

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 - 2025

The Growing Club CIC



# Report from the Chair

Year after year, **The Growing Club** continues to deliver exceptional support to its community and this year is no different. We've empowered women to shape, define, grow, and confidently deliver their businesses. Our peer-led women's course creates a supportive, collaborative space for women at every stage of their business journey, from first ideas to established enterprises ready to grow. It's been a year filled with standout moments. To mention just a few:

The **Angels' Den** event was filled with unstoppable energy as incredible women stepped up and showcased their brilliant businesses. Their courage, creativity, and vision lit up the room. Proof that when women lead, innovation follows. Here's to the founders turning ideas into impact and inspiring the next wave of trailblazers.

Our **Neurodiversity course** continues to gather momentum. It recognises neurological differences as genuine strengths that enhance creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration. The programme continues to evolve, drawing on new insights and lived experiences to remain inclusive, relevant, and reflective of the value neurodivergent thinkers bring to every environment.

It is undeniable that funding remains a recurring challenge. The landscape has become increasingly competitive, with fewer resources available and market trends favouring larger collaborative bids. Every day, I see how we continue to adapt, responding to these pressures, reassessing our approach, and seeking new ways to best serve our community. I am immensely proud of The Growing Club community for navigating both the highs and lows with **resilience, dedication**, and **grace**, all while continuing to provide an **exceptional, people-centred service**.

Jackie



where every  
woman thrives

# Our Values

The Growing Club believes in empowerment through education, training and skills-building, for women by women.

The Growing Club believes in creating a community of mutual support, accountability and collaboration.

The Growing Club believes in an ethical approach to sustainable business practises based on honesty, integrity and professionalism.

The Growing Club practices respect for self and others because all lives and dreams matter.

The Growing Club is a bold grass roots organisation, open to new ideas, and accountable to the community.

# At A Glance

## Engagement

**765** educational sessions, accessed by **231** women of those **80** are new this year

## Courses

We have delivered **8** in person course **67** Attendees

## Workshops

We have delivered **9** Workshops **55** Attendees

## Collaboration

Ongoing partnership and collaboration with DWP, CVS, Lancaster City Council, The Bay Health Festivals, Fhunded Angels, promoting opportunities for growth.

## Positive Outcomes

At the start of a course 54% felt knowledgeable on the topic, at the course end this had improved to **75%** **100%** reported improvement on Well Being

## Business Coaching

We have delivered **91** hours of consultancy to Cumbrian businesses

# At A Glance

## Courses Delivered

### Changing Direction

A course geared towards low waged women or those experiencing change in their lives. It focuses on skills for life and work, to develop confidence and rediscovering interest.

**3** cohorts

**22** attendees

**Sense of Worth** improved by **20%** by course end  
**100%** reported improvement in **Well Being**

### Business Start up

A comprehensive in person course, designed for those ready to start up their own business. It incorporates a peer support network, buddy system and long term mentoring.

**2** cohorts

**18** attendees

**100%** reported improvement in **Well Being**  
**100%** state they are more **confident** to **make changes**

### Business Growth

This course is for women who have been in business for at least one year and are ready to grow their entrepreneurial venture. It helps explore the blocks to achieving growth.

**1** cohorts

**10** attendees

**80%** were more **confident** with their business growth plans

### Neuro Nuture

Specifically designed for neuro divergent women. Trauma informed, it aims to heighten awareness of neurodiversity in a neurotypical society and explore effective self managed strategies.

**2** cohorts

**17** attendees

**91 %** made progress towards goal setting  
**100%** reported improvement in **Well Being**

## Collaboration / Workshops / Events - snapshot

A focused **Well Being** day event 40 attendees

**Angels Den**  
Just like Dragons Den, in partnership with Local business and 11 candidates

Time to **Network**  
3 events 23 attendees

**Grow** from within  
3 events focused on development of the courses and growth of the delivery team

## Testimonial

“

being able to listen to, and hopefully support, other women gives you a sense of purpose”

Changing Direction

## Testimonial

“

It has been really empowering to talk to people who experience the same things I do”

Neuro Nurture

## Testimonial

“

I take time to think about how things make me feel and stop doing things I don't really want to waste my time on. Stop feeling like I have to do things.”

Business Start UP

## Testimonial

“

I have a more positive outlook about my business and my future. I see possibilities where before I saw challenges”

Business Growth

A Big Thank You to  
all our Funders



NW Enterprise Initiative



# THE GROWING CLUB

where every  
woman thrives

[admin@thegrowingclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@thegrowingclub.co.uk)  
7-1-9 Cameron House  
White Cross  
Lancaster  
LA1 4XQ