SI FOUNDATION

SPORTING INFLUENCE FOUNDATION CIC

More Ways to Take Part

2026 Impact Report

Making sport and physical activity easier to access across Harrogate and district.

Reporting window for this report: 1 January to 31 December 2026. Individual programme periods may differ.

Sport Without Barriers

Sporting Influence Foundation CIC helps children and young people in Harrogate and district take part in sport and physical activity. Some families face a cost barrier. Some children need activities adapted to their needs. Others need a familiar place and the confidence to try something new.

We work with schools, coaches, local clubs and community partners. We offer free school sessions, fund access to clubs and holiday camps and create chances to take part in outdoor activities and experience live sport.

A Welcome from the Directors

A first session matters when it gives a child somewhere they can come back to. In 2026 we made more ways for children to try sport and physical activity. In 2027 we want to build on that work with affordable girls' football and a local pilot that gives young people a free place to spend time together.

Thank you to the children, families, schools and partners who help shape this work. We welcome conversations with local supporters who want to make it easier for more children to take part.

2026 PROGRAMME FIGURES

What Local Support Made Possible

These measures describe the opportunities provided and how they were used. A child may have taken part more than once or across more than one programme.

Programme	Reported Measure
Play2EmpowHER	170 children reached through free school sessions
SportABILITY	152 children reached through free inclusive sessions
Girls' Football Academy	237 attendances across 20 weeks
Wellness Walks	641 walk participations
Super Pupil experiences	320 participations
Live sport	25 places provided
Funded after-school clubs	283 session places, including autumn bookings
Funded holiday camps	63 funded camp days reported.

The Academy recorded 237 attendances from 352 registered session places (67%). The number of distinct children across programmes is still to be established.

How the Figures are Counted

A child reached through a school programme, a visit to the Academy and a place at a sporting event are different measures. Each is shown separately so readers can see what was counted.

Programme	Basis	Estimated hours
Wellness Walks	641 participations × 1.5 hours	961.5
Super Pupil experiences	320 participations × 1 hour	320
Girls' Football Academy	237 attendances × 1 hour	237
Play2EmpowHER	170 children reached × 1 hour	170
SportABILITY	152 children reached × 1 hour	152
Live sport	25 places × 2.5 hours	62.5

Together these are estimated to represent 1,903 hours of participation or places offered. The estimate uses standard durations and includes live sport places. Funded club and camp hours are excluded here while attendance and units are reconciled.

What we want to learn

In 2027 we want to measure who comes back, where children go next and whether adaptations help more pupils join in during the school day.

A First Opportunity in School

Play2EmpowHER

A Year 4 pupil had gradually lost confidence in taking part in school sport. Although she enjoyed being active, she often felt uncomfortable during competitive games and worried about making mistakes in front of her classmates.

During Play2EmpowHER sessions, she was introduced to activities designed to encourage teamwork, participation and enjoyment rather than focusing solely on winning.

With encouragement from the coach and opportunities to develop her skills at her own pace, she began contributing more confidently, volunteering for different roles and becoming increasingly involved in group activities.

As the sessions progressed, she started looking forward to participating and became more willing to try unfamiliar activities alongside her friends.

The experience demonstrated how creating a supportive environment can help children overcome barriers that are not always immediately visible.

SportABILITY

A primary school pupil with additional needs had previously found it difficult to join in with playground games. The pace of activities, complex instructions and fear of making mistakes often left them watching from the sidelines rather than participating alongside their friends.

During a SportABILITY session, the coach introduced a softer ball, simplified the rules and gave pupils different ways to contribute to the game. These small changes helped create an environment where everyone could participate at their own level.

With the pressure reduced, the pupil began joining in more confidently, interacting with classmates and enjoying the activity.

The most encouraging development came when the adapted game was introduced again during breaktime. The pupil was able to participate alongside their peers without the direct support of the SportABILITY coach.

A place to come back to

Girls' Football Academy

A primary school pupil had enjoyed football during school sessions but had never joined a local football club. Despite her enthusiasm for the game, she lacked the confidence to take the next step into organised football.

The Sporting Influence Foundation Girls' Football Academy offered a welcoming opportunity to play regularly alongside other girls in an environment focused on enjoyment, friendship and developing skills.

Initially hesitant to join in, she gradually became more comfortable with the group. Through regular sessions, encouragement from coaches and opportunities to practise new skills, her confidence began to grow.

Over time, she became more willing to take possession of the ball, communicate with teammates and contribute during games.

The academy provided something beyond football coaching: a place where she could feel included, develop friendships and begin to see herself as a footballer.

As we look towards introducing friendly fixtures against other local girls' teams in 2027, we hope to provide more children with opportunities to build on this confidence and experience the excitement of playing together.

Funded Clubs and Holiday Camps

For one primary school pupil, attending an after-school sports club was something their friends enjoyed every week, but financial pressures at home meant it wasn't always possible for them to join in.

Through a funded place provided by Sporting Influence Foundation, the child was given the opportunity to attend alongside their classmates without the additional cost to their family.

Initially quiet and hesitant to participate, the pupil gradually became more comfortable within the group. As the weeks progressed, they began forming friendships, volunteering for activities and looking forward to their weekly sessions.

For the family, the funded place helped remove a financial barrier. For the child, it offered something equally important: the opportunity to feel included and share the same experiences as their friends.

Outdoor Activity and Experiences

Not every child finds confidence through competitive sport. For some, a quieter environment and the opportunity to be active without the pressure of winning or losing can make all the difference.

During a Sporting Influence Foundation Wellness Walk, a primary school pupil who was often reluctant to participate in group sporting activities was given the opportunity to enjoy time outdoors alongside their classmates.

Away from the traditional classroom environment, the pupil began engaging in conversations with peers, taking an interest in their surroundings and participating more comfortably in the group.

The relaxed nature of the activity allowed them to experience physical activity in a different way, without the expectations they sometimes associated with organised sport.

The walk offered an opportunity to connect with classmates, enjoy being outdoors and experience the positive social benefits of moving together.

What Funding Made Possible

Will Houghton Foundation

A donation of £22,695.66 supported the Foundation's work, including free delivery of Play2EmpowHER and SportABILITY in local schools. The programmes reported reach of 170 and 152 respectively. Some children may be included in both.

Contribution Reported	Purpose Described
Will Houghton Foundation · £22,695.66	Support included free delivery of the two school programmes
Sport England · £3,494	Girls' Football Academy
Point North · £1,950	Play2EmpowHER kit

We also thank local schools, coaches, families and community partners across Harrogate and district.

Who is Responsible

Sporting Influence Foundation is a Community Interest Company (CIC) established to remove barriers to sport and physical activity, ensuring that children and young people across Harrogate and the surrounding district have access to opportunities regardless of their circumstances.

Although the Foundation works closely with Sporting Influence Ltd, the two organisations have distinct financial arrangements and responsibilities.

Sporting Influence Ltd does not generate any profit from the work of Sporting Influence Foundation. Instead, the business actively supports the Foundation through an annual financial donation, helping to fund activities, programmes and opportunities for local children.

Where Sporting Influence Ltd provides activity places or services to the Foundation, these are supplied at cost, without any commercial profit margin. This ensures that funding is used to support community participation rather than generate profit for the business.

Financial Transparency and Accountability

All donations made directly to Sporting Influence Foundation are received by Sporting Influence Foundation CIC.

Where donations are collected through Sporting Influence Ltd's booking system, these are reconciled and transferred to the Foundation, ensuring that charitable contributions reach their intended recipient.

All Foundation expenditure and financial authorisations require the agreement of all three Directors:

- Chris Doey
- David Moss
- Louise Sanderson

Financial decisions and expenditure are also subject to scrutiny and challenge by the Foundation's Members, providing an additional level of accountability and oversight.

These arrangements are designed to ensure that funding decisions are transparent, appropriately authorised and focused on delivering community benefit.

Our Commitment

Our relationship with Sporting Influence Ltd allows the Foundation to benefit from established sporting expertise, delivery infrastructure and community relationships without generating commercial profit for the business.

Our commitment is simple: every donation is received and accounted for by the Foundation, every expenditure is subject to director approval, and our resources are directed towards creating opportunities for children and young people.

Safeguarding and delivery oversight

The safety, wellbeing and protection of every child is our highest priority. We are committed to creating safe, welcoming and inclusive environments where children can participate in sport, develop confidence and enjoy new experiences.

Safeguarding is embedded throughout our activities, from school-based programmes and after-school clubs to holiday camps, community initiatives and sporting experiences.

Safeguarding Leadership and Accountability

Chris Doey provides overall safeguarding oversight, supported by our wider team of Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- David Moss
- Cameron Osburn

These safeguarding arrangements and reporting procedures apply to both Sporting Influence Foundation CIC and Sporting Influence Ltd, ensuring a consistent approach to child welfare across our activities.

Safe Delivery and Venue Management

Every activity and venue is subject to appropriate checks and risk assessments before delivery begins.

We ensure that formal agreements and contracts are in place with schools, venues and relevant delivery partners, establishing clear responsibilities and expectations for the safety and wellbeing of participants.

These arrangements extend to school-based activities, external venues, football fixtures, volunteering opportunities and community programmes.

Our safeguarding procedures are supported by staff training, safer recruitment practices, risk assessments and clear processes for identifying and reporting concerns.

Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

We encourage children, families, schools, staff and community partners to raise any safeguarding concerns promptly.

Safeguarding contact: sportinginfluence.foundation@gmail.com

Safeguarding policy: https://sportinginfluence.com/media/84/Safeguarding-2024-compressed.pdf

Our safeguarding policy outlines our approach to protecting children, recognising concerns and responding appropriately.

We remain committed to reviewing and strengthening our safeguarding arrangements as the Foundation develops and introduces new opportunities for children and young people.

Two Ways to Extend Access

Girls' Football Academy

Building on the success of Play2EmpowHER and our existing Girls' Football Academy, Sporting Influence Foundation plans to expand its football provision in 2027, creating an affordable and sustainable pathway for girls to continue playing beyond the school day.

Our ambition is to offer 39 weeks of structured football coaching for just £52 per year, equivalent to approximately £1.33 per week of coaching.

The academy will welcome girls in Years 3–6 (approximately ages 7–11), providing an inclusive environment where participants can develop their football skills, build confidence, form friendships and enjoy playing as part of a team.

Our existing academy operates at Rossett Acre Primary School in Harrogate, on Mondays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, with a capacity of 30 places. We aim to build on this established provision in 2027, subject to confirmation of venue availability and final delivery arrangements.

More Than Weekly Coaching

An important part of our vision is to introduce friendly fixtures against other local girls' football teams.

These opportunities will allow participants to put their developing skills into practice, experience representing their academy and enjoy playing against other teams in a welcoming, supportive environment.

We are exploring the possibility of offering a £2 per week per child subscription (£104 per year) to help cover associated costs of this.

However, we do not anticipate introducing this charge at the outset. Our priority is to establish the fixture programme and explore opportunities to meet costs through sponsorship and community partnerships.

Keeping Football Affordable

By offering 39 weeks of coaching for £52, we aim to make regular football participation accessible to families across Harrogate and the surrounding district.

Our membership model is designed to provide continuity, helping girls progress from their first introduction to football into regular participation, skill development and potentially competitive opportunities.

With the support of local businesses, sponsors and community partners, we hope to maintain affordable membership fees while expanding the experiences available to participants.

Free Community Sessions

We believe that strong communities are built when people have opportunities to come together, form friendships and feel a sense of belonging.

As part of our ambitions for 2027, we are exploring the development of free, community-based youth club sessions, creating safe, welcoming spaces where children and young people can meet, socialise and enjoy activities outside the school environment.

Our vision is to establish an initial pilot in a local neighbourhood, working alongside schools, community organisations and local partners to identify an accessible venue where young people can spend time together in a positive, supportive environment.

A Place to Belong

Unlike traditional structured sports sessions, these community spaces would offer a more relaxed environment, allowing young people to choose how they spend their time.

Activities could include games, creative opportunities, informal sports, social activities and simply having somewhere safe to meet friends.

Importantly, attendance would be completely free, ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent children and young people from accessing the space.

We want these sessions to be shaped by the communities they serve. Before launching, we intend to consult local families, schools and young people to understand what activities, facilities and support would be most valuable.

Building a Sustainable Community Offer

Our initial ambition is to establish a time-limited pilot, allowing us to understand local demand, assess the benefits for participants and develop a sustainable model before considering expansion into other neighbourhoods.

We will explore opportunities to work with local businesses, community groups and potential sponsors to support venue, staffing and activity costs.

Optional food and drink sales may provide a modest contribution towards running costs. However, free access will remain central to the project, and the pilot will be designed to operate without relying on income from these sales.

Measuring Success

The success of the pilot will be assessed through participation, feedback from young people and families, the suitability and safety of the venue, and the financial sustainability of the programme.

Our long-term ambition is to create community spaces that respond to local needs, strengthen relationships and give young people somewhere they feel welcome, supported and valued.

Help More Children Take Part

Businesses can choose annual sponsorship or support an individual event. Philanthropic donors can help fund access. Trusts and foundations can discuss a defined programme or pilot with a budget and agreed outcomes.

Annual Offer	Proposed Recognition and Engagement
Bronze · £750	Website logo and agreed acknowledgement as a community partner.
Silver · £1,500	Bronze benefits plus a partner feature, agreed event visibility and opportunities for tickets and employee volunteering.
Gold · £2,500	Silver benefits plus enhanced visibility and a scoped corporate sports day. Sector exclusivity and PR opportunities subject to agreement.
Bespoke event	Agree which event costs are supported and what recognition is available.

Visit the Sporting Influence Foundation website