



Annual Report 2025-26

Company Number: 06541137
Charity number: 1123313 | SCO43161

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The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.



Changing Lives Through Grassroots Sport

Sported exists to make sure no-one is left on the sidelines, so that everyone and every community has the opportunity to thrive through sport.

We turn grassroots sport into a tool for preventing social challenges by equipping community groups with the funding, expertise and volunteer support they need to reach more people.

This is where Sported steps in.

Founded in 2008, as part of the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games, Sported was built on the belief that grassroots sport can tackle inequality and transform lives.

Today, we support the UK's largest network of grassroots sport and physical activity groups, working with around 5,000 clubs and community organisations and reaching over one million people every year.

These groups sit at the heart of their communities, providing safe spaces, trusted relationships and opportunities for people to build confidence, improve wellbeing and feel a sense of belonging. Many operate with limited funding and volunteer capacity; despite playing a vital role in supporting communities facing rising poverty, worsening mental health and reduced youth services.

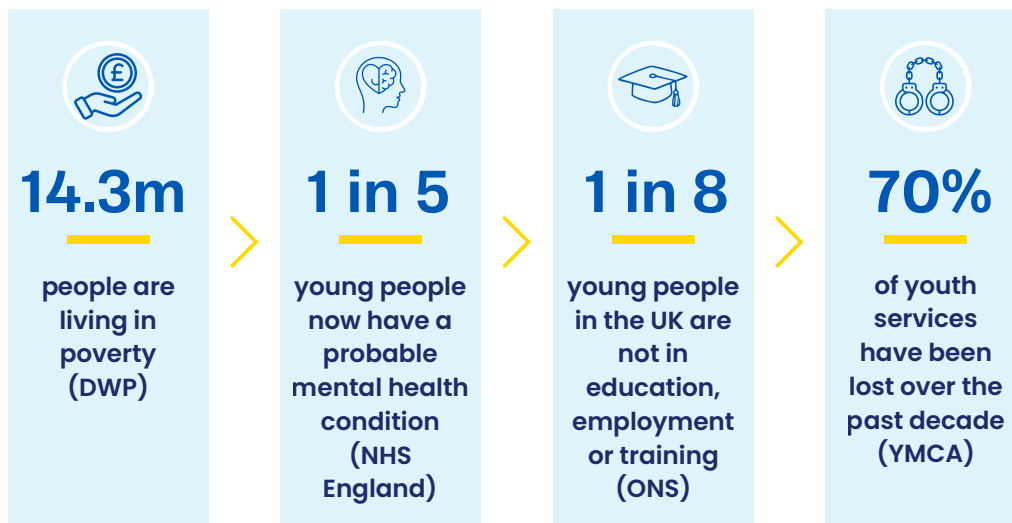
Sported helps strengthen these organisations so they can continue delivering impact where it is needed most.

"If it wasn't for the fantastic support from Sported, our club would no longer be in existence."

— Community Group Leader

Tackling Inequality Through Sport

Communities across the UK are facing increasingly complex social challenges.



These challenges are deeply interconnected and are often felt most sharply in underserved communities.

Grassroots sport provides an important and undervalued solution.

For many young people, a local sports club provides:

- trusted adult relationships
- structure and routine
- positive peer networks
- confidence and resilience
- a sense of belonging

These protective factors can help prevent wider social issues from escalating. Physical inactivity costs the UK economy an estimated £20 billion each year, but the wider social cost is seen particularly in communities where young people lack safe spaces, positive role models and opportunities to thrive.

Grassroots sport can help change this. It creates environments where people feel supported, connected and able to build brighter futures.

How Sported Creates Impact

Sported strengthens grassroots sport by helping community organisations become more effective, resilient and inclusive.

Alongside funding opportunities, we provide practical expertise, training and long-term capacity building through a network of staff and more than 250 volunteer consultants. This support includes:

- governance and safeguarding
- fundraising and financial planning
- business strategy and sustainability
- volunteer development
- marketing and communication

We also deliver education and training programmes focused on key social issues including:

- mental health and wellbeing
- youth engagement
- social inclusion
- employability
- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour



Case Study

One example is Eat Sleep Ride, a Sported-supported organisation helping young people improve their wellbeing through equine activities and community support. At 16, Iona stopped attending school due to severe anxiety and isolation. Through the support of the club, she rebuilt her confidence and began looking towards a more positive future.

“Being around the horses gives me a sense of calm and safety, and over time my confidence began to grow.”

Stories like Iona’s demonstrate the vital role grassroots sport plays in supporting wellbeing and creating stronger communities

Demand for this support continues to grow. Sported’s Community Pulse research found that 82% of grassroots group leaders identify funding as their greatest challenge, while many organisations are increasingly responding to issues including mental health, social isolation and inactivity.

Sported as a Grant Maker

With our expanding partnerships programme Sported is now an established and trusted grant maker and we are intentionally using our network and our core team across the regions to enhance our effectiveness in this space by:

- Reaching volunteer-led groups that are overlooked
- Removing the common barriers that groups face in accessing funding
- Ensuring grant funding criteria that is relevant to their needs
- Building groups’ capacity to ensure that every £1 invested goes further

Funding alone is not enough. Our unique approach to grant making delivers sustainable, community wide change.

Who are our Community Groups?



42%

are entirely
volunteer-run



85%

of groups get inactive
young people active



70%

of groups get inactive
adults active



25%

operate on income
below £10k

WHY OUR SUPPORT MATTERS



27%

Around a quarter of groups aren't confident
they'll exist in three years.

82%

Majority of group leaders say funding is
priority in next 6 months.

56%

Say cost reduces
participation in
sport for young
people.

60%

Say young
people face
unequal access
to activities.

52%

Over half of groups say
quality and availability
of facilities are a
significant issue.

77%

Over three quarters of groups say mental
health is biggest challenge for young people.

73%

Around two thirds of groups report a lack of
local opportunities for young people.



(Data from Sported Community Pulse Winter 2025–2026)

Word from the CEO

Since the charity was founded in 2008, Sported's impact has been a story of hope, of inspiration, of improving the lives of individuals and of the communities in which they live – using grassroots sport as the driving force to make good things happen.

More significantly, Sported is also the sum of 5000 extraordinary stories from all corners of the UK, written by the clubs, groups and organisations we support and resource to make an incredible difference.

Like the boxing coach in Huddersfield who hauls kids away from the perils of gangs and offers them self-discipline in the safety of his gym. Or the married couple in Armagh who use futsal as a means for those granted asylum to integrate into their local area. Or the basketball centre in one of Glasgow's most deprived areas which generates employability and education for all. Or the groundbreaking football team in Cardiff that's become a haven for the LGBTQ+ community.

Our role is to give endeavours like these a sporting chance of success; even in tough economic climates or where the existing funding system passes them by. Our mission is to unlock this impact so all of us feel the benefit.

That's why we called our new strategy Grassroots Sport Unleashed. We see a superpower out there that has not yet been fully tapped into. Sported's goal is to realise the full potential of grassroots sport. Not simply to get the country active, but to ignite all the life-changing benefits which it catalyses. It's a key reason why we took the decision this year to extend our reach beyond young people and examine how we help those of all ages who are emboldened through community sport. The next generation remain at the core of what we do, but we also recognise the many benefits that our support already provides to all and we will be further evolving our offer to widen that net.

It has already begun by putting more staff on the ground in different parts of the country to provide even more localised, tailored assistance. And it's why we're constantly collaborating with our funding partners, government and other supporters so we can all stand beside the local heroes who bring our mission to life.

It's not an easy climate for the third sector – or for grassroots sport. But our research shows us that the support we offer has never been more needed. This annual report will give you a flavour of how we transform lives and strengthen communities with the help of our network – and our role in writing those 5000 stories and ensuring each one has a happy ending.



Sarah Kaye
CEO

Word from the Chair

The Sported Awards which were held in London last June, reminded all of us involved in the charity about the real impacts we play a role in generating, on the ground, UK-wide.

The clubs and groups we support are more than sport hubs: they're gamechangers who put their heart and soul into reducing barriers and raising the bar for some of our most marginalised and underserved communities.

They are underpinned by our legion of selfless volunteer consultants who give their time, energy and professional expertise free of charge, growing the operational sustainability and effectiveness of the organisations we help thrive. We celebrated them that evening but also showcased the help that Sported receives from others.

The Barclays Community Sport Fund is four years old and it has grown beyond the wildest dreams set when it was first established. The Knight Frank Limitless programme is a brilliant example of how a company can gain invaluable employee engagement, in addition to using sport to connect with its local neighbourhoods. Flutter's Cash4Clubs has provided a lifeline for so many.

I am proud that Postcode Lottery and other valued partners, trusts and foundations have partnered with us, tapping into Sported's real expertise in getting the right funds to the places which need them most in the most efficient way possible.

Additionally, we work hand in hand with governments to deliver on their priorities. Linking with Sport England, Sport Wales, Sport Scotland and Sport NI, utilising our local knowledge and connections in a way that fuses policy delivery with the community sector.

The conversations we have in Whitehall, Holyrood, Stormont and at the Senedd are focused on the positive return on investment we can generate – not solely in the core aspects of sport and physical activity, but with a multiplier effect across health, justice, education and so much more.

It comes at a cost. As Trustees, our role is to keep the charity as sustainable as those we aim to serve. Every penny counts.

Raising funds is a challenge but we believe every pound that goes into community sport is money well spent.

The rewards, as well as the awards, are there for all to see.



Simon Cummins
Chair

Sported's Aims and Objectives

Every year we set key strategic targets to track progress against our organisational objectives.

Services and Support Targets

Target: 1,800 priority network groups will have received active support from Sported.

1,969 priority groups received active support from Sported, ensuring that we delivered essential and impactful services to community groups most in need.

Target: 60% of all priority network groups will report strong inclusivity, resilience, and effectiveness scores following active support.

60% of all priority network groups reported strong inclusivity, resilience, and effectiveness following active support, demonstrating the positive impact of our services and support.

Community Pulse (Winter 2025–2026)

The Community Pulse is Sported's longitudinal study of community groups across the UK who deliver sport and physical activity for underserved young people and adults. It covers the sustainability, needs, and ambitions of such groups, ensuring the voice of grassroots and smaller community organisations are heard.



Target: we will have completed 300 successful volunteering placements to priority network groups.

We successfully completed 318 volunteer placements to priority network groups, delivering expert-led, one-to-one, tailored support to community groups to enhance their organisational practice.

Target: our total network will be greater than 5,500 organisations, groups, and partners.

The network increased by 31% to 4,515 groups. Our organisational restructure temporarily reduced the capacity of our Delivery team to recruit new community groups. We have now expanded our footprint across the regions by recruiting an additional 5 Regional Delivery Officers.

Target: we will leverage more than £2.25m in grants to our sector through effective partnerships*

We exceeded this target, with grant income recognised for onward distribution reaching £4.19m for 2025–26, substantially growing the funding available to the community sport sector.

*grant income into Sported (grant funding out in the year is £2.7m).

Target: 20% of all grants distributed will be received by priority network groups.

35% of all grants distributed were received by priority network groups, ensuring our funding reached community groups most vulnerable to economic pressures.

Key Organisational Initiatives

Key achievements in 2025–26 include:

- Securing a multi-year funding partnership with Sport Wales
- Launching our new Strategic Framework 'Grassroots Sport Unleashed'
- Creating a new volunteering strategy to drive successful placements
- Developing Sported Networks to enhance presence in key UK localities (connecting groups to enhance collaboration and best practice)
- Creating a new Impact Measurement Framework to evidence our work
- Migrating to a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, vastly enhancing data capture and operations
- Redeveloping delivery processes to improve impact data collection
- Relaunching our website to communicate our brand and drive our goals
- Delivering on key corporate partnerships, securing renewals
- Developing our fundraising approach and securing new partnerships
- Building stronger links with UK Sport Councils, enhancing our relations.

Sported Outputs and Impacts

Below, we further discuss the outputs of our work, and the impacts that stem directly from these.

Services and Benefits

Sported's services and benefits have a broad and meaningful impact for our groups, their participants and communities, and the wider Sport for Development sector; demonstrating how we are making a difference to both our beneficiaries, and society more broadly.

The overall number of services and benefits delivered across our total network in 2025-26 was 4721, demonstrating the breadth and scale of our work across the UK.

Using data from our 2025-26 Network Survey (sample size = 466), groups that had frequent and deeper engagements confirmed positive outcomes relating to:

- Group effectiveness, resilience, inclusivity, environmental sustainability practice, and feelings of connection and trust within the system.
- Participant health and wellbeing, confidence to achieve, and belonging.
- Community power, safety, cohesion, and impact.
- Conditions for people and communities to become active, marginalised group's ability to be active, and participants physical activity levels.
- Our network's assessments of Sported's ability to meet their needs, engaging effectively, and supporting groups to secure additional funding.



Volunteer Consultants

A key component of our support comes from our network of Volunteer Consultants who provide professional and other expertise – at no cost – to organisations to address challenges and assist with specific projects.

221 Volunteer Consultants generated approximately 2,500 hours of help – a measured value of over £0.4m in economic benefit.

Our volunteers carried out 318 formal placements to our priority groups in 2025–26. These placements involved 1,987 hours from our Volunteer Consultants (captured within the 2,500 figure above), demonstrating the considerable time in expert-led, tailored support we have brought to our beneficiaries. Eighty groups completed post-placement evaluation forms. Respondents agreed that Sported support:

- Made their group more resilient (79%)
- Improved their long-term sustainability (78%)
- Increased their confidence in running their group (80%)
- Made a positive difference to their group (96%)

In sum, our evidence indicates that volunteer placements have an important impact on groups' capacity and functioning, making an important difference to our beneficiaries.

OUR VOLUNTEER EXPERTS MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE

Our volunteers provide expert-led, tailored support to our beneficiaries.



318

Our volunteers carried out 318 formal placements to our priority network groups in 2025-26.



1,987

These placements involved 1,987 hours from our volunteer consultants (captured within 2,500 figure above),.

Eighty groups completed post-placement evaluation forms. Across these completions, respondents agreed that Sported support:



79%

Made their group more resilient.



78%

Improved their long-term sustainability.



80%

Increased their confidence in running their group.



96%

Made a positive difference to their group.

Our evidence indicates that Sported volunteer placements have an important impact on groups capacity and functioning, making an important difference to our beneficiaries.



Volunteer Consultants in the UK

In 2025-2026, our team of **221 volunteer consultants** invested 1,987 hours with our network, bringing a wealth of experience across our placement topics:



17%
Income and fundraising



15%
Governance



14%
Strategy and direction



11%
Inclusion



7%
Marketing and comms



6%
Impact practice



3%
Financial management



3%
Leadership coaching



2%
Start up support



1%
Facilities

Where do they come from?

- They find us online
- Chatting to our regional team
- Through corporate partnerships
- Groups who want to help others



Grant-giving

OUR GRANT PROGRAMMES AND REPORTING IN 2025-26



Our grant programmes run across calendar years and have **extended evaluation schedules**.

For this reason, here we **report on grant outputs and impacts that have become available in 2025-26**, despite two programmes running in 2024-25, and four across 2024-25 and 2025-26.

THESE PROGRAMMES ARE:



Birmingham Participatory Grant Making programme.



(24-25)



London Marathon Emergency Fund.



(24-25)



Barclays Access Grants



(24-25)
(25-26)



Barclays Female Coaches for Girls Grants



(24-25)
(25-26)



Flutter Cash4Clubs



(24-25)
(25-26)



Postcode Lottery



(24-25)
(25-26)

Across these six programmes, we distributed a total of £1.57m in grants to 1,233 community groups, who went on to engage 20,931 participants. Using these grants, the groups also trained 854 coaches and were able to secure £834k in additional funding from other sources. This output illustrates the extensive financial support we facilitate for our beneficiaries, and the extended reach and impact of those funds for participants, coaches, and the wider sector.

A total of 1,131 groups completed post-grant evaluation forms. Across these, respondents agreed that:

- The grant increased capacity / delivery of more activities (94%).
- The group was able to engage more participants (83%).
- The grant made a positive difference / impact (97%).

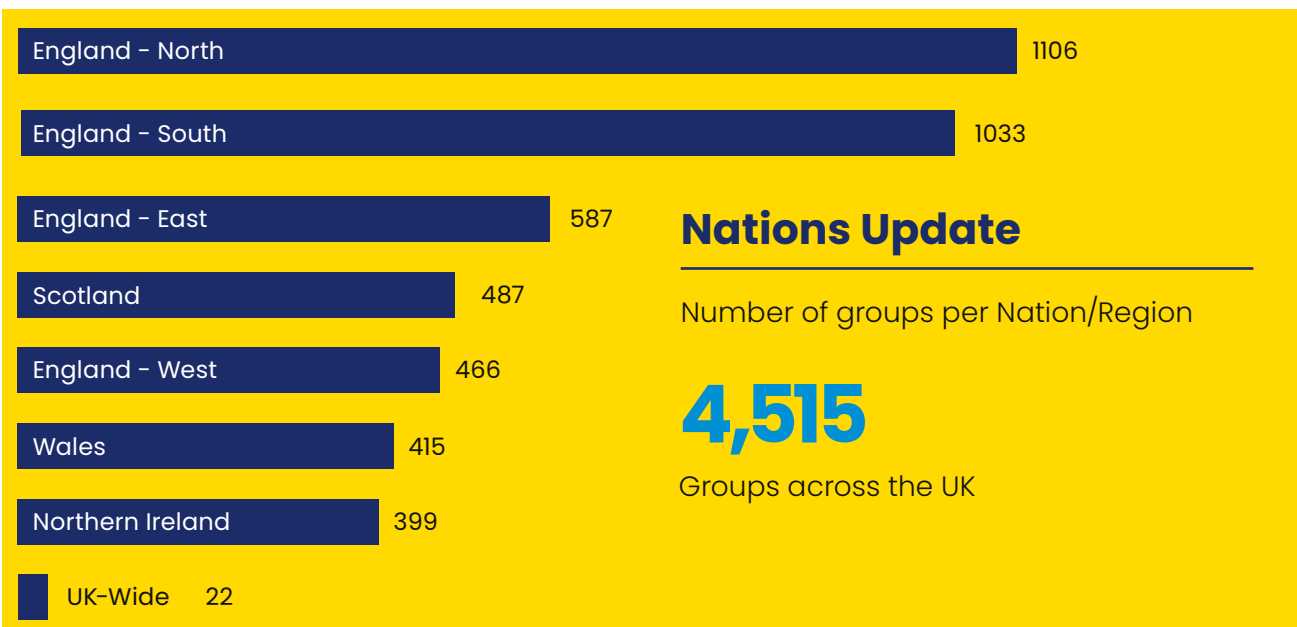
In sum, our evidence shows that Sported grant-giving has had an important impact on groups' capacity and ability to engage, making an important difference to our beneficiaries.

The above figures relate to specific programmes. Across all our projects and partnerships we have distributed a total of £2.7m to community groups in 2025-26, making it our biggest year ever as a grant maker.

Where Sported Delivers

During 2025-26 we reorganised the delivery areas in England, consolidating nine regions into four which are headed up by our new Area Managers. As part of the changes we recruited an additional five Regional Delivery Officers, which has given us a better geographical spread across England, enhancing our reach and engagement with groups.

These are how the numbers of groups within our network currently look across our areas:



England

South

The South area reflects both the scale and diversity of need across London, the South East and the South West, with more than 1,000 groups in our network. In this part of England, grassroots sport is often a vital point of connection for communities facing poverty, poor mental health, isolation and unequal access to opportunities. Our role is to help local organisations become stronger, more resilient and better equipped to respond. This means combining on-the-ground relationship building with practical support that improves confidence, sustainability and long-term reach. It also means staying close to communities; whether in targeted London boroughs or in more rural and coastal areas, so that groups can access the help they need in ways that work for them.



Sported ambassador Aaron Phipps MBE in Brighton with Sported and Beach Tennis UK

North

Across the North, Sported's support is helping grassroots organisations in communities where opportunity can be unevenly distributed and the need for trusted local provision is high. With more than 1,100 groups, this is our largest area in England and one where the wider value of community sport is seen clearly: creating safe spaces, improving wellbeing, building confidence and strengthening local ties. Our work here is focused on helping groups reach people who might otherwise miss out, particularly in areas of deprivation and where access to inclusive provision matters most. This has been greatly aided by a partnership with The Great Run Company; enabling us to give out vital grants to community sport groups in tandem with our support.



Area Manager (North) Kathryn Foley with the team behind The Great North Run

West

In the West, our project-based work with the West Midlands Combined Authority shows how practical support can strengthen the foundations of grassroots organisations and, in turn, increase the impact they have in their communities. Many of the 466 groups we support are volunteerled, operating with limited income and under growing pressure, yet they play an essential role in helping people stay active, connected and supported. By improving organisational health, confidence and access to resources, Sported helps these groups become more sustainable and better able to respond to local challenges. This matters because stronger organisations are better placed to keep opportunities open, reduce barriers to participation and create the conditions for healthier, more connected communities.

East

Across the East, we are working alongside 587 community organisations that want to widen access and create more inclusive environments, particularly for disabled young people and others who may face additional barriers to taking part. This has been accelerated by our long-term partnership with Hertfordshire Sports Partnership. Our projects with them combine funding, practical learning and tailored expertise so that groups can improve not just their immediate offer, but the structures and skills that underpin it. This helps community organisations move from short-term activity to more sustained, confident delivery that can reach further into their communities.



The contribution of our boxing groups was recognised at the Eubank vs Benn bill in London in November 2025.

Scotland

Sported in Scotland continues to strengthen support for community groups, with a focus on increasing resilience, building networks, and supporting volunteers delivering sport and physical activity opportunities.

We have expanded opportunities for organisations to connect, share learning, and access tailored support to help strengthen local provision and community impact.

Scotland distributed 55 People's Postcode Lottery grants in 2025, including 50 small grants of £1,000 and five larger grants of £10,000. The funding focused on supporting groups working within Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 1–3 communities and organisations using sport as a tool for positive social impact, helping local groups strengthen opportunities for young people and communities through sport for good initiatives.

Our projects with Garfield Weston Foundation and the Westminster Foundation focused on supporting hard-to-reach groups across the Scottish Borders and Scottish Highlands. Through a series of in-person networking sessions delivered throughout the year, we supported organisations facing the challenges of rural deprivation; creating opportunities to share best practice, strengthen local connections, and build peer support networks.

In partnership with Caroline Weir, The Pars Foundation and the SFA we launched a Young Leader Programme to inspire and empower the next generation of female leaders in football. Using football as the engagement tool, the programme supported 10 young girls (aged 13–15) to develop their leadership skills and confidence, becoming ambassadors for women and girls in their clubs, schools, and communities.



Young leaders with their certificates following participation in the Caroline Weir Young Leaders Programme.

Wales

Sported's work in Wales has gone from strength to strength this year, underpinned by the continued support of our key funders; Sport Wales, the Moondance Foundation and the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action. Their investment has enabled us to deepen our impact and ensure that more communities across Wales can benefit from our support.

A key highlight of the year has been the growth of our local staff team. With increased capacity on the ground, we have been able to reach and support more smaller, volunteer-led community groups than ever before. This expanded reach is reflected in the significant growth of the Sported network in Wales with 160 groups joining the network over the past year. This continued growth highlights the essential role Sported plays in helping community organisations survive and thrive.

We are also proud to continue our leadership role in the Wales Strategic Volunteering Project, working collaboratively to strengthen volunteering across the sector. Through this work, we are helping to shape a more inclusive, effective and sustainable volunteering landscape in Wales.

Together, these developments reinforce the scale of need across the sector in Wales and the importance of Sported's work in supporting community sport and physical activity groups across Wales.

Northern Ireland

In partnership with Sport NI, Sported launched and delivered our Engage Her training and grants programme to 30 clubs across Northern Ireland, supporting them to develop bespoke women and girls engagement plans. Each group received a £2,000 grant to implement their action plans.

We also distributed £20,000 of grant funding from Sport NI to 41 groups to fund activities marking International Women's Day in March 2026.

Supported by Garfield Weston Foundation and Halifax Foundation for NI, Sported has been able to engineer a concentrated recruitment drive among rural groups in the western part of the province, while delivering solutions which address local need. Engagement with government departments and local partner agencies ensured a collaborative approach to supporting local groups.

Through the support from the Garfield Weston Foundation, 24 young leaders of the future completed our Young Influencer programme, obtaining an OCN in Social Impact in Sports Leadership with our delivery partner, PeacePlayers.

A new small grants programme, launched in memory of Major Kevin McCool, delivered £6,000 in grants to three athletics clubs to widen opportunities for young people to participate in cross-community, cross-country activities.



Northern Ireland National Manager, Judith Rankin, with final year Sport and Exercise students at Ulster University. This is the third year Sported have engaged students in a real-life project which also supports Sported groups.

How Sported and its Partners Create Impact

The incredible support of our partners allows us to fulfil our work and mission. We collaborate with those who share our ambition, and our partnerships are shaped by the needs of those we serve.

Our sector partners including Sport England and Sport Wales are the enablers, funding our frontline work in supporting thousands of grassroots groups and the countless people whose lives they change.

In what continues to be a challenging fundraising landscape, we work hard to maximise this investment; by developing powerful partnerships and collaborations that are generating incremental investment for the sector.

Through our collaborations with Barclays, Knight Frank, Flutter UKI, Postcode Lottery, Great Run, Nissan and the Football Association, we have injected an additional £2.7m investment into the sector over the last 12 months.

This is in addition to many other partnerships including with the Westminster Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Moondance and Peter Harrison Foundation.

Barclays Community Sport Fund

**£1.4m distributed over last
12 months**

Branching out from football to include cricket and tennis, the Barclays Community Sport Fund expanded its reach to where it is most needed.

It has a particular focus on women and girls, opening doors to true equity in sport and inspiring the development of female coaches to address a deficit in leadership roles and female-led provision.



In 2025-26, we:

- Supported over 1,200 community groups, reaching over 100,000 people;
- Upskilled over 300 new female coaches across the UK in collaboration with governing bodies across the four home nations
- Part-funded three cricket and tennis club facility refurbishments in partnership with Volunteer It Yourself

Community Grants Programme, Supported by Postcode Lottery Players

£600,000 distributed across England, Scotland and Wales

Building on the success of our pilot programme in Scotland in 2024, the 2025 programme provided both financial grants and investment ready support to over 350 community groups to deliver a broad range of sports and activities that responded to local need, promoted social inclusion, and strengthened community cohesion. Particular emphasis was placed on reaching underserved communities and engaging groups who face barriers to participation.

We are delighted that Postcode Lottery has increased its investment in 2026, committing a further £1.9m in grant funding to be distributed by Sported. Through this investment, Sported will continue to empower community organisations to expand their reach, enhance their delivery, and create meaningful, lasting change through sport and physical activity.

Knight Frank Limitless

Reaching 100,000 young people over three years

We partnered with Knight Frank to deliver 'Limitless' – a 3-year social impact programme that invests in and supports local community groups, through direct funding and skilled volunteering.

The Limitless programme provides Knight Frank employees with meaningful, flexible and personalised volunteering experiences that promote professional development and increase work satisfaction, whilst benefiting our local communities. Knight Frank employees are empowered to use their expertise and time to drive positive change and build connections in the communities where they live and work.

Supporting groups based in areas of high deprivation, Sported have listened and understood the needs of these groups and their communities, creating and adapting the programme to respond and ensure our support delivers maximum impact on the ground.

In the first year of the programme, we:

- Engaged seven community groups as ‘Hubs’, receiving a £20,000 investment to upgrade their facilities
- Delivered six volunteering days where the Knight Frank team improved spaces, saved money for groups and connected Knight Frank employees with the communities where they live and work
- Delivered a small grants programme, supporting eighteen community groups with an access grant to retain and increase provision to their participants
- Secured 950 hours of skilled and hands-on volunteering from the Knight Frank team;
- Reached over 10,000 young people reached through programme activities

Westminster Foundation Rural Communities Project

Twenty seven community groups have been recruited, alongside seven statutory providers and five other partner organisations.

During the first year of delivery, the project has concentrated on establishing the Westminster Networks across the Highlands and Lancashire, recruiting community groups, statutory bodies and other partners, offering capacity building support, and putting in place the evaluation systems required to capture baseline data and learning.

Nineteen community groups have accessed active support, with four completing volunteer placements, and fifteen receiving small grants. These services have led to increased outcomes related to sustainability and resilience.

Flutter UKI Cash4Clubs

£500,000 distributed across the UK and Ireland

Sported teamed up with Flutter UKI to deliver another year of Cash4Clubs; specifically aimed at supporting community organisations who deliver sport and physical activity for adults, the Cash4Clubs grant programme provides £2,000 to help adults stay or get active.

Through the programme, we distributed 250 grants of £2,000 to community groups:

- Reaching over 35,000 people
- Half of funded groups supporting people experiencing poverty
- 58% supporting people with mental health challenges
- 56% supporting women and girls
- 41% supporting disabled people
- 36% supporting people from the LGBTQ+ community
- 35% supporting people from racially diverse communities

Great Run Community Fund

A £60,000 grant programme in the North East of England, supporting small grassroots organisations located in areas of high deprivation and those working with disabled people.

Small unrestricted grants make a significant difference to volunteer-led community groups, covering essential costs such as equipment, kit, coaching, and venue hire. The grants have a light-touch application process, making it more accessible for smaller organisations.

Nissan

The Nissan Possibilities Project empowers community groups to strengthen inclusive practice and increase opportunities for young disabled people to engage in sport.

Over the past year, groups in the North East accessed over a hundred hours of tailored support, more than twenty five Nissan employees contributed hands-on involvement, and over £10,000 in grants was invested to enhance inclusive provision.

The programme is now expanding into the South of England.

FA Just Play

The Just Play programme is a national initiative led by The FA (England Football) to support informal, recreational football for adults. Just Play provides a fun and welcoming environment for participants to engage in football, regardless of their fitness level or previous experience.

Set to be delivered across 2026, two hundred groups will receive a £500 grant to support session delivery, as well as access to equipment, kit vouchers and online training.

Sports Councils

Across the UK we've strengthened our partnerships with the Sports Councils in different ways.

In Scotland, we are at the early stages of engagement with Sport Scotland and now attend regular meetings with our account manager.

In Northern Ireland, we've played a critical role in Sport NI's delivery around enhancing access to sport for women and girls through the Engage Her programme.

In Wales, we work closely with Sport Wales to feedback key insights we are finding on the ground via our Delivery Officers. These often relate to unique geographical challenges or barriers to engagement in different sports.

In England, we've further strengthened our regional networks through increasing our Regional Delivery Officers on the ground who help groups. Across all nations we continue to bring in private sector partners to further enhance what we can offer groups - from grants to free, high quality training for their staff.

Funders 2025–26

A huge thank you to all our funders and partners



Our Teams: Sported Staffing and Structure

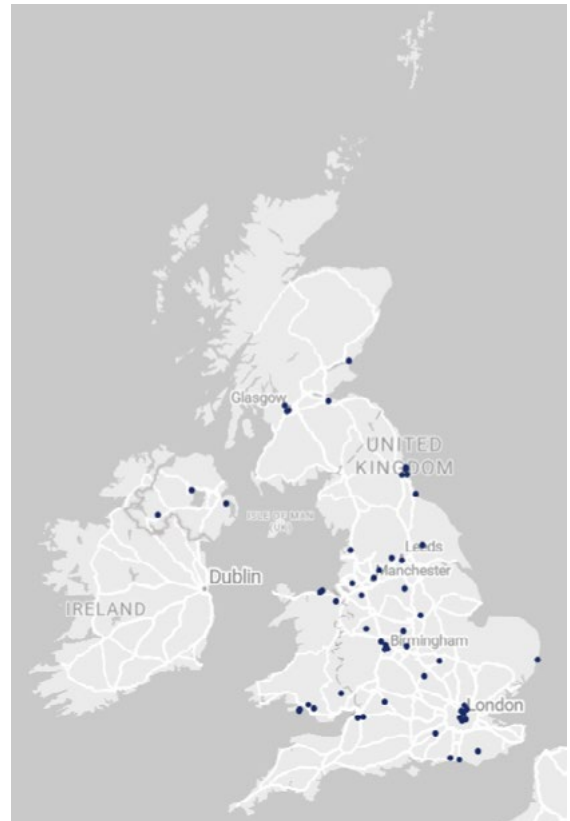
In 2025–26, Sported had a team of over 50 employees working around the UK, with around one third of the team being funded by projects.

The CEO is supported with a leadership team of four – Chief Financial Officer, Head of Operations, Head of Strategy and Insight, and Head of Partnerships.

We are proud to be a UK-wide charity, and the geographical spread of our staff underlines our commitment to every part of the country. Operationally, our Delivery Team of 38 is spread across our four regions of England and the three other home nations, giving us breadth and depth in our reach. With Delivery Officers in key locales, we ensure the solutions and support we provide are aligned with and adapted to local resources and challenges.

Our other internal teams cover Finance and People, Insight and Research, Network Services, Volunteer Services, Fundraising and Marketing, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

In the Autumn of 2025 we restructured the team to deliver operational efficiencies and enhance our reach across the regions in England.



Impact Measurement Framework Developments over the last 18 months

Over the last eighteen months, we have made significant updates to our impact practice, which has elevated our data capture and improved the overall robustness and reliability of our evidence gathering and reporting.

We began by developing and implementing a common outcomes framework (COF) aligned to our 'Grassroots Sport Unleashed' strategy. This ensured that all subsequently designed evaluations and data collections captured impacts directly relevant to our organisational mission and goals.

We then overhauled our broader data collection approach, strengthening quality and robustness by moving beyond anecdotal evidence and qualitative methods, toward more sophisticated, quantitative protocols, including longitudinal design and before / after change assessment.

Bringing these elements together, we have now developed a refreshed impact measurement framework (IMF; see Fig) that reflects our enhanced impact practice and the delivery-based evaluation components that define our overall measurement strategy.



Figure 1. Sported Impact Measurement Framework

Our Commitment to the Environment

Groups in the Sported network are likely to be more impacted by climate change and less able to adapt to its consequences.

We are committed to understanding how our groups are affected and what sectoral support is needed. Our work in this area is guided by the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework's five principles:

1. Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility across the sports sector
2. Reduce overall climate impact through the collective efforts of Sported and the community groups in our network
3. Educate for climate action by sharing learning and best practice across the sports sector and others
4. Promote sustainable and responsible consumption both internally and to our network
5. Advocate for climate action through communication internally and to our network and partners

Sported has partnered with Greenly to calculate our annual carbon footprint, covering scopes 1, 2 and 3. We have created an action plan to reduce our carbon footprint each year, with a view to reach net zero by 2050. The reduction target for 2024-25 was 2% and thanks to improved reporting methodology, increased data input, and a reduction in travel, digital and supplier emissions, we achieved an emissions reduction of 21%. We have also created a procurement policy to increase circular economy practices and provided staff with training on this. We are now calculating our carbon footprint for 2025-26 and, with a target of reducing our total emissions by 50% by 2030, we will continue to engage staff and volunteers in our reporting and action planning.

To support our advocacy for grassroots sport and those most affected by climate change, we now include questions on environmental sustainability and the impacts of climate change across our three annual surveys. Our recent Network survey shows an improvement in environmental sustainability practice among groups thanks to Sported's support.



Sported Awards 2025

Expanding on our long-standing Vanessa Brown Volunteer Awards, we launched our new Sported Awards in 2025 to highlight the work undertaken by our groups and the relentless endeavours of those who run them.

Held at the London headquarters of our partner Barclays, and hosted by our trustee Jill Douglas, it was a celebration of sport for good with winners from across the UK emerging from a nomination process initiated by our Delivery Team.

Roll of Honour

Campaign or Initiative of the Year

Nurturing Foundations

Commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Dundee Dragons

Sported Project of the Year

Sports Fun 4 All

Outstanding Collaboration & Partnerships Award

Shanklin FC

Unsung Hero of the Year

Daniel Sukula, Be The Change

Contribution to Enhance Community Safety

Mile End Community Project

Commitment to Sustainability

Brighter Futures

Best Place to Volunteer

Rathgael Gymnastics and Tumbling Club

Vanessa Brown Volunteering Awards

Big Impact

Ravi Vedi

Celebrating Diversity

Neil Brimer

Sported Champion

Neil Yeomans

Outstanding Achievement

Simon Gledhill

Our Ambassadors

Monaco and England international footballer Eric Dier has been joined by Lyon and Scotland footballer Caroline Weir, and Paralympic Gold Medallist Aaron Phipps as Ambassadors for Sported. We also recognise the support of Rory Best, who stepped down from the role after four years to concentrate on his new position as director of Ulster Rugby.



Caroline Weir

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Sported's commitment to EDI is reflected in our Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. Highlights over the last 12 months include –

33%

of trustees are from ethnically diverse communities

78%

of new Volunteer Consultants have been recruited from under-represented communities

£2.1m

in grants distributed to groups working with the most underrepresented groups, ensuring that opportunities in sport are inclusive and equitable maximising the positive impact we have in communities that have historically been underserved

We are about to launch our new Diversity Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which focuses on strengthening the effectiveness of our core work and maximising the positive impact we have in communities that have historically been under served. We will achieve this by focusing our DIAP commitments across three key areas:

- Ensuring that the Sported team are representative of the groups we are here to support
- Supporting and upskilling the Sported team on EDI
- Directly supporting our groups and beneficiaries

Example KPIs from new DIAP

Reaching and supporting target groups who are facing the most significant inequalities when accessing sport and physical activity:



EDC = ethnically diverse communities

Plans for the Future

Grassroots Sport Unleashed: Transforming Lives & Strengthening Communities

To ensure we deliver for our communities, our sector, and our partners, Sported formally unveiled its new four-year strategy in September 2025 under the banner of 'Grassroots Sport Unleashed.'

This was the culmination of extensive consultation and learning from our network of supported groups, partners and stakeholders, staff, trustees and volunteers. We must ensure our approach and what we offer continues to meet the current and emerging needs faced by those we assist as well as the sector at large.





Key priorities for 2026–27

Leverage more than £4m in grants to the sector through the expansion of our partnerships.

Expand our network to reach 6,250 groups and deliver active support to 2,200, including 450 volunteering placements

Continue to enhance our digital offer – delivering operational efficiencies and driving engagement and relevance with our network

The launch of Sported Skills Academy

The work of grassroots sports organisations has never been more challenging. Equipping these organisations with the skills they need to deliver value to their communities is essential; at the same time, £1.5bn of Apprenticeship Levy funding is going unspent every year in the UK.

Maikai and Sported are working in partnership to deliver 400 Ofsted-accredited skills courses to organisations within the Sported network, fully-funded by Apprenticeship Levy donations from Maikai and Sported's corporate partners.

Why we have created the Sported Skills Academy:

- Billions of unspent levy, none of it reaching grassroots sport
- Built on evidence of proven need from Sported network
- Nobody else is providing these qualifications, in this format, for these groups, with this type of additional support
- Professionalising the sector
- Making groups more resilient to continue to deliver with less reliance on funding
- Generates additional investment for the sector

Meeting the needs of our network:

- Youth Work skills as a base
- Digital and tech skills gaps
- Funding and sustainability challenges
- Missing core business skills

Financial Review

In the year ended 31 March 2026, income was £6,760k compared with £4,426k in the year to 31 March 2025. However, these figures are significantly affected by £4,195k (2025: £1,620k) of income received for grant making programmes, shown separately in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). The income generated net of grant monies was £2,565k (2025: £2,806k).

Expenditure for the year was £5,502k (2025: £4,539k), again increased by grants paid out of £2,681k (2025: £1,848k), as shown in the SOFA. Expenditure net of grants was £2,821k (2025: £2,691k). This also included redundancy costs paid out for the restructure in the year of £72k.

The net result overall was a surplus of £1,257k compared to a deficit of £113k in 2025 with the unrestricted reserve showing a deficit of £11k (2025: deficit of £67k).

There was a surplus of funds received for grant making compared to grants paid out of £1,514k in the year. This is purely a timing difference between the receipt of grant funds and the payment out.

If this surplus on grant monies is removed, overall there was a deficit in the year of £256k, £11k on the unrestricted reserve and £245k on the restricted reserve (again due to timing differences between receipt and payment of restricted amounts).

As at 31 March 2026, the unrestricted fund was £469k (2025: £480k), the restricted fund was £1,795k (2025: £527k) and net assets were £2,264k (2025: £1,006k). £1,560k of the restricted fund relates to money to be granted out.

Free reserves (unrestricted funds less fixed assets) were £399k, 3 weeks below the Board's reserve policy of 13 weeks of non-project related expenditure which equated to £527k for the year.

The charity will work to build the unrestricted reserve to the reserve policy level and the 2026-27 budget shows a surplus. We will continue to balance controlling costs and ensure that there are resources in place so that plans are supported.

The restructure in the year was broadly breakeven for costs in this financial year but will yield substantial savings going forward. Costs and income generation are monitored closely and scenarios are produced to show that if income is not generated, costs reductions can be made to keep that charity's reserves at a good level.

The balance sheet continues to show a large net asset position, including grant monies of £1,560k held within the restricted reserve.

Cash flow projections remain healthy. In particular, projections show a positive balance for at least a year, when only contracted income is projected alongside budgeted expenditure. Cash flow is projected net of grant money.

Sported continues its aim to build on a base of contracted revenue as well as a strong pipeline of funds. The aim is to have a pipeline which has at least 4x the required unrestricted

income generated to achieve the budgeted income figure. The fundraising team and all income-generating staff members regularly update the pipeline for prospects in their area or nation. The Beacon CRM system is now used for pipeline tracking so the conversion rate can be more accurately calculated and pipeline targets amended accordingly.

We will continue to focus on cementing relationships with existing and new funding partners, with multi-year contracts that support our strategic objectives.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Senior Leadership Team and the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board undertake a formal review of risk management quarterly. Risks are identified, assessed and mitigation strategies put in place to minimise the impact.

At the beginning of 2025–26, the key risks continued to be that the unrestricted reserves balance did not continue to be in line with the reserves policy and income generation did not meet the required budget and cover operating costs. Both these were mitigated by the partnerships and long-term funding secured in the year, as well as a restructure to realign the delivery model and reduce overheads. At the end of the financial year both key risks remain but the level of risk reduced due to the increasing funding pipeline.

Going concern

The trustees have considered plans for the 12 months from the date of this report and these show that even if no non-contracted income is received, the charity will remain cash positive and have adequate resources to continue operations. As ever, costs are tightly controlled to mitigate risk.

Reserves policy

The charity's reserves policy is to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover 13 weeks of non-project related expenditure on an ongoing basis.

This level of reserves has been set to enable sufficient time to secure new income sources should any be lost, and to ensure that major costs are covered in any period of funding hiatus. The unrestricted reserve on 31 March 2026 did not meet the policy above with reserves sufficient to fund 10 weeks of non-project related expenditure. Going forward, the focus is to ensure that this reserve is rebuilt to, at or above the reserves policy level to ensure that there are sufficient funds for the charity to proceed with its plans. Careful cost allocation and agreements with funders that core costs will be covered will contribute to this aim as well as a continued drive to increase unrestricted income generation.

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) receive quarterly reports of reserves and finance, including the cash and reserves position, and the finance reports are a standing item on the agenda at the quarterly board meetings. Additionally, there are other more regular FAC calls to review cash flow and reserves.

Fundraising

We have used a consultant to assist in bid writing. We comply with relevant fundraising regulations and guidance and have had no instances of non-compliance over the year. No complaints have been received in 2025-26.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

We would not ordinarily come across vulnerable individuals through our fundraising streams. Staff adhere to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and can provide support to anyone as required.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 20 March 2008 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 25 March 2008 and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on 17 May 2012.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its Articles of Association.

A review of the governing document was undertaken during 2022–23 to bring it in line with appropriate language and to update the Objects slightly. The Objects changes were approved by the Charity Commission on 14 September 2022 and updated Articles of Association were filed at Companies House and the Charity Commission in March 2023.

Another review is currently being undertaken to better reflect what we do now, primarily to recognise the grant-making role that we have. This is expected to be completed in mid to late 2026.

Trustees

The trustees are the directors of the charitable company. New trustees are appointed according to the charity's governing document and to meet specified capability requirements. The appointments are overseen by the Nominations and Governance Committee.

New trustees go through a formal induction process and are encouraged to meet the charity's beneficiaries.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. One trustee claimed expenses from the charity in 2026 of £209 (2025: £nil). A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

The trustees review the aims, strategic objectives and activities of the charity each year and approve all decisions relating to strategy and budget.

Associate Trustee

The Board have developed an apprenticeship scheme by the establishment of an Associate Trustee role. This post is a means to recognise the barriers present in enabling individuals from certain backgrounds access to board positions. No previous Board or senior management experience was required for this role.

This is a role with a 2-year term which seeks to provide the Associate Trustee with the opportunity to learn more about how a Charity board works, gain experience which they can use to build on in future roles and also seeks to bring a different perspective and experience to the Board.

Board sub-committees

The following sub-committees operate separately within the abbreviated Terms of Reference below and report into the Board.

Finance and Audit Committee

Ensuring the adequacy of financial and risk management and internal control arrangements and that the charity's funds are used efficiently and effectively.

Development Committee

Assisting the Board in meeting its responsibilities for ensuring that Sported's income generation is fit for purpose, both in terms of raising the funds required to sustain and grow the charity's work whilst also complying with all legal and good practices associated with charity fundraising.

Nominations and Governance Committee

Assisting the board in meeting its responsibilities for ensuring that the Board: retains an appropriate balance of skills to support the strategic objectives of the charity, has a formal rigorous and transparent approach to the appointment of Directors and maintains an effective framework for succession planning; has effective governance through the development and review of governance policies and procedures, providing induction and training programs for Board members and regularly reviewing the performance of the Board as a whole and evaluating the contribution of individual members.

Board diversity

The latest Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) has set a target of 70% Board composition representing one or more of the four target groups, this was at 77% at 31 March 2026.

Board evaluation and governance

The Board carries out an annual evaluation and skills audit to ensure that it has the requisite mix of skills. The charity is compliant with Sport England's Tier 3 governance requirements.

In the 2023-24 year, work was completed on Level 1 of the Trusted Charity Standard through NCVO and we are now certified until April 2026. Additionally, Sport England confirmed that this review satisfies the criteria for an external Board evaluation. The 2026 review is currently being undertaken.

Reporting

The Trustees receive quarterly reports before Board meetings on activities, which include financial reports, progress against the strategic objectives, key performance indicators, feedback from our network and suggestions for the future.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. More detail is shown in the activities section of the annual report.

Remuneration policy

The Strategic Leadership Team reviews the staffing structure annually to ensure salaries are fair and reasonable, taking into account both internal comparability of responsibilities and external market factors.

The Chief Executive Officer approves any proposed revisions to salary grades, and the Chief Executive Officer's remuneration is agreed by the trustees. In advance of each financial year, the Strategic Leadership Team recommend to the trustees the level of inflationary uplift to be applied to salaries, in a way which seeks to balance the need to reward and retain staff and the affordability of any pay awards.

Subsidiary companies

The Sported Foundation has two wholly owned subsidiaries, Sported Trading Limited and Sported Limited, incorporated in England and Wales (company numbers 08623400 and 12921825 respectively). The trustees of Sported Foundation do not consider the results of the companies to be material to the charity and so have decided not to produce consolidated accounts.

Our Charitable Objects

To advance the opportunities of children and young people through participation in sport to help enable them to develop their full capacities.

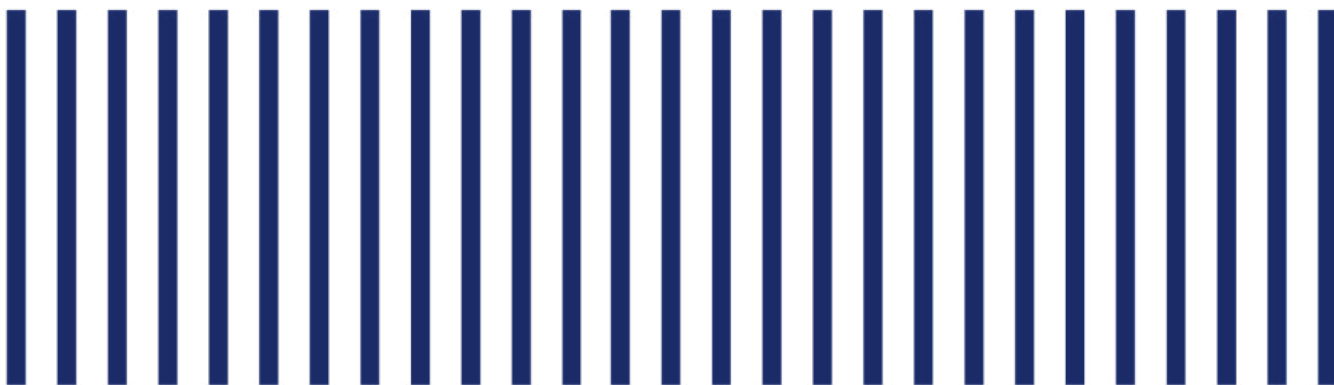
To provide and assist in providing facilities for sport, recreation or other leisure time occupation of such persons who have need for such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty, ethnicity, sexual orientation or social and economic circumstances (in particular children and young people) or for the benefit of the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life.

To promote the health of the public (especially young people), in particular through the provision of sports facilities and sports coaching.

To promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for the playing of sports capable of improving health.

Such other exclusively charitable purposes as the trustees shall in their absolute discretion decide.

A review of the objects clauses is being undertaken so that they better reflect what we do.



Reference and Administrative Information

Company name

Sported Foundation [known as 'Sported']

Company number

06541137

Charity number

1123313 | SCO43161

Registered office

Level 4, House of Sport, 190 Great Dover Street, London. SE1 4YB

Country of registration

England and Wales

Country of incorporation

United Kingdom

Patron

Sir Keith Mills

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Simon Cummins

Jeffrey Enerberi (appointed 25 April 2025)

Jill Douglas

Karen Buchanan

Kate Bradley (appointed 3 September 2025)

Kilian Toms

Louise Dier

Martin Stewart

Priya Nair

Mickela Hall-Ramsay (appointed 25 April 2025)

Rebecca Mills

Tim Birchinall (appointed 29 August 2025)

James Miller (resigned 5 August 2025)

Roger Gochin (resigned 29 August 2025)

Associate Trustee

Courtenay Escorcio

Key management personnel

Sarah Kaye, Chief Executive Officer

Debbie Salman, Chief Finance Officer

Nathan Persaud, Head of Operations

Joanna Di Paola, Head of Partnerships

Jo Lloyd, Head of Strategy and Insight (joined SLT November 2025)

Mark Woods, Head of Marketing and Communications (left January 2026)

Matt York, Head and Strategy and Development (left November 2025)

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc

1-3 Bishopsgate, London. EC2N 3AQ

Solicitors

Onside Law (pro-bono contract support)

642A Kings Road, London. SW6 2DU

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP

Invicta House, 110 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TG

Statement of the Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of Sported Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware.

The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2026 was 10 (2025: 10). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP were appointed as the charitable company's auditor in 2016. A tender process was entered into in the year and Sayer Vincent LLP were reappointed.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 16 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Simon Cummins
Position: Chair

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sported

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sported Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Spotted Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud

- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Farrah Kitabi (Senior statutory auditor)

Date: 6 August 2026

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Sported Foundation

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2026

		For the year ended 31 March 2026			For the year ended 31 March 2025		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	104,272	50,000	154,272	94,160	50,000	144,160
Charitable activities							
Capacity building and advocacy							
Income for direct delivery	5	1,071,158	1,318,427	2,389,585	967,051	1,670,958	2,638,009
Income for grant-making	4	-	4,194,976	4,194,976	-	1,619,900	1,619,900
Other trading activities	3	590	-	590	460	-	460
Investments - bank interest		20,186	-	20,186	23,537	-	23,537
Total income		1,196,206	5,563,403	6,759,609	1,085,208	3,340,858	4,426,066
Total income excluding grant making income				2,564,633			2,806,166

Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	182,029	-	182,029	153,201	-	153,201
Charitable activities							
Capacity building and advocacy	6						
Direct delivery expenditure		1,025,228	1,613,663	2,638,891	996,665	1,541,153	2,537,818
Grants to groups	7	-	2,681,183	2,681,183	-	1,848,457	1,848,457
Total expenditure		1,207,257	4,294,846	5,502,103	1,149,866	3,389,610	4,539,475
Total expenditure excluding grants to groups				2,820,920			2,691,019
Net income for the year and net movement in funds		(11,051)	1,268,557	1,257,506	(64,658)	(48,752)	(113,410)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(2,885)	2,885	-
Net movement in funds		(11,051)	1,268,557	1,257,506	(67,543)	(45,867)	(113,410)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		479,796	526,665	1,006,461	547,339	572,532	1,119,871
Total funds carried forward	18	468,745	1,795,222	2,263,967	479,796	526,665	1,006,461

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

Sported Foundation

Company Number: 6541137

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

		2026		2025	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Inangible assets	13		51,570		60,994
Tangible assets	14		18,539		17,375
			70,109		78,369
Current assets:					
Debtors	15	323,698		310,539	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,359,654		852,469	
		2,683,352		1,163,008	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(489,494)		(234,916)	
Net current assets			2,193,858		928,092
Net assets			2,263,967		1,006,461
The funds of the charity:	18				
Restricted income funds			1,795,222		526,665
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds			468,745		479,796
Total charity funds			2,263,967		1,006,461

Approved by the trustees on 16 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Simon Cummins
Chair

Sported Foundation

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Year to 31 March 2026		Year to 31 March 2025	
	£	£	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	1,257,506		(113,410)	
Depreciation charges	13,039		11,992	
Amortisation charges	12,199		-	
Increase in (decrease) /debtors	(13,160)		109,147	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	254,579		(153,981)	
Cash flows used in/provided by operating activities		1,524,163		(146,252)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(14,719)		(13,095)	
Disposal of tangible fixed assets	929		-	
Depreciation eliminated on disposal	(413)		-	
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	(2,775)		(60,994)	
Net cash used by investing activities		(16,978)		(74,089)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,507,185		(220,341)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		852,469		1,072,810
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,359,654		852,469

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
		At 1 April 2025	Cash flows	At 31 March 2026
		£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand		852,469	1,507,185	2,359,654
Total cash and cash equivalents		852,469	1,507,185	2,359,654

Sported Foundation

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

1	Accounting policies
a)	Statutory information
	Sported Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the United Kingdom. The registered office and postal address is 4th Floor, Marathon House, 190 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YB.
b)	Basis of preparation
	The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006/Charities Act 2011. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note. In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below. Sported Foundation has two wholly owned subsidiaries, Sported Trading Limited, incorporated in England and Wales (company number 08623400) and Sported Limited, a dormant company incorporated in England and Wales (company number 12921825). The trustees of Sported Foundation do not consider the results of the subsidiary companies to be material to the charity and so have decided not to produce consolidated accounts.
c)	Public benefit entity
	The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.
d)	Going concern
	The trustees have considered detailed plans, scenarios and cashflow forecasts for the 12 months from the date of this report and have a reasonable expectation of receiving adequate resources through contracted and pipeline funding to continue operations. Furthermore, the trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.
e)	Income
	Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.
f)	Donations of gifts, services and facilities
	Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised. Please refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about volunteers' contributions. On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.
g)	Interest receivable
	Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.
h)	Fund accounting
	Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure related to the specific purpose is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are set aside to be used for a specific purpose as laid down by the Board of Trustees.

i)	Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT
	Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings: - Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose - Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering capacity building and advocacy services to groups, providing financial support in the form of grants to groups, and maintaining and developing resources used to measure the impact of improving access to sports activities Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.
j)	Grants
	Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Grants are accounted for when a grant has been awarded to the recipient and a grant letter has been sent.
k)	Allocation of support and governance costs
	Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is included as part of support costs. Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on the direct cost of each activity: - Raising funds 10% - Capacity building and advocacy 90% Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.
l)	Operating leases
	Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.
m)	Tangible fixed assets
	Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use. Major components are treated as a separate asset where they have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits and are depreciated separately over its useful life. Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset is shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. Fixed assets are depreciated over 3 years.
n)	Intangible fixed assets
	Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives which is expected to be four years. Amortisation is not charged on assets in the course of construction until they are available for use. Intangible fixed assets costing £5,000 or more and where it is probable they will create future economic benefit are capitalised.
o)	Debtors
	Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.
p)	Cash at bank and in hand
	Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.
q)	Creditors and provisions
	Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due. No interest loans are recognised at face value.
r)	Financial instruments
	The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
s)	Pensions
	Sported contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for all staff at or above the statutory rate. Pension costs are accounted for as expenditure when due.

2 Donations and legacies						
	For the year ended 31 March 2026			For the year ended 31 March 2025		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Moondance Foundation (Wales)	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	50,000
Just Giving	33,781	-	33,781	35,215	-	35,215
Individual Donations	27,204	-	27,204	1,290	-	1,290
Peter and Jan Winslow	25,000	-	25,000	-	-	-
Trust and Foundations	11,000	-	11,000	6,000	-	6,000
Baillie Gifford (Scotland)	6,667	-	6,667	13,333	-	13,333
Corporate donations	470	-	470	3,781	-	3,781
Other	150	-	150	-	-	-
Peter Harrison - Empower South Lanarkshire	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Fundraising Event - Golf Day	-	-	-	32,541	-	32,541
Total income from donations	104,272	50,000	154,272	94,160	50,000	144,160

3 Income from other trading activities

This comprises consultancy and business development support and is all unrestricted income.

4 Income from charitable activities - grant-making						
	For the year ended 31 March 2026			For the year ended 31 March 2025		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barclays - Community Fund	-	1,769,976	1,769,976	-	767,785	767,785
Flutter - Cash4Clubs	-	500,000	500,000	-	400,000	400,000
Postcode Society Trust - South Grants	-	309,000	309,000	-	-	-
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - North Grants	-	309,000	309,000	-	-	-
People's Postcode Trust - Scotland Grants	-	265,300	265,300	-	-	-
Postcode Places Trust - East Grants	-	238,700	238,700	-	-	-
Postcode Local Trust - West Grants	-	238,700	238,700	-	-	-
Postcode Community Trust - Wales Grants	-	189,300	189,300	-	-	-
Knight Frank - Limitless	-	191,000	191,000	-	40,000	40,000
Great Run	-	60,000	60,000	-	-	-
FA Just Play	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	-
London Marathon Foundation Community Solidarity Fund	-	-	-	-	240,000	240,000
People's Postcode Lottery	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Peter Harrison - Connect and Include	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Sport NI - IWMD	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-
Nissan	-	15,000	15,000	-	11,000	11,000
Point North - Durham	-	9,000	9,000	-	-	-
Proctor & Gamble - Morrisons	-	-	-	-	32,000	32,000
McCool Family	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000

Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership	-	-	-	-	7,115	7,115
SUDU - Fair Play	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Vodafone	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Total income from charitable activities	-	4,194,976	4,194,976	-	1,619,900	1,619,900

5 Income from charitable activities - for direct delivery

	For the year ended 31 March 2026			For the year ended 31 March 2025		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Actif North Wales - Innovation Fund	-	-	-	-	33,600	33,600
Actif North Wales - Place Based Pilot	-	-	-	-	55,040	55,040
Barclays - Community Fund	422,445	-	422,445	358,474	-	358,474
Caroline Weir	-	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
Ecorys - Go! London	13,613	-	13,613	27,222	-	27,222
FA Just Play	22,222	-	22,222	-	-	-
Flutter - Cash4Clubs	103,000	-	103,000	84,333	-	84,333
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
GLA - Mayor of London VRU Sports Internship Programme	-	1,550	1,550	-	43,000	43,000
Great Run	14,000	-	14,000	-	-	-
Gwella	-	18,281	18,281	-	-	-
Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland	-	11,046	11,046	-	-	-
Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership	2,194	-	2,194	12,500	-	12,500
Howdens	1,110	-	1,110	-	-	-
Knight Frank - Limitless	142,666	-	142,666	114,100	-	114,100
London Marathon Foundation Community Solidarity Fund	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000
McCool Family	-	-	-	-	3,771	3,771
National Lottery Community Fund - RC England wide	-	-	-	-	126,558	126,558
Nissan	21,700	-	21,700	34,385	-	34,385
Peter Harrison -Connect and Include	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Peoples Postcode Lottery	-	-	-	23,000	-	23,000
Postcode Community Trust - Wales Grants	37,867	-	37,867	-	-	-
Postcode Local Trust - West Grants	44,800	-	44,800	-	-	-
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - North Grants	54,667	-	54,667	-	-	-
Postcode Places Trust - East Grants	44,800	-	44,800	-	-	-
People's Postcode Trust - Scotland Grants	48,533	-	48,533	-	-	-
Postcode Society Trust - South Grants	54,667	-	54,667	-	-	-
Point North - Durham	-	19,383	19,383	-	-	-
Pride Cymru	-	-	-	-	5,530	5,530
Proctor & Gamble - Morrisons	-	-	-	39,417	-	39,417
Proctor & Gamble - Rising Stars	-	-	-	24,786	-	24,786
Ring - Building Stronger Communities Through Sport	2,000	-	2,000	82,000	-	82,000

Rhyl Building Communities Trust – Community Anchor Development	-	7,314	7,314	-	26,924	26,924
Rocket Science Ltd – Go London!	-	-	-	67,074	-	67,074
Sport England – System Partner Grant	34,140	907,898	942,038	34,135	907,903	942,038
Sport Wales	-	97,000	97,000	-	-	-
Sport NI	-	24,925	24,925	-	-	-
SUDU – Fair Play	-	-	-	-	4,666	4,666
The Rank Foundation – Start Here	-	-	-	-	30,222	30,222
Vodafone	-	-	-	-	70,000	70,000
Westminster Foundation	-	134,318	134,318	-	144,386	144,386
WCVA – Volunteering Wales Strategic Grant	-	46,666	46,666	-	49,048	49,048
WMCA – Triage	6,425	17,546	23,970	-	20,310	20,310
Other sources of income (sums of less than £10,000 each)	309	-	309	30,625	-	30,625
Total income from charitable activities	1,071,158	1,318,427	2,389,585	967,051	1,670,958	2,638,009

6a Analysis of expenditure (current reporting period)					
	Charitable activities Capacity building and advocacy				
	Raising funds	Direct delivery costs	Governance costs*	Support costs*	Total 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 9)	110,471	1,773,786	-	530,017	2,414,274
Project costs	-	26,876	-	-	26,876
Staff cover, consultants, recruitment and training	-	23,975	-	20,370	44,345
Travel and subsistence	-	48,832	-	15,988	64,820
Office costs and rents	-	20,683	5,237	21,036	46,956
Events, meetings, conferences inc. mentoring	-	43,461	-	12,808	56,269
IT, databases and telephones	-	31,956	4,050	71,685	107,691
Marketing costs	-	63	-	4,047	4,110
Insurance, legal and banking	-	-	6,882	-	6,882
Audit	-	-	15,312	-	15,312
Accountancy, payroll and pension administration	-	-	8,148	-	8,148
Depreciation	-	13,039	-	-	13,039
Amortisation	-	12,199	-	-	12,199
	110,471	1,994,870	39,629	675,951	2,820,921
Grants, payable to network groups (note 7)	-	1,328,772	-	-	1,328,772
Grants, payable to non network groups (note 7)	-	1,352,410	-	-	1,352,410
Direct delivery expenditure	110,471	4,676,052	39,629	675,951	5,502,103
Reallocation of support costs	67,595	608,356	-	(675,951)	-
Reallocation of governance costs	3,963	35,666	(39,629)	-	-
Total expenditure 2026	182,029	5,320,074	-	-	5,502,103
Total expenditure 2025	153,201	4,386,275	-	-	4,539,476

*Net of core costs paid by funders. Support staff contribute directly to project delivery, and their costs are allocated to direct delivery expenditure based on the time recorded against each project.

6b Analysis of expenditure (prior period)					
	Charitable activities Capacity building and advocacy				
	Raising funds	Direct delivery costs	Governance costs*	Support costs*	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 9)	56,037	1,725,723	-	379,775	2,161,535
Project costs	-	62,287	-	-	62,287
Staff cover, consultants, recruitment and training	36,053	25,672	-	22,300	84,025
Travel and subsistence	-	51,793	-	21,871	73,664
Office supplies and rents	-	27,861	1,026	31,396	60,283
Events, meetings, conferences inc. mentoring	-	45,334	-	30,580	75,914
IT, databases and telephones	-	37,166	-	65,756	102,922
Marketing costs	-	-	-	20,727	20,727
Insurance, legal and banking	-	-	15,295	-	15,295
Audit	-	-	14,520	-	14,520
Accountancy, payroll and pension administration	-	-	7,855	-	7,855
Depreciation	-	11,992	-	-	11,992
	92,090	1,987,828	38,696	572,405	2,691,019
Grants, payable to network groups (note 7)	-	836,501	-	-	836,501
Grants, payable to non network groups (note 7)		1,011,956	-	-	1,011,956
					-
Direct delivery expenditure	92,090	3,836,285	38,696	572,405	4,539,476
Reallocation of support costs	57,241	515,164	-	(572,405)	-
Reallocation of governance costs	3,870	34,826	(38,696)	-	-
Total expenditure 2025	153,201	4,386,275	-	-	4,539,476

* Net of core costs paid for by funders

7 Grants distributed through projects		
	2026	2025
	£	£
Barclays – Community Fund	1,395,332	941,921
Flutter – Cash4Clubs	494,851	403,174
Knight Frank – Limitless	139,000	40,000
Postcode Society Trust – South grants	100,000	–
Postcode Local Trust – West Grants	100,000	–
Postcode Community Trust – Wales Grants	100,000	–
Postcode Places Trust – East Grants	100,000	–
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust – North Grants	100,000	–
People's Postcode Trust – Scotland Grants	100,000	–
Sport NI IWD	20,000	–
Nissan	9,000	–
McCool Family	8,000	–
Point North – Durham	7,000	–
Vodafone	5,000	–
Ring – Building Stronger Communities	2,500	67,500
Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership	500	9,000
London Marathon Foundation Community Solidarity Fund	–	240,000
Peoples Postcode Lottery	–	100,000
Procter & Gamble – Morrisons	–	32,000
Procter & Gamble – Rising Stars	–	9,862
SUDU – Fair Play	–	5,000
	2,681,183	1,848,457
All grants were made to network and non network groups for expenditure to further Sported's charitable activities. Please see note 20 for the grant value for each grant programme.		

8 Net income for the reporting period		
This is stated after charging:		
	2026	2025
	£	£
Depreciation	13,039	11,992
Amortisation	12,199	
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):	13,200	12,100

9 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:		
	2026	2025
Salaries and wages	2,029,543	1,896,567
Social security costs	238,678	185,872
Pension costs	56,988	55,531
Ex-gratia payments	16,598	22,279
Redundancy payments	72,467	1,286
	2,414,274	2,161,535

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance contributions) during the reporting period between:

	2026	2025
	No.	No.
£90,000 - £99,999	-	1
£100,000 - £109,999	1	

The total employee benefits, including pension contributions and employer's national insurance, of the key management personnel were £460,929 (2025: £425,507).

The charity trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the reporting period (2025: £nil). One trustee received reimbursement for expenses incurred on Sported business £209 (2025: £nil).

10 Staff numbers

The number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the reporting period was as follows:

	2026	2025
	No.	No.
	56.7	51.8
Delivery	38	34
Network and volunteer services	4	5
Grants	6	4
Fundraising	2	1
Support	7	8
	57	52

11 Related party transactions

There were no aggregate donations from trustees including gift aid (2025: £2,000). There were no aggregate donations in kind from related parties(2025: £nil).

12 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Intangible fixed assets		
	CRM System and Sported Hub	Total
	£	£
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the reporting period	60,994	60,994
Additions during the reporting period	2,775	2,775
Amortisation	(12,199)	(12,199)
At the end of the reporting period	51,570	51,570

14 Tangible fixed assets		
	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the reporting period	44,932	44,932
Additions during the reporting period	14,719	14,719
Disposals during the reporting period	(929)	(929)
At the end of the reporting period	58,722	58,722
Depreciation		
At the start of the reporting period	(27,557)	(27,557)
Charge for the reporting period	(13,039)	(13,039)
Eliminated on disposal	413	413
At the end of the reporting period	(40,183)	(40,183)
Net book value		
At the end of the reporting period	18,539	18,539
At the start of the reporting period	17,375	17,375
All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.		

15 Debtors		
	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	169,712	112,832
Other debtors	9,710	6,563
Prepayments	64,834	46,955
Accrued income	79,442	144,189
	323,698	310,539

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	137,862	54,589
Taxation and social security	61,587	70,620
Other creditors	10,534	10,954
Accruals	9,336	38,392
Deferred income (note 17)	239,115	29,191
Grants payable	31,060	31,170
	489,494	234,916

17 Deferred income		
	2026	2025
	£	£
Balance brought forward	29,191	214,663
Deferred in the year	736,146	340,326
Released in the year	(526,222)	(525,798)
	239,115	29,191

Deferred income arises when unrestricted income is invoiced or received in the year but delivery of the project extends post the year end. Income is therefore recognised in line with the project delivery timelines.

18a Analysis of net assets between funds (current period)				
	General unrestricted	Restricted		Total funds
	£	£		£
Intangible fixed assets	51,570	-		51,570
Tangible fixed assets	18,539	-		18,539
Net current assets	398,636	1,795,222		2,193,858
Net assets at the end of the year	468,745	1,795,222		2,263,967

Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)				
	General unrestricted	Restricted		Total funds
	£	£		£
Intangible fixed assets	60,994	-		60,994
Net current assets	17,375	-		17,375
Creditors: amounts falling due over one year	401,427	526,665		928,092
Net assets at the end of the year	479,796	526,665		1,006,461

19a Movements in funds (current period)					
	At 31 March 2025	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Actif North Wales - Innovation Fund	14,443	-	(14,139)	-	304
Actif North Wales - Place Based Pilot	24,900	-	(16,996)	(6,000)	1,904
Actif North Wales - Place Based Pilot - Grants		-	-	6,000	6,000
Barclays - Community Football Fund - Grants	13,359	-	-	(13,359)	-
Barclays - Community Fund - Grants		1,769,976	(1,395,332)	13,359	388,003
Caroline Weir		2,500	(178)	-	2,322
FA Just Play		50,000	-	-	50,000
Flutter - Cash4Clubs	1,098	500,000	(494,851)	-	6,247
Garfield Weston Foundation (Northern Ireland and Scotland)	196,037	-	(196,037)	-	-
GLA - Mayor of London VRU Sports Internship Programme	43,000	1,550	(39,489)	-	5,061
Great Run	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
Gwella		18,281	(7,100)	-	11,181
Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland		11,046	(9,131)	-	1,915
Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership - Grants	1,000	-	(500)	-	500
Knight Frank Limitless - Grants	-	191,000	(139,000)	-	52,000
McCool Family	15,771	-	(33)	(12,000)	3,738
McCool Family Grants			(8,000)	12,000	4,000
Moondance Foundation	5,901	50,000	(47,659)	-	8,242
Nissan - Grants	16,840	15,000	(9,000)	-	22,840
Peter Harrison -Connect and Include	-	30,000	(1,159)	-	28,841
Peter Harrison -Connect and Include - Grants	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Point North - Durham	-	19,383	(18,384)	-	999
Point North - Durham - Grants	-	9,000	(7,000)	-	2,000
Postcode Community Trust - Wales Grants	-	175,100	(100,000)	-	75,100
Postcode Local Trust - West Grants	-	224,500	(100,000)	-	124,500
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - North Grants	-	337,400	(100,000)	-	237,400
Postcode Places Trust - East Grants	-	224,500	(100,000)	-	124,500

People's Postcode Trust – Scotland Grants	-	251,100	(100,000)	-	151,100
Postcode Society Trust – South grants	-	337,400	(100,000)	-	237,400
Procter & Gamble – Rising Stars	257	-	-	-	257
Pride Cymru	5,530	-	(5,530)	-	-
Ring – Building Stronger Communities	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Rhyl Building Communities Trust – Community Anchor Development	8,053	7,314	(15,367)	-	-
Sport England – System Partner Funding Grant	-	907,898	(907,898)	-	-
Sport NI – IWMD Grants		20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Sport NI – IWMD			(4,330)	-	(4,330)
Sport NI		24,925	(15,196)	-	9,729
Sport Wales		97,000	(91,432)	-	5,568
St James Place	1,223	-	(1,223)	-	-
The Rank Foundation Start Here	15,765	-	(15,765)	-	-
Vodafone – Sports.Connected	6,017	-	(6,017)	-	-
Vodafone – Grants	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Westminster Foundation	113,167	134,318	(117,122)	-	130,363
WCVA – Volunteering Wales Strategic Grant	32,382	46,666	(49,048)	-	30,000
WMCA – Triage	4,424	17,546	(34,430)	-	(12,460)
Total restricted funds	526,665	5,563,403	(4,294,845)	-	1,795,222
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	479,796	1,196,206	(1,207,257)	-	468,745
Total unrestricted funds	479,796	1,196,206	(1,207,257)	-	468,745
Total funds	1,006,461	6,759,609	(5,502,103)	-	2,263,967

19b Movements in funds (prior period)					
	At 1 April 2024	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Actif North Wales – Innovation Fund	-	33,600	(19,157)	-	14,443
Actif North Wales – Place Based Pilot	-	55,040	(30,140)	-	24,900
Barclays – Community Football Fund – Grants	187,496	767,784	(941,921)	-	13,359
Baillie Gifford – Supporting Scotland	13,334	-	(13,333)	-	-
Baillie Gifford – Support Officer Role	18,139	-	(18,139)	-	-
Flutter – Cash4Clubs	4,272	400,000	(403,174)	-	1,098
Garfield Weston Foundation (Northern Ireland and Scotland)	150,000	150,000	(103,963)	-	196,037
GLA – Mayor of London VRU Sports Internship Programme	-	43,000	-	-	43,000
Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership – grants	-	7,115	(9,000)	2,885	1,000
Knight Frank	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
London Marathon Foundation Community Solidarity Fund – Grants	-	240,000	(240,000)	-	-
Moondance Foundation	4,167	50,000	(48,266)	-	5,901
McCool Family	-	15,771	-	-	15,771
National Lottery Community Fund – RC England wide	17,073	126,559	(143,632)	-	-
Nissan	5,840	11,000	-	-	16,840
Peter Harrison – Empower South Lanarkshire	17,947	-	(17,947)	-	-
Peoples Postcode Lottery – Grants	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-
Procter & Gamble – Rising Stars	10,119	-	(9,862)	-	257
Procter & Gamble – Morrisons	-	32,000	(32,000)	-	-
Pride Cymru	-	5,530	-	-	5,530
Rhyl Building Communities Trust – Community Anchor Development	-	26,924	(18,871)	-	8,053
Ring – Building Stronger Communities	70,000	-	(67,500)	-	2,500
St James Place	4,715	-	(3,492)	-	1,223
Sport England – System Partner Funding Grant	-	907,903	(907,903)	-	-
SUDU – Fair Play	-	4,667	(4,667)	-	-
SUDU – Fair Play – Grants	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
The Rank Foundation Start Here	15,219	30,222	(29,676)	-	15,765
Vodafone – Sports.Connected	5,249	70,000	(69,232)	-	6,017
Vodafone – Grants	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Westminster Foundation	-	144,386	(31,219)	-	113,167
WCVA – Volunteering Wales Strategic Grant	48,962	49,048	(65,628)	-	32,382
WMCA – Triage	-	20,310	(15,886)	-	4,424
Total restricted funds	572,532	3,340,858	(3,389,610)	2,885	526,665
Total unrestricted funds	547,339	1,085,208	(1,149,866)	(2,885)	479,796
Total funds	1,119,871	4,426,064	(4,539,475)	-	1,006,461

Purposes of restricted funds

Funds which are derived from grants awarded to the charity for specific projects are held as restricted funds. Grants received during the year are transferred into restricted funds and expenditure on specific projects is transferred out of restricted funds. A brief description of each of the main projects funded from restricted funds is provided in note 20. Each restricted fund for grant distribution has an unrestricted fee for the management of the grant programme.

Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds arose as a portion of restricted funds was reallocated for grant distribution. In the prior year grants had been incorrectly recognised as unrestricted funds in the previous financial year.

20 Movements in funds

Funds and income sources

A brief description of the use of each major source of funding and project is shown below.

Actif North Wales Innovation Fund – Funding to employ an LGBTQ+ Lead to deliver a 1 year partnership with Pride Cymru in North Wales.

Actif North Wales Place Based Pilot – Funding to support the implementation of 4 place based models in specific locations in Wrexham and Conwy

Baillie Gifford – Funding for additional regional officer to support Sported's work in Scotland.

Baillie Gifford – Supporting Scotland: Funding to support Sported's work with groups in Scotland to become more sustainable and effective.

Barclays – Community Football Fund – Offers grants and additional support resources to grassroots groups. The small grants will be dedicated to making football more accessible, and will continue Sported's work to reduce inequalities in the participation of sport and physical activity.

Barclays – Community Fund – Programme to distribute £1.4m worth of funding per year to community groups delivering football, cricket and tennis to women and girls from areas of high deprivation. Grants distributed of a value between £200 and £1,000.

Caroline Weir – Delivery of a Young Leader Programme to inspire and empower the next generation of female leaders in football. Using football as the engagement tool, the programme will support 8–10 young girls (aged 13–17) to develop their leadership skills and confidence, becoming ambassadors for women and girls in their clubs, schools, and communities.

Point North – Durham – Supporting groups in Durham to provide more opportunities for young disabled people and become more sustainable, and distribution of grants of £1,000

Ecorys – Go! London: Providing capacity building support, and supporting the development and implementation of communities of Learning within the Evaluation contracts

FA Just Play – Distribution of 200 x £500 grants toward a minimum of 6 drop-in football sessions for providers across England. While some of these are football clubs, Sported has been commissioned for this work predominantly for ability to reach non-traditional football groups; e.g. community centres, youth hubs.

Flutter – Cash4Clubs: Funding received to distribute to community groups across the UK and Ireland. Grants distributed of a value of £2,000

Garfield Weston Foundation: Funding for core costs supporting communities in areas of rural deprivation.

GLA – Mayor of London VRU Sports Internship Programme – funding two apprentices for support of core work in London

Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland – Establish networks of groups in “underserved” areas of NI – Derry/Strabane and general West. Recruitment, network set up and delivery of Funding SOS supports, including 1:1 placements

Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership, club sustainability project – Provide support for 20 Herts based clubs and groups based in their Active Local areas across county. They will receive volunteer support and a £500 grant at end

Knight Frank – Limitless: To transform the lives of young people from diverse backgrounds – through the creation and development of deep impact through local inclusive wellbeing hubs and creating reach through building inclusive practices to all communities across Great Britain. Grant distribution to support the hubs. Grants distributed of a value between £1,000 and £20,000

London Marathon Foundation Community Solidarity Fund – distribution of grants to community organisations affected by the riots in the 2024, grants distributed of a value of £2,000

McCool family – Donation received to distribute grants for groups within Northern Ireland to a value of £2,000

Moondance Foundation: Funding for core costs in Wales.

National Lottery Community Fund – RC England wide – Develop and implement Sported's three key aims, To tackle inequalities both in sport and through sport, to improve mental health and physical wellbeing, to connect community sport groups for collective action

Nissan: Delivery of Sported 'hub and spoke' model where groups with limited disability knowledge learn from others with significant experience, go through training and are provided with grants to support delivery of £1,500
Peter Harrison - Empower South Lanarkshire: Inclusion project specifically focused on hidden disabilities (autism, ADHD etc) working to build confidence and capability amongst groups in South Lanarkshire.
Peter Harrison -Connect and Include: Disability Inclusion focused project in Northern Ireland focused on building group's confidence and capacity to provide providing inclusive opportunities through education and grants
Peter and Jan Winslow - Funding for core work
Peoples Postcode Lottery - Distribution of £1,000 grants to community organisations based in Scotland, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
Postcode Community Trust - Wales Grants - distribution of a mixture of medium and large grants, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
Postcode Local Trust - West Grants - distribution of a mixture of medium and large grants, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - North Grants - distribution of a mixture of medium and large grants, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
Postcode Places Trust - East Grants - distribution of a mixture of medium and large grants, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
People's Postcode Trust - Scotland Grants - distribution of a mixture of medium and large grants, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
Postcode Society Trust - South grants - distribution of a mixture of medium and large grants, grants distributed of a value up to £25,000
Pride Cymru - Funding for staffing costs
Proctor and Gamble: Rising Stars grant distribution of £1,000 including marketing for P&G around Paris 2024 and a Young leaders style programme
Proctor and Gamble: Morrisons grant funding for 29 x £1,000 and 1 x £3,000 - tied in with Morrisons support of Paris 24 - generating collateral, stories and content for Morrisons
Rhyl Building Communities Trust - Community Anchor Development - Funding to employ a Network Co-Ordinator based in Rhyl to deliver connected communities model over a 3 year period.
Ring Building Stronger Communities: Grant programme aimed at groups delivering sport for the purpose of building safer communities and who are struggling with the cost of living crisis. Grants distributed of a value between £2,500 and £5,000
*Sport England - System Partner Funding: Funding to support the Sported England team to deliver services to members - linking with other system partners and stakeholders in the sector
Sport Northern Ireland Engage Her - Training and grants programme. 30 groups complete Engage Her training (workshop and 1:1 delivery from volunteer consultants) to develop a women & girls engagement plan, and can then apply for £2,000 grant to implement their plan.
Sport Northern Ireland IWMD - Grant distribution for grants of £500
Sport Wales: funding enables us to provide capacity-building, governance support, and development opportunities to grassroots sports groups and volunteers across Wales.
St James Place - Work with at least 16 community groups in Dundee, Glasgow, Belfast and Cardiff to increase their inclusion capacity and provide more opportunities for young people with disabilities in sport.
SUDU - Fair Play - Creating opportunities to make running more accessible in Manchester & Greater Manchester. Provide opportunities for an estimated 1,000 young people to participate in running from communities in Manchester and Greater Manchester. Through the provision of 2 grant programme's. One Deeper Impact grant for one Sported Group and seven reach grants of £1,000 for seven Sported groups or non members.
The Rank Foundation Start Here: Funding to finance a new NI Support Officer and upskilling of existing staff
*Vodafone - Sports.Connected: Supporting groups to improve digital connectivity and capability. Groups complete digital tool, have access to SIMs, and grants of £500
Vodafone - Grants : Distribution of grants to communities across the UK
WCVA - Welsh Council for Voluntary Action - Volunteering Project: Research and Solutions development project to support the identification and development of skilled volunteering (boards/trustees) in Wales Sports Sector
Westminster foundation - funding to implement a place based approach in the Highlands and Lancashire
WMCA Triage - To support WMCA and partners to set up a Capacity building project to those unsuccessful Inclusive Communities Fund groups. Setting up health checks, scoping calls, workshops and through WMCA Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP). Groups in first tranche from racialised communities.

21 Subsidiary undertaking

The charity owns the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Sported Trading Limited, a company registered in England. The company number is 08623400. The registered office address is House of Sport, 190 Great Dover Street, London.

The subsidiary is used for non-primary purpose trading activities. Available profits are distributed under Gift Aid to the parent charity.

The trustees Simon Cummins and Martin Stewart are also directors of the subsidiary.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown below:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Turnover	301	0
Gross Profit/Loss	301	0
Administrative Expenses	100	(180)
Profit on ordinary activities before interest and taxation	201	180
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	201	180
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	223	35
(Loss)/profit for the financial year	(22)	145
Accumulated profit/(loss) at 1 April 2025	149	4
Accumulated profit at 31 March 2026	127	149

Management charges are included in administrative expenses above, there were no management charges in 2026 (2025: -180) from the parent entity.

22 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

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