embrace

Unlocking Possibilities, Embracing Life

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Annual Impact Report

2025–2026

www.embrace.org.uk

Registered charity 1156447

A Message from Our Chair

The young people and families we support are always top of our minds. Our motivation and reward come from seeing the smiles, joy, fun and challenges overcome as well as acknowledging challenges not yet resolved. Service is the very core of why we do what we do.

The last few years of strengthening the foundations and modernising our work behind the scenes allow us to be resilient to change. There is no doubt change is what lies ahead with challenges due to ever more demanding funding complexities.

The tools we have and the people on our team give us confidence we will rise to the challenge and continue to serve and continue to be rewarded by the positive impact you tell us we deliver.

We hope you enjoy reading yet another uplifting report and insight into the lives we touch and the incredibly positive impact we have.

Thank you again for allowing us to play a part in the lives of such a wonderful community.

Paul

Our Vision

Our goal is to extend transformative support to broader communities, amplifying our reach and positively impacting an increasing number of individuals and families in need.

The year in numbers

4,103 hours this year

“

Without your support and fun schemes, we would have **no respite during holidays**. (My child) loves coming to scheme and having **so much fun!**

Parent feedback • January 2026

Where we supported

1,860 hrs Children services

1,403 hrs Family Services

840 hrs Parent Carer

Making more time for support, connection and fun across our community.

Top 3 Sessions

Skool's Out	Wellbeing	ace
1,091 hours	726 hours	288 hours

235 sessions delivered

> Amazing weekend and holiday clubs, fully inclusive, safe and fun. Develops my child's **independence and friendships.**
>
> Parent feedback • February 2026

Toy Library

21

New subscriptions

Growing our community

146 new people welcomed

to the Embrace community this year.

> After meeting Poppy I felt **completely reassured** that my son would have a **wonderful time** and be **safe** with Embrace.
>
> Parent feedback • Summer 2025

Who joined us

65.8% Parents and carers

26% Young people

8.2% Siblings

New registrations grew throughout the year.

Grants & Fundraising

Support from trusts, foundations and community funders helps us reach children, young people and families

Grants and donations

£78,437

Fundraising

£95,981

Local authority funding

£106,927

Subscriptions

£14,399

These results were achieved **before** a dedicated grant fundraiser was in post

Building on this success

Jayne McPherson

***New* Grant Fundraiser**

We are delighted to welcome Jayne to the Embrace team to build on this momentum and secure more support for families.

Funds in action

A look at what some support made possible this year.

Skool's Out

Support for delivery of service

Central Bedfordshire Council
Bedford Borough Council

> "It would be awful for families and these children/young adults if Embrace couldn't run their sessions to the best of their ability if they couldn't get the necessary funding.
>
> Parent feedback • January 2026

Practical Support

Uniforms, video content & care facilitation

Bedford Giving

Activities co-ordinator

Role Support

Potton Charitable Trust

Participation & performance

Easter 2026 Project

National Lottery Community Fund

Community Fundraising

Let's celebrate!

From golf days and music festivals to running challenges, our community came together to raise vital funds for Embrace

Five standout fundraisers

Our top five fundraising activities

01	Ian Rusher, West Herts Golf Club	£12,411
02	Sweet William Golf Day	£10,111
03	Sandy Music Festival	£5,000
04	Bedford Running Festival	£4,800
05	St Philip and St James Golf Society	£2,900

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible

Thank you to our supporters

Launched this year, our Circles of Support celebrate the individuals, groups and organisations whose generosity makes our work possible.

Kindness Circle

Everyday heroes giving time, items and helping fundraising efforts

Compassion Circle

Local supporters, groups and businesses giving regularly, sponsoring or donating in kind.

Impact Circle

Major donors and partners funding new projects and helping us reach more families.

Every contribution helps create brighter futures

Training & development

Safety, wellbeing and quality of support are our highest priority

Throughout 2025-26, staff completed both mandatory and specialist training to meet a wide range of complex needs among young people

842 training hours completed

Building on knowledge, skills and confidence

Our investment in people

£5,559
External training

+

£11,795
Value of staff training time

£17,354 Total training investment

Great support starts with a **skilled and confident team.**

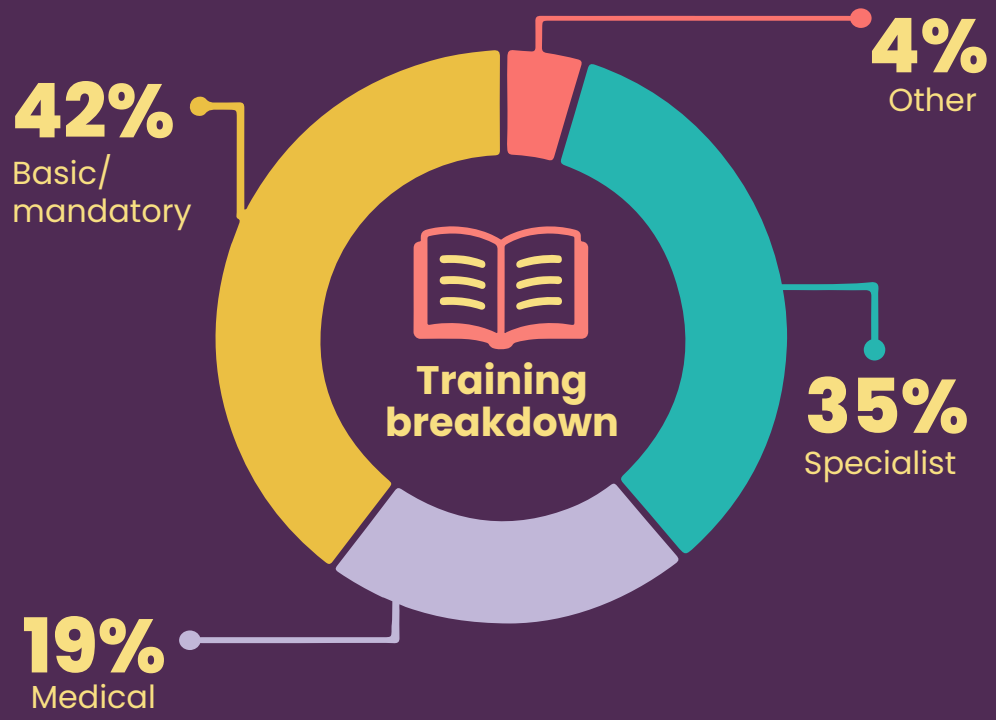
Staff training and competency

Skills for safe, high-quality support

25 training areas covered

Mandatory, specialist and clinical training supports children and young people with complex needs.

A broad range of training



> “The time, care and careful planning invested in ensuring staff are **fully trained** and **genuinely equipped** not only to cope with my severely disabled, medically complex daughter, but to create opportunities for her to **thrive**, is truly outstanding.”
>
> Parent feedback • Summer 2025

The Impact

What our families say

> Amazing staff, **inclusive** and **supportive.** Although the more we rave about you the harder it is to get spaces as you are in demand.

> The activities are so **fun** - the smiles and happy faces of the young people clearly show this. The activities are **always adapted** to ensure everyone can access them.

> The staff are **knowledgeable** and well trained, as well as having a great understanding of **meeting YP's needs**. He is always well cared for; with care, love and support.

> **Excellent service** providing **high quality care** for our daughter leaving us confident she is having a lovely time but is also **safely looked after** by the kind and **professional** staff.

> I would highly recommend this service. It is run by very special people who **treat my daughter as an individual** and its so important for my daughter to mix with others of her own age activities are very well thought out. They are a **lifeline** for very complex young people. I would give it the **highest rating** it is a safe environment for our young people.

Unlocking Possibilities,
Embracing Life

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