



# WINNERS STORIES



EPIC. | AWARDS

EPIC YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR  
AWARDS 2025

# EPIC FUTURE: OUR STORY

EPIC.

EPIC was conceived in 2018 and borne out of a passion and desire to empower entrepreneurial young people to realise their business dreams. Our purpose has been to close the gap that can exist for some young people due to adverse life factors and provide them with real, meaningful opportunities and the chance to fulfil their potential.

Founded as part of the Martin James Foundation and its global network of charitable organisations, the wider team already had a long and successful history of creating inclusive communities by improving outcomes for young people and families globally.

This experience, coupled with the desire to empower disadvantaged young people utilising the business startup expertise of its founders, Ayyab and Jim Cockburn, informed the early focus of EPIC to do something locally and give back to the community in the West Midlands before expanding nationally.

EPIC initiated via a partnership with the Birmingham Care Leavers Association as a place to refer young people who had a dream and the will to set up their own businesses. Funding was raised from corporate sponsors and events, mentors were identified from leaders within

the Martin James Network, and services were allocated from the Network's businesses as part of their CSR strategies.

This approach enabled the team to provide young people with the incubation support they needed, from legal advice to branding and budgeting. In addition, many more young people were empowered with small living expense grants during the COVID-19 pandemic and to create educational content through a partnership with BeatFreaks.

With a passion for continually enhancing the programme, in early 2022, the team developed the Young Business programme. Since then, the team has helped more than 100 young people to develop the skills and confidence to launch their business ideas.

The Young Business Programme provides three core aspects of support: 5 core skills masterclasses, which equip young people with the knowledge and information to be able to nurture and sustain their businesses; mentoring from a specialist who has experience and connections of working in a sector aligned with their business venture; and funding to help with initial start-up essentials.



More than 230 young entrepreneurs have received support from the Young Business Programme since its launch in 2019. In 2023, we grew our core staff team to include a Corporate Partnerships Lead and Programme Coordinator; these roles have allowed EPIC to increase our programming capacity, extend our external specialist mentor cohort to double digits and increase our connectedness to referral partners including local authorities, third sector youth service organisations, schools, universities and community centres.

As part of EPIC's evolution in 2024 the organisation moved to independence by securing Community Interest Company status as 'EPIC Entrepreneurs C.I.C.'

Whilst still receiving support from the Martin James Foundation and its connected organisations, this transition has allowed EPIC to become more dynamic in our partnerships, advocacy and especially when seeking funding.

Alongside a renewed focus on developing key corporate sponsor relationships, acknowledging our current corporate sponsor Arconic Foundation who has entered their fourth year of support (thank you!), in 2025 EPIC has expanded our support with the launch of the EPIC app, Alumni Advanced Classes and community workshops with new partners including new funded areas of Coventry, Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire.

## A MESSAGE FROM EPIC'S FOUNDERS

"As we reflect upon another year of growth and inspiration, it becomes clear how the ripples of passion and ambition can transform entire communities. Through our work with the Martin James Foundation, we have consistently recognised the immeasurable power of nurturing and solid support structures in shaping the lives of young people.

We have experienced how the journey from a dream to realisation is filled with challenges and triumphs. Some young individuals face daunting obstacles, which only makes their successes remarkable. This ceremony celebrates your journeys - from the beginning to the middle and all that lies ahead.

We are genuinely thrilled to see the growth of EPIC over the last few years. It has been nothing short of inspiring. Not only have we witnessed an incredible display of entrepreneurial spirit and resilience from the young entrepreneurs, but we've also seen the tenacity of those who support EPIC, such as our partners, including the Arconic Foundation, many sponsors here this evening and volunteer mentors, and the dedicated team, including Calum, Marc, Hannah, Robert and Lisa.

EPIC's growth from Birmingham to other parts of the UK, and becoming an independent CIC is a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting young people's dreams. We are filled with hope and excitement about the future as we look ahead and are more committed than ever to our vision that every young person, irrespective of their background, should have the opportunity to embrace entrepreneurship, and we are here to build the bridges that make this possible.

As we move forward, know that every achievement celebrated today is just the beginning. Together, we're shaping a brighter, EPIC future."

Ayyab & Jim // Founders of EPIC

## DRINKS SPONSOR



At Bray Wealth Management, we've been helping individuals and families shape their financial futures since 1984. Based in Chobham, Surrey, we are proud of our heritage of trust, expertise, and personal service.

Our approach goes beyond investments and we work closely with our clients to create tailored financial plans that reflect their goals, values, and aspirations. Whether it's building and protecting wealth, preparing for retirement, or planning for the next generation, we are committed to delivering clarity and confidence at every stage of life.

As drinks sponsor of the Epic Young Entrepreneur Awards 2025, we are delighted to celebrate the ambition, creativity, and resilience of the next generation of business leaders. Entrepreneurship is about vision, courage, and perseverance that are qualities that inspire us in our own work and that we are proud to support through this event.

# HEADLINE SPONSOR



**At AKG Media, we are your growth partner as well as your marketing agency. We specialise in scaling AI and tech-driven brands through strategic, data-backed influencer marketing and digital storytelling. We guarantee CPMs and measurable ROI for our clients, which means they can scale with confidence.**



Founded by Aryan Gulzar, AKG Media integrates cutting-edge technology with innovative marketing strategies, helping brands not only reach modern audiences, but truly resonate with them.

With over 75 campaigns completed, over 2,000 influencers engaged, 150 million+ followers reached and nearly 950 million views generated, we've become a leading partner for scaling AI and tech brands worldwide.

Aryan's personal journey as the founder of AKG Media began when he was just 19 and launched into entrepreneurship during university. Being part of the EPIC Entrepreneurs Programme gave him early momentum and access to the network, guidance and belief I needed to turn a maintenance-loan-funded idea into a real business.

Being the headline sponsor of the EPIC Awards is a milestone for Aryan, AKG Media and also EPIC. It's a momentous milestone for all: Aryan went from EPIC entrepreneur, to alumni and now to sponsor, proving the programme's impact and showing that real growth is possible.

AKG Media's sponsorship gives back to the programme that helped shape their growth, aligning our business purpose with supporting up-and-coming entrepreneurs in the tech space.

By joining the Awards as Headline Sponsor, we're saying to every finalist, "We've been where you are, and now we're backing you." And for AKG Media; it's about reinforcing a community of entrepreneurs, catalysing growth and enabling the next generation of founders to scale faster, smarter and with confidence.

Learn more:

[www.akgmedia.co.uk](http://www.akgmedia.co.uk)



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

This category recognises young entrepreneurs who are committed to improving the physical and/or mental health and wellbeing of their community through their business enterprise.

SPONSORED BY

**Arundell**  
People Services

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Arundell People Services is a specialist HR consultancy helping organisations, from SMEs and local authorities to large corporations and charities, turn their workforce into a strategic asset. Our reputation is built on two pillars: proactive people strategy and expert risk mitigation.

Our core services include:

- Niche Investigatory Work: impartial, complex and high-risk workplace investigations in sensitive environments.
- Executive Coaching & Transformation: guidance on organisational design, change and people strategy.
- Culture & Performance: programmes that drive engagement, wellbeing and high-performing teams.
- Mediation & Dispute Resolution: resolution of workplace conflict at all levels, including board and inter-organisational disputes.

We provide bespoke, high-stakes HR support so leaders can focus on innovation while we manage complexity and risk.

Sponsoring the EPIC Awards reflects our belief that investing in people fuels economic growth and social progress. We are proud to support the next generation of innovators and business leaders, and to celebrate the ambition and resilience shown by this year's nominees.

AWARDED TO

## RISING ATHLETES



## THE WINNER'S STORY

Raised in Brazil in a family with very little and later starting again from scratch in the UK, Daniel Damasceno De Faria, the founder of Rising Athletes is the first in his family to go to university. With no inherited roadmap and no one at home able to guide him through education or career decisions, his journey has been built on resilience, self-reliance and the determination to turn disadvantage into drive. That experience is the foundation of Rising Athletes: a venture created to ensure that young footballers from disadvantaged backgrounds do not have to navigate opportunity alone.

A key milestone was winning the Ingenuity Competition, securing early funding and national recognition. Since then, Rising Athletes has delivered holiday camps and coaching sessions that provide safe,

structured environments for children to train, build confidence and access mentorship, while also creating paid opportunities for local coaches and partnerships with grassroots clubs.

The future vision is twofold: expand in-person programmes across communities, and launch a digital platform offering guidance on training, nutrition and injury prevention for athletes and carers nationwide. Long-term, Rising Athletes aims to become a trusted hub that levels the playing field in football, giving every child the chance to thrive regardless of circumstance.



# INCLUSION CHAMPION

This category recognises young entrepreneurs who have trailblazed awareness of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues and provided methods to enhance individual, community and organisational inclusivity.

SPONSORED BY



## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

The Martin James Foundation (MJF) is a global network of organisations working to ensure that children grow up in safe, loving families, not in institutions. Through its affiliated agencies and partnerships around the world, MJF delivers family-based care, strengthens local services, and drives reform of child-care systems at policy level.

Its approach centres on three pillars:

- Deliver practical foster care and family-strengthening services
- Empower local partners with funding, training and technical support
- Influence systemic change so that family-based care becomes the norm.

The Foundation acts on the belief that children thrive when they are connected to families, communities and culture, and that alternative care should always be a pathway back to permanent family life wherever possible.

By investing in people, practice and policy, MJF is building a future in which no child grows up alone, and where countries are equipped to care for children in the safest, most humane and sustainable way.

## AWARDED TO KJ'S CRAFT TIME



## THE WINNER'S STORY

Launching and running a business as a teenager is already a demanding pursuit, doing so while living with Dystonia, a neurological condition that affects mobility and causes involuntary muscle movements, raises the challenge to another level. There have been days when even packing orders or preparing for events has been physically difficult, yet Khamani has remained committed to building a business with purpose: to prove that disadvantage does not limit ambition. Alongside entrepreneurship, he continues to balance college studies, developing resilience and discipline beyond his years.

A key breakthrough came with the first micro-grant, which enabled KJ's Craft Time to grow from a passion project into a business with social impact.

It funded the launch of the SEN Range, adaptive craft tools designed for children with additional needs, which has since become central to the brand. Delivering a first bulk order to a school marked another milestone, showing the product's value in educational settings. Parent feedback has been powerful: reduced screen time, hours of engagement, and in the case of the SEN tools, improved confidence and fine-motor control.

Looking ahead, Khamani plans to scale KJ's Craft Time through school partnerships, curriculum-linked packs, a subscription model and digital platforms such as TikTok Shop. He also intends to use his voice to inspire other young people facing adversity, proving that challenges can fuel innovation rather than restrict it.



# CHAMPION OF CHANGE

Honouring businesses that actively advance social and environmental progress through innovative strategies and recognising entrepreneurs who demonstrate exemplary governance and commitment to ethical business practices.

SPONSORED BY  
**FELDELUXE**

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

At Feldeluxe, we believe every business deserves the clarity to grow and the freedom to focus on why they began.

For start-ups, we remove uncertainty by guiding founders through the essential first steps, from compliance to company structure, ensuring solid foundations so you can move forward with confidence.

For growing organisations, we support operational delivery, efficiency, culture and long-term growth. Whether streamlining admin, building scalable processes or managing complex projects, we don't just fix today, we design for tomorrow.

Our approach combines structure with innovation. We ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and bring practical solutions that open new opportunities. The businesses we work with gain more than systems, they gain back time, capacity, and grow.

Feldeluxe is more than a service provider. We're a partner that stands alongside entrepreneurs and business leaders, helping them build something lasting. From family-run startups to ambitious enterprises, our mission is simple: to make business smoother, stronger, and built to last.

AWARDED TO  
**BUTTERFLY HOPE**



## THE WINNER'S STORY

Grace Thompson runs Butterfly Hope as an Inclusive Facilitator, Consultant and Artist while living with high and complex support needs. She relies on AAC, BSL and paid support staff to communicate and participate, and requires substantial assistance with daily life. Despite facing inaccessible venues, systems not designed for disabled professionals, and frequent underestimation, Grace has built a practice that turns lived barriers into sector-ready inclusion solutions. Accessibility is not an add-on in Butterfly Hope, it is the core method.

Her milestones include national and international presentations influencing autism care and disability policy; an inclusive dance film with the National Youth Ballet; and consultancy, workshops and training with major partners including Chichester Festival Theatre and Birmingham Royal Ballet.

She has also developed an equine-assisted learning strand supporting disabled and neurodivergent participants, and consistently demonstrates that high-quality creative work and high support needs are not mutually exclusive.

Looking ahead, Butterfly Hope will scale consultancy for arts, education and faith settings; expand multisensory and inclusive choreography projects; and grow equine-assisted learning. Grace's long-term vision is to establish an inclusive ballet company with accessible training pathways, paid roles for disabled artists, and advocacy embedded as core practice, proving that radical access and artistic excellence strengthen each other.



# RETAIL GAMECHANGER

Recognising businesses that successfully adapt to evolving market trends and consumer behaviours, and celebrating leverage of digital platforms to deliver exceptional online retail experiences.



SPONSORED BY

FOUNDERS FACULTY

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Founders Faculty is a private members' community that connects visionary founders with experienced angel investors through intimate, curated networking events. Angels meet to share knowledge, exchange deal flow and discover high-potential ventures directly from selected founders pitching in the room.

For founders, Founders Faculty offers rare access to angels who are actively looking to back the next generation of breakthrough businesses, but with a partnership mindset, not just a cheque. Fit matters more than volume; for some, we are the perfect strategic partner, for others we won't be, and that clarity is part of the value.

What sets Founders Faculty apart is who the angels are: they are former founders who have built, scaled and exited multi-million-pound companies themselves. Their support goes far beyond capital, they offer lived experience, judgement born from execution, and hands-on involvement to increase the odds of success.

Unlike traditional PE or VC firms, we don't spread investments thin. We back a select few exceptional founders with full commitment, founder-first, high-touch and deeply aligned. At Founders Faculty, it's not just investment, it's partnership with people who have stood where you stand.

AWARDED TO

# FACEFLAVOUR LTD



## THE WINNER'S STORY

Monet founded Faceflavour to bring culturally diverse, high-quality catering into spaces where representation is often missing, particularly universities, charities and corporate environments. Building the business while studying full-time and working on placements, she has navigated entrepreneurship as a young Black woman in a largely under-represented industry, and has learned to work with ADHD by building systems that turn challenge into creative advantage. With limited initial resources, she proactively created opportunities through pitching, partnerships and persistence.

Key milestones include entering and winning pitching competitions, most notably becoming a finalist and later winner at the 20/20 Levels pitch night, which strengthened her confidence and validated the business.

Faceflavour has since become the exclusive catering partner for the charity Belevé and has delivered events at UCL, bringing authentic, culturally rooted food to students and staff. These achievements demonstrate both commercial traction and community impact.

Looking ahead, Faceflavour plans to expand into large-scale corporate catering, positioning itself as the go-to provider for inclusive food at workplace events and conferences. Monet will also build the brand's digital presence and pursue strategic collaborations, with the long-term ambition of making Faceflavour a recognised leader in culturally celebratory catering across the UK.



# PRACTICAL PRODIGY

This category recognises young entrepreneurs who have exemplified true hands on skill, providing practical solutions using a specific and developed skillset. This could be working in a creative or construction trade, as a craftsperson or anything else which requires a physical application of their individual skills.

SPONSORED BY



## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

I run a tour company specialising in immersive Peaky Blinder-themed tours in Birmingham and Tudor-themed tours in Warwick. Our tours offer an in-depth look at historical and cultural landmarks while delving into the stories of notorious figures. Whether for tourists or corporate events, we provide a wide selection, including bespoke experiences for special occasions and team-building events. Our unique tours, led by in-character guides, explore hidden corners of these cities, offering something new with each visit. After 2 ½ years of operation, I've enjoyed watching the company thrive and develop a dedicated following.

I am eager to support the EPIC Future program because I believe in its mission to empower young entrepreneurs. Having built my own business from the ground up, I understand the challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurship. As a proud EPIC alumni, I appreciate the importance of having early access to mentorship, resources, and guidance. By supporting EPIC, I hope to generate future development in Birmingham and help foster a growing support network of like-minded young business owners like myself.

I have chosen to support Practical Prodigy because I feel it is essential to support young entrepreneurs and award them for taking their skills into the real world. To be an entrepreneur, you must have the courage and persistence to take action. Recognising practical skills allows us to see the continued growth of our epic members and measure their tangible progress.

AWARDED TO

## KNOCKOUTSOUND



## THE WINNER'S STORY

Breaking into film and TV sound from Birmingham, far from the industry hubs, required resilience and self-direction. Although trained in sound engineering, Mihai self-taught location sound and audio post for film, building KnockoutSound without shortcuts or inherited networks. To fund equipment and early growth, he worked blue-collar and hospitality jobs, reinvesting every penny. After two failed studio attempts and early team drop-outs, Mihai and his team have now secured a studio space they are proud of, a milestone achieved through persistence rather than luck.

KnockoutSound now delivers both production and post-production audio.

The team has recorded sound for feature films and series on major platforms such as Amazon and Netflix, and has provided full sound production for a short film that won Best Drama at the Berlin Short Film Festival. They also handled audio post for a short film nominated at the Cannes Short Film Festival, a major achievement for a young team outside London.

Looking ahead, Mihai aims to make KnockoutSound the leading powerhouse for film sound in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands, proving that world-class audio can be produced outside the capital. Plans include investment to expand equipment and grow the studio into a regional creative hub for filmmakers.



# VISIONARY INNOVATOR

Recognising exceptional entrepreneurial ventures that demonstrate bold, creative, and impactful innovation. with groundbreaking products, services, or solutions that push the boundaries of conventional business practices.

SPONSORED BY



## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Ormerod Rutter is a Worcestershire based firm of Chartered Accountants. Established in 1984, we are proud to be one of the region's largest independent accountancy firms. Over four decades of organic growth has seen us establish a significant presence across Worcestershire and the West Midlands, with thriving offices in Droitwich, Bromsgrove, and Birmingham.

We offer a comprehensive range of accountancy, tax, and specialist advisory services tailored to meet the diverse needs of our clients. We are passionate about supporting our community, especially programmes like EPIC.

The range of support through mentoring, masterclasses, and access to funding that is available to young entrepreneurs is incredible. It has been great to see how the EPIC programme has supported so many brilliant young people in realising their potential. We are thrilled to once again sponsor a category at the 2025 EPIC Awards.

The Visionary Innovator award holds special significance for us. Businesses continue to thrive because of their ability to innovate and adapt to the changing needs of their clients, something we understand well from our own 40-year journey.

It is a privilege to support and celebrate the nominees whose drive, leadership, and resilience are catalysts for positive change and innovation. We were so impressed with all the nominees for the Visionary Innovator award and are very much looking forward to presenting the award to the winner on the night.

AWARDED TO

## MYSCIENCELAND



## THE WINNER'S STORY

As a young founder entering EdTech without networks, funding or institutional backing, Pranay built MyScienceLand from the ground up while studying and caring for a family member with Alzheimer's, and while managing ADHD and dyslexia. After poor A-level results forced a foundation year, he rebuilt academically, graduating with a first-class degree in Chemistry and using his dissertation to spark what became MyScienceLand. With no technical team, he taught himself to code and built the first prototype alone, proving the idea before any investor or school would listen.

Today, that prototype has evolved into a pioneering AI assessment platform capable of analysing free-text answers and delivering meaningful feedback aligned to exam specifications, something no existing tools do.

Pranay has secured pilot schools, built a team of ten, and formed collaborations with UCL, the University of Leicester and Royal Holloway, contributing to research and bringing this technology into universities for the first time. The venture has been recognised by UCL's Lab2Launch programme and is now rebranding to Modern Student Learning to scale across subjects.

Looking ahead, the company is securing patents, expanding internationally, launching a tutoring arm integrated with its AI diagnostics, and positioning itself as a global leader redefining how assessment and equity in education are delivered.



# STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY

This category recognises young entrepreneurs overcoming significant adversity or championing a particularly exceptional cause as part of their entrepreneurship. This could be a social enterprise or simply an impressive founding story.

SPONSORED BY



ARCONIC  
FOUNDATION

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

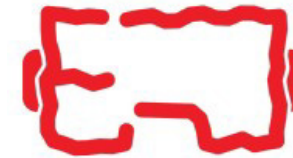
Arconic Foundation collaborates with nonprofit and community organisations to strengthen communities by promoting education, environmental sustainability, and social equity through skill-building learning experiences.

The Foundation, independently endowed, invests in charitable organisations to advance its mission and fortify the communities where Arconic Corporation operates. This effort is amplified by the thousands of Arconic employee volunteers who dedicate their talents and time to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

Through the Arconic Foundation's support, EPIC has successfully engaged with educational faculties and youth centres around Kitts Green and surrounding areas. This funding has been hugely impactful, dramatically increasing EPIC's ability to provide targeted support to young entrepreneurs in East Birmingham, with further impact to be realised in the months and years to come.

The significant and rapid uptick in referrals received into the EPIC programme after each successive awareness event provides clear evidence of the current and ongoing need for support services for young people in this region.

## AWARDED TO MYTHOS



## THE WINNER'S STORY

Elson's entrepreneurial journey has been built in the shadow of significant personal adversity. Living with epilepsy meant seizures frequently disrupted his education and daily life, while instability in family, housing, health and finances created additional barriers. Rather than allow these circumstances to limit his ambition, Elson translated lived struggle into purpose. He founded Mythos, a studio using VR and interactive storytelling to help people understand complex social issues such as racism, sexism and inequality. The resilience required to navigate his own life became the philosophical backbone of the company: using immersion to teach empathy and perspective.

Despite limited resources, Elson formed a team and created The Uncomfortable Safe Space: a prototype VR experience combining research-led content,

live performance and immersive technology to spark authentic conversations about discrimination in the workplace.

The concept has been pitched to universities, accelerators and business leaders, earning recognition for its originality and societal relevance.

Looking ahead, Elson plans to refine the demo, secure paid contracts with universities and employers, and position Mythos as a leading immersive training studio. Longer term, he aims to scale internationally and pursue a Master's in Interactive Storytelling to strengthen the academic and ethical foundations of his work.



# EPIC SPIRIT AWARD

This Judges' Choice category celebrates entrepreneurs whose exceptional passion, resilience, or impact has stood out across any category, embodying the true spirit of entrepreneurship and inspiring others along the way.

This is new award category for 2025, and we are proud that this has been jointly sponsored by five EPIC Alumni and their businesses! Thank you for your support:



Neurodiversity Global is a UK-based, neurodivergent-led consultancy dedicated to transforming workplaces through inclusive practice, real-world training and leadership support.

Their offerings include immersive workshops, neuro-inclusion audits and ally-champion courses, helping organisations embed structural and behavioural change so that neurodivergent talent is seen, valued and supported.



NNT is a UK-based, neurodivergent-led training provider helping organisations build genuinely neuro-inclusive cultures. Through audits, tailored workshops and strategic consultancy, NNT supports leaders, managers and teams to move beyond awareness into practical, measurable change.

Their programmes are grounded in lived experience and current research, enabling workplaces to reduce barriers, improve retention, and create psychologically safe environments where neurodivergent staff can thrive.



OBA ENT Experience offers a cutting-edge online business simulation platform that enables students and job-seekers to explore enterprise, recruitment and professional development through interactive scenarios.

Through gamified modules and real-world case-studies, OBA helps individuals build their CV, LinkedIn profile and business acumen, bridging the gap between education, work and entrepreneurship.



Gumbudii is a Birmingham-based creative agency specialising in short-form video content and social media strategy for brands.

From professional headshots and social ads to TikTok-ready campaigns and storytelling, Gumbudii helps organisations and individuals build compelling online presence, amplify voice and engage audiences in the digital age.



Proud Phoenix Club is a mental-strength movement that uses clothing and community to inspire resilience, belief and courage.

Each piece carries a message of mental health awareness, hope and transformation, reminding individuals that pain is faced without permission, but strength is created with purpose.

## EPIC SPIRIT AWARD GOES TO FELDELUXE

FELDELUXE

### THE WINNER'S STORY

Feldeluxe was born out of necessity. After redundancy and repeated rejections, Feldon chose not to wait for opportunity but to build one. Leaning into his natural strength for structure and administration, he founded Feldeluxe, an organisation that helps businesses start well and operate better. Within two weeks he had secured his first client, and despite constant knock-backs, he persisted. That determination has since led to speaking invitations from universities, contributions to course development, and work with the BIPC in Birmingham to support new founders.

A standout milestone has been helping a client streamline operations to the point of onboarding a contract valued at £800k, a proof point that administrative excellence can drive commercial transformation.

Alongside this, partnering with the BIPC to assist other aspiring entrepreneurs shows Feldon's commitment not just to business success but to ecosystem building.

Looking ahead, Feldeluxe aims to support more entrepreneurs at start-up stage and improve operational systems across both private and public sector organisations. Feldon's mission is clear: to make businesses smoother, stronger and more impactful, proving that what began as a personal survival strategy can grow into a vehicle for wider economic and community benefit.



# ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

This category reflects public recognition of inspirational accomplishments and is determined by a public vote. Polling will be conducted via the EPIC website, with voting on this category to open closer to the Awards date.

We first launched this new award category in 2023, where the winner is selected by a public vote online. It was a huge success and we are excited to bring it back again in 2025. All eligible businesses have been nominated on our website, with active voting right up to the night of the awards.

The winner will be announced on stage at the EPIC Awards, and further information about the winner shall be published on our website and social media channels following the awards ceremony.



## ABOUT EPIC

We believe entrepreneurship can change lives.

EPIC Entrepreneurs was founded in 2022 to give disadvantaged young people the chance to realise their potential.

Through mentorship, training, and funding, we've helped more than 100 young visionaries create successful businesses, and we're just getting started. EPIC Entrepreneurs is open to young people aged 16-25 living in the UK who have faced significant challenges or adversity in their lives.

Whether it's growing up in a care setting, low socio-economic background, managing mental or physical health conditions, or living with a disability, we are here to provide the support you need to turn your business ideas into reality.

If you've faced barriers to starting your journey as an entrepreneur, EPIC is designed to help you overcome them and unlock your potential.

EPIC Entrepreneurs are recruited via an interview panel where they present their business idea and share their aspirations. The entrepreneur then journeys through a structured, 3-month programme to gain the skills and knowledge they need to successfully start a business.



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The EPIC Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2025 have been made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. Their commitment to fostering innovation and championing young entrepreneurial talent has been instrumental in bringing this celebration to life. We deeply appreciate their belief in the next generation of business leaders.





for every

**£1**  
spent  
on EPIC

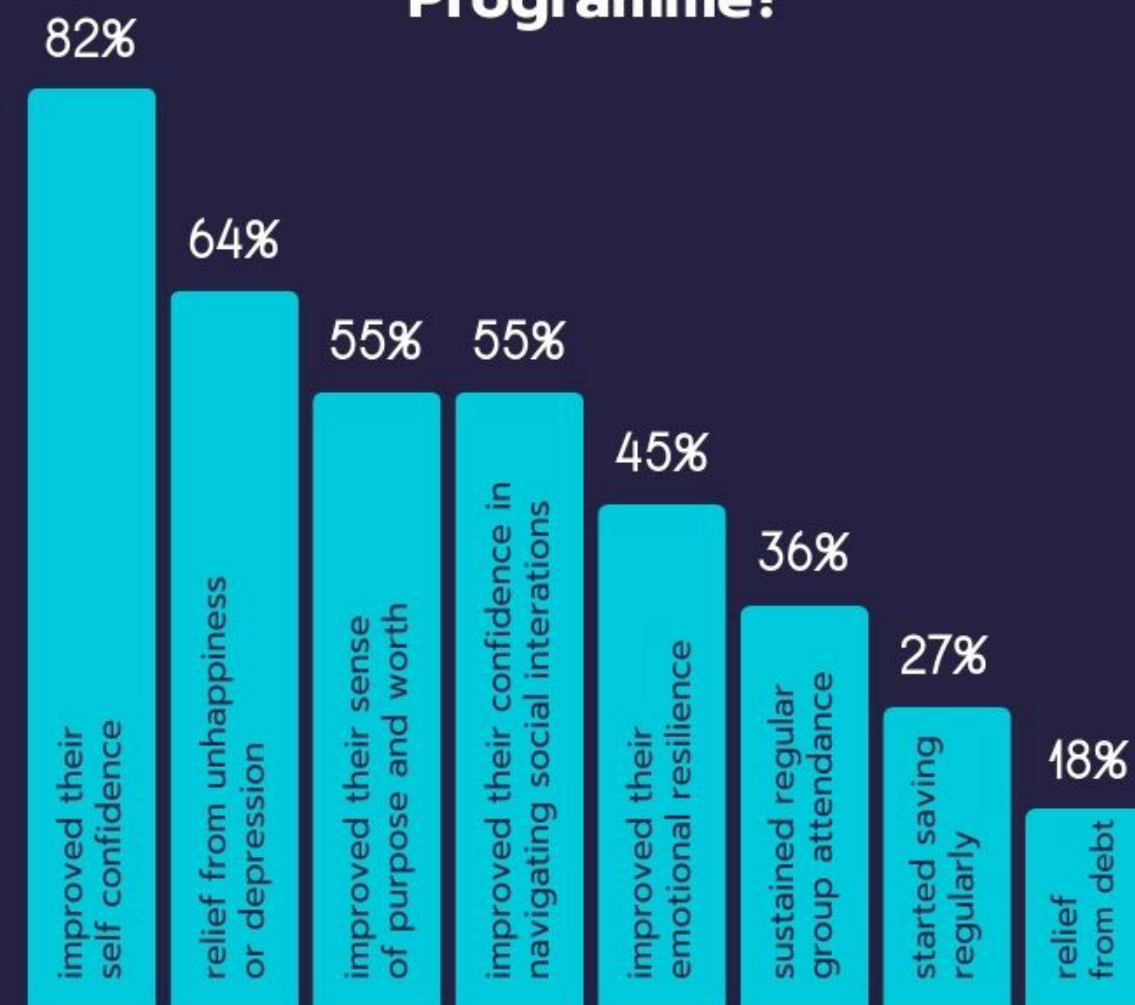


**£30**  
in social return

**£26,000**

The average Social Value Impact created  
by our EPIC Young Business Programme  
for each graduate

## What Social Impact does EPIC have on our Entrepreneurs completing our Programme?





EPIC YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR  
**AWARDS 2025**