South Yorkshire WH Community cic

# IMPACT 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 rose significantly to 600 members, representing 57.9% growth from 380 the previous year. **A defining driver of this success was our intensive operational footprint, delivering 832 separate events, wellness activities, and ESOL classes across the year with an average of 8.6 individuals per session.** This rapid expansion highlights the escalating demand for community support services among new migrants and refugees, and reinforces our organisation's vital role in promoting integration, wellbeing, and social cohesion.

This remarkable growth reflects the effectiveness of our integrated approach: combining English language education, mental health support, physical activity, cultural preservation, and sustainable livelihoods through ESOL classes, sports activities, community events, and our allotment project.

## 1. OVERALL IMPACT (2025)

| Metric | 2024 | 2025 | Growth / Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Individuals Served** | 2,130 | **7,150** | +235.7% |
| **Active Members** | 380 | **600** | +57.9% |
| **Total Sessions Delivered** | — | **832** | *New Operational Metric* |
| **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.

## 2. PROGRAMME IMPACT BY ACTIVITY

**Operational Delivery Frequency:** To maintain deep community roots and prevent isolation, our team moved away from single, large-scale events to implement a high-frequency, small-group infrastructure. Across 2025, we executed **832 separate sessions** across our three core pillars (Well-being, Education, and Employment Solutions) with a consistent, personal average of **8.6 participants per session**.

***ESOL Classes: Building Language & Employment Pathways***

- **Participants:** 1,050 individuals (free of charge)
- **Classes:** 2 per week over 28 weeks
- **Instruction:** 2 hours per class (56 hours total)
- **Language Progression:** Participants advanced from beginner to intermediate levels
- **Employment Outcomes:** 10–15% gained employment; majority are older learners developing conversational English for daily life
- **Impact:** ESOL enables participants to communicate with colleagues, supervisors, and employers; essential for integration and employment access

***Badminton & Table Tennis: Physical Activity & Community Connection***

- **Participants:** 1,145+ (free of charge)
- **Delivery:** 6 courts per week over 45 weeks
- **Participant Mix:** Children and adults; both regular and occasional participants
- **Coaching:** Professional coaches delivering skills training
- **Community Feedback:** Participants report improved physical wellbeing and fitness, prevention of home isolation, strengthened community connections, making new friends, and an enhanced sense of belonging.

***Swimming: Accessible Physical Activity***

- **Participants:** 120 individuals (free of charge)
- **Age Range:** 5–79 years old
- **Frequency:** One session per month
- **Impact:** Participants report improved physical wellbeing and reduced isolation through regular activity.

***Walking Groups: Mental Health & Movement***

- **Participants:** 300 individuals (free of charge)
- **Frequency:** 4 sessions per month
- **Age Range:** 15–79 years old
- **Community Feedback:** Participants report improved physical wellbeing, prevention of home isolation, strengthened community connections, new friendships formed, and a sense of belonging and togetherness.

***Monday Lunches: Community Gathering & Social Connection***

- **Participants:** 40 regular members
- **Frequency:** 45 weeks per year (free of charge)
- **Community Impact:** Members report a safe, warm gathering space, community connection and belonging, an opportunity to speak their native language (Cantonese/Mandarin), interaction with local British people, and English language practice in natural settings. It significantly reduced isolation and loneliness; members wait for Monday lunch every week.

***Mindfulness & Mental Health: Addressing Migration Trauma***

- **Sessions:** 15 sessions
- **Average Attendance:** 40 participants per session (free of charge)
- **Partnerships:** Collaborated with Rotherham NGOs and Council (Skills for Health, Doorsteps, Fire & Rescue, Digital Services, Employment Support, NHS).
- **Mental Health Impact:** Participants report reduced stress and worry, support in settling into a new environment and culture, feeling less alone, resolution of emotional challenges, and improved mental wellbeing.

***Cultural Events: Preserving Heritage & Building Cohesion***

- Lunar New Year Celebration – 140 attendees (part-subsidised; members contributed a small fee to support venue and activity costs)
- Mid-Autumn Festival – 100 attendees (free of charge)
- Christmas Celebration – 140 attendees (part-subsidised; members contributed a small fee to support venue and activity costs)
- 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 (members paid a £3 contribution)
- **Total Cultural Event Attendance:** 2,420

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

***Allotment Project: Sustainable Food & Family Engagement***

- **Families Involved:** 40 families
- **Vegetables Grown & Harvested:** Yes, ongoing production
- **Food Cost Savings:** £70 per family (significant for low-income households)
- **Intergenerational Participation:** Yes, families participate together
- **Impact:** Promotes food security, sustainable livelihoods, environmental stewardship, and family bonding.

## 3. MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

**Age Distribution (609 members):**

- **0–5:** 17 (2.8%)
- **5–15:** 29 (4.8%)
- **15–20:** 33 (5.4%)
- **20–40:** 137 (22.5%)
- **40–50:** 129 (21.2%)
- **50–60:** 169 (27.7%)
- **60–70:** 49 (8.0%)
- **70–80:** 31 (5.1%)
- **80–90:** 15 (2.5%)
- **Total:** 609 (100%)

***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%)

## 4. KEY OUTCOMES & IMPACT

***Employment & Language:***

- ✓ ESOL classes enable participants to communicate with colleagues, supervisors, and employers
- ✓ Improved daily English speaking skills
- ✓ 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

## 5. VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION

- **Volunteer Base:** 30+ volunteers
- **Hours Contributed:** 2,000+ hours annually

**Volunteer Roles:** Shopping and cooking for Monday lunches, 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 Value:** 2,000 hours x £15/hour = £30,000 equivalent value
- **Volunteer Feedback:** Volunteers report satisfaction in helping people and supporting their community.

## 6. CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

***Challenges Overcome:*** The 236% increase in individuals served (from 2,130 to 7,150) required significant expansion in planning, organization, execution, administration, and coordination. We successfully managed this vast load and the administration of **832 delivery blocks** through:

- Expanded volunteer base
- Improved administrative systems
- Strategic partnerships with local organizations
- 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

***Areas for Improvement:***

- ✓ Need increased financial support to sustain and expand services
- ✓ Capacity building for staff and administration to support high activity frequency
- ✓ Expansion to additional areas (Sheffield) pending funding
- ✓ Enhanced health monitoring and evaluation systems

***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, and safe, welcoming community spaces.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

- **Sport England Funding:** £12,928
- **Cost per Person Served:** £6.44 (highly cost-effective)
- **Volunteer Value:** £30,000

**2025/2026 Funding Sources:**

1. Aessel Charitable Trust (Summer sports): £2,953.00
2. Postcode Neighbourhood Trust (Employment Services): £7,000
3. Cohesion of Rotherham Fund (12 events): £13,250
4. Barchester Healthcare Foundation (Older people): £2,450
5. Children's Capital of Culture (Kids exposure) - 1st Grant: £250
6. Sport England Movement Fund: £12,928
7. National Lottery Awards for All: £19,994
8. Pathway to Work: £3,333.33
9. Clothworkers' Foundation (Digital Infrastructure): £4,085
10. Grants to Reduce Isolation & Loneliness (Older People): £2,000
11. VAR - Meeting Support (Christina): £500

- **Total Funding Secured:** £68,743.33

This diverse funding base demonstrates community recognition of our work and our ability to attract support from multiple sources.

## 8. 2026 GOALS & EXPANSION

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

**New Programmes Planned:** Expanded ESOL classes to meet growing demand, additional mental health and mindfulness sessions, enhanced allotment project capacity, and new sports and activity sessions.

- **Geographic Expansion:** Expansion into Sheffield areas pending additional funding, and increased reach across the South Yorkshire region.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Secure ongoing funding to support growing membership, build organizational capacity (staff, administration, systems), develop earned income streams, and strengthen partnerships with local authorities and NGOs.

## 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.

The success of 2025 was 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

As we move into 2026, our challenge is to sustain and expand these services to meet growing demand. With continued financial support, a highly active calendar of over 832 foundational delivery blocks, and solid community partnership, we are well-positioned to reach 8,000 individuals and strengthen our impact on new migrant and refugee communities across the South Yorkshire region.



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