South Yorkshire WH Community cic

Annual Report 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Yorkshire WH Community CIC achieved exceptional growth in 2025, supporting 7,150 individuals across the South Yorkshire region — a 235.7% increase from 2,130 in 2024. Our active membership also expanded to 600 people, reflecting 57.9% growth from the previous year. This rapid rise demonstrates the growing demand for community support services and highlights our organisation's vital role in strengthening integration, wellbeing, and social cohesion across the region.

Our integrated approach combines mental health support, physical activity, cultural preservation, language education, and sustainable livelihoods through a comprehensive portfolio of programmes. Despite operating with limited resources, we delivered high-impact, cost-effective services at just £6.44 per person served.

Key Highlights 2025

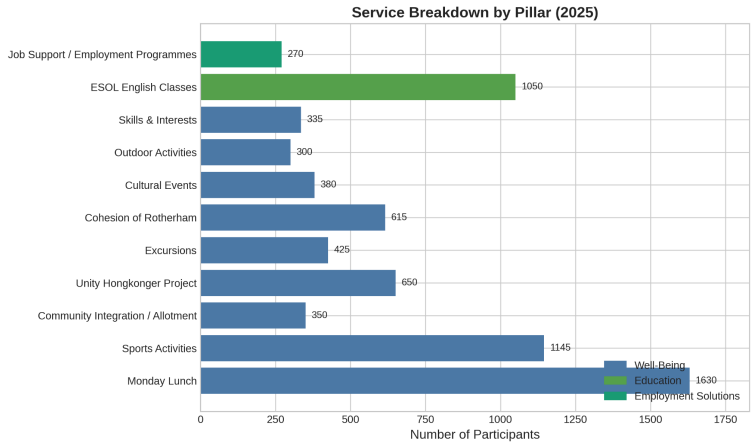
- **7,150** individuals served (+236%)
- **832 total activities, events, and ESOL classes delivered** across our three core pillars (Well-being, Education, and Employment Solutions).
- **600** active members (+58%)
- **30+** volunteers contributing 2,000+ hours (£30,000 value)
- **£68,743.33** funding secured
- **£42,299.42** in restricted funds has been carried forward into 2026.

Service Breakdown by Pillar:

Well-Being	**5,830 participants**
Monday Lunch (45 weeks free)	1,630
Sports Activities (Badminton / Table Tennis / Swimming)	1,145
Community Integration / Allotment	350
Unity the Hongkonger Community Project	650
Excursions (Whitby & Lincoln Outings)	425
Cohesion of Rotherham	615
Cultural Events (Annual Dinner / Christmas / Mid-Autumn BBQ)	380
Outdoor Activities (Walking / Camping / Rotherham Show)	300
Skills & Interests (Tai Chi / Knitting / Dumpling Making / Moon Cake)	335

Education	**1,050 participants**
ESOL English Classes (Rotherham College)	1,050

Employment Solutions	**270 participants**
Job Support / Employment Programmes	270



Total supporting 7,150 individuals across the South Yorkshire region.

ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

South Yorkshire WH Community CIC is a Community Interest Company dedicated to supporting new migrants, refugees, and established community members across South Yorkshire. We operate from Unity Centre, St. Leonard's Road, Rotherham, and serve primarily Hong Konger, Chinese, and local British communities.

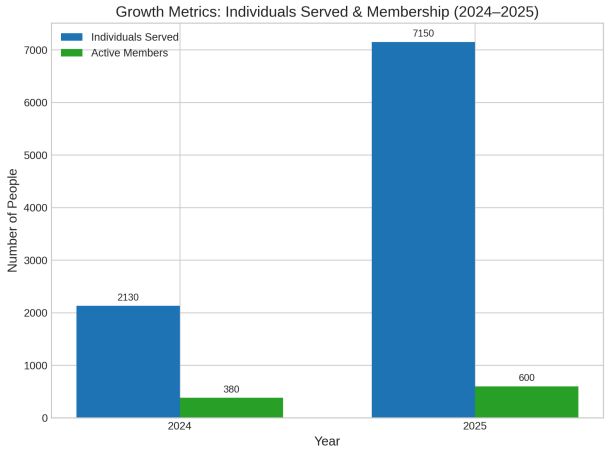
Our mission is to promote integration, wellbeing, and social cohesion through accessible, culturally-sensitive community programmes that address language barriers, mental health challenges, physical inactivity, and social isolation.

Governance:

Directors: Mr W Chao, Mr C Chan, Mr J Tung
Registered Company Number: 15156672
Status: Community Interest Company (transitioning to Charity Commission registration as CIO in the end of 2026)
Average Parttime Employees: 9 (2025)
Volunteer Base: 30+ volunteers

2025 IMPACT OVERVIEW

Metric	2024	2025	Growth / Frequency
Individuals Served	2,130	7,150	+236%
Active Members	380	600	+57.9%
Total Sessions Delivered	—	**832**	*New Metric (High Frequency)*
Average Attendance	—	**8.6 people**	*Per Activity / Class*



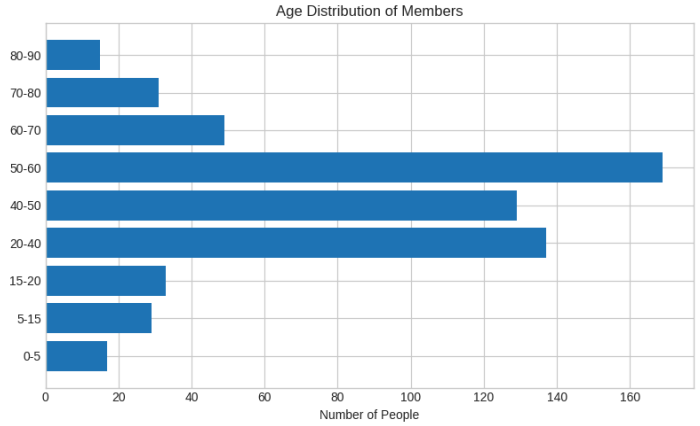
This growth reflects: increasing recognition of our services and the urgent need for community support among new migrant and refugee populations in South Yorkshire.

Delivery Insight: The successful coordination of **832 sessions** in 2025 reflects our team's massive operational growth. By maintaining an intensive weekly schedule with an average of **8.6 individuals per session**, we successfully moved away from isolated, large-scale events toward consistent, high-frequency, small-group support. This approach guarantees deep, long-lasting integration and well-being outcomes for our 600 active members.

Member Demographics (609 members):

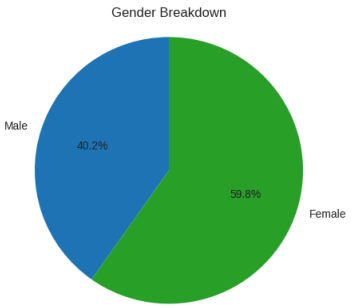
Age Distribution:

- 0-5 years: 17 (2.8%)
- 5-15 years: 29 (4.8%)
- 15-20 years: 33 (5.4%)
- 20-40 years: 137 (22.5%)
- 40-50 years: 129 (21.2%)
- 50-60 years: 169 (27.7%)
- 60-70 years: 49 (8.0%)
- 70-80 years: 31 (5.1%)
- 80-90 years: 15 (2.5%)



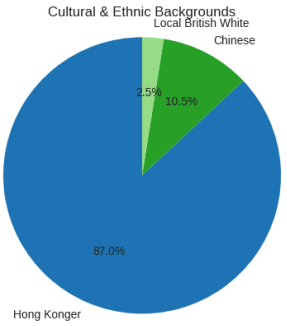
Gender Breakdown:

- Male: 245 (40.2%)
- Female: 364 (59.8%)



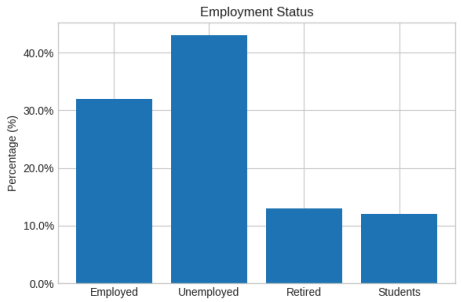
Cultural & Ethnic Backgrounds:

- Hong Konger: 87%
- Chinese: 10.5%
- Local British White: 2.5%



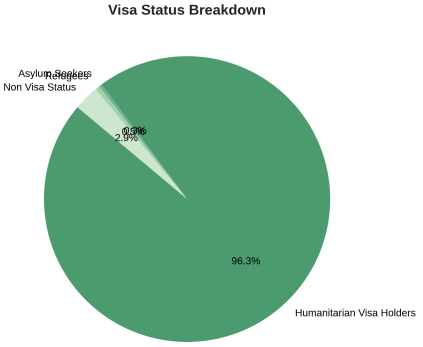
Employment Status:

- Employed: 32%
- Unemployed: 43%
- Retired: 13%
- Students: 12%



Visa Status:

- Humanitarian Visa Holders: 571 (93.8%)
- Asylum Seekers: 2 (0.3%)
- Refugees: 3 (0.5%)
- Non Visa Status 17 (2.8%)



PROGRAMME IMPACT

ESOL Classes: Building Language & Employment Pathways
1,050 individuals participated in free ESOL language classes, attending 2 sessions per week over 28 weeks (56 hours total instruction). Participants advanced from beginner to intermediate levels, with 10-15% gaining employment. The majority are older learners developing conversational English for daily life and workplace communication.
Impact: ESOL enables participants to communicate with colleagues, supervisors, and employers — essential for integration and employment access.

Sports & Physical Activity (free of charge)
Our sports programme engaged **1,145+ participants** across Badminton, Table Tennis and Swimming. Activities were delivered with **professional coaching** on **six courts per week over 45 weeks**, supporting both **children and adults**, including regular and occasional participants. Swimming sessions were delivered **monthly**. Participants consistently report **improved physical wellbeing**, increased confidence and **reduced social isolation** through taking part in regular, inclusive physical activity.

Community Feedback:
- Improved physical wellbeing and fitness
- Prevention of home isolation
- Strengthened community connections
- Made new friends
- Enhanced sense of belonging

Walking Groups: 300 participants (ages 15-79) attended 4 sessions per month. (free of charge)
Community Feedback:
- Improved physical wellbeing
- Prevention of home isolation
- Strengthened community connections
- New friendships formed
- Sense of belonging and togetherness

Monday Lunches: Community Gathering & Social Connection
40 regular members gathered for 45 weeks per year (free of charge). This safe, warm gathering space provides opportunity for community connection, speaking native language (Cantonese/Mandarin), interaction with local British people, and English language practice in natural settings.
Community Impact:
- Safe, warm gathering space
- Community connection and belonging
- Opportunity to speak native language
- Interaction with local British people
- English language practice in natural settings
- Reduced isolation and loneliness
- Members anticipate and look forward to Monday lunch every week

Mindfulness & Mental Health: Addressing Migration Trauma
15 sessions delivered with average attendance of 40 participants (free of charge).
We collaborated with Rotherham NGOs and Council partners including Skills for Health, Doorsteps, Fire & Rescue, Digital Services, Employment Support, South Yorkshire Police Station and NHS.

Mental Health Impact:

- Reduced stress and worry
- Support in settling into new environment and culture
- Feeling less alone
- Resolution of emotional challenges
- Improved mental wellbeing

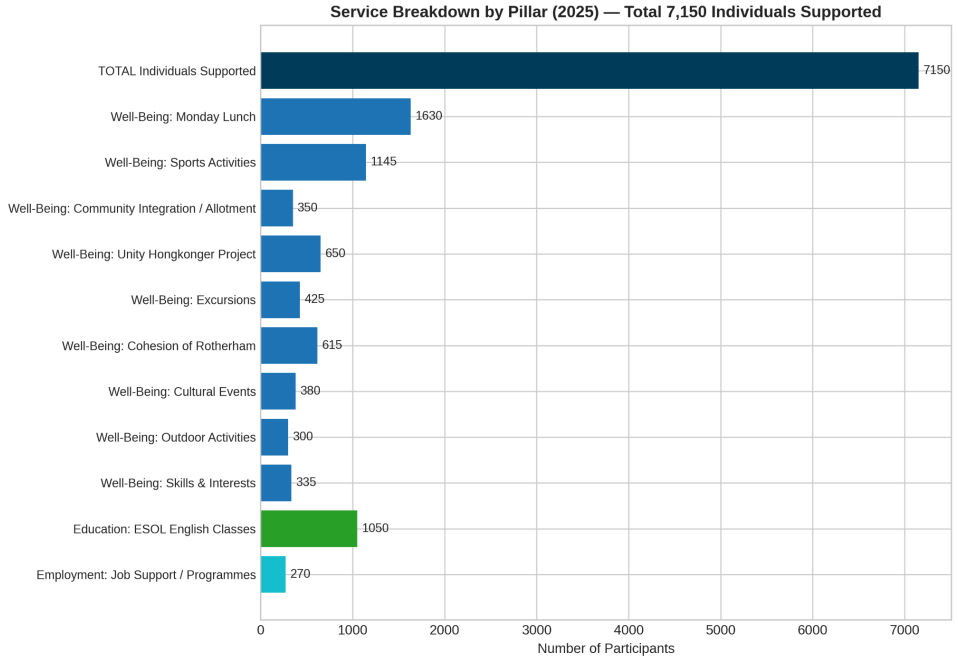
Cultural Events: Preserving Heritage & Building Cohesion

Total Cultural Event Attendance: 2,420

- Lunar New Year Celebration — 140 attendees (part-subsidised)
- Mid-Autumn Festival — 100 attendees (free of charge)
- Christmas Celebration — 140 attendees (part-subsidised)
- Cohesion of Rotherham / Allotment Event — 965 attendees (free of charge)
- Unity Hong Konger Community Event — 650 attendees (free of charge)
- Day Trip Outings (Whitby & Lincoln) — 425 attendees (£3 member contribution)

These events celebrate cultural heritage, strengthen community cohesion, and create meaningful intergenerational connections across South Yorkshire.

Allotment Project: Sustainable Food & Family Engagement
40 families involved in ongoing vegetable production and harvesting. Families report significant food cost savings of **£70 - £100 per family** — critical for low-income households. The project promotes food security, sustainable livelihoods, environmental stewardship, and family bonding through intergenerational participation.



KEY OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Employment & Language:
✓ ESOL classes enable participants to communicate with colleagues, supervisors, and employers
✓ Improved daily English speaking skill, CV writing, Covering letter, Interview skill
✓ 10-15% of ESOL participants gain employment
Mental Health & Wellbeing:
✓ Reduced stress and worry after joining community
✓ Participants feel less alone and supported
✓ Mental health challenges addressed through mindfulness and peer support
✓ Improved emotional wellbeing
Social Connection & Isolation:
✓ Reduced home isolation through regular activities
✓ New friendships formed across age groups and backgrounds
✓ Strengthened sense of belonging and community
✓ Self-motivated participation in activities
Cultural Preservation:
✓ Traditional festivals celebrated and preserved
✓ Heritage arts and crafts maintained
✓ Intergenerational cultural transmission
✓ Community cohesion through shared cultural events
Family Engagement:
✓ Families participate together in activities
✓ Children and adults benefit from shared experiences
✓ Day trips and cultural events strengthen family bonds
✓ Intergenerational participation in allotment project
Physical Health:
✓ Improved physical wellbeing through badminton, table tennis, walking, and swimming
✓ Regular physical activity preventing sedentary lifestyle
✓ Health improvements reported by participants

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION

Volunteer Base: 30+ volunteers
Hours Contributed: 2,000+ hours annually
Equivalent Value: 2,000 hours × £15/hour = £30,000
Volunteer Roles:

- Shopping and cooking for Monday lunches
- Administration
- Co-orginating and registration
- Employment solution advices
- Venue setup and decoration
- Tour guides for day trips
- Marketing and promotion
- Brochure design
- Google Forms administration
- Audio and video production for events
- Day trip coordination
- Photography and documentation

Volunteer Feedback:
Volunteers report satisfaction in helping people and supporting their community. Our volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, enabling us to deliver high-impact services with limited financial resources.

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges Overcome:
The 236% increase in individuals served (from 2,130 to 7,150) required significant expansion in planning, organisation, execution, administration, and coordination. Despite these challenges, we successfully managed growth through:

- Expanded volunteer base
- Improved administrative systems
- Strategic partnerships with local organisations
- Flexible, responsive programming

What Worked Well:
✓ Strong volunteer network and community commitment
✓ Integrated, holistic approach addressing multiple needs
✓ Free or low-cost activities accessible to low-income populations
✓ Bilingual services (Cantonese/English)
✓ Culturally-sensitive programming
✓ Community-led governance and decision-making
✓ Partnership with Sport England and local authorities
Member Feedback:
Members value:

- Free or low-cost activities (critical for poverty-area populations)
- ESOL classes addressing language barriers
- Cultural and festival events supporting mental health
- Sport England activities improving physical wellbeing and community connection
- Safe, welcoming community spaces

RISK ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

1. Volunteer Retention
Challenge: Our volunteer base is critical to service delivery. However, volunteer retention is challenging when volunteers secure employment — they have limited time to continue community support.
Impact: Loss of experienced volunteers reduces capacity and institutional knowledge.
Mitigation Strategy:

- Develop flexible volunteering opportunities (evening/weekend roles)
- Create volunteer recognition and appreciation programmes
- Offer skills development and training to volunteers
- Build succession planning for key volunteer roles
- Explore micro-volunteering options for employed volunteers

2. Venue Access & Sustainability

Challenge: South Yorkshire WH Community CIC currently hires external venues for all indoor activities, including ESOL classes, Monday Lunches, art and handicraft sessions, Tai Chi, table tennis, badminton, and community programmes. This reliance on hired spaces creates **significant ongoing costs** and limits our ability to expand or adjust activities based on community needs. A growing challenge is that popular community venues such as the Unity Centre, Broomhall Centre and Sharrow Community Forum are frequently fully booked, which reduces our scheduling flexibility and **undermines long-term sustainability**. Limited access to suitable spaces restricts programme growth and makes it harder to provide consistent support for our members.

Current Venue Costs (2025): £4,717.20 annually

- Monday Lunch — £2,200
- Tai Chi — £120
- Table Tennis — £256.40
- Badminton — £944
- Cohesion of Rotherham events — £1,044.80
- Other activities — £152

This highlights the urgent need for **more stable, affordable, and dedicated community space** to ensure programme continuity and long-term sustainability.

Impact: High venue costs reduce funds available for direct service delivery and limit our ability to expand programmes.

Strategic Response — SYWHC Centre Vision:

We are pursuing establishment of a dedicated South Yorkshire WH Community Centre incorporating three core elements:

- Education — Permanent ESOL classroom space, digital learning facilities, training rooms
- Wellbeing — Mental health support spaces, mindfulness and meditation areas, health and wellness programmes
- Employment Solutions — Job coaching, CV support, interview preparation, employment pathways

A dedicated centre would:

- Eliminate recurring venue hire costs
- Provide stable, accessible community hub
- Enable programme expansion and flexibility
- Create employment opportunities
- Strengthen community identity and belonging
- Support transition to CIO charity status

Funding Strategy: We are actively seeking capital funding and grants to establish the Centre, with projected opening in 2026-2027.

3. Funding Sustainability & Financial Position (continued)

Mitigation Strategy:

- Secure long-term funding commitments from local authorities
- Develop earned income streams (fee-based workshops, training programmes)
- Diversify funding sources across multiple funders
- Build organisational reserves to buffer funding gaps
- Transition to CIO charity status to access wider funding opportunities
- Strengthen grant writing and fundraising capacity

4. Organisational Capacity & Transition to CIO

Challenge: We are transitioning from Community Interest Company (CIC) to Charity Commission registration as a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2026. This requires:

- Updated governance structures and policies
- Compliance with Charity Commission requirements
- Administrative and legal processes
- Staff training and capacity building

Impact: Transition requires time and resources but will strengthen our legal status and access to funding.

Mitigation Strategy:

- Engage professional support for CIO transition
- Develop updated governance documentation
- Build staff capacity in charity compliance
- Communicate transition clearly to members, funders, and stakeholders
- Maintain service continuity during transition period

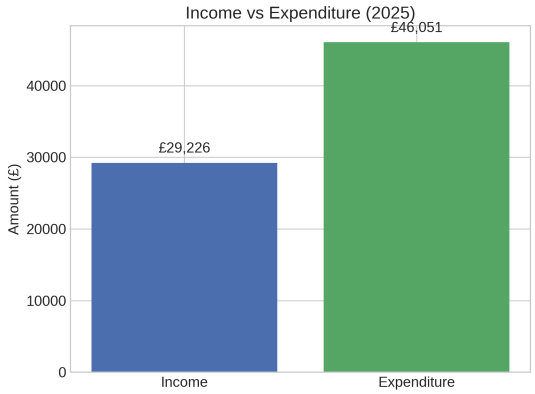
Income & Expenditure

- Total Income: £29,226
- Total Expenditure: £46,051
- Net Deficit: (£16,825)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY **Year Ended 30 November 2025**

Income & Expenditure:

Item	**Amount**
Total Income	£29,226
Total Expenditure	£46,051
Net Deficit	(£16,825)



Income Breakdown:

- Membership Fees: £1,123
- Grant Funding & Other Income: £28,103

Expenditure Breakdown:

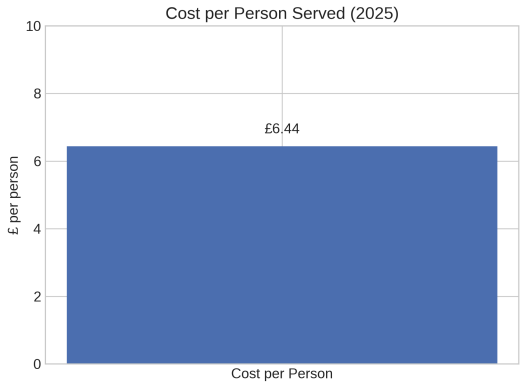
- Parttime Staff Costs: £11,954 (salaries and travel)
- Cost of Materials & Consumables: £31,850
- Other Charges: £2,247 (premises, insurance, stationery, accountancy, sundry)

Balance Sheet Position (30 November 2025):

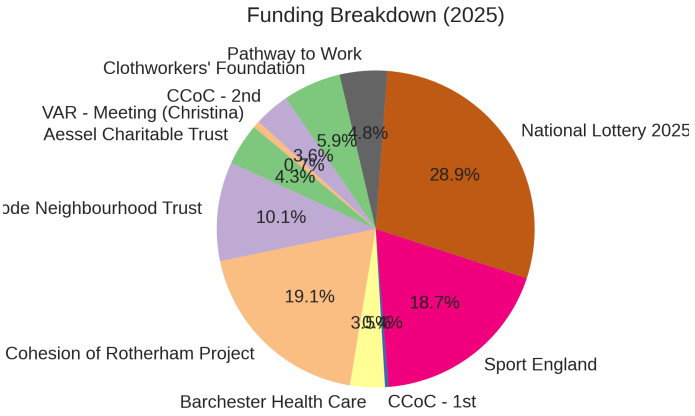
- Current Assets: £51,364
- Current Liabilities: £54,239
- Net Liabilities: (£2,875)
- £42,299.42 in restricted funds has been carried forward into 2026.

Cost Effectiveness:

- Cost per Person Served: £6.44 (highly cost-effective)
- Individuals Served: 7,150
- Volunteer Value: £30,000 (2,000+ hours × £15/hour)



Funder	Amount Received	Amount Used 2025	Carried to 2026
Aessel Charitable Trust	£2,953	£1,968.80	£984.20
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	£7,000	£5,529.48	£1,470.52
Cohesion of Rotherham Project	£13,250	£5,923.34	£7,326.66
Barchester Health Care	£2,450	£2,450	£0
CCoC - 1st	£250	£174.90	£75.10
Sport England	£12,928	£4,897.03	£8,030.97
National Lottery 2025-2026	£19,994	£342.33	£19,651.67
Pathway to Work	£3,333.33	£2,613.12	£720.21
Clothworkers' Foundation	£4,085	£554.57	£3,530.43
CCoC - 2nd	£2,000	£1,490.34	£509.66
VAR - Meeting (Christina)	£500	£500	£0
TOTAL	£68,743.33	£26,443.91	£42,299.42



2025 Funding Sources:

Financial Context:
The audit period ended 30 November 2025. Most grant funding was received in late 2025 but will be spent during 2026 for project delivery. This timing explains the year-end deficit and demonstrates:

- Secured funding for 2026 operations
- Good grant management and project planning
- Financial stability despite year-end position
- Strong funder confidence in our work

Audit Status:
The financial statements have been compiled by Overpaidtax Limited, Chartered Accountants. The organisation qualifies for small company exemption from statutory audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for maintaining proper accounting records and preparing accounts that give a true and fair view.

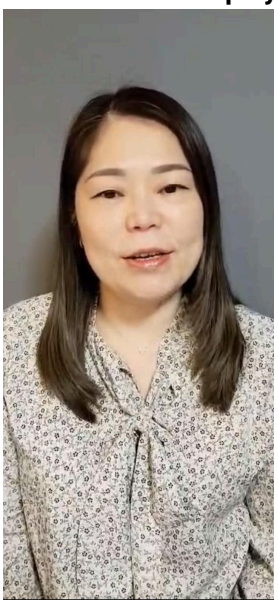
CASE STUDIES & MEMBER TESTIMONIALS

Testimonial 1: Service Diversity

Member: Renee

Community activities at South Yorkshire WH Community CIC have truly enriched my life since moving to the UK. I appreciate the diverse range of programmes — from English classes that build confidence, to Tai Chi sessions, to warm Monday Lunch gatherings where we share food and stories. Every activity feels thoughtfully designed to support our wellbeing.
What stands out is how inclusive everything is. Whether you want to learn English, stay active, make friends, or work at the allotment, there's always a place for you. The programmes suit all ages and backgrounds. Being part of this community makes me feel connected, supported, and uplifted. It's more than activities — it's a space where we grow together and truly feel at home.
— Community Member, South Yorkshire WH Community CIC

Testimonial 2: Employment & Career Pathway



Member: Lupus Mok
Finding a job in the UK was much harder than I expected. I felt lost and uncertain about how to navigate the employment market. Joining the Pathway to Work programme at South Yorkshire WH Community CIC changed everything. The team guided me through tailoring my CV for the UK job market and gave me the confidence I needed for interviews. Their professional advice, practical support, and local connections were the turning point. Thanks to their encouragement and expertise, I've successfully secured employment.
This programme isn't just a service — it's a bridge that helped me start my new career in the UK with dignity and hope.
— Community Member, South Yorkshire WH Community CIC

Video Testimonials
We have compiled a 2.5 minute video featuring members' testimonials sharing their experiences and impact stories. This video is available on our YouTube channel and can be accessed via QR code and click the link below:
https://youtube.com/shorts/BEWny58xqL0?si=LPybwHIn2qhYJ7EI
QR Code:

The video captures authentic member voices describing how our programmes have supported their integration, wellbeing, and community connection.

2026 GOALS & STRATEGIC EXPANSION

Primary Target: Support 8,000 individuals in 2026 (11.9% increase from 2025)

New Programmes Planned:

Language & Education:
- Expanded ESOL classes to meet growing demand
- Digital skills and technology training
- Literacy and numeracy support

Mental Health & Wellbeing:
- Additional mental health and mindfulness sessions
- Men's mental health programme (peer support, resilience building)
- Women's wellbeing programme (culturally-sensitive support)
- Mental health first aid training for volunteers

Physical Activity & Health:
- New sports and activity sessions
- Enhanced badminton, table tennis, and swimming programmes
- Physical activity programme for women
- Tai Chi and movement classes

Youth & Family:
- Digital exposure and technology skills for children
- Family engagement activities
- Intergenerational programmes
- Youth mentoring and support

Employment & Livelihoods:
- Employment support and job coaching
- Enhanced Pathway to Work programme
- Skills training and apprenticeship support
- Self-employment and enterprise development

Food Security & Sustainability:
- Enhanced allotment project capacity
- Cooking and nutrition classes
- Community garden expansion
- Food bank and emergency support

Geographic Expansion:
- Expansion into Sheffield areas pending additional funding
- Increased reach across South Yorkshire region
- Potential satellite programmes in underserved communities

Sustainability Focus:
- Secure ongoing funding to support growing membership
- Build organisational capacity (staff, administration, systems)
- Develop earned income streams
- Strengthen partnerships with local authorities and NGOs
- Transition to CIO charity status to access wider funding opportunities

SYWHC Centre Development:

Our strategic priority for 2026-2027 is establishment of a dedicated South Yorkshire WH Community Centre incorporating three core elements:

1. Education Hub

- Permanent ESOL classroom with modern facilities
- Digital learning and IT training spaces
- Vocational training and skills development
- Library and resource centre

2. Wellbeing Centre

- Mental health support and counselling spaces
- Mindfulness and meditation areas
- Health and wellness programmes
- Peer support groups

3. Employment Solutions

- Job coaching and career guidance
- CV writing and interview preparation
- Employment pathways and job placement support
- Employer engagement and recruitment

Centre Benefits:

- Eliminate recurring venue hire costs (currently £4,717 annually)
- Provide stable, accessible community hub
- Enable programme expansion and flexibility
- Create employment opportunities
- Strengthen community identity and belonging
- Support transition to CIO charity status
- Increase capacity to serve 8,000+ individuals

Funding Strategy for Centre:

- Seek capital grants from local authorities
- Apply for charitable foundation funding
- Explore social enterprise and partnership models
- Engage with Sport England and health commissioners
- Build business case for local authority investment

CONCLUSION

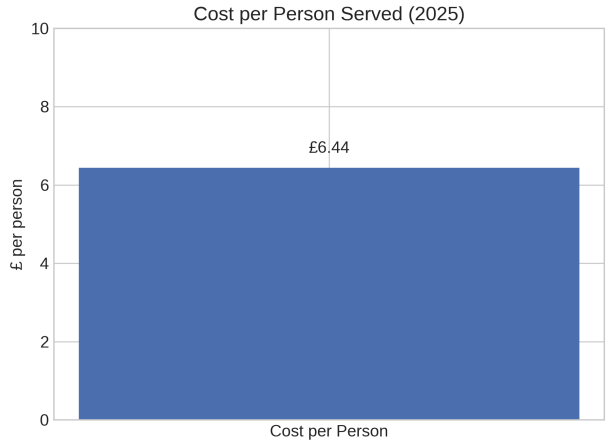
2025 was a transformational year for South Yorkshire WH Community CIC. The 236% increase in individuals served demonstrates the critical need for integrated community support services for new migrants and refugees. Our holistic approach — combining language education, mental health support, physical activity, cultural preservation, and sustainable livelihoods — addresses the interconnected challenges facing our community.

What We Achieved:
Despite operating with limited resources and relying on grant funding, we delivered exceptional impact:

- Supported 7,150 individuals (236% growth)
- Engaged 600 active members (58% growth)
- Mobilised 30+ volunteers contributing 2,000+ hours (£30,000 value)
- Secured £68,743.33 from diverse funding sources
- Maintained cost-effectiveness at £6.44 per person served
- Delivered culturally-sensitive, accessible programmes
- Built strong community partnerships

Success Built On:

- Dedicated volunteer network (30+ volunteers, 2,000+ hours)
- Committed staff and leadership
- Strong community partnerships
- Diverse funding support
- Member-centered, culturally-sensitive programming
- Integrated approach addressing multiple needs



Challenges & Opportunities:

We face three key challenges in 2026:

- Volunteer Retention — Securing volunteers as they gain employment requires flexible opportunities and recognition programmes.
- Venue Sustainability — Current venue hire costs (£4,717 annually) limit expansion. Our SYWHC Centre vision addresses this through a dedicated community hub.
- Funding Sustainability — Transition to CIO charity status will strengthen our legal position and access to funding, while diversified funding sources reduce reliance on grants.

Looking Forward to 2026:

Our challenge is to sustain and expand these services to meet growing demand. With continued financial support and community partnership, we are well-positioned to:

- Reach 8,000 individuals in 2026
- Establish the SYWHC Centre (Education, Wellbeing, Employment Solutions)
- Transition to CIO charity status
- Strengthen our impact on new migrant and refugee communities across South Yorkshire

Call to Action for Funders & Local Authorities:

South Yorkshire WH Community CIC represents exceptional value for investment. We deliver high-impact, cost-effective services to one of the most vulnerable populations in our region. Our growth demonstrates community need and organisational effectiveness.

We invite funders and local authorities to:

- Support our 2026 expansion to 8,000 individuals
- Invest in the SYWHC Centre as a regional community asset
- Partner with us to strengthen integration and wellbeing outcomes
- Recognise the critical role of community-led organisations in supporting new migrants and refugees

Together, we can build a more integrated, cohesive, and welcoming South Yorkshire.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: info@sywhc.org
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