UNDERDOG CREW STUDIOS

SENergise

Where difference sparks brilliance.

Underdog Crew Studios

Empowering Neurodiverse Futures

Where Difference Sparks Brilliance

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Underdog Crew Studios

Alternative Provision & Post-16 Study Programme Prospectus

(Including the SENtrepreneur and UCSkillz™ Frameworks)

1. Introduction

The Underdog Crew CIC (Underdog Crew Studios) is a neurodiversity-led alternative education and creative wellbeing provider supporting SEND and neurodivergent learners aged 14–25. Our mission is simple — to help young people rediscover self-worth, confidence, and ambition through creativity, mentorship, and meaningful project-based learning. We feature on the Essex Local Offer and hold the BBC Essex “Make a Difference” Award for outstanding youth outcomes.

1a. Why The Underdog Crew?

At The Underdog Crew, everything begins with lived experience. We are a community of neurodivergent educators, mentors, and creatives who have walked the same paths as the young people we now support. Our leadership, culture, and methods are rooted in empathy, authenticity, and a deep understanding of what it means to grow up misunderstood. Our approach goes far beyond teaching — it’s about healing, rebuilding, and re-igniting. Many of our learners arrive having lost faith in education, confidence, and sometimes even in themselves. Through relational mentoring, creativity, and meaningful achievement, we help them rediscover self-worth, agency, and the belief that they can shape their own future. We don’t force learners to fit outdated systems or narrow expectations. Instead, we build the box around them — shaping environments that flex to their individuality rather than trying to change who they are. Our work repairs the damage caused by a system that too often pigeonholes and misunderstands complex neurodivergent minds. What sets The Underdog Crew apart is our unwavering belief that every young person’s differences are their strengths. We harness those differences through creativity, compassion, and mentorship — preparing them not just for qualifications, but for life, purpose, and belonging.

2. Our Educational Approach

• Rooted in lived experience: led by neurodivergent educators. • Positive Rewiring Framework™: building confidence, communication, and resilience. • Therapeutic creativity: using craft, music, and media to unlock engagement. • Multi-agency collaboration: working with education, health, care, and families.

3. Preparing for Adulthood Framework

Aligned with the national Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes: • Employment – creative enterprise and SENtrepreneur work. • Independent Living – cooking, budgeting, travel training, and self-management. • Community Inclusion – collaborative projects and public events. • Health & Wellbeing – drumming therapy, outdoor learning, and social connection.

4. Core Study Programmes

A. Creative Empowerment Study Programme (14–18) - Film & Media, Music Studio (Ableton Academy, live drumming), IT & Design, Textile Printing. B. Applied Creative Skills & Wellbeing Programme - Pottery, pyrography, jewellery, modelling, animatronics, culinary NVQ, outdoor

learning. C. SENtrepreneur Programme (Post-16 Transition) - Public speaking, product development, web design, start-up planning, supported internships.

Domain	Example Activities	Key Outcomes
Creative & Media	Film, podcasting, editing	Communication & digital literacy
Music & Performance	Ableton production, live drumming	Focus & teamwork
Design & Technology	3D printing, prop building	Problem-solving, fine motor skills
Crafting & Making	Pottery, stained glass, jewellery	Sensory balance & patience
Textile Printing	Garment design	Enterprise & independence
Culinary Arts	NVQ cookery, challenges	Life skills & confidence
Outdoor Learning	Fishing & bushcraft	Resilience & wellbeing
Business & Enterprise	Marketing, public speaking	Employability & financial literacy

6. Voice, Choice & Independence

Learners co-design their timetables and track development through the UCSkillz™ system, progressing toward independence in line with Essex SENDIASS principles.

7. Accreditation & Progression

Learners build personalised portfolios, combining AQA, ASDAN, Arts Award, and Training Express certification. The UCSkillz™ framework gamifies growth across creativity, resilience, and enterprise.

8. Duration & Funding

Typical engagement: 1–2 years, extendable to 3 under EHCP continuation. Funding aligns with Essex IPES and DfE post-16 study programme standards.

9. Health & Wellbeing

Holistic health strand combining drumming therapy, outdoor activities, and social mentoring within a neurodiversity-affirming environment.

10. Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

DSL-led safeguarding, DBS-checked staff, trauma-informed practice, and QA aligned to Essex IPES standards.

11. Impact & Recognition

• BBC Essex “Make a Difference” Award • Essex Local Offer inclusion • Proven outcomes for re-engagement and wellbeing.

12. Commissioning & Referrals

Direct commissioning via Essex IPES. EHCP/EOTAS referrals accepted. Parental involvement encouraged. Contact: Dom Morgan, Project Director Email: db@underdogcrew.org | Phone: 07498 606 258 Website: underdogcrew.org