



Impact Survey:  
Covid-19 and  
UK Youth Circus  
Report 1:  
Supplement

26<sup>th</sup> March 2020



# Index

---

About this Supplement.....	3
Immediate Impact.....	4
Impact on Young People.....	9
Going Forward.....	13
Long-Term Impact	
Support Needed.....	18
Creative Alternatives.....	24
Final Comments.....	28



# About this Supplement

---

This supplement contains what youth circuses have to say about the Covid-19 crisis, in their own words. It is a supplementary document, intended to be read alongside our main report: **Impact Survey: Covid-19 and UK Youth Circus Report 1**.

Answers have been edited for clarity, and to rectify grammar and spelling mistakes. A few answers have been omitted, due to illegibility or because they were not relevant to the question.



# Immediate Impact

---

What short-term impact, financial or otherwise, has the current situation had on your youth circus?

“Vulnerable young people are more isolated and more prone to anxiety. Loss of earnings for freelance staff.”

“Difficult decisions about cleaning and safe working. Closing all activity and locking the door. Setting up and all working from home. Job insecurity and furloughing employed staff. All freelance teachers not earning. Creative approaches to service delivery on line. Stopping development projects.”

“Children can't attend – this makes additional stress on parents and children that have the additional needs and are also having heightened anxiety with the unknown changes.”

“Teachers' loss of salary (I am going to try and compensate for this as much as I can). Loss of weekly activity, which is something all the young people look forward to each week. They feel part of something and that something is no longer there.”

“We have had to cancel our term 2 weeks early. We have also decided to continue to pay our teaching staff for the remainder of the term regardless of the cancelled classes. However, these 2 weeks have been offered as a credit/refund if needed to customers. While most have offered the remaining term fees as a donation to pay tutor wages, we do have several to pay back as refund, or credit, which will come out of our overall core budget. We currently have £5000 of Easter Camp sales awaiting confirmation on whether or not the camp will run, on top of the remaining 45% of spaces we were still looking to sell. Additionally there were intensive rehearsals from our Youth Circus Showcase at the end of April. As well as currently losing 2 weeks additional rehearsal, the showcase is a large source of income for us through ticket sales (estimated £7500, before expenses), merchandise (£2000 in t-shirts and hoodies), and the launch of our Donation



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

Scheme, which is used for (among other things) bursary placements on the youth circus.”

“We have had to process refunds for pre-purchased classes and workshops. Wasted money spent on advertising and marketing.”

“As we have no income our instructors and the company are struggling financially. We are releasing YouTube videos, and looking into Zoom and other online class platforms, but we do not feel we are able to charge for this service as most of our students’ interest is in aerial. In addition we were due to have a new venue come online but beam testing was cancelled last minute as the rigger went into isolation, meaning we lost the money paid hiring the equipment. With very limited unrestricted funds we will be unable now to undertake the testing until we manage to replenish these funds. We are talking to our funders to see if we can postpone the start of new projects or change the funds for use on work we are doing now but there is a very real risk that some funders will want to take their money back.”

“We had to cancel our last two classes of term (but will be holding at least one online). We were planning classes for half of the next term, but it is now unclear whether they will be happening or not.”

“We cancelled weekly classes for 25 kids. We shut our community training space, which means that we will lose hire fees. Local events with children’s performances are cancelled. Festival events where our fire team would have performed are cancelled. Well-paid workshops with larger arts organisations for youth and elderly are cancelled. Our insurance is on hold. Extra checks on our hall have been implemented, luckily no extra insurance cost. As we’re a charity and we own the building we don’t have a mortgage, we don’t pay council tax or business rates anyway. I’m self-employed, my assistants are freelancers, and we are all out of work. Government advice is that it’s debatable whether I stop being self-employed. We have 2 youth applying to Circomedia, and they’ve lost their training space to work on audition pieces and won’t be able to have auditions.”

“Classes shut, no class income, freelancers have lost work and income, performances postponed, projects postponed.”



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"We are currently closed and trying to reach our students through online classes. We are unable to pay our self-employed team during the shut down."

"The term was due to end in a few weeks, so payments have been made from parents up until then, and all so far have asked that their money is kept to be used to roll over to when we reopen. We do not own a building and the venue has assured me I'll be reimbursed. The future impact is small compared to many, as we only have one paid member of staff, therefore their weekly wages will be lost for the duration, potentially for the next term, and the additional funds raised that supported core costs."

"Our Youth Circus Citrus Pips is the hub around which we build a year-round programme of activities of community arts practise. We have had to indefinitely postpone 2 major projects planned for Spring/Summer 2020 which have secured budgets and contracted staff, totalling £45,000. This is having a significant effect on our business and our Community."

"Far too early to tell. Will require detailed conversations with funders, landlords etc."

"We have had to close our workshops and regular classes until further notice. We have no income now that we are closed with some overheads and staff to pay. Our youths have no regular classes to attend - but we are looking at moving some of them online."

"We finished classes on Saturday the 21st of March, so we are yet to see the impact. We are working hard to try to provide some classes online for our students but we have no idea if this will work as we specialise mainly in aerial. The impact it has already had is that some of our teachers were unable to work last week due to isolation and other teachers have found other work, which could seriously jeopardise the school if we have no staff."

"I have no more income."

"No safe space to train and meet. Had to cancel all shows till July."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"We are closed for all classes, workshops and shows (adult and youth), so we can't trade. This impacts the income of our director who manages the school administration, and the income of all of our freelance staff, who rely on class teaching income to live. We don't have rent relief and have just paid nearly £1000 in our annual insurance subscriptions. Everyone's finances are impacted, and even when we can open again, who knows if our customers will be able to afford to pay for classes, so I expect that our income will be well down for the long term."

"We have had to cancel the youth circus classes with very short notice. We have had to cancel our youth circus rehearsals and our show in the Spiegel tent Nottingham has been postponed – we have no idea when till."

"Classes closed. Any other activity closed. Performance and open weekend cancelled. Several events cancelled. Longer term planning disrupted. All income currently stopped. Work for all tutors stopped. Work for all admin staff severely reduced."

"We are busy talking to our customers, especially those now facing isolation measures with children who have additional or special needs."

"We have one weekly aerial class for young people. It is funded by the Mayor of London's Young Londoner's fund. We cancelled 3 weeks of classes so far and over Easter there were no classes anyway. We have paid the teachers their full fee for those 3 classes for principle. We are yet to go back to the funders and negotiate what to do after Easter if the lockdown is still in place. We would like to keep paying the teacher regardless of whether we run the classes or not as they rely on that income."

"No classes or class bookings for next term as we don't have a restart date. No income coming in, as there are no bookings. We will lose many students who may age out or lose interest during the closure. Freelance teachers are without income as we don't have any funds to pay them if we have no classes."

"A decline in drop in class members by 50% over 2 weeks."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

“Massive social impact on the young people. Heartbroken (and we are for them) - as we are an inclusion project, many of our young people are vulnerable and so we are finding good and safe ways to connect with them digitally. Financially we need about £6K and IF we are eligible for the government support we should be able to access that. Also - we frequently engage freelancers, and have some limited funding to do that. We will be asking funders permission to pay freelancers for \*future\* work. We need them to continue to work and to stay afloat so that our young people can continue to benefit from and be inspired by a range of quality circus professionals with a range of skills, in addition to our own staff.”

“Right now we have absolutely no idea how our business will survive, and therefore our family, as this is a family run circus school.”

“Have stopped all workshops indefinitely, we will pay all freelancers until the end of term (2 weeks work). Half of the workshops were paid for in advance by individuals; the other workshops were paid for by schools and organisations who have said that they will pay for the last 2 weeks of term. So no real loss in the very short term.”

“Three freelance tutors completely out of work. They would have done Easter workshops plus a 12-week term.”

“No students .. no income... no income – can’t pay the premises rent, bills and staff. Let alone paying myself.”

“Stress. Unknown.”



# Impact on Young People

---

What do you think will be the impact of not having a youth circus for young people?

“Boredom, lack of exercise.”

“Disappointed and isolated. Worried for themselves and others.”

“Loss of identity/security, happiness and fitness. All essential during a crisis like this.”

“Social isolation: as, when their routines change, they become more avoidant of attending. In the past this has also included darker nights through winter, so it's going to be pretty hard on our students.”

“A loss of social interaction and physical activity will have an effect on their physical and mental wellbeing. Whilst only a relatively small amount of time is spent at the classes, they contribute a huge amount to the young people's sense of belonging to something.”

“For many it will be a disappointing and difficult time. Many of our students have been with us for many years and coming to classes is part of their world. For several of our older students it will be equally distressing as they were in the process of auditioning for, or had been accepted on to higher education circus classes. They are now worried about how this will affect their academic futures, their fitness levels, and their ability to audition if they have no space to practice or send a 'video' audition. The students will also be deeply disappointed as they have been working towards our Annual Showcase for several months now and it is most likely going to be cancelled. There are also a number of students who are on bursary placements or are a part of our Accessible Circus programme who will have had all their extra curricular activities cancelled, so I fear the impact will be exceptionally difficult for them and their families.”

“Detrimental.”



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"They are likely to become less active in this time. Anxiety will rise especially when you add the closure of schools - normally in harsh circumstances coming to circus is a bit of relief - anxious and stressed faces come in and happy relaxed faces leave!"

"A lack of exercise and space to do exercise, which means they'll be hyperactive at home. Often parents tell us the children they bring are climbing the walls at home. The lack of community and friends - making friends in the community is one of the key outcomes of our youth classes. They won't be challenged. They won't be getting any confirmation of their worth outside a school setting. They will lose the creative aspect and the sense of pride that that brings."

"Massive effect on sociability, fitness, mental health, confidence, resilience, and loss of skills."

"Isolation, emotional anxiety, distress, lack of contact, loss of friendships, safeguarding, lack of safe spaces, and physical and mental well being will be impacted."

"They will be confused and will miss the interaction with their friends. Circus for many is an opportunity to shine."

"The kids have all lost out on their activities, but we have distributed circus equipment to those kids that wanted it so that they can continue to practise during these unusual times. We are also guiding them towards online sources. We don't currently feel in a position to create new online material ourselves, as we are such a small entity, but are doing our best. We are going to try and start some online 'meetups' for the young people to help keep them all connected."

"Ours is a very tight group, all from the immediate local area. Circus Pips is their only opportunity together. Some members of the group have problematic school lives, and are at critical stages of their physical, social, and emotional development."

"Huge. Losing out on all social activities, advice, support, food, and safe spaces."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"Some of them are already very frustrated and unhappy about the situation. It will be difficult for our young people to keep themselves fit and to have exercise during this time."

"It will have a significant impact on health and well-being and on their social lives."

"Stress."

"Lack of space for training and socialising will affect some of the youths' physical and mental wellbeing. They work hard to prepare spring and summer shows and they are gutted that none of that will happen for now."

"Disengagement from the activity and potentially all physical activity. Mental ill health (circus is their outlet)."

"Many of them will be frustrated but we are trying to ensure we have regular contact with them through sending out emails and making video content. For the ones without access to internet it will be a big change for them and they will miss getting together seeing friends and developing skills. We also provide food for our youth circus company rehearsals to ensure the young people have had something to eat when we are rehearsing our show."

"For many circus is the thing they look forward to most in the week. We have had emails from parents since we closed saying this, and really hoping we can open again. It is an important social group for some of them, where they feel accepted and safe."

"Quite negative for them and their families."

"Our youth class is a haven for some of our participants. A place where they can come and do something they love, learn new skills, make new friends, a place where they can just be who they are with no judgement. Together with the school closures this will leave a gap in their life."

"Disappointing for them and they could lose interest in long term."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

“Physically: They will lose strength, flexibility and the gains they have made with skill development and functional movement training. The social and mental developmental we work on in classes will cease. So many young people find our classes are their favourite part of the week. Many with neurodiversity or who find they don't fit in, do fit in with our classes. We provide a safe space for them to be who they are, and to learn interesting skills.”

“For a lot of our youth students circus class is the only extra curricular class they do. Without it there will be a significant negative affect on their mental health, health and fitness..”

“This is hard to write about - it's emotional for all of us. We're trying to act on continuing to engage with them virtually; as for some of them it's nothing short of a lifeline. The impact for some will be huge, even for a temporary closure. They have substantial social and 'belonging' outcomes as well as skills.... so the impact could be that the confidence, resilience and sense of belonging they've achieved over years with us, having not had it elsewhere, could potentially unravel, and will take time to rebuild later on. We believe we've got sufficient organisational infrastructure to bounce back when the time comes, and we hope for their sake the time comes soon.”

“Absolutely devastating. All of our kids absolutely love circus, it is often their favourite thing to do.”

“No physical activity unless their parents teach them or they can go to the park. No social activities unless they have internet. Boredom of not going to school.”

“Huge impact on fitness, social and mental wellbeing. For some it's the only positive interaction they have all week – they struggle with school or home issues. Some are keen to pursue circus as a career. We have many taking Duke of Edinburgh awards. We have regular young volunteers, learning to be assistants. We teach mainly aerial classes so impossible to do this via internet classes, although we have set up an online group to keep connected.”

“No exercise. No social interactions. Missing their circus friends and networks. No personal development.”



# Going Forward

---

## Long-Term Impact

What long-term impact, financial or otherwise, do you expect this situation to have on your youth circus?

“Drop in numbers, and potential difficulty retaining staff.”

“It might be hard to get going again: there might be fear. Freelancers might go elsewhere for work. We were just about to take on a new space for all aerial activities: this is a complicated situation, which is very dependent on partnerships with local organisations, the town council, and on successful funding applications. Whether this will proceed in the same way later in the year we really don't know.”

“Cash flow is critical to our survival - depends on how government support pans out. If we survive we will change how we work and our social role will be more important.”

“We will lose a few students that need structure as parents are likely to not want to add distress with another change back to their normal time tables. Even though we are told that they know their children enjoy class once they are there, it's too upsetting to get them out of the home to attend sessions.”

“Loss of members as well as regular staff who may have to go elsewhere for work.”

“Our Youth Circus is one of the main sources of regular income that keep other aspects of our company going. Revenue from these classes pay a great deal towards salaries for core staff (non freelance/zero hour contracted staff) who are currently still being paid without income from their departments to support the financial burden on the company. It also contributes towards things such as rent, bills, and building maintenance, all of which will still need to be paid regardless of classes not running. The current concern for us is that without the revenue created by our Youth Circus classes to help support the rest



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

of the company, we run the risk of not having a company to come back to when the crisis is over."

"Possibility of bankruptcy."

"We just don't know right now - even if we have the funds to start again, i.e. pay out for our venue hires etc., many of the parents will have lost their jobs / incomes and they may not be able to afford to attend."

"There will be a break in the young people's training, which is a shame, but can't be helped. We'd hope to have our classes start back up in September as usual. We worry that it will be difficult to fundraise for the classes. We've already had one funder come back to us to let us know that they're holding back on accepting applications, as they need to focus on what organisations will need because of COVID-19. But other than that, we feel relatively able to weather this."

"Our numbers will drop. We won't apply for further grants for development. Our reputation and ability will lose impetus."

"Critical. We may close as an organisation, meaning that our activities will cease and circus teachers and artists lose their work and income."

"We will lose our summer bookings and festival outreach work. But we hope to retain our regular students."

"We are fortunate not to own a building and only have one freelance member of staff, therefore we are considering this a hibernation period. If it goes on for too long, then we may struggle to get people back to the classes as they seek entertainment and solace elsewhere. Financially, the freelancer will have to seek work elsewhere. As the youth circus is just part of the work we offer, the same applies to the whole business which does engage other freelancers. The impact there will be much more significant."

"We don't know."

"Dire."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"It will make it difficult for our circus to make a profit this year. We will struggle to stay open if we do not recover with workshops and sessions when we are able to re-open. We are also concerned that many regular attendees may not return. However, we are looking at ways to work online and this may be something that we continue even when we re-open. Our future is currently uncertain."

"I am concerned children will not be coming back before September because their parents will not be able to afford classes for a while."

"Financial: obviously we hope we can keep the space we are renting, we will not have money to offer any extra training and buy new equipment, but we also worry about who will be able to come back due to their family situation. Lots of worries as nobody knows when all this will end."

"Instructors can't work, so they may find work elsewhere and not be able to teach again. Instructors can't keep up their skills as can't train (we are mainly an aerial school). No income at all (we are 100% self funded, no funding or grants support). Mental ill health as people can't do what they love. Physically unhealthy students lacking motivation to train at home. General momentum, development and zest for life lost when we are not able to bring people together - which is what circus excels at normally."

"Having such a long break will be challenging financially. The schools will most likely be on summer holiday after this is all over, which will impact further on us as we do a list of workshops in schools which won't be able to happen. We had just started planning our community youth circus show – this will have to start all over again, which means creating more print as all the details will be different."

"Definitely has the possibility of bankruptcy and the business and space not surviving. Possibly tutors and staff may no longer be available if they need to find other work. Participant base may die down if people are not engaged with the circus. People may not be able to afford classes if their incomes are also hit by this crisis."

"Don't know; we have to negotiate with our funders."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"Possible cessation of club for children if interest is lost, as well as not keeping them fit and healthy."

"Devastating. We would have made the first small profit this term, which we were going to use to: replace the mats, consider looking for our own premises, pay staff properly and employ an administrator for the first time. Now we will go into the next term in debt."

"A reduction in class numbers on return. Mental and physical health issues with youth members due to a drastic change in their routine."

"We are relatively robust, partly due to the way we work as a charity; we're *\*mostly\** an inclusion project - grant funded and free at the point of use - and *\*partly\** derive an income from external workshops. We don't charge for our internal workshops. Although under normal circumstances this makes us more vulnerable ('overly dependent on grant funding'), ironically, at the moment it appears that our grant funding might be that which sustains us in what might be a fairly lean period. Still, we don't really know. We don't want to think about it too much - and we very much hope we're eligible for the government support. It could make all the difference, as about a third of our income depends on the paid work – which has of course dried up completely. Longer term we hope that the young people who've been a part of us will still engage and that they will grow together again and be strengthened by the time apart - augmented, we hope, by our connecting with them online. We also might lose freelancers to other work, which would be a tragedy. They are so talented and make such a positive difference to our young people."

"I honestly don't know whether our circus school will survive this crisis without any support from the government."

"Will not work until.....who know when. Company will not trade for at least 2 months, looks like summer term will also be cancelled, possibly be able to do some work in the summer holidays but not banking on it. So really hoping that we can start up again for the autumn term."



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"We may not have experienced tutors available to work on our return as the government are not supporting self employed artists/tutors. They have also lost all performing income so are facing real hardship."

"My school will lose its premises and I'll have no collateral to put down on a new premises resulting in no circus school."

"I think this will make us change direction or change the way we run and engage with people. Questions of sustainability before Covid-19 were presented and this seems to have forced our hands."



## Support Needed

What support do you require, from central government or elsewhere, if your organisation is to continue as usual once this crisis is over?

“Support for self employed workers to receive an income. Grants towards core running costs.”

“For the youth circus we would require some funding input in order to secure new premises and for a temporary part time management post to re-invigorate.”

“Support for self employed teachers. Small business grant to apply to charities. Swift payment for furloughed staff, who should be able to volunteer. Business interruption insurance to actually pay out.”

“A salary to pay my regular staff member would be great. Also a salary to pay myself for the work missed. This amounts to £200 a week for the youth circus work.”

“80% of salaries - the 80% of salaries paid by the government would go to supporting the core staff of the youth circus who manage, coordinate, and run the department. The Arts Council has offered £90 Million for NPO's. Circomedia hopes to be included in this as to ensure that the rest of the company is supported while many of our regular financial revenues are shut down.”

“Rent holiday on all studios.”

“Grants on the same basis as rateable business.”

“We may need some additional funds. We also are relying on our Arts Council England and local authority funding to continue - of course if either organisation finds they need to repurpose their funding that will have an effect on us.”

“Re-start up grants.”



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"Wage subsidy, freelancers benefits for a basic income, core funding to help build resilience and support staff, investment in circus arts to rebuild."

"We need grants to pay our outgoings while we have no means of making an income."

"Support the freelance workers in terms of a minimum financial support that would help keep them afloat."

"Better financial support for self-employed staff. All of us have built our lives & household expenditure around realistic expectations of regular income and long-term projects. We knew that our situation is precarious, and in normal circumstances we all take measures to mitigate that - suddenly being told that our best hope is to apply for Universal Credit/SSP when many of us have partners working in the same sector will result in extreme household poverty for all of us."

"Who knows. Depends what the country looks like when it is over."

"We need support to pay our employed staff during our closure and would like to also be able to support our self-employed staff where possible."

"£200 a week."

"I need financial help to get back to normal and keep my rented premises."

"Help with core costs, help with payment for freelance instructors, help with grants so that we can offer places for people who are financially struggling."

"Financial support. A better network in the midlands of circus companies: being able to support each other and be friendly to each other would be helpful in this period of uncertainty."

"Financial support to pay overheads for the place to survive. Government encouragement of the suspension of rent. Ways for tutors



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

and key staff to survive whilst not working. Funding for expertise and support to start up online classes.”

“We need our overheads paid and we need financial relief for the self employed staff.”

“We require our funders to accept that we can deliver very little and they should suspend the requirements of the funding but let us keep the money and spend it as we see fit.”

“To get the authorities on the Isle of Wight to recognize me to help children get fit, supple and healthy and stay that way, as most children do not know what a circus is.”

“Support to pay the staff while the venues are all closed. All staff are freelancers, and we don't have our own premises, so we are not eligible for any of the assistance the government has offered. Small (very small) business support for companies not eligible for current government assistance. This could be help paying our staff or funding to pay the regular bills such as website maintenance, insurance, advertising. A one-off payment would help.”

“Financial support to keep 2x core staff working on admin and accounts.”

“We might well need to 'ask again'; if the three months that's promised isn't all there is, then the 80% salary funding is just temporary. It's already looking possible that in Wales charities would have access to gentle, easily accessible emergency loans (or maybe even grants) and we would hope to be in a good position to apply for such support.”

“Financial support.”

“The company has some reserves to pay outgoings on van and storage for at least 6 months. We rent a space for the workshops so no workshop = no rent. The biggest problem is the freelancers, no work from us or any other youth circus means that they have no money to live; some may be forced to leave the UK, others to leave London. Not sure whether if and when we can open again that we will have the



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

same staff to work with us. So some sort of payment to the freelancers, or help with their rent.”

“Support our freelance tutors with the same benefits as employees.”

“Bigger support package for small businesses.”

“I’m worried about if our team will still be around after this crisis. We can’t afford to pay them right now.”

## How can we (CircusWorks) best support you during this time?

“Sharing information and training tips and shows, that we can share with the community online.”

“Not sure. Speak up for youth circuses.”

“Circulate links to creative/learning opportunities for young people that youth circuses are generating. Share any government funding support insights.”

“Find ways we can pay our self-employed for the work they would have been carrying out even though they are unable to.”

“Not sure. It's honestly happened so quickly and I've been ill myself as well as trying to get my head round looking after kids at home! Sorry to not be more help!”

“Any information regarding help and support for zero hour contract staff/freelancers, so that we can continue to support our teaching team and offer help and guidance through this difficult and uncertain time.”



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"Signpost us to any financial support that may be available to support us now, or to deliver new creative projects to engage young people throughout this crisis. As well as support available to help us open up again in the future."

"Sharing information is always useful - if only to know that it's not just us going through this. It would be great to have a way to lobby with one united voice."

"Keep updating us with new information."

"You're doing an amazing job already."

"You're doing a grand job keeping us all connected. Thank you. Lobby for support of freelancers as well as workers/employed. Lobby for rent/rate freezes or balanced approach to catch-up payments for those who own/rent their properties. Signpost to online courses that might help us manage ourselves, staff and clients through the crisis. Stay safe!"

"I think a measured response is important. What seemed important last week is already irrelevant."

"Having information on where help is available would be beneficial and also having information we can send across to our self-employed staff to help support them. It would also be nice to be able to speak with the whole circus community to see what others are doing in this time."

"Put pressure on the government to treat self-employed people like human beings."

"Resources that we can pass onto students to keep them motivated at home. Challenges etc."

"Keep us informed if you have information on financial support available to us. Keep us informed of any online circus content shows/ workshops/ advice for us as an organisation but also things we could send out to our youth circus in email to keep them engaged in circus and in the loop. We'd like to know about any youth circus conferences



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

that might be happening once this is all over as we would love to bring our youth circus to experience more circus from around the world.”

“Sharing experiences between organisations, including ideas and ways of coping and staying connected to our communities and participants. Lobbying government and other key bodies for support.”

“Lobby on our behalf to funders to leave us providers alone to get on with the job.”

“Please could you tell the authorities how good circus is for children's wellbeing from 2 year olds upwards.”

“Lobby government for us. Keep us informed of funding we may be eligible for.”

“Keep us updated on progress, funding and grants.”

“Collate everyone's answers and represent us! THANK YOU!”

“Give us advice on how to access financial support.”

“Help support the freelancers so that they get sick pay, rent help, and wages from government like full-time employees are getting.”

“Information about financial help, and good online content to share with our students.”

“Keep the useful blogs coming.”

“Give us links to where to get money from to help carry us through.”



## Creative Alternatives

What are you doing in the meantime? Are you considering any creative alternatives for keeping going or engaging young people during this time (for example developing content or online activity)?

"We are considering this, however it is difficult when equipment is involved. We have lent equipment out to members who wish to practice at home."

"We are developing online activity and content through the one part of the youth circus which has funding, but whether we can generate enough is unknown."

"Still figuring out how to survive, though we do maintain troupe company weekly online sessions. We are considering online activities and taking activities into key worker schools."

"We are working to create more efficient booking systems, but we also had plans to add additional classes after Easter holiday that will have to go on hold."

"Planning on starting online courses when I feel better."

"We have already launched our 'Youth Circus: Home Edition'. These are online video tutorials, activities, and games that students can do from the safety of their own home. We are releasing several videos a week that cover a wide range ages and of varying levels of difficulty. It will also features tutorials on how to make equipment. These videos are free to all. For quality and safeguarding concerns we currently have no plans to run online 'in real time' classes. However as well as these tutorials we are looking at collaborative projects that could see students still try to make a performance by sending us their footage which we will edit into a show."

"Looking into online classes - though these are currently not for profit with all proceeds going to our freelance trainers."

"YouTube videos of exercises and activities which do not rely on equipment. We are experimenting with free online classes. We are



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

trying to get learn to juggle kits and circus at home kits - i.e. sets of juggling balls, rings, flowersticks and diabolos - together but need financial support to get these to people as they will not be able to afford the kit."

"We intend to run a class tomorrow and next Tuesday over YouTube live. We're sharing activities on our website and we'll be sending out regular emails with ideas for activities to do."

"I'm having problems engaging my youth in online activity by making it ourselves. I do not have more free time so making online classes is a big ask. I am still wading through the extra paper work this has caused. Some people are saying I should do online stuff and charge or ask for a donation. Other folk are doing them for free, scorning those who charge. But they are undercutting those who need to charge. Most of my students are too young to have accounts on social media. I can see that it could keep the energy flowing in my community (of parents), which could avoid drop off, so we will probably start sharing posts from other people."

"Online activity, developing our online content."

"We are creating online content and have future plans to celebrate once we are allowed."

"I have personally felt overwhelmed with the offers online and don't feel I can compete, so I'm thinking it's better to signpost to the content others are offering. It just feels like a stampede that I can't be a part of. I have distributed circus toys to those who wanted them so they can continue practising. I hope to set up a virtual meet up for the youth circus when I get my head around how to do that safely. I'm taking time to practise stuff I never do myself setting myself challenges that allow me to be a little selfish. I've offered to volunteer in my local neighbourhood."

"We're already delivering small items of equipment to members' households, and are planning to roll out a project where households can order 'make your own' packs (at cost price), for circus equipment and small-scale outdoor art installations. Our town was recently



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

flooded, so we're hoping to make the artwork/installation aspect of this appropriate to our situation."

"Considering a variety of options but it's hard to plan far while the goalposts change."

"Yes we are looking at setting up live online classes during this time. We are also looking at ways people can help support the business through merchandise etc."

"No! Already over done."

"Yes; thinking about online engagement and competitions and fun things to share, to keep the group going and giving them assurance we can get through this together, and to support their personal training at home."

"Currently developing videos and a home learning pack for a home school circus project."

"We are doing some ground based online content."

"Definitely looking to develop online content, but we could do with some expertise..."

"We are looking at work with small groups, outdoors."

"One of the participants has set up a WhatsApp group so the group can keep in touch and maybe do online conditioning classes."

"Creating online videos for students to continue conditioning and flexibility training. Setting conditioning goals that they have to achieve before we come back. Possibly make more merchandise to create a small income and interest and ownership of the school."

"Haven't had time to think or plan anything yet."

"Absolutely. We have had online staff meetings and have been circulating information and ideas as well as 2 staff undergoing online digital safeguarding training, and we've got a plan together to 'meet'



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

our young people safely online this week. Video content has been created but not yet edited or published.”

“Yes we will try to develop online activity, but since the company is run by me alone and all my staff are self-employed and unable to be paid by me, there is only me. It will take me 3 months of admin just to close down the school for this crisis, so how I will find the time to organise online sessions, especially when we are predominantly an aerial school, I am not sure.”

“Will be living off savings and wife's small income (but also not sure how long she will be working). Am hoping that some schools and disability organisations can employ us to deliver workshops once quarantine and social distancing are relaxed. Will be reading and working on my health, possibly trying to do repairing work on equipment. Sending ideas on circus at home to participants so that they can do something that's not schoolwork.”

“We are looking at developing online classes, in strength and flexibility, but it's not really possible for aerial, which is our main activity. We have a private Facebook group for all our students and are sharing training videos, ideas etc.”

“Live social media activities for or circus families at home in isolation.”

“We've created online livestream classes, but we are in the process of looking at our bigger message and using this as an opportunity to understand what bigger social impact we can have.”



## Final Comments

### Do you have any further comments?

"Thank you for taking the time to support the sector."

"Thanks for doing this."

"It is my personal belief that some of the highest quality art, theatre, dance, and literature has come out of some of the darkest times of human history. I think that the children especially who are dealing with this crisis will need a creative outlet to be able to process what they've lived through. It is imperative that organisations and companies in the arts are protected during this time, to ensure that we are there to help them on the other side of this."

"It is true that with regular funding we are one of the lucky ones. The situation that freelancers and unfunded organisations find themselves in is so much more difficult, so if there's anything we can do to help, we'd be very happy to."

"We are so lucky to not be in debt or have loans, rent or a mortgage, otherwise the company and charity would fold."

"Our figures are estimates. Thank you for everything."

"Thank you for taking the time to continue supporting us. It's a hard time for you guys too, so don't be shy to ask for help as well."

"Not at this time, but we will let you know when our 'Make Your Own' activity is running, so that you can share the template with others."

"SOS"

"Stay safe and try keep positive."

"Big love to all the schools out there!"



## Impact Survey Report 1: Supplement

"Hope you are all ok and keeping safe in this uncertain and overwhelming time. We look forward to being able to get together again soon."

"Lets keep connected and try to support each other through this..."

"Thanks!"

"We have always been a struggling unfunded circus school, yet we managed to create a thriving youth circus which benefits so many children. This crisis is absolutely devastating in every way. There never seems to be any money or support for circus as it is, and now it seems almost impossible."

"The whole thing is f\*\*\*ing crazy, no one really know what's going to happen so everyone is making it up as they go along. You can't really plan anything right now. So all I have planned is to sit tight, help others where I can and hope that the team and company make through to who knows when."

"Thank you all for your hard work!!"