



IMPACT REVIEW

2023
2024
SEASON

OUR SEASON IN NUMBERS



15% OF OUR STAFF
JOINED THROUGH
OUR EDUCATION PATHWAYS

£2,881,057

..... RAISED TO DELIVER OUR PROJECTS



FREE HEALTHY LUNCHES PROVIDED TO CHILDREN

11,381

14,773
SESSIONS
DELIVERED TO OUR
COMMUNITY

20,461 
PEOPLE TOOK PART IN
OUR PROGRAMMES

FIT BLACKPOOL PARTICIPANTS LOST A COMBINED TOTAL OF:



565KG

EQUIVALENT TO THREE PANDAS!

1,150 
MATCH TICKETS GIFTED TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

OUR MISSION

OUR CORE PURPOSE...

To develop and deliver diverse community programmes and build partnerships to provide the people of Blackpool with the best opportunities. We will do this by:

- Increasing social inclusion
- Improving physical fitness and overall health
- Reducing involvement in anti-social-behaviour
- Raising aspirations and expanding the local education offer

OUR VALUES

HOW WE GO ABOUT OUR WORK...

In all of our work we will be:

BOLD & **I**NNOVATIVE

We will encourage staff to innovate to provide the best possible opportunities for residents and be bold in the development of ideas and future plans.

FOCUSED ON OUR **C**OMMUNITY

At all times, in everything we develop and deliver, we will have the people we are hoping to engage at the heart of our intentions.

CREATIVE & **F**ORWARD **T**HINKING

We will find creative ways around barriers to engagement and develop programmes that are successful, accessible and enjoyable whilst anticipating future issues and trends.



EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY

Community and school based programmes to give our younger residents the best start to life.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYABILITY

To improve opportunities for local people and to prepare them for employment.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

To engage local people in regular, safe and positive activities to improve various aspects of their lives.

OUR VISION

WHERE WE WANT TO GO IN THE FUTURE...

To continue to change the lives of local residents and build a more healthy, active and work ready community.

ASHLEY HACKETT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

The 2023/2024 season was a year focused on collaboration for us at Blackpool FC Community Trust. We aimed to find partners to strengthen our provision and enhance our offerings to local people. As you read this document, you will see many examples of how we have put this into practice.

The year also centred around developing our new strategy, which I hope everyone agrees is an ambitious yet realistic vision for the next three years. Our focus remains on making residents' lives healthier and happier while maintaining our emphasis on partnership collaboration.

Each year, I set some internal challenges for the organisation. For 2023, they were: to fully open Aspire Sports Hub as a community facility, confirm and develop the Sports Hub at Bloomfield Road Stadium, develop an Esports strategy, and sustain our Family Warm Hubs. I am proud to say we met all these objectives.

Aspire is now a hub of community activity, with our provision and many grassroots football teams utilising the site to full effect. We have big plans to invest in the facility to make it even better in the coming months. Our plan for sports facilities at the stadium, in collaboration with Blackpool Football

Club and Blackpool Council, is now confirmed, and we are moving at a great pace to get work started. We developed an exciting Esports strategy and plan to use this growing market to inspire local young people to engage in community-based and educational programmes. This includes the launch of our Esports post-16 programme as part of Blackpool FC Sports College. The Community Programmes team has done a wonderful job sustaining and developing our Family Clubs, with more services targeting new audiences.

This document showcases the great work our team does with endless effort and enthusiasm to support our town and make Blackpool FC a beacon of positivity for local people. The statistics and case studies included highlight the impact the team has and the value the work brings to the town. For every £1 we generate, we develop that into £10 of social value and community action.

Our organisation works with over 20,000 different people each season—more than 14% of the Blackpool population and more than the capacity of our stadium on Bloomfield Road.

We're really proud of all the work we do, and we hope you are too.

2023/24 FINANCIALS

INCOME	£2,881,057
EXPENDITURE	£2,793,164
UNRESTRICTED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	£112,337
RESTRICTED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	£(24,444)

SOCIAL IMPACT VALUE

The EFL network delivered £865,196,135 worth of social value, which averages out over the 72 member clubs as £12 million per club. Our individual social impact value was £ 22,985,499, almost double the average CCO figure.

**FOR EVERY £1 INVESTED
IN OUR COMMUNITY, WE
GENERATED ALMOST £10
WORTH OF SOCIAL VALUE.**



MARC JOSEPH

HEAD OF EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY PROGRAMMES

This season has been another which I am extremely proud of. We have seen an expansion in the workforce, a development in staff structure and an increase in partners, programmes and coverage, all for the benefit of the children and families across Blackpool and the Fylde Coast.

Our Premier League Primary Stars (PLPS) team have been at the forefront of teacher physical education (PE) support and continuing professional development (CPD). This support combined with the multiple offers of educational programmes, extra-curricular support, targeted interventions, social action projects, sports festivals and tournaments has provided schools with the biggest and most diverse primary offer we have ever had.

Our PLPS team has supported 64 teachers over 12-week blocks, to enhance their skills, knowledge and confidence in delivering national curriculum PE. The team have led anti-discrimination workshops (Show Racism the Red Card and PLPS Anti Bullying) and social action projects (PLPS Protect the Planet) to help pupils understand the impact they can have on their school, friendship group, community and the environment.

The PLPS team have worked with key partners, Blackpool FC, Premier League Charitable Fund, Blackpool Council and local schools, to access the best facilities and equipment to deliver and support 31 festivals, competitions and sports days throughout the academic year.

Another successful area within primary schools has been the delivery of our Health and Wellbeing (H&W) programmes. The Fit2Go programme has continued to provide fun and educational healthy lifestyle lessons to Year 4 pupils across Blackpool. Local authority funding has been confirmed to take

this programme and partnership into its fourteenth year, which demonstrates the fantastic work the team do to promote positive health choices and the importance of physical activity. This year's delivery concluded with more than 1,200 children, from 21 schools, participating in our fantastic multi-activity Fit2Go Festival on the pitch at Bloomfield Road.

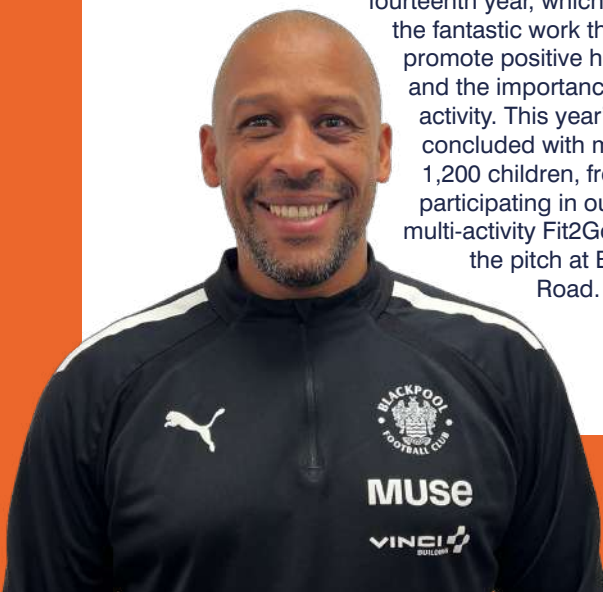
The H&W team also lead our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme 'Unstoppable – Safer Streets'. This six-week programme now funded by Blackpool Council is part of the town's Safer Streets campaign to challenge and change attitudes, perceptions, and behaviours to raise awareness and make our streets safer. We delivered the programme to 54 Year 6 classes addressing antisocial behaviour, friendships, family dynamics, mental wellbeing and the transition to high school.

Our Sports Development department has continued to provide families with accessible, safe and affordable multi-sports, football and dance camps during school holidays. The recent addition of Montgomery High School as a camp venue means we can now support even more children in Blackpool. In addition to Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) camps, we care for more than 500 children per day during the school holidays. A staggering achievement!

The development of football provision has been a key focus for me this season and both the Sports Development and Female Football departments have made a real impact in a very short space of time. During term time we have maintained the Tiny Tangerines and Wildcats mini-football sessions for younger children starting their football journey. Great progress has been made to provide a comprehensive range of 'Development Centres' for various ages, abilities and positions. This enhanced football focus allows us to work closer with the Blackpool FC Academy and Pre-Academy and support our FA Girls Emerging Talent Centre (ETC). The Blackpool ETC remains one of the best in the Northwest and this year provided several success stories seeing girls follow the pathway to progress into Professional Game Academies.

As newly elected Chair of Blackpool FC Girls and Ladies (BFCG&L) and with the club now under Trust management, I hope to unite Blackpool FC, BFCG&L and the Trust to increase the opportunities available for girls to represent their hometown club as we try to service the increasing demand in the women's game.

Although we have had an extremely busy year, I welcome the opportunity for continued growth, development and success.



EARLY YEARS & PRIMARY

TINY TANGERINES



Mini football sessions for children in nursery to Year 2 designed to increase confidence, coordination and football skills whilst giving them the opportunity to engage with others.

The Sports Development team have created a coaching curriculum that develops and challenges those taking part no matter their ability.



NURSERY DELIVERY



We work closely with local Early Years providers to improve the health, social skills, and physical literacy of young children. We aim to support early years settings to provide children with their recommended three hours of physical activity per day through fun interactive sessions linked with the early years foundation stage curriculum.

SPORTS CAMPS



We deliver a number of multi-sports camps during the school holidays. To provide a fun, friendly and secure environment for children to socialise and take part in sports, games and arts and crafts activities. Our hugely popular camps span the town and give families in Blackpool cost-friendly childcare.



FOOTBALL CAMPS



Our football camps are a place for young players in Blackpool to develop new skills and techniques in a safe environment. Qualified coaches deliver age-appropriate sessions that cater to all skill levels. Players are encouraged to practice their new skills in fun and competitive game-related scenarios.



DANCE CAMP



In partnership with AVR Dance, we have established our brand-new dance camp for children aged five to 14. The camp offers the perfect blend of enjoyment, new friendships, and the chance to enhance their dance skills.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY & FOOD CAMP (HAF)



The Department for Education fund our HAF offer. This takes a more targeted approach to support children in Blackpool who receive benefit-related free school meals. We provide 300 participants a day with free access to four hours of enrichment activities including sports and games, a healthy meal, snacks, and drinks throughout the Easter, Christmas and Summer holidays.

11,381 FREE HEALTHY LUNCHES PROVIDED AT CAMP



BOOT BANK



The Boot Bank allows previously used football boots to be re-homed and can be accessed discretely by anyone in the community for free.

This is an environmental move to ensure football boots do not end up in landfills and can be recycled for future use. We currently have over 100 pairs of boots in our boot bank.

PREMIER LEAGUE PRIMARY STARS (PLPS)



Through funding from the Premier League Charitable Fund, PLPS is offered to all Blackpool primary schools. The programme aims to support teachers to improve their knowledge and confidence when delivering national curriculum PE lessons as well as improving PE standards.

We work alongside The Premier League, EFL in the Community, Blackpool Council, Show Racism the Red Card, National Literacy Trust, Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL), and Active Blackpool to provide the best standard of provision available.

80% OF PUPILS HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL WELLBEING

UNSTOPPABLE: SAFER STREETS



We have been successful in securing funding to enable a free offer of our Year 6 PSHE programme, Unstoppable, to all Blackpool primary schools.

Unstoppable: Safer Streets has been funded by Blackpool Council and is part of the town's Safer Streets campaign to improve street lighting and CCTV as well as challenging and changing attitudes, perceptions, behaviours, raising awareness, training and campaigning to make our streets safer.

The programme supports pupils with difficult life topics, including anti-social behaviour, mental health, knife crime, friendships, family dynamics and the transition into high school.

FIT2GO



This six-week, two-hour programme is funded by; Blackpool Council Public Health, NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and BFCCT, meaning we can offer it for free to all Blackpool primary schools.

The programme encourages Year 4 children to live a healthy lifestyle and take part in regular physical activity. Pupils are introduced to ways they can improve their wellbeing and make healthier choices through practical and theory-based lessons. The delivery culminates in a three day festival on the pitch at Bloomfield Road, where over 1000 children celebrate completing the Fit2Go programme.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES



This year we launched our party packages. There are two options, our Football Parties include mini matches, crossbar challenges, penalty shoot-outs, football darts and meeting Bloomfield Bear.

Our Esports Parties offer gaming experiences for up to 12 guests in our dedicated gaming room at Bloomfield Road. Invitees can play EAFC 24 or Rocket League tournaments to win prizes.



TANGERINE TEAMMATES

The Tangerine Teammates initiative has been a huge success once again and continues to build and enhance the relationship between Blackpool FC and local grassroots teams. The 23/24 season saw 23 local grassroots teams get paired with a Blackpool FC player, who visited them during training sessions. Those grassroots clubs were also invited to participate in Blackpool FC match day experiences, including flag bearing and a half time football challenge.

23 GRASSROOTS CLUBS LINKED WITH BLACKPOOL FC FIRST TEAM PLAYERS

FEMALE FOOTBALL

Across Blackpool, our Female Football Development team has continued to increase the opportunities for female-only football provision. Our school provision has expanded to include both primary and secondary schools with extracurricular clubs and team training taking place at lunchtimes and after school. We have hosted Premier League and EFL girls' tournaments, established the Blackpool FC FA Girls Emerging Talent Centre, created development sessions and sold out our incredibly popular Girls Football Camp. All programmes aim to use the Blackpool FC brand to inspire and engage with as many girls as possible across Blackpool and the Fylde Coast.

WILDCATS



FA Wildcats sessions are designed to be an introduction to girl's football for many, but can also act as an extra training session for those who already play football. Training is delivered by BFCCT staff and focuses on developing key skills in a fun, friendly and safe environment.

GIRLS FOOTBALL CAMP



After the successful launch of our first-ever girls' football camp last season we have been overwhelmed by the increase in popularity. Our girls' football camps are a place for young players in Blackpool to develop new skills and techniques in a safe environment. Qualified coaches deliver age-appropriate sessions that cater to all skill levels with a focus on ball mastery and fundamental movements of football to help players improve their game.

332 GIRLS ATTENDED OUR FOOTBALL CAMPS

FA GIRLS' EMERGING TALENT CENTRE

Our FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre is funded by the Premier League and has given more girls than ever the chance to take their first steps on the pathway towards following in the footsteps of their heroes. We work with grassroots clubs, schools and local coaches to identify talented female players for this elite training experience.



5

GIRLS' FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES



Sessions follow a coaching curriculum with a range of topics designed to develop each player. All sessions are delivered by our FA/UEFA qualified coaches who also coach at our FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre (ETC). We work closely with each player who attends to develop their game and give them the tools necessary to play to the best of their ability.

BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM



Our Female Football Development team continue to coach and manage Blackpool Sixth Form's girls' football team. The weekly training sessions are part of their enrichment programme to help prepare the girls for upcoming league fixtures.

BLACKPOOL FC GIRLS AND LADIES



Blackpool FC Girls and Ladies have a new structure in place to ensure progression within each age group.

Under a new committee, clear pathways have been built within the club allowing grassroots players to progress into open-age football. Incentive to achieve is instilled in all players, for those who want to progress up the footballing table and those who aim to get a place in our own Ladies first team.

Prioritising quality delivery and player care, our professional approach to training, matches and coaching standards enables us to provide a platform for players to transition on to Regional Talent Centres (RTCs), FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centres (ETCs) and District Teams across the North West.

EMILY



In 2023, Emily, a newly qualified Year 2 teacher at Sacred Heart Primary School in Blackpool, sought professional development (CPD) to improve her understanding of physical education teaching. She wanted to gain confidence in delivering high-quality PE lessons that would engage the large class sizes at her school.



To address this, Tom from our Premier League Primary Stars (PLPS) team provided tailored support over 12 weeks, using a variety of methods to help Emily build her skills in PE.

Tom's approach included observing PE lessons, planning lessons customised to Emily's class, and engaging in team teaching. Sometimes, Tom led the lessons while Emily observed, allowing her to analyse different strategies. At other times, Emily took the lead, with Tom offering feedback on her delivery and lesson planning. Together, they co-taught lessons when appropriate, ensuring Emily had practical experience with expert guidance.

As the weeks progressed, Emily developed a better understanding of how to create engaging PE lessons. She recognised the importance of customising her lesson plans rather than relying on generic resources. By using a variety of equipment and adapting activities to her pupils' needs, she was able to keep them motivated and engaged. Additionally, she became more proficient in using questioning techniques to enhance pupil learning during lessons.

The consistent collaboration led to measurable improvements in Emily's confidence and ability to deliver effective PE. She began contributing her ideas and adapting games to suit her class, ensuring that her teaching aligned with the curriculum while remaining engaging for the pupils. Emily's increased awareness of varied activities and questioning methods allowed her to deliver more dynamic and inclusive PE sessions.

Emily noted,

"I now have a more positive impact on delivery and am more aware of the different games and activities that can support pupil learning. The variety of activities and questioning techniques have been key takeaways that will continue to benefit my classes going forward."

Through this structured support, Emily significantly improved her PE teaching, gaining the confidence and skills to lead lessons that are both effective and enjoyable for her pupils.

Simon Smith, Primary Physical Education Manager, said,

"Tom's support, through BFCCT, has had a significant impact on Emily's development as a PE teacher. His tailored approach - whether through observation, feedback, or team teaching - has not only boosted her confidence but transformed her ability to deliver high-quality, engaging lessons.

"Emily now understands how to adapt lessons to her class's specific needs, and her newfound enthusiasm for PE is clear. This kind of collaboration is exactly what we strive for at BFCCT: empowering teachers to deliver impactful and inclusive PE sessions that benefit every child."

MASON



Mason's football journey began at age five with our Tiny Tangerines sessions, where his impressive coordination and dedication quickly set him apart. His ability to follow instructions and tackle challenges helped him develop new skills, earning multiple Star of the Week awards. Mason's consistent effort led to an opportunity with Blackpool FC's Pre-Academy, marking the start of his progression.



and assist his brother in learning new skills. His father, keen on furthering Mason's development, enrolled him in our new Football Development sessions where Mason's positive attitude and dedication made him a joy to coach.

The coaches at Tiny Tangerines appreciate Mason's consistent demonstration of skills during sessions, along with his ability to follow directions and set a positive example.

His presence improves the experience for the younger group, contributing to a fun and engaging learning environment.

Garry, Tiny Tangerines coach at BFCCT said,

"I enjoy seeing Mason continue to work hard to improve his all-around game, showing promising signs for his future in football. He also displays great maturity at such a young age."

Reflecting on Mason's journey, his father said,

"My son loves Tiny Tangerines; it lit a passion for football inside of him. He constantly has a ball at his feet, from the moment he arrives until the moment he leaves, this has played a huge part in how comfortable he is with the ball and how he expresses himself on the pitch.

"Mason didn't quite have what Blackpool FC Pre-Academy were looking for, however, this didn't knock his confidence or dent his excitement to express himself.

"It was through Tiny Tangerines that my son was invited to pre-academy and without the coach's recommendation, belief and guidance he wouldn't be half the player he is today."



Consistently training well at Tiny Tangerines, Mason's talent became evident during a session attended by a coach from Blackpool FC's Pre-Academy. This scouting led to Mason securing a place within the pre-academy and he thrived on the new training with different players and coaches.

At seven years old, while training at the Pre-Academy, Mason continued to attend Tiny Tangerines to support his younger brother. He would independently practice

SELINA HAYES

HEAD OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY

Our Education and Employability department has had another great season continuing to support our local high schools and provide opportunities for Blackpool residents to achieve their education and career goals.

Blackpool FC Sports College has once again achieved an exceptional 98.3% pass rate across BTEC Level 2 and Level 3 courses. Of the 29 learners completing their Level 3 course, 28 have moved onto positive destinations including university, apprenticeships, and full-time employment, with nine continuing onto our internal degree programme.

Our education programmes are also continuing to produce our future workforce, over the course of the season 22 of our learners across our BTEC and degree programmes gained employment with BFCCT, and in total 15% of our staff team have come through our internal education pathways.

Our degree programme has once again had a successful year. Delivered in partnership with the University of South Wales, we have had a 100% pass rate across our delivery, including two students achieving a first-class honours degree in Sports Coaching and Development, and 100% of our foundation degree students achieving a 2:1 or higher.

We employed our new Esports manager in January, and the installation of our purpose-built, state-of-the-art Esports suite took place shortly after.

This season has laid the foundations for our Esports education pathway in partnership with York College and the PL Fans Fund, we will begin delivery in the 24/25 academic year.

Throughout the season we have continued to work closely with our partner schools in the delivery of our High School Hubs mentoring programme.

This programme continues to support young people on their journey through school, promoting positive mental health through our Premier League Inspires delivery, bolstering aspirations through our Beaverbrooks Enterprise programme and nurturing young people through our one-to-one mentoring programme.

Partnership work has been a golden thread throughout our education and employability pathways this year. As a core partner of Blackpool's Employment and Skills Board, we have played an integral role in bringing further funding into the town.

These funds will work towards systems change across education to reduce the number of young people in Blackpool who are not in education, employment or training. Working with partners such as Right to Succeed, Blackpool Council and Fylde Coast Academic Trust has enabled us to further align our programmes to the needs of our community.

Developments in NCS have meant that this year we have added NCS Open to All and NCS targeted to our offer. These programmes are designed to support young people aged 16-17 to develop core skills to take forward with them in life.

Our targeted programme specifically supports young people who would not ordinarily access the NCS programme, including young people attending alternate provision, to reduce the barriers they may face to achieving their goals.

Our Level Up employability programme has continued to be delivered through £20,000 in funding from the Glasdon Charitable Programme. This programme continues to work with young people in Blackpool who require support with their personal and social skills, improving confidence and identifying the skills they have while supporting them towards employment, skills, or further training.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYABILITY

HIGH SCHOOL HUBS

Funded by Premier League Charitable Fund, Public Health Blackpool, Beaverbrooks and our partner high schools, High School Hubs is made up of four core programmes to provide further support to students alongside their academic pathway. High School Hub Mentors are based in our five partner schools for one or two days per week, supporting pupils in Year 7 through to Year 11.



PREMIER LEAGUE INSPIRES

Funded by the Premier League Charitable Fund and Public Health Blackpool, Premier League Inspires is a 15-week, positive mental health and resilience programme delivered to selected Year 9 pupils. The primary focus of Premier League Inspires is to help young people reach their potential by developing coping strategies and ensuring they're engaged and inspired.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION

Transitioning from primary to secondary school can be an extremely challenging time for any young person. New environments, experiences and relationships can be overwhelming, triggering changes in behaviour, raising anxiety, and igniting other mental health concerns.

We work in high schools to help pupils come to terms with change, normalise it and thrive within it. The themes covered are, coping strategies, working with our skills, planning a pathway to success and creating new friendships.

The programme provides pupils with the opportunity to have a voice, feel heard and improve their confidence within their new surroundings.

**GUIDED 40 STUDENTS
ON THEIR TRANSITION
TO SECONDARY SCHOOL**

1:1 MENTORING

Working with our partner schools and the Premier League Charitable Fund we provide 1:1 mentoring to young people aged 11 to 16 in high schools. Each week students work with their dedicated mentor to build their resilience, confidence and self-esteem. BFCCT mentors help pupils cope with stress and implement strategies to overcome any difficulties they may face in their lives or at school.

**487 ONE TO ONE
MENTORING
SESSIONS COMPLETED**



BEAVERBROOKS ENTERPRISE

In partnership with Beaverbrooks, the Enterprise programme works with Year 8 pupils to introduce them to business and entrepreneurship. The programme helps to develop essential employability skills, raise aspirations, and unlock potential.

Pupils also take part in the Enterprise Challenge set by Beaverbrooks, to identify a local need and develop a plan to address this. This includes a Dragon's Den-style activity with a board of 'dragons' from Blackpool-based companies including Blackpool FC.



BLACKPOOL FC SCHOOL

Currently providing full-time and part-time provision to Key Stage 4 students who require an alternative to mainstream education.

We work with Blackpool Council, Educational Diversity and local high schools to provide students with Maths, English, and Science to GCSE level, whilst completing project-based learning, PSHE and a qualification in sports and fitness.

NCS TARGETED

Working with the NCS Trust our NCS Targeted programme works with local Year 11 pupils who have access to alternative education pathways to improve their life skills (budgeting, cooking, communicating), employability skills (mock interviews, problem solving, CV writing) and undertaking social action/volunteering opportunities to help local charities.

NCS OPEN TO ALL

Working with the EFL in the Community and the NCS Trust, our Open to All programme works with young people aged 15-17. Participants excel in building interpersonal skills through discussion and debate, and learn to be active in their communities by supporting local charities or campaigning to improve public access spaces. Participants become more confident, communicate more effectively and flourish in social settings.

LEVEL UP

In partnership with Youth Futures Foundation and The DJ Sidebottom/Glasdon Charitable Programme, we support 16 to 24-year-olds to start their journey into employment through skill development.

BLACKPOOL FC SPORTS COLLEGE

Thanks to support from York College and League Football Education, our college provides full-time further education courses, including BTEC Level 2 and 3 in Sports Industry Skills and Sports Coaching & Development. Learners also study Functional Skills and GCSE English and Maths if required.

We offer a wide range of exclusive work experience opportunities across BFCCT and the club to enhance and support learning as well as extra-curricular activities to amplify learner experience.

96% OF OUR BTEC LEVEL 3 STUDENTS PROGRESSED ONTO POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

ESPORTS

Thanks to support from PL Fans Fund and York College, 16 to 18 year olds have the opportunity to study Esports BTEC at Blackpool FC Sports College from September 2024.

Our purpose-built games room and portable gaming devices are used to engage young people in Esports opportunities and our bespoke Esports suite houses top of the range gaming PCs and casting studio to provide the best introduction to the variety of careers they could pursue in the future.

894 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED IN ESPORTS ACTIVITIES

FOUNDATION & TOP-UP DEGREE COURSES

Delivered in partnership with the University of South Wales our Foundation Degree courses are ideal progression routes for our BTEC students or external candidates who want to pursue a professional career in the sports industry.

Our top-up degree courses consolidate learning from the foundation degree and enable students to gain a full BSc Honours Degree.

JORDAN



In the summer of 2022, we welcomed Jordan to Blackpool FC Community Trust (BFCCT) as a Community Youth Sports Coach with a ten-hour contract delivering community football as part of the Premier League Kicks team.

From the moment Jordan joined the team his eagerness and passion for coaching were evident. His positive energy and commitment quickly made a strong impression on the staff at BFCCT. Jordan seized the opportunity, delivering engaging, fun, and inclusive Premier League Kicks sessions.

A few months later, Jordan expressed interest in the degree programme at our Blackpool FC Sports College. Eager to enhance his knowledge and skills, he applied for the Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching and Development, offered in partnership with the University of South Wales. From the beginning, Jordan excelled academically, consistently ranking at the top of his class. His positive attitude in lectures and his dedication to learning were reflected in his outstanding academic performance.

Jordan's hard work extended beyond the classroom. In addition to his Premier League Kicks role, he began supporting the BFCCT Special Educational Needs and Disability school delivery alongside coaching our Pan-ability football teams. His dedication and drive were plain to see after he coached his team to win the Lancashire FA Ability Counts League Cup. Jordan has become a key member of the Premier League Kicks team, spearheading a new girls' only session alongside playing a vital role in the Blackpool FC Girls Grassroots Club, where he coaches the Under 12s.



After completing his foundation degree Jordan said,

"I believe Blackpool FC Community Trust and Blackpool FC Sports College have set the foundations for my future as a coach. The opportunities and support I have been offered throughout are invaluable and I am forever grateful to everyone who has been part of my journey here so far."

Following graduating at the top of his class with a foundation degree, he applied for the Top-Up year at Blackpool FC Sports College to further his education and gain a full BSc Honours in Sports Coaching and Development. He will begin his studies in September of 2024.

Degree Tutor at Blackpool FC Sports College, Sophie, said,

"I am looking forward to seeing what this year brings for Jordan, as his degree tutor, I know he will give 100% to both his studies and work commitments and continue to grow in his coaching and his personal development."





Before joining our 1:1 mentoring programme with Blackpool FC Community Trust (BFCCT), Lucas, a young football enthusiast with dreams of joining Blackpool FC academy, struggled with anxiety and low self-confidence.

His anxiety led to frequent school absences and hindered his participation in football training sessions, despite his passion for the sport. Lucas' lack of self-belief prevented him from recognising his football talents and pursuing his dreams.

Since starting the 1:1 mentoring programme with BFCCT, Lucas has shown remarkable improvement. Initially shy and reluctant to engage in conversations, he set three key goals: initiating conversations in new situations, becoming more independent, and building the confidence to run with the ball during football.

Throughout nine sessions, Lucas made significant strides in these areas. He now regularly attends football training, engages more confidently in social situations, and even enjoys everyday activities like shopping and hanging out with friends.



The mentoring sessions have been instrumental in Lucas' transformation. Each session included a mix of creative activities, practical tasks, and discussions, all aimed at boosting his self-esteem and confidence.

One key activity for Lucas was creating an 'about me' poster, where he highlighted his positive attributes and memories. This poster serves as a personal reminder of his strengths and is displayed in his room to help combat negative thoughts.

Lucas' overall well-being has improved significantly. His school attendance has increased, and his form tutor has noted a positive change in his attitude towards school. He no longer misses sessions due to anxiety, indicating a significant reduction in school-related stress.

Lucas now looks forward to socialising with his friends and is much more confident in his football abilities. He enjoys attending football games with his dad and engages with his peers.

The confidence Lucas has gained through the programme has extended beyond football. He feels more self-assured in various aspects of his life, stating,

"Taking part in the confidence-building activities has helped a lot, including when I play football too. I am more confident in going to the shops and going out with friends now.

"The most valuable thing I have taken away from the programme is my confidence and being able to do more things independently"

Through the 1:1 mentoring programme, Lucas has transformed from a shy, anxious boy into a confident, independent young man, ready to pursue his dreams and tackle new challenges with a positive mindset.

GEMMA TRICKETT

HEAD OF BFC SCHOOL

This academic year has been great for BFC School, our Year 10 and 11 students have really engaged with our local community through activities, and the impact speaks for itself. School attendance sits at 90% as a whole.

BFC School aims to offer young people a chance to shine through with a very hands-on holistic approach to teaching the curriculum. In line with this, our current students have been on several educational trips to support the curriculum such as The National Football Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry as well as tailor-made enrichment trips to The Blackpool Dungeons and The Sea Life Centre to reward progress and positive behaviours.

All of our students attended work experience in May, helping them to gain a feel for professions they have shown an interest in. Activities like these raise aspirations and enable the students to explore their strengths and weaknesses. Two of the students have been offered further work placements where they chose to do their work experience. Three students have secured paid, long-term, part-time work, and are now experiencing and enjoying earning, spending, and saving their own income.

Year 10 students have also been taking part in regular cooking sessions in Blackpool FC's kitchen; learning essential social, interpersonal, and domestic skills in preparation for life beyond compulsory education. Students have planned recipes, budgeted, shopped for ingredients and created a range of home-made hot meals that they have taken home to share with their families.

All Key Stage 4 students have had opportunities to engage in a range of sporting activities, including weekly football training sessions, to help prepare for participation in a local Alternative Provision football tournament. Eight teams who took part in the tournament at Rochdale AFC.

BFC School played incredibly and demonstrated resounding sportsmanship and resilience, showing the impact of our sports-based curriculum, team building, and efforts in supporting young people outside of mainstream education, to succeed and thrive. BFC School was awarded the Gold Award from the school games team for the second year

running for our commitment and engagement in a range of sporting competitions throughout the 23/24 Academic Year.

We have also been attending weekly sessions at Brian Rose Boxing and Fitness Gym; students have even received 1:1 training from the professional boxer himself, and have undertaken circuit training, tug-of-war team building, and sparred with each other. Some students now attend this gym outside of school hours and are engaging in community youth boxing programmes to improve their own personal fitness, discipline, and state of mind. Following this success, we also introduced Kick Boxing to the curriculum this year, working with Will Goldie-Galloway who is the Central Area Kick Boxing Champion.

All students had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which included planning and leading several walks throughout the countryside as well as attending a Commando Survival Day. The students learnt survival skills such as building a shelter, starting a fire, foraging and campsite cooking. They also participated in climbing and using a zip line. Staff witnessed the student's confidence grow and observed students working together as a team, using their initiative, and building their resilience.

Students from Blackpool FC School said,

- "I feel welcome coming here. I'm always getting the help I need and the teachers are so nice."
- "It's nice because the staff care for our education."
- "It is very diverse and accepting to people who are new to the school."
- "If you like sports it's really good as we do a lot and have a good English teacher."

We are so proud of what the Blackpool FC School students have achieved this year and look forward to more successes and positive impact in the next academic year.



MATT HILTON

HEAD OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES & DEPUTY CEO

Community Programmes has experienced another eventful and successful season, marked by significant growth and the introduction of several new initiatives.

In September, we launched the 'Get Vocal Podcast' with special guests, aimed at raising awareness, fostering open conversations, and providing valuable resources to support the well-being of men.

The podcast explores various topics related to men's mental health, including stress management, emotional intelligence, self-care, relationships, and seeking help. Each episode features thought-provoking discussions, expert insights, and personal anecdotes, offering a safe space for men to connect, learn, and grow.

LISTEN HERE →



Our Tower Above programme expanded this season, thanks to funding from The Police Crime Commissioner.

This support has allowed us to continue meeting the needs of young people requiring tailored, preventative support. We have seen an increase in referrals from partners such as Families in Need and Blackpool Council's Early Help and Support Team, who identify young people at risk of adopting negative pathways.

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery, we extended our family food hub at Bloomfield Road to include a new site at The Grange.

This expansion has provided struggling families and individuals with local, accessible food.

More than 120 families have accessed this provision, which has been particularly beneficial for older residents, people with disabilities, and families with young children.

Our partnership with Blackpool Food Bank's Big Food Project, The Big Food Truck continues to visit the North Stand Community Hub every Tuesday to provide pre-ordered food parcels to our community.

For the fourth consecutive year, BFCCT staff coordinated a Christmas Day visit to 30 individuals who would otherwise not have had any visit or engagement on this special day. This initiative continues to bring joy and a sense of community to those who might otherwise feel isolated during the holiday season.

With an award of £107,000 from the Safer Streets Fund, we have started rolling out a universal intervention offer to up-skill children in Years 6, 7, and 8.

The programme aims to equip them with the knowledge and tools to handle challenges and threats they may face in the community. Topics covered include online safety, exploitation, resilience, knife crime, and stereotyping and discrimination, among others.

In April 2024, we received £52,000 from the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to deliver adult health and well-being activities across the town.

This initiative is committed to tailoring activities to the diverse needs and abilities of participants, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all.

Through peer support, 1:1 mentoring, and group physical activities, Heads Up addresses the holistic needs of individuals while promoting overall well-being.

Additionally, we were part of a consortium with other Blackpool charities which was awarded £400,000 of National Lottery funding. This funding aims to help unemployed 18 to 25-year-olds in Blackpool secure education, training, or employment opportunities.

We look forward to building on these successes and continuing to support the well-being and development of our community in the coming year.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

DISABILITY SPORT



Through funding from The Hargreaves Foundation, we deliver disability specific lunch and after-school physical activity sessions that are tailored to each school and pupil's needs. We use multi-skills activities, interactive games and additional sports as a form of enrichment for the children and encourage them to take part in physical activity and stay healthy.

STARS CAMP



During half-terms and summer holidays, we deliver a very successful camp for young people living with a disability aged seven to 18 from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

The camp is delivered by highly qualified and experienced staff. With support from Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council, we deliver; multi-skills activities, interactive games, sports, as well as arts and crafts to engage children living with disabilities.



UNIFIED FOOTBALL



Funding from Sport England, allows us to offer free football sessions every week at locations across Blackpool. These sessions use the power of football to promote positive mental health and provide assistance to those living with disabilities through physical activity and building peer-support networks.

**MORE THAN
150 UNIFIED
FOOTBALLERS**



PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS



Through funding from the Premier League Charitable Fund, we deliver diversionary activities for young people aged eight to 18 in specifically identified wards that have the most anti-social behaviour. These sessions allow the young people to meet new friends, dance, box and game, as well as compete in national competitions against other football clubs.

**MORE THAN 1000 YOUNG
PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH
PL KICKS ACTIVITIES**

PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS HAF



Funded by Blackpool Council and Premier League Charitable Fund, Premier League Kicks HAF includes a range of camps delivered during the day throughout school holidays. These activities include football, multi-sport, online gaming and trips. We also provide a nutritious meal, snacks and drinks free for participants.

**OVER 3,400
YOUNG PEOPLE
ATTENDED PL KICKS HAF**

PREMIER LEAGUE CHANGEMAKERS



Changemakers is funded by The Premier League and supports girls and young women with personal skills and positive attitudes towards leadership.

The 12 week course focuses on a range of topics to improve participants' mental and physical wellbeing, increase their awareness of gender equality and mental health related issues alongside increasing their understanding of the skills and behaviours of leadership.

TOWER ABOVE



Funded by Blackpool Council, Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner and Charles Hayward Foundation, we provide 1:1 mentoring to children aged eight to 12 by utilising sports and physical activity to engage them. Referrals come from the Early Help and Support team, through Blackpool Council, to prevent young people from being involved in anti-social behaviour.

587 ONE TO ONE MENTORING SESSIONS COMPLETED

SAFER STREETS



A six week universal intervention to up-skill Year 6, 7 & 8 students in how they can become strong competent citizens and improve their knowledge and awareness of challenges and threats they could face whilst out in the community.

All topics have a scenario based approach allowing pupils to discuss what they would do, how to be a positive bystander if they did find themselves in a challenging situation, and how can they distract, direct and delegate safely.

MOVE MORE



Move More brings the local community and organisations together to deliver a plan that is right for the town. It is part of a national programme, Active Through Football, which is delivered through the Football Foundation and Sport England.

The project focuses on mental and physical wellbeing, as well as weight management. When it comes to being active, we want to engage, motivate and inspire the community.



FIT BLACKPOOL



Funded by Active Through Football/Move More this free 10-week weight management programme uses a combination of theory and practical sessions to help participants maintain weight loss and live healthier lives. Our 'Keep Fit' sessions are open to the public and also used to encourage graduates of Fit Blackpool to continue their progress.

157 PARTICIPANTS ARE NOW LEADING A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

ENGAGE 4 CHANGE



A multi-agency partnership with Empowerment, Streetlife, Blackpool Coastal Housing and the Rank Foundation. This project contacts young people who are aged 18 to 25, who live in a specific area of Blackpool.

We work with these young people to understand what they perceive as barriers and come up with solutions to guide them into education, employment or training.

CHAMPIONS YOUTH & ADULT



We provide 1:1 mentoring support to make positive changes and break the cycle of re-offending.

Funded through the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, this preventative programme is aimed at ten to 25 year olds who are at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System or who have committed a violent crime.

54 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED BY THEIR MENTORS

HEADS UP



Heads Up improves well-being across Blackpool through a multifaceted offer of activities using peer support, 1:1 mentoring, and group physical activities. The target group is adults aged 18+ with moderate to severe mental health needs.

We tailor and adapt activities to ensure sessions are accessible for adults of different age groups and abilities, e.g. varying the activities on offer, varying the intensity of activities, etc. We focus on creating a supportive community through shared experiences and incorporating physical activity to promote overall wellbeing.

GET VOCAL



Developed in partnership with Blackpool FC and Blackpool Council. Get Vocal is a weekly social group based at Bloomfield Road which provides a safe space for men to come together in a non-judgmental setting, to 'turn up, talk and get it off their chest'.

41 LOCAL MEN TURNED UP, TALKED AND GOT IT OFF THEIR CHEST



GET VOCAL: THE PODCAST



Get Vocal: The Podcast aims to raise awareness, foster open conversations, and provide valuable resources to support the well-being of men from far and wide. The topics discussed include relationships, fatherhood, burnout, grief, and depression, in addition to thoughtful conversations about creativity.

Each episode features thought-provoking discussions, expert insights, and personal anecdotes, for men to connect, learn, and grow.

WALKING & MASTERS FOOTBALL



Walking and Masters Football are slower paced five-a-side sessions for men and women over the age of 35. Both Walking and Masters Football encourage football lovers to continue to take part regardless of their fitness levels or other factors.

222 MASTERS & WALKING FOOTBALLERS JOINED US THIS SEASON

POOL TOGETHER



Pool Together, supported by Blackpool Council, tackles loneliness and social isolation by providing an environment where participants can meet new people and build lasting friendships.

This weekly social group offers a supportive space with activities, including chair-based exercises, dominoes and quizzes while enjoying a hot drink and a chat.



SPORTING MEMORIES



With support from Masonic Charitable Foundation this programme is for those who share a love for sports, in particular football, to get together. It is an enjoyable social group where fans share their memorabilia and memories.

DEMENTIA SPORTING MEMORIES



With support from Masonic Charitable Foundation this free to attend group has been tailored to facilitate those with dementia and their companions with a combination of gentle physical activities and engaging games.

VETERANS ACTIVITIES

These activities are supported through funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (AFCFT) and Veterans' Foundation, BFCCT are proud to host a range of armed forces programmes within the Community. This includes providing serving personnel, families, veterans and families of veterans, with the chance to engage with other members of the armed forces community and to rediscover the unique camaraderie between serving personnel.



GARDENING CLUB

Participants help us maintain our memorial space at the Fylde Coast Arboretum, a garden dedicated to Blackpool FC players who lost their lives during the First World War.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club takes place every month and promotes socialisation amongst veterans and provides the opportunity to get breakfast and catch up with like-minded people.



FORCES FOOTBALL

This programme allows veterans and ex-forces personnel to meet up for a kickabout.

Through funding from the Veterans' Foundation, we also offer participants with the opportunity to represent Blackpool FC at events throughout the season against other professional football clubs.

NAAFI BREAK

Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) coffee mornings encourage veterans from across the Fylde Coast to meet up every week. Participants can enjoy a sausage, bacon or vegetarian sandwich and a cup of tea or coffee while they reminisce and catch up.

929 VETERANS MET FOR A BREW



VETERANS WALK AND TALK

Our local veterans can enjoy various gentle routes around the scenic grounds of Stanley Park to help each other become more physically fit and combat loneliness.

47 WALKS WITH VETERANS

VETS ON STEPS

We visit local veterans on their doorsteps to prevent them from feeling isolated and lonely. Whilst there we encourage them to join our weekly social groups included on this page to increase their social interaction and combat loneliness.

TANGERINE TOGETHER (COST OF LIVING SUPPORT)

With support from Blackpool Council, Blackpool FC, The National Lottery Community Fund and Blackpool Foodbank we are proud to support our community with the cost of living crisis with a range of activities including those to do together as a family, access to free and low cost food and a place to meet new people and make new connections.



BREAKFAST CLUB



This programme is designed to offer families an accessible club for children aged two to four.

Activities delivered are designed to promote cognitive and motor skills development in young participants while also offering a social group for adults. Free breakfast is provided for all participants.

THE BIG FOOD TRUCK



In partnership with Blackpool Foodbank, The Big Food Truck, part of The Big Food Project, arrives at the stadium every Tuesday to provide food parcels at the North Stand Community Hub to help with the cost of living.

**WE DISTRIBUTED
4,336 BAGS OF FOOD
EQUIVALENT TO:
53,095 HEALTHY MEALS**

FAMILY CLUBS



In response to the cost-of-living crisis we provide free clubs for families, the perfect place to socialise and take part in activities whilst accessing food, support, and advice on housing, health and finances from Natwest the NHS and Blackpool Coastal Housing.

**OVER 130
SESSIONS PROVIDING
FOOD AND ADVICE
TO LOCAL FAMILIES**



COMMUNITY CLUB



We offer a safe and warm place for those attending our Big Food Truck on a Tuesday to visit before or after collecting their food parcels.

Participants are welcome to enjoy a drink, socialise and take part in activities such as chair based exercise and light yoga.



MICHAEL



Michael, a 93-year-old from Bispham, faced immense challenges following a serious operation that greatly impacted his ability to walk and talk. A former active member of the armed forces, Michael found himself struggling with his mental health and communication skills post-surgery.



Throughout his life, Michael was remarkably active, running up to seven miles a day until he was 87. However, an emergency surgery marked a significant decline in his physical and mental well-being. The aftermath left him unable to perform tasks that once came naturally, and his speech was severely impaired, affecting his confidence and mental health. Feeling isolated and frustrated, he sought help from his GP, who recommended Blackpool FC Community Trust's (BFCCT) Get Vocal, a supportive platform for men struggling with their mental health issues.

Despite initial challenges with his speech, Michael began attending Get Vocal sessions regularly. With the support of the staff, he gradually regained his confidence and saw improvements in his ability to communicate.

Encouraged by his progress, the staff referred him to NAAFI Break, a group for veterans to socialise over breakfast. Joining NAAFI Break offered Michael another avenue for socialisation and skill development. Being surrounded by peers with similar military experiences brought him comfort and camaraderie. His wife,

Elizabeth, also joined him, and they both enjoyed meeting new people with shared interests. With ongoing support from the staff and participants, Michael continued to flourish.

Michael's journey highlights the power of personalised interventions and supportive communities in improving mental health and well-being. Following continued attendance to BFCCT sessions Michael regained his ability to communicate and found renewed purpose in life.

Michael recently attended a reunion with those he served with. Michael told the Get Vocal group "It was the first time in six years that they (Michael's friends) had heard me speak properly, and that is down to Brett and Dan. My friends noticed a big difference in my speech, and I was able to talk and joke with the people I care about. I wouldn't have thought that possible until coming to this group and I can't thank you enough".

Elizabeth, his wife shared her thoughts, saying,

"Michael enjoys the Monday evening Get Vocal meetings and mixing with new people. He tells me everyone is so friendly! He is a very modest man and quite embarrassed over his loss of speech. I am so pleased that he is socialising more as it is needed to continue regaining his confidence. Likewise, the veterans' group is a good thing for him to mix with like-minded ex-military persons. He's had such an interesting career, travelling the world whilst working in the forces."



Michael's story is a profound example of resilience and the importance of community support in overcoming life's challenges. Through the compassionate intervention of Get Vocal and NAAFI Break, he found a path to recovery, renewed confidence, and a reinvigorated sense of purpose.

VICKY



Vicky and her family have been attending Blackpool FC Community Trust (BFCCT) sessions since December 2022 when we first launched our Winter Warm Hubs. The hub aimed to support local families through the cost-of-living crisis by providing food and a warm place to visit, meaning the heating and electricity could be turned off at home and the weekly shopping bill would be less.

At first, although Vicky welcomed the support, she was hesitant due to her self-confidence and the stigma around accessing the free service. However, after attending a few sessions, she became more confident and attended more regularly. With the rising costs of food, bills and everything else, supporting her family with essentials had caused Vicky a lot of anxiety.

Vicky particularly benefited from the support, reduced utility bills and the opportunity to access a free meal each evening with her family. This relieved the pressure of having to choose between her weekly shop or essential items such as school shoes for her children.

After the winter hubs concluded in March 2023, BFCCT continued to support local families by offering alternative provision throughout the summer term. Vicky and her children accessed these sessions with the addition of her partner when he wasn't working.

Vicky continued to visit the Family Hubs right through the year. During this time Vicky's confidence grew, and she decided she wanted to start volunteering with the hope that it would help her progress into some form of career such as a teaching assistant. In February, Vicky started volunteering at our Big Food Truck service, packing food parcels at the stadium to support her local community. This has since led to Vicky volunteering at our Breakfast Club for families with younger children too.



Lauren, Community Living Support Manager at BFCCT said,

"It has been great to see Vicky grow in confidence. Moving from sitting and keeping to herself, to getting involved and trying new activities. It just shows that sessions like this do make a difference to the lives of those who attend."

The introduction of physical activity and homework club has also been a welcomed addition to the Family Clubs. Vicky's children have enjoyed burning off some energy, and the parents have been encouraged to get involved too. The walking and boxing activities have given Vicky the confidence to get more active in her personal life. Homework club has provided a place for her daughter to complete her homework which she has been more reluctant to do at home.

Vicky said,

"Thanks to the support from staff at Blackpool FC Community Trust Hubs, and the volunteering opportunities I have been part of, I am now hoping to continue volunteering more hours whilst also exploring opportunities that will support me to up-skill myself in Community Work.

"This is something I never thought possible for me, but the support Lauren has given me has boosted my confidence and I'm excited to see where this journey will take me."



JOSH



From a young age, Josh's journey with Blackpool FC Community Trust's (BFCCT) Premier League Kicks (PL Kicks) programme has been nothing short of transformative.

Josh began engaging with BFCCT when he was just 11 years old, as a participant attending our PL Kicks pan-ability sessions. Over the next six years, Josh became a familiar face at these sessions, eventually transitioning from participant to volunteer and clocking in over 100 hours of voluntary service. His enthusiasm, dedication, and ability to connect with others did not go unnoticed by the coaches, and soon Josh was offered the opportunity to become a paid staff member. Now, he works at the same PL Kicks pan-ability and half-term disability camps that once shaped his experiences.



Josh's involvement with BFCCT goes back to his school days at Park Community Academy. A teacher introduced him to the free PL Kicks community sessions offered by BFCCT, and Josh quickly became a regular attendee, drawn by his love for sports and new activities. These sessions fuelled his passion and provided a platform to build lasting friendships and develop a rapport with BFCCT staff.

Through his extensive volunteering, Josh gained invaluable work experience, eventually transitioning to a paid role within BFCCT. This progression inspired him to continue his education at our own Blackpool FC Sports College, where he further improved his skills and confidence. Josh's connection to the delivery of BFCCT allows him to relate with the current participants, some of whom have complex needs.

His journey through the programme has improved his confidence, strengthened by his continuous involvement alongside his ongoing studies at Blackpool FC Sports College. Together with his practical experience, Josh has actively pursued additional training and professional development (CPD) opportunities, further enhancing his ability to support and safeguard the young people he works with.

Josh shares,

"As a staff member, I now feel more confident, and I'm no longer shy like I used to be as a participant."

As a former participant turned staff member, he is uniquely positioned to give back, helping young people with additional needs navigate the same path he once walked. His relatability and empathy make him an effective role model, creating trust and communication between staff, participants, and their parents.

In his current role, Josh ensures that the sessions provide a safe, welcoming environment where young people with additional needs can enjoy themselves and build connections. His nurturing approach and personal experience make him a beloved figure in the PL Kicks disability community.



JACK SHIELDS

HEAD OF OPERATIONS

This year, our central team has continued to evolve, we've welcomed a new Marketing and Communications Officer, enabling us to increase our coverage and the quality of programme promotion; and our new Finance Manager allows for more detailed administration of our financial operations, leading to even better financial health.

We've upgraded our communications system with stronger cyber security and more efficient management systems, streamlining our office operations and enhancing our overall protection. We're continuously improving processes, moving towards digital solutions, reducing our paper use, and making it easier for staff to perform their duties efficiently.

This season our interactions on Instagram have increased by 100% compared to the previous season, we reached a total of 20,000 followers across our platforms and launched our Spotify account to host Get Vocal: The Podcast.

Partnerships play a crucial role in our success. A recent highlight was a visit by the NatWest regional board, following up on the great local partnership we've been developing over the past two to three years. We discussed how we can continue working together effectively and explored future opportunities with key decision-makers to support our town.

We've had another successful season supporting the football club with the coordination of mascots on match days, creating memorable experiences for young fans who get to meet players and walk out onto the pitch in front of the cheering Bloomfield Road stands. The feedback has been incredibly positive about our staff.

Our sponsorship agreement with ticketing partner LionTrust provided us with 50 tickets to every Blackpool home fixture enabling more than 1,100 community participants to experience live football, something they may not have had the opportunity to do otherwise. In addition to that, more than 740 young players from grassroots football teams associated with our Tangerine Teammates initiative

also received tickets from Blackpool FC, giving them the chance to be flag bearers and take part in the half-time activities our staff coordinate on the pitch with the football club and half-time sponsor, Football Flick.

The Tangerine Teammates initiative, which is free to be a part of, has successfully facilitated interactions between Blackpool FC's first-team players and 22 grassroots clubs inspiring young players and leading to an increase in player visits, something that we aim to expand on even further in the future.

Although we are a charity ourselves, we operate a signed item charity request window with the football club, through which we've supported 40 local clubs, schools, and charities this season, with merchandise signed by Blackpool FC players, helping them raise funds and support their activities.

Following the lease of the Aspire Sports Hub, we've taken significant steps to improve the facilities. These ongoing developments are revitalising what was a run-down site. We have successfully introduced facility hire, allowing local sports clubs and organisations to use the site for more affordable winter training while also timetabling our provision to ensure the site meets the needs of our community.

The stadium has also seen some exciting developments, including the creation of a custom-designed Esports suite housing 10 top-of-the-range gaming PCs. This new addition supports the launch of an Esports course at Blackpool FC Sports College, opening up another innovative education pathway for school leavers.

As we look ahead, we are enthusiastic about the continued development of facilities, including those next to the stadium, and the exciting initiatives planned for the coming year. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to provide exceptional opportunities for the people of Blackpool.



OUR FOLLOWER COUNT HIT OVER

20,000

ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS



OUR OVERALL REACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA WAS

1,438,808



INTERACTIONS INCREASED BY

100%

ON  INSTAGRAM



ON AVERAGE WE POSTED

62 **SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**

EVERY WEEK

WE WROTE & PUBLISHED



117

NEWS ARTICLES



WE JOINED

 SPOTIFY



LISTEN HERE



TRUSTEES

This season, we were pleased to welcome several new trustees to our board.

Julian Winter, CEO of Blackpool Football Club, Nick Horne, Club Secretary of Blackpool Football Club, and Dayle Harrison, ex-headteacher have joined us. We are confident that their experience and expertise will

help us continue to positively impact our community.

Sadly, we also mourn the loss of Chris Lickiss, a cherished former trustee, who passed away this season. Chris' contributions over the years have been invaluable, and his legacy will continue to inspire our work.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all past and current trustees for their ongoing support and commitment.

OUR CEO JOINS EFL IN THE COMMUNITY BOARD

Blackpool Football Club and Blackpool Football Club Community Trust were pleased to announce Ashley Hackett's appointment on to the Board of the EFL in the Community, the charitable arm of the EFL.

Following on from his exemplary leadership of the Club's Community Trust over the past 12 years, Ashley is now a nominated Trustee of the EFL in the Community Board, where he will represent the nationwide network of Club Community Organisations.

On his appointment, Ashley said:

"I take great pride in being the first CCO Lead to join the Board of the EFL in the Community and really look forward to working alongside other Board Members and the new Director of Community, Debbie Cook.

"This gives us a great opportunity

to shape the future work the EFL, Clubs and their official charities can do to support their local communities.

"I think this appointment is a real testament to the great work our team at Blackpool FC Community Trust do, to bring genuine support to many issues our town faces.

"I hope this national opportunity will help raise our profile and bring even greater support moving forward."

Chair of the EFL in the Community Board, Liam Scully said:

"I am delighted to officially welcome Ashley to the Board, who I know will bring a wealth of experience and relevance to the role and have a deep understanding of the challenges facing the charitable organisations that we support."



ACTIVE MINDS

Blackpool FC Community Trust announced the launch of a new initiative, Active Minds in May. Active Minds addresses the growing demand for mental well-being outlets and support. There is often a stigma associated with mental health, so Active Minds combats that and promotes positive well-being through the power of sport.

Weekly sessions are more than just showing up for an hour and then returning home. We have developed Active Minds to impact the lives of local people, create a sense of belonging, encourage new friendships, and improve physical and mental well-being. We want our participants to be part of something bigger, experiencing togetherness and self-achievement.

Active Minds utilises facilities across the town to provide accessible and cost-appropriate football sessions for the wider community. Anyone aged 18+ can get involved, regardless of whether they have played football before.

A typical session is two hours and consists of participating in some activity alongside socialising. It's more than just football; it's about switching off for a few hours a day, away from the stresses of life.

The first phase of six sessions a week launched on Monday 1st July, with a further phase starting in September and introducing additional locations and activities.



Since the launch of Active Minds, we have engaged with more than 100 local individuals per week at our Stanley Park and Aspire Sports Hub sessions. We recently announced a brand new session at Unity Academy on Thursday evenings and plan to add more sessions and venues soon.

Shane, Active Minds Team Leader at Blackpool FC Community Trust, said,

“There was a need for an affordable active community group for both men and women across Blackpool and the feedback so far has been amazing.

“Starting with one session and now delivering six plus sessions a week has been an amazing progression, knowing the participants look forward to next week’s session is a great feeling. We have over 100 participants attending per week, and we look forward to growing even further.”

Scott, a regular participant, said,

“I have completed the first six-week block of sessions on a Monday night with Active Minds. BFCCT have been brilliant in making sure it’s a good fun session with lots of laughs and good football. Any strong tackles or people getting on each other’s backs is squashed to maintain a positive session. Thank you to all the lads, it’s a pleasure to be a part of it. I am looking forward to the next block of sessions.”



MUSE BECOMES A PRINCIPAL COMMUNITY PARTNER

Blackpool Football Club and Blackpool Football Club Community Trust were delighted to announce that nationwide placemaker, Muse, and contractor VINCI Building signed an agreement to be Principal Community Partners for the 23/24 and 24/25 seasons.

Muse is working with Blackpool Council to deliver the £350m regeneration of Talbot Gateway, which is repositioning a key area of the town centre as an exciting new commercial and leisure quarter.

Currently, the team is on site with a new £100m, 215,000 sq ft, highly-sustainable office building, which will become a new regional home for the Civil Service in Blackpool town centre, for which VINCI Building is the principal contractor.

The long-standing Muse and Blackpool Council partnership has already delivered the 125,000 sq ft Number One Bickerstaffe Square council office, a Sainsbury's supermarket, a refurbished 650-space multi-storey car park, a 144-bedroom Holiday Inn hotel, the new tram interchange, alongside extensive public spaces for the community to enjoy.

Both Muse and VINCI Building are committed to providing opportunities for people in the town, with this significant investment aiding the Community Trust's ongoing work even further.

As part of this exciting new partnership, both Muse and VINCI Building's branding will appear on all Community Trust staff uniforms and Blackpool FC Sports College football kits over the course of the next two seasons.

Alan McBride, Technical Director at Muse, said,

"Supporting local communities through our work, is one of our key drivers as a business and we're excited to launch our new partnership with Blackpool FC's Community Trust, alongside our contractor, VINCI Building.



"Regeneration isn't just about bricks and mortar, it's about delivering a meaningful impact and leaving a long-term positive legacy that benefits everyone. We're looking forward to working with our new partners over the next two years, providing a wealth of opportunities for local people to thrive."

John Roberts, Managing Director at VINCI Building said,

"We welcome the opportunity to support Blackpool Football Club Community Trust in partnership with Muse, strengthening our ties with the people of Blackpool and the wider Fylde Coast region."

BFCCT CEO, Ashley Hackett said,

"With funding becoming a greater challenge year-on-year for charities, support like this partnership with Muse and VINCI Building is fantastic and a great way to build new partnerships.

"What became clear at the start of our conversations was how enthusiastic and committed both parties were to make a difference to our community. We're really excited to work closely with both Muse and VINCI Building over the course of the next two seasons."

BLACKPOOL FC LADIES 2024/25 PRE-SEASON UPDATE

It has been a busy season behind the scenes since the official announcement of a new Blackpool FC Ladies committee led by ex-Blackpool FC player Marc Joseph.



Andy went on to say,

“We have had fantastic success with the ETC in the last two seasons. We have had five players identified to be monitored by the England Lionesses this season, an incredible achievement! The programme is for the most elite girls from Under 9 to Under 16, and we are using these groups to signpost more players into the Blackpool FC Ladies teams when they turn 16. This season most of our ETC teams have gone unbeaten and picked up wins against Manchester United and Liverpool along the way. It is an exciting time for young females to be part of Blackpool FC and join our ambitions of driving the Ladies First Team up the leagues.”

Open age trials have been held to recruit new players for the Ladies First Team and Development Squad. We had a huge turnout, with over 40 players attending the first week.

Alice Earnshaw, Blackpool FC Ladies First Team Captain said,

“I have been involved with Blackpool FC Ladies since I was eight years old, and this is the most interest I have ever seen in the First Team trials. We have had some cracking players attending, and we are looking forward to a positive season and aiming for promotion.”

With fresh energy and ideas driving the standards throughout the club, a new structure has been put in place to improve the quality of the Blackpool FC Ladies First Team and ensure a steady pipeline of talented young players are coming through the ranks.

One key aspect of this is the new prominence and priority of the Blackpool FC Ladies Under 18s team which included holding trials for the squad, it was great to see so much interest and so many talented players getting involved.

Andy Aspinall, Blackpool FC Ladies Manager said,

“We have had girls all over the Northwest express interest in joining the Under 18s team. We believe in the power of youth and want to invest in creating the best set-up in the Northwest. We aim to build a strong Under 18s team who will quickly be pushing to join the First Team. The Under 18s and First Team train side-by-side every week, which allows us to invite the most talented girls to train with the First Team and create a much easier transition.”

In addition, the FA funded Blackpool FC Girls' Emerging Talent Centre (ETC) now has an exit route into the Under 18s and the First Team. ETCs are part of the England Lioness Talent Pathway and aim to develop girls to play at the most elite levels of the female game.



BLACKPOOL FC IN THE COMMUNITY



FAMILY HUBS

Blackpool FC first team players Matt Pennington, Oliver Casey and Owen Dale attended our Family Clubs to hand out food to participants and spend time interacting with the families.

Later in the year, Blackpool FC first team players Kenny Dougall, CJ Hamilton and Dan Grimshaw attended our Winter Hubs, this is the same provision as Family Clubs but held in the winter months. These players also helped to hand out food and socialised with our participants.



CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Our Christmas Campaign gift wrapping was attended by the full Blackpool FC First team, the players also helped with delivering presents to Blackpool primary schools.

Our Christmas meal was attended by the Under 18's Academy squad, they interacted with attendees and helped to hand out the Christmas dinners.



STARS HALLOWEEN CAMP

Our Stars Camp is for children and young adults who are living with a disability. Blackpool FC First team players Jake Beesley, Rich O'Donnell and Mackenzie Chapman attended our Halloween Party to participate in party activities with the children including apple bobbing and toilet paper mummy competitions.



FOOTBALL CAMP

Inspiring the next generation of footballers, Blackpool FC First team players Kylian Kouassi, Tashan Oakley-Boothe and Doug Tharne attended our football camps to play alongside the young footballers and answer questions from the children.



FORCES FOOTBALL

Blackpool FC First team players Dom Thompson and Kyle Joseph attended Forces Football for a question-and-answer session, followed by some football with the participants.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Blackpool FC first-team players CJ Hamilton, Marvin Ekpiteta, Tashan Oakley-Boothe and Kylian Kouassi joined us to present the winners of our Black History Month Competition with their prizes at their primary school.

The competition was open to all Blackpool primary schools and was well received with nearly 800 entries. The Blackpool FC first team players answered questions and spoke to the pupils about the influential black people in their lives, shared their personal achievements and encouraged the children to work hard and focus on their dreams.



BLACKPOOL FC SCHOOL

As part of ITV's EFL Highlights programme, ITV Sport attended Stanley Park where Blackpool FC Head Coach and first team players were training alongside Blackpool FC School students. The Head Coach and players answered questions from the young people and played football with them afterwards.

TANGERINE TEAM MATES 2023/24 DRAW



The draw for this season's Tangerine Team Mates was published in September 2023, with grassroots clubs across the Fylde Coast being paired up with members of the Blackpool FC first-team squad.

Sponsored by Eleven Sports Media and in conjunction with Blackpool FC Community Trust, Tangerine Team Mates, now in its third season, gives the opportunity for young footballers across the Fylde the opportunity to meet and engage with some of Blackpool's first-team squad.



SONNY CAREY



ANDY LYONS



OLIVER CASEY



JORDAN RHODES



CALLUM CONNOLLY



RICH O'DONNELL & MACKENZIE CHAPMAN



OWEN DALE



DAN GRIMSHAW



KARAMOKO DEMBELE



JORDAN GABRIEL



DOM THOMPSON & TASHAN OAKLEY-BOOTHE



MARVIN EKPITETA



SHAYNE LAVERY



KENNY DOUGALL



JAKE BEESLEY



MATT PENNINGTON



JENSEN WEIR & MATTY VIRTUE



JAMES HUSBAND



CJ HAMILTON



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