Rail Lancashire on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Although she still does some engagement, Catherine Kingdom has taken over the majority of her school and community groups.



Challenges during Quarter 2



No distinct challenges
during this Quarter

Looking ahead to Q3 2025



Yorkshire Show

Inspiration Train Launch
(Railway 200)

Seat-y of Culture (Bradford)

