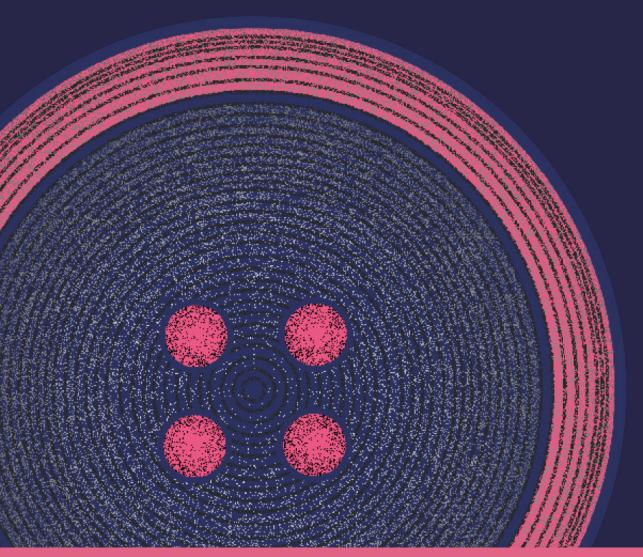
# 2025 EVALUATION PACK

# THE UNDERCOVER CARETAKER AGENCY



# WHAT IS THE UNDERCOVER CARETAKER AGENCY?

The Undercover Caretaker Agency (UCA) is an interactive adventure for primary schools in Tower Hamlets to explore mental health and wellbeing, developed by a team of artists with clinical review from <u>Tower Hamlets Education and Wellbeing Service</u>.

Based on Mind's 5 Ways to Wellbeing, UCA is a one day teacher-led experience for Yr 3s, arriving in a bespoke reusable box with locks and passcodes to decipher - unlocking a series of creative exercises. The adventure culminates in classes collaborating to create a piece of art designed to benefit the wider school community.

UCA provides children with tools to better understand their mental health, and to build resilience within themselves and their peers.

"An immersive experience that takes your class on a journey of discovery, not of the world, but of themselves."

- Teacher at Hague Primary, 2025 delivery

# A LITTLE BIT OF UCA HISTORY...

UCA has been delivered in 6 schools in Tower Hamlets year on year from 2021-2023. In 2024, the team began a new phase of work, taking everything we'd learned from these deliveries to develop the project into its final form: a robust, reusable and clinically supported piece that could evolve with the needs of an ever growing number of local schools.

This work began with a new partnership with Tower Hamlets Education Wellbeing Service who wanted to work with us to provide clinical review, and to deliver the project in 14 of the schools they already work in as key part of their work delivering the NHS Whole School Approach. This partnership brought our delivery target up to 20 schools in one year.

"Each year, UCA becomes more embedded in our PSHE / Wellbeing curriculum. UCA Episode 1 has provided us with a free mental health and wellbeing toolkit which helps to develop our children's emotional literacy and creates the foundations for wider conversations about wellbeing."

- William Davis Headteacher, 2022 delivery





# 2025 Delivery - Reaching 20 Schools in 1 year...

### Autumn term - Sept-Dec 2024

- The UCA team worked with THEWS to review the content of the adventure, embed clinical expertise into the activities and project materials to better support students and teachers.
- The Project Director, Toby Peach, worked with an access consultant, Elise Robinson to ensure there were different options for teachers to meet the different learning needs in their classrooms.
- UCA Designer, Kirsty Harris, worked in parallel developing the physical box to ensure it was aesthetically exciting, environmentally sustainable, cost effective at scale, and easily reusable for schools to use for years to come.
- THEWS and the UCA team introduced new schools to UCA, and secured participation from 20 schools.

### Spring term - Jan - March 2025

- 2 CPD sessions were offered online

   taking 25+ teachers through the
   beats of the experience, upskilling
   them in hybrid digital delivery and
   sharing playful techniques to spark
   conversations on mental health.
- 20 Boxes were delivered to 20 schools across the borough of Tower Hamlets
   theirs to keep and replenish for the next 3 years.
- Accompanying assets were created and delivered including a detailed teacher pack. UCA was delivered in 20 classrooms (so far...)
- Detailed feedback was gathered from participating schools. Planning for 25/25 began!



# WORKING WITH THEWS

This has been an incredible year for the Undercover CareTaker Agency, after four years of delivering UCA we have now taken a huge step forward and are reaching 1000s of young people, with the potential to reach even more, with this innovative approach to classroom engagement. The opportunity to collaborate with THEWS has been invaluable as we look to embed this work within schools and have a broader impact on young people and schools. We are so excited to see how we can build on this year...



UCA complements and supports our whole school approach in a fun, accessible way, especially in terms of developing an environment that promotes social and emotional wellbeing. It has got staff and KS2 classes talking about how they feel and practicing ways to manage anxiety in the classroom. It has also been amazing to hear how the projects pupils have created together are meaningful to them, facilitating genuine pupil voice.



- Charlie Hart, THEWS Education Wellbeing Practitioner / Trainee Senior Wellbeing Practitioner

# UCA 2025 IN NUMBERS



- 1 box, and 2 sets of replenishable resources per year for 3 consecutive years.
- After the first round of delivery in year 1, we've reached 570 students. By the end of year 1, we will have reached 1140 students.
- At the end of year 3, 3420 students will have been impacted by UCA.
- After just 1 year, the new and improved box model works out at just £15.99 per student.
- 100% of teachers said they would recommend UCA to their colleagues
- 93% of teachers said their class gained new skills to help manage and benefit their mental health.
- 93% of teachers said they recognised clear curriculum links in the adventure, including: PSHE, Literacy/Oracy, Art, Science & more.



# STUDENTS SAID...

- "My goal is to be an UCA agent! A smile can change someone's day!"
- "Exciting!" "really cool!"
- "I love the UCA TOK."
- "The static is when you feel worried or scared about something"
- "I enjoyed it when we were doing the secret club game with our groups"

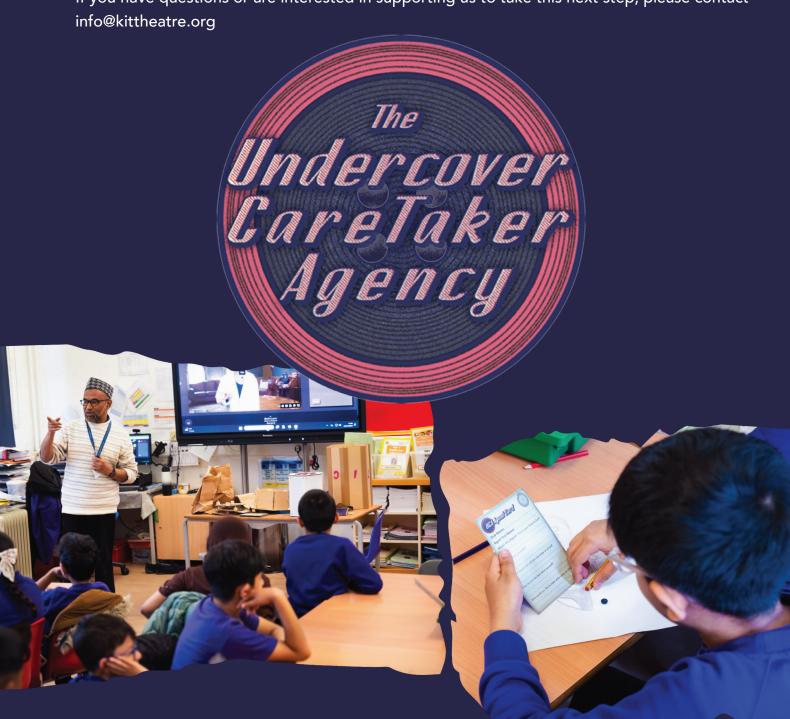
# TEACHERS SAID...

- "Every class should have this magical experience!" Teacher at Solebay Primary
- "An immersive experience that takes your class on a journey of discovery, not of the world, but of themselves. It asks pupils to look within and get to know themselves better, in order to connect with others. it brings the bent out of the children and they find creative ways to be kind and lift up each other." - Teacher at Hague Primary
- "They enjoyed and connected really well with the approach and were able to apply what they have learnt from it with their peers." Teacher at Canon Barnett Primary
- "Very engaging and fun for the students to learn about how to improve their own mental health in a subtle and fun manner." Teacher at Osmani Primary
- "Engaging! Very positive, students were highly engaged and loved the process of becoming agents. Sparks were flying throughout the day!" Teacher at Marion Richardson Primary
- "The excitement of the pupils since delivery all the way to the end was absolutely amazing...
   even my most quiet pupils burst out of their shells and participated with great eagerness."
   Teacher at Solebay Primary
- "The interactive videos were really engaging and the children loved this!" Teacher at Harry Gosling Primary
- "Engaging and an immersive PSHE experience", "children across all abilities were able to take part in the activities" Teacher at Thomas Buxton Primary
- "Absolutely worthwhile. A very memorable day." Teacher at Arnhem Wharf Primary



## WHATSNEXT

- The success of this delivery has strengthened our partnership with THEWS. We're now confident we can bring UCA to an even larger number of students in 2025/26 - expanding into the remaining 20 schools on the THEWS roster and doubling our reach and impact over the next 3 years.
- This project was originally developed by Project Director Toby Peach with a team of brilliant freelance artists under Coney - an arts and social change charity in Tower Hamlets. Coney is set to close its doors this year, but we're thrilled that UCA and supporting staff will continue to work on this project with KIT Theatre - an award-winning company bringing immersive and interactive work to families and schools across London and beyond.
- Under KIT, the team is now seeking funding to produce more UCA boxes to bring this vision of 40 UCA schools to life, in partnership with THEWS.
- If you have questions or are interested in supporting us to take this next step, please contact info@kittheatre.org







Writer, Director & 'Mal' - Toby Peach

Associate Makers - Brigitte Adela, Brent Grihalva, Janisè Sadik, Anne Langford

Producers - Ellie Browning, Eliza Cass & Emily Davis

**Access Consultant - Elise Robinson** 

Clinical Consultants - Tower Hamlets Education Wellbeing Service

Filmmakers - DMLK Video

**Designer - Kirsty Harris** 

**Graphic Designer - Jessica Sanders** 

**Programmer - Suzanna Hurst** 

Sound Design - Jen Igiri & Rubie Green

'Anne' - Anne Odeke

'Jay' - Afia Abusham

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS...





