LANCASHIRE FIRST CIO

Charity Number 1197245

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31ST December 2025

www.lancashirefirst.org

Lancashire First CIO

Year ended 31st December 2025

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Mohammad Iftakhar Moazzam Ali Mohammed Ismail
Principal address	15 Dover Street Nelson Lancashire BB9 7RF
Bankers	HSBC 12 Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JH
Registered Charity Number	1197245
Independent Examiner	M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA KM Chartered Accountants 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley BB11 1JG

Lancashire First CIO

Year ended 31st December 2025

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their report of the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st December 2025.

OBJECTS

The objects of the charity are:

For the public benefit, to relieve the needs of individuals with learning disabilities and by extension their families and carers living in Lancashire in particular, but not exclusively by the provision of appropriate workshops, events and activities.

Activities

The detailed annual review which accompanies this report shows the impact we have made on so many lives and continue to do so.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are on page 6.

The main source of income this period has been that of the Gladrags shop which alongside raising funds provides valuable work experience to our beneficiaries.

Balances at the year-end amounted to £221,680 of which £212,478 is unrestricted and £9,202 is restricted.

The charity aims to hold 3 months expenditure in unrestricted funds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

The trustees as listed on page 2 served throughout the period and are in office as of the date of this report.

Governing document

Governed by the Constitution adopted on the 16th December 2021.

Structure

The trustees meet regularly to discuss matters relating to governance and management, also to steer the direction of Lancashire First.

Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1 October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Moazzam Ali

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OFLANCASHIRE FIRST CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C,
The Wharf
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

1 October 2026

LANCASHIRE FIRST CIO

Year ended 31st December 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Receipts				
Shop sales	112,694	-	112,694	122,670
Grants	-	11,893	11,893	28,200
Fundraising and donations	1,139	-	1,139	3,418
	113,833	**11,893**	**125,726**	154,288
Payments				
Staff	51,670	6,573	58,243	47,466
Rent	11,500	-	11,500	8,450
Other costs (project costs/volunteers etc)	41,107	11,363	52,470	52,935
	104,277	**17,936**	**122,213**	108,851
Net receipts/(payments)	9,556	(6,043)	3,513	45,437
Funds at 31st December 2024	202,922	15,245	218,167	172,730
Funds at 31st December 2025	212,478	9,202	221,680	218,167

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
CASH FUNDS				
Bank current accounts	212,478	9,202	221,680	218,167

	2025 £	2024 £
Due to HMRC	1,143	5,043

Approved by the trustees and signed by:

Moazzam Ali
Trustee
1 October 2026

LANCASHIRE FIRST CIO

Year ended 31st December 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Basis of preparation
These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Fund Accounting
(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity
(b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

3 Taxation
The charity is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.
The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

4 Transactions with trustees
No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees, or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.

5 Restricted funds
The purpose of this restricted funds is explained in the Trustees Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT

JAN 2025 – DEC 2025

Lancashire First

LANCASHIRE FIRST CIO
2 Yorkshire Street | Burnley | BB11 2DJ

About Us

Lancashire First CIO is a registered not for profit, Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), set up to benefit the residents of Lancashire. As an organisation we strive to find opportunities for people with learning disabilities that are determined through working together to also support each other, so they can improve their life skills and future prospects.

Lancashire First CIO manages and operates a charity shop called Gladrags, which is located in the town centre of Burnley. The members and volunteers associated with the Gladrags charity shop have experienced staff to support them in their various roles.

Our prime focus is the community; supporting and helping local people to help themselves. We aim to find new opportunities and offer new experiences that help educate as well as ease the minds of our beneficiaries.

Lancashire First CIO began operating in December 2021, and since then we feel honoured to have helped over 400 people with learning disabilities, whether that is through the volunteering opportunities at the Gladrags charity shop or through tailored activities.

Even though the charity is based in Burnley, we support people from all areas of East Lancashire and beyond by offering a safe and accessible environment to people with a range of learning disabilities, ranging from 15 to 69 years of age.

The aim is to give individuals the chance to explore, develop, socialise and grow their ideas and goals through a wide variety of educational, social and practical activities.

We intend to empower individuals to enable them to contribute to their communities in a positive way, reducing social isolation and loneliness, as well as increasing their confidence and improving their physical and mental health.

Lancashire First CIO provides a safe, loving and warm environment where people come to learn and develop new skills. Most importantly, through this journey they are making new friends and forming long lasting and important relationships.

The charity is actively involved within our local community and contributes regularly in a meaningful way, helping to develop a strong community presence and build a positive image of people with learning disabilities, allowing for better integration and acceptance for all.

We would welcome you to visit the Gladrags charity shop where you can meet our volunteers and members with learning disabilities every Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 4.30pm and on Saturdays from 10am until 4pm, situated at 2 Yorkshire Street, Burnley, BB11 2DJ.



The Year in Review: Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' Project

The year began full of activities and opportunities for our service users, members and volunteers. We launched the 'Healthier Body, Healthy Mind' project; funded by the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (LSCICB).

The project aimed to give adults with learning disabilities and their carers the opportunity to learn about healthy eating habits and take part in exercise sessions.

As part of the project, we ran three different activities including four months of free gym membership, dance classes and healthy eating sessions.

We supported individuals by accompanying them to the gym and exercise classes, to enable them to become more confident and healthier; in both the body and mind.

These activities were added to our current schedule, which consisted of weekly art therapy sessions. People with learning disabilities joined these activities, free of charge and benefitted from them greatly by learning new skills and socialising with others.

January is normally a tough month for people, whether financially or trying to get fit, so we knew these activities would be very much needed and appreciated at this point in the year.

We thank BPRCVS for their support and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board for their funding towards this project.



Poster showing the four months free gym membership as part of the 'Healthier Body, Healthier Mind' project funded by the LSCICB.



Poster showing the 'Healthy and Wellbeing' sessions as part of the 'Healthier Body, Healthier Mind' project funded by the LSCICB.

Pantomime

On Sunday 12th January 2025, we had the pleasure of treating our lovely volunteers, members and carers with learning disabilities to the Sleeping Beauty pantomime showing at The Muni Theatre in Colne.

They all had a wonderful time, belly laughing and getting involved with the characters on stage. A huge thank you to our donors Boohoo for their donations, that allow us to put on visits like these for special individuals.

Also a great big thank you to The Muni Theatre for our ice creams and juices, they really went down a treat!

Our pantomime visits are an annual treat, for which we try and support up to 50 people by hiring transport and purchasing tickets for the service users and their carers to enjoy an afternoon of performances by some fantastic actors and performers.

Our service users really had a brilliant afternoon and are looking forward to visiting again.



All of our attendees outside The Muni Theatre in Colne waiting to go in and watch the Sleeping Beauty.



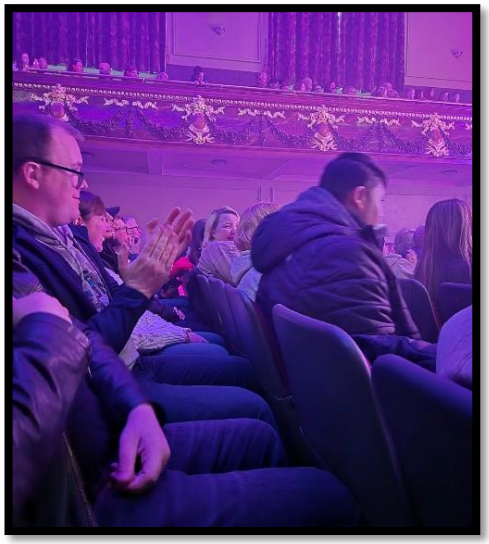
Our amazing members and volunteers sat watching the Sleeping Beauty pantomime at The Muni Theatre.



Ice cream ready to be handed out to our members and volunteers.



The juice given as a treat for our members and volunteers.



Everyone enjoying the fun happening on stage.



Dance Fit

During February 2025, we began our Dance Fit classes running every Tuesday and Friday until April 2025; aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of our service users.

These were taught by professional dance academy instructor Leanne from Dansworks Academy, at the Vanguard Centre and also at the Sion Baptist Church in Burnley.

The Tuesday sessions ran from 10am till 11am and the Friday sessions ran from 12.30am till 1.30pm. We offered adults with learning disabilities the opportunity to participate in both or one of the classes, free of charge and for them to learn some great dance moves and routines from a professional dancer. It was great to see everyone get involved in this activity.

The individuals taking part reported better balance, improved mood and weight loss too. These activities are great for getting active, improving physical and mental health and socialising with like-minded people.

We thank BPR CVS and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board for their support towards our 'Healthier Body, Healthy Mind' project.



Above is the poster for our dance sessions hosted by Lancashire First CIO with instructors from Dansworks Academy.

Leeds Armouries Museum

On Sunday 23rd February 2025, we had the pleasure of taking 48 volunteers, members, service users and carers to visit the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, whilst they were hosting superhero week.

Our attendees absolutely loved learning about different armoury and enjoyed spending time with the superheroes on site and enjoying the superhero themed activities.

There was Spiderman, Superwoman, Deadpool and many more. Our members and volunteers had plenty of photos with them.

Everyone was full of smiles and loved their visit. This was our second visit to the museum with additional newer members to the group.

One of the key targets for Lancashire First CIO each year is to organise outdoor trips for our amazing volunteers and members so that they are able to experience new places, sights and settings. The Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds is a popular outdoor trip which we like to organise and visit each year.



Group photo just outside the entrance of the museum.



Group posing with Spiderman and Spiderwoman.



Group photo alongside Superwoman.



Group posing with Deadpool and Elektra.





Atizaaz posing with one of the artifacts.



Daniel listening to the information via a wired phone.



Posing with the 17th Century Mughal war elephant armour.



Bakey and Becky alongside the miniature war field depiction.



Left to right: Yusuf, Usman and Nazia enjoying the visit.



The new members to the group enjoying activities.

Health and Wellbeing Sessions

Our 12-week sessions of healthy eating and wellbeing with qualified Dietitian Zenith Sayeed MSc Nutrition came to an end in March 2025.

The attendees who were adults with learning disabilities and their carers learnt about portion sizes, sleeping habits, food label reading, food groups, the eat well plate and the importance of exercise.

We had individuals reducing sugars and salts in their diets and we had carers implementing new menus in their supported living.



Healthy eating session being held at the Switch Centre.



The group learning about food groups.



The dietitian teaching portion control.



Reading food labels of everyday lunch items.

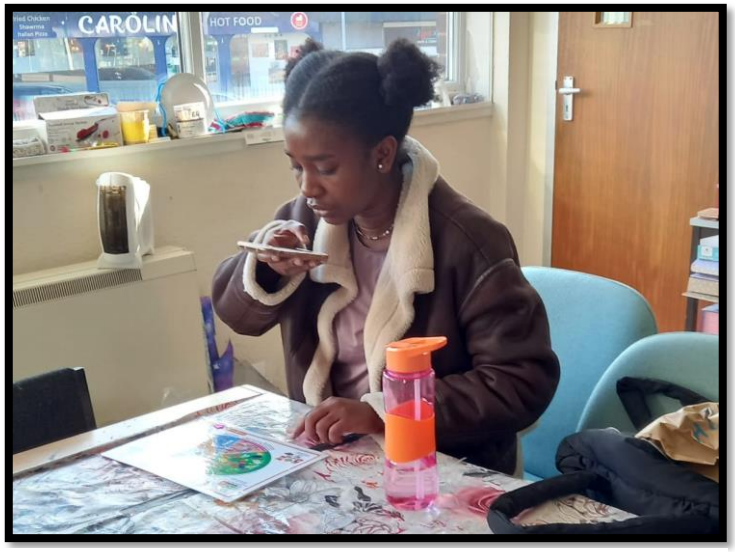




Helen measuring out pasta to understand a portion size.



Dietitian Zenith showing the class alternatives to sugar.



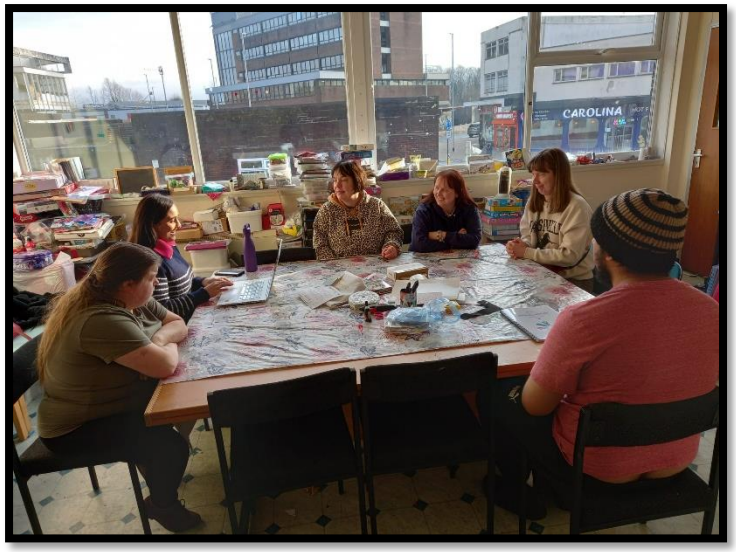
Vivian taking visual notes to help her with food prep.



The information being used from British Heart Foundation.



The colour of healthy urine being shown through food colouring.



Dietitian Zenith quizzing the group on what they had learned along the way.

Four Months Free Gym Membership

As part of our 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' project funded by the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (LSCICB) and Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS), we offered adults with learning disabilities the opportunity to benefit from four months of free gym activities at the St Peters Health Centre in Burnley.

The membership included a gym induction, access to a personal trainer, sauna, steam and jacuzzi along with all the gym equipment on the main gym floor. Members who required support were also assisted by Iram Sayeed who is the project co-ordinator.

We managed to benefit 30 members with the free membership and some of them continued with the gym even when our funding had been spent.

We are grateful for the funding which allowed us to host the health and wellbeing sessions, the gym sessions and the dance classes.

These sessions are great as they not only help with improving physical health but also benefit in improving confidence and mental health.



Scott and Connor on the exercise bikes.



Daniel enjoying using the gym machines.



Becky on the back supported exercise bike.



Yusuf and Julie on the exercise bikes.



Louise using the accessible gym machines.



Julie enjoying her time in the swimming pool.



Scott trying out the stepper.



Kimberley using the seated exercise machine.



Bakey happy to get fit in the gym.



Alistair using the rowing machine.

Gardening – UKSPF

Our UK Shared Prosperity Fund project involved some gardening, with our volunteers and members experiencing planting and clearing up various public areas.

We visited the Burnley Wood Medical Centre to clear up and to replant into the huge wooden planters which had been vandalised. We made them colourful and inviting with new plants and flowers to welcome people into the surgery.

We also visited the Rosehill Baptist Church to offer a clean-up service and planted some vegetables to support the community initiatives the church and community centre offer.

As part of the project we also planted fruit trees in various locations and organised a clean-up in the cemetery in Nelson.

Everyone loved getting involved in this project along with learning and improving their gardening skills. We hope to continue with similar activities in our future projects.



The keen gardeners outside Burnley Wood Medical Centre.



Louise planting vegetables for the local church.



Cherry tree planted by our service users.



Rhonda sweeping and clearing the church flooring.

Happy Easter

Easter is always a fun time for everyone at Lancashire First CIO, with plenty of creativity and gifting taking place amongst staff, volunteers and members with learning disabilities.

Easter in 2025 was no different! A big thank you goes to Gillian who is the Community Champion at Asda in Burnley and Mukhtar who is the Community Champion at Tesco in Burnley for our small and large Easter egg donations. Due to their kindness and generosity, we were able to gift all our members and volunteers an Easter egg to celebrate the festivities.

We also had a great time getting ready for Easter during our art therapy sessions. Our lovely attendees spent time decorating Easter hats and Easter baskets to take home with them.

We even had a surprise visit from the Easter bunny at our arts and crafts session! It was an exciting Easter for all involved and one that will not be forgotten in a hurry.

Here are some of the photos from just a few of the hardworking individuals who make our charity what it is. We are ever so grateful for their kindness and continued support.



Mukhtar from Tesco in Burnley donating Easter eggs for our volunteers and members.



Gillian from Asda in Burnley donating Easter eggs to Iram Sayeed our Project Co-ordinator.



Left to right; Connor, Scott and Bakey with their Easter eggs gifted to them from Lancashire First CIO.



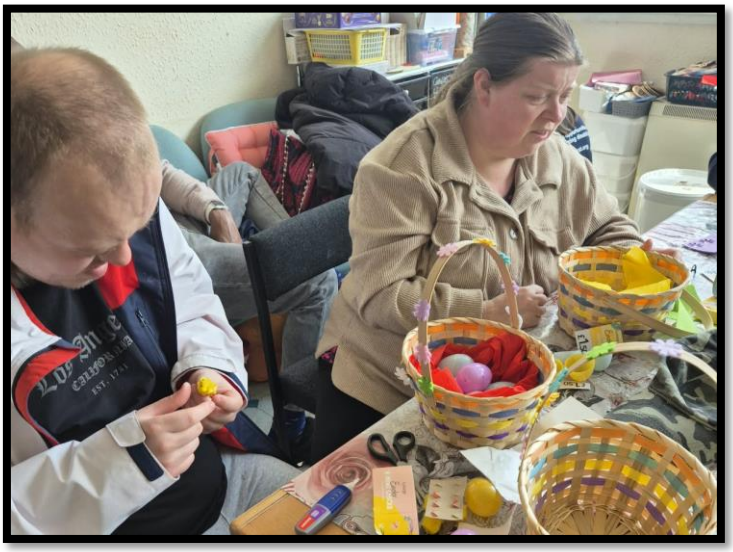
Alistair delighted with his Easter egg gifted to him from Lancashire First CIO.



All of our members getting involved in the Easter crafts session decorating baskets and hats.



A lovely basket created by one our attendees at the arts and crafts drop in session.



A decorative Easter bonnet in progress.



Maxine and Sharon add decorations to their Easter hats.



Samantha posing with the Easter bunny.



Karen hugging the Easter bunny out of excitement.

VE Day Celebrations

On Friday 9th May 2025 we held a party to celebrate Victory in Europe Day.

We invited 60 of our members, volunteers and carers to Finsley Gate Wharf in Burnley for a beautiful evening to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Europe. An amazing celebration took place full of laughter, joy and great food.

Pies, peas, chips and mini Victoria sponge cakes were on the menu.

Our attendees enjoyed outdoor games, war related word searches, colouring and quizzes.

The weather was stunning and everyone had a lovely evening celebrating the occasion.

Thank you to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School in Blackburn for our decorations.



Banner donated by
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School.



Our group of 45 people here to celebrate VE day at Finsley Gate Wharf in Burnley.



Rhonda and Owen getting involved in the games.



Steven proudly waving the British flag.









Intense moments trying to get the correct answers.



Louise taking part in the outdoor games.



Becky playing the bean bag game.



The mini Victoria sponge cakes on display.



Left to right: Lisa and Kim enjoying their cakes.



Left to right: Scott and Connor enjoying dressing up.

Fun with Lancashire First CIO

As part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund project, we had the opportunity to arrange two private cinema screenings at the Reel Cinema in Burnley, crazy golf and karaoke, two bowling evenings with food at the Disco Bowling in Burnley and Pool.

We hired a 60 seater screen and watched Sonic the Hedgehog 2 and Minecraft. We also hired the space for the crazy golf, karaoke and lunch as well as four lanes for each team of players at bowling. These fun activities were really popular and enjoyed by all attendees.

The private screening made it easier for our members and service users, some of whom have autism, ADHD and learning disabilities. The private screening helped them feel comfortable and at ease regardless of any of their personal disabilities.

The idea of the cinema trips, crazy golf, karaoke and bowling was to act as an initiative to encourage volunteers to join us and thank those that had given us their time over the past twelve months. Activities like these are a great form of escapism to help improve mental health and tackle social inclusion, something that is of concern to our service users.



The group sat ready to watch the Minecraft movie.



Sonic the Hedgehog 3, ready to play at the cinema.



Edward getting ready to take his shot.



Bakey taking his shot whilst Louise waits for her turn.



Left to right: Louise and Christine having fun in Bowling.



Lisa very excited about her throw at Bowling.



The whole group lined up ready to enjoy crazy golf.



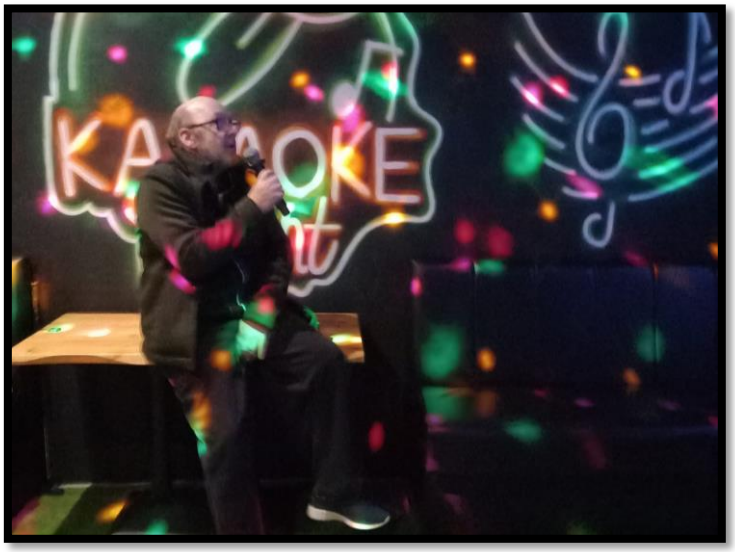
Sharon with golf ball in hand.



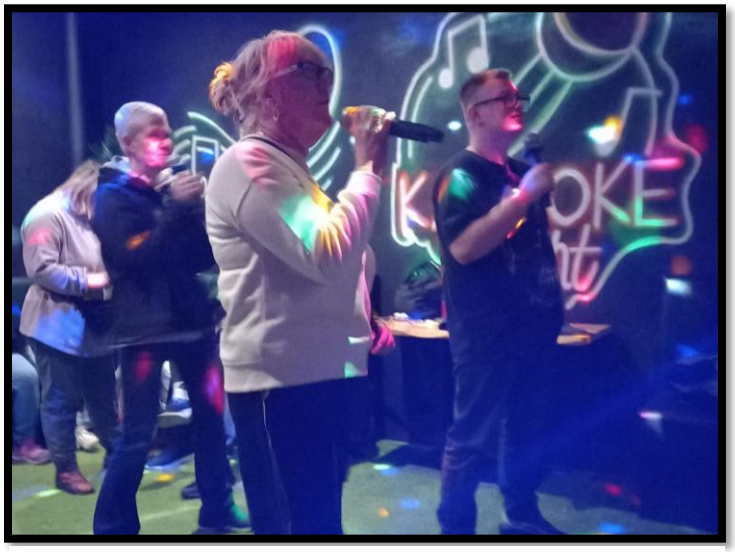
The entire group being treated to lunch.



Getting ready to play golf.



Andrew getting into the singing mode whilst doing karaoke.



Front to back: Tracey, Connor and Christine on the microphones doing karaoke.



Left to right: Steven, June and Theresa waiting for their turn in bowling.



Steven enjoying playing crazy golf.



Lisa enjoying the pool game.



Dan getting ready to take his shot at mini golf.

Gawthorpe Hall Visit

As part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund project, we arranged an educational visit to Gawthorpe Hall to learn all about the history and its heritage. The visit also allowed the attendees to explore the impressive collections, historic garden and the extensive woodland. The Gawthorpe Hall is filled with Victorian Gothic furnishings and decoration.

We hired two 16-seater minibuses to take our large group of service users to visit the Elizabethan mansion, a part of the National Trust.

The group were able to see all the rooms in the house including the magnificent fireplace in the entrance hall, the highly decorative Jacobean ceiling in the drawing room and the Crace furnishings in the dining room. They then walked up the winding oak-panelled staircase at the heart of the hall to see the long gallery, bedroom, dressing room, kitchen and the exhibition spaces. It was also great to have the tour guide on hand to explain the history in detail.

After our visit we walked around the woodland to enjoy the scenic views of the grounds.

The attendees really enjoyed the visit and for many it was the first time they had visited the historic building. We hope to return again for another visit next year.



The group outside the entrance of Gawthorpe Hall.



The tour guide showing the group the historical items.



Parveen delighted to show us her piece displayed in the museum, that she helped create.



Sam reading and learning new facts about the museum.



Front to back; Parveen and Christine trying on the items from the past.



Louise modelling the items from the treasure box found in the museum.



Left to right; Sam, Sharon and Parveen learning about the grandfather clock.



Steven inspecting the kitchen, learning how things used to work.



The group having lunch together in the gardens.



Some of the group who walked the grounds after the visit.

Fashion Show

On Sunday 22nd June 2025, Lancashire First CIO had the pleasure of hosting our first ever fashion show, featuring our brilliant volunteers and members with learning disabilities.

Thank you to Tesco and their Stronger Starts Foundation funding of £1,000 we were able to put money towards a fashion show and afternoon tea at the Burnley Football Club. The aim of the event was to empower adults with learning disabilities to make them feel included in society and allow them to explore and experience new opportunities.

Their families, friends and carers were invited to watch them walk down the ramp, showcasing beautiful clothing donated by Boohoo and F&F Clothing from Burnley Tesco; thanks to their Community Champion Mukhtar Mirza.

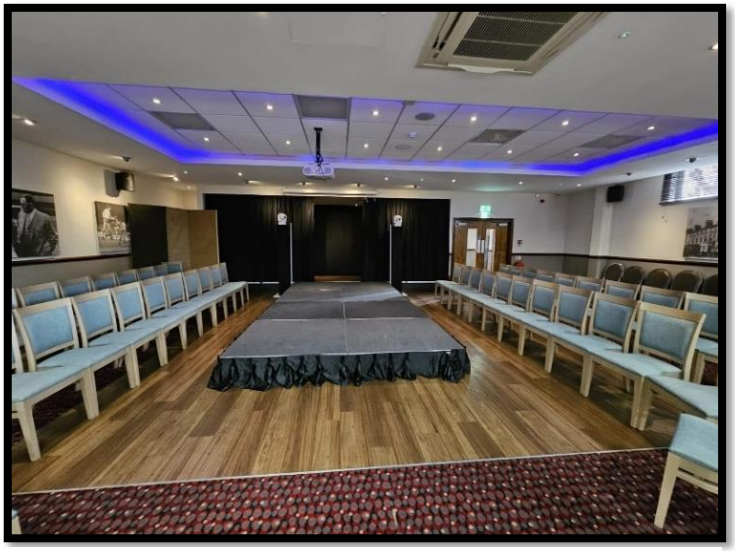
The menu included a selection of sandwiches, scones, teas, coffees, quiche and cakes.

The feedback received from the event was very positive with audience members even purchasing clothes off the catwalk ramp to take home with them.

A huge thank you goes to our brilliant DJ, host, lighting man and the all-round entertainment provider; Jordan from Harts Electrical Services Ltd. We would also like to thank Madi Mills from Nelson & Colne College for her brilliant photography skills, and these stunning photos are a result of her incredible camera and photo skills.



Mukhtar from Tesco in Burnley presenting us with the Stronger Starts Foundation funding cheque.



The stage, lighting, catwalk ramp and backdrop kindly donated and set up by Harts Electrical Services Ltd.



The raffle prizes table all set up for the event.



Our guests and models treated to an afternoon tea.



Scott getting ready to model.



June kindly doing the models hair and makeup.



Louise modelling clothing from Tesco.



Atizaaz modelling the Boohoo clothing range.







Left to right: Sharon, Connor and Becky modelling a mix of wedding wear and summer wear from Boohoo and Tu Clothing from Tesco.



Kimberley modelling for our summer section of the catwalk.



The audience consisting of customers and community members.



Left to right; Kim and Scott modelling for the formal and occasion wear segment.



A selection of sandwiches with various fillings.



The desserts with teas and scones for the guests.

Chester Zoo

At the end of 2024, we were granted £800 from the Asda Foundation Grassroots Grants scheme. Gillian the Community Champion from the Asda store in Burnley, kindly helped support our grant application.

This funding allowed us to partially fund a trip to Chester Zoo for our members and volunteers. We thank Asda Foundation immensely for their support allowing us to fulfil our charities aims of presenting people with learning disabilities with new opportunities.

On Sunday 29th June 2025, we organised a trip for 56 adults with learning disabilities and their carers to see the vast range of animals at Chester Zoo.

This educational trip involved learning about the conservation at the zoo, the animals diets and the science behind the zoo. Everyone had a brilliant and enjoyable day out.



Group photo taken whilst waiting outside the Chester Zoo's entrance.



One of the penguins from the enclosure.



The gecko's posing for the camera.



Rhonda learning facts about the lab testing activities.



Atizaaz learning about vultures with Chris excited to see them.



Left to right: Atizaaz, Emma, Sam and Wasim. Wasim is helping them understand the map.



The group stopping for a quick break whilst enjoying the stunning views.



A rare sighting of the tiger at Chester zoo.



The group here visiting the primates enclosure.

Blackpool Visit

On Sunday 21st September 2025, we organised a visit to Blackpool for 55 people including adults with learning disabilities and their carers.

We took everyone for a walk on the promenade from pier to pier where they were able to see the sea and sand. We then went on the pier rides where they all had a fantastic time, followed by a visit to the Mother Hubbard's restaurant for some fish and chips.

We then treated them all to ice creams from the famous Notarianni Ices ice cream shop.

To end the day, we visited the arcade where they all enjoyed playing games winning some fantastic prizes along the way.



The group posing underneath Blackpool Tower, ready for their walk.



Scott and Connor having fun on the spinning cups.



Christian enjoying himself on one of the rides.



Sharon, Scott and Connor posing for the camera.



A couple of the attendees enjoying their ice creams.



Yusuf delighted with his treat.



Kimberley and Lisa visiting the souvenir shops.



The group at the Mother Hubbard's chip shop.



Bakey showing us his winning prize from the machine.

Halloween Party

Held on Sunday 19th October 2025 at the Vanguard Centre in Burnley, we hosted 45 people to a spooky themed Halloween Party.

A huge thank you to Mukhtar the Community Champion from the Tesco in Burnley for all our snacks, including drinks, crisps and chocolates.

A big thank you also goes to Padrinos Pizzeria in Burnley for their amazing service and lovely pizzas and chips. They specially delivered the pizzas to us whilst their shop was not open for business. A great gesture by them and much appreciated by everyone at Lancashire First CIO.

The Halloween party involved musical statues, best dressed, balloon decorating, hat decorating and even face painting.

All our volunteers and members had a brilliant time and lots of prizes were won on the day. A truly unforgettable party and an amazing time spent together as one big family.



Two types of pizza and chips for our attendees all from Padrinos in Burnley.



Snacks, many of which were donated by Tesco courtesy of Community Champion Mukhtar.



The activities table set up for our attendees to enjoy and get involved with.



The hats and decorative items needed to decorate them with.



Owen and Rhonda ready for the party,
posing in their costumes.



Scott here enjoying his face being painted
by the talented June.



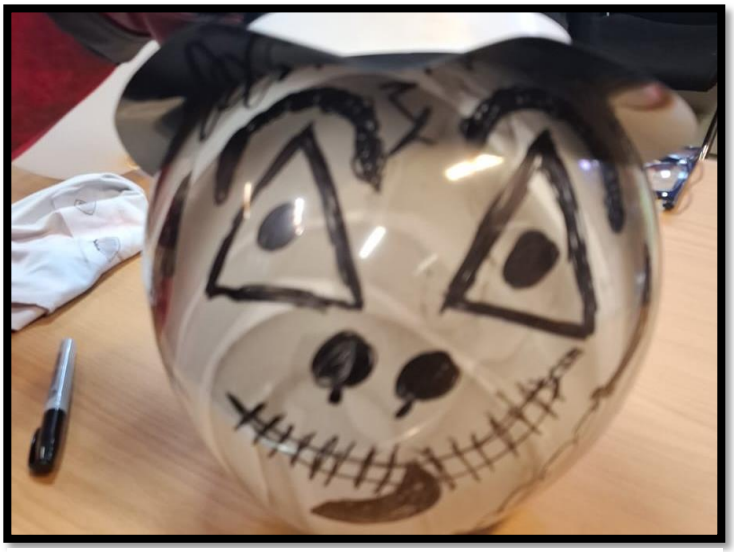
Jason and Karen decorating their own masks
to wear at the party.



Susan here using her creative skills
to decorate a lampshade to take home.



Christine and Louise decorating their top hats
and witches' hats for the party.



Balloon decorating with the attendees
at the Halloween party.



Pizzas personally delivered by Padrinos, ready to be shared out.



Owen enjoying decorating his balloon and mask, whilst enjoying the party food.



One of the hats decorated by our attendees.



Awarding the best dressed at the Halloween party.



Christine and Scott enjoying pulling scary faces.



Sharon trying on the Halloween creation she has made.



Christmas at Banny's

On Christmas Eve we invited a group of our volunteers, members and service users to a meal at Banny's restaurant in Burnley.

They were all treated to a lunch of fish and chips as a thank you for their amazing support to the charity. Their dedication, passion and commitment to Lancashire First CIO is appreciated and much needed so that we can continue to grow as a charity.



Left to right; Janzaib, Atizaaz and Taimoor enjoying their Christmas Eve meal.



Our volunteers sat catching up over their fish and chips.



Anisa, one of our volunteers enjoying her burger and chips.



Becky, another one of our volunteers enjoying her burger and chips.



Louise happily enjoying her meal with friends.



Banny's in Burnley is the place for our Christmas Eve Meal.

Christmas at Gladrags

To keep the festive spirit high, we ran a Kevin and Co Christmas carrot raffle in our Gladrags charity shop. We were delighted to announce our regular customer Jackie who won last year, also won again this year and became the proud winner of Kevin and his pals, who we sold tickets for at our Gladrags shop and at our Christmas party.

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the charity through ticket sales, including our volunteers and lovely customers.

The sales from the raffle supported the charity in organising activities that are beneficial to our members, volunteers and service users.

We were also so grateful to receive a huge selection of F & F clothing, toys and homeware from Tesco in Burnley to sell at our Gladrags charity shop. From Christmas jumpers to Christmas pyjamas, Harry Potter cat bowls to Funko Pop toys, as well as candles, fake nails and makeup. This huge selection of brand new items were donated to support our activities.

Thanking Mukhtar, the amazing Community Champion from Tesco in Burnley for helping donate fantastic pieces to us which were displayed nicely in our shop, by our talented volunteers. His continued support is much needed and much appreciated.





Kevin the carrot and his companions waiting to be won in the raffle draw.



Community Champion at Tesco in Burnley Mukhtar AKA Buddy the Elf, donating a huge selection of goods to the Gladrags Charity Shop.

Christmas Party

Looking back at our fantastic Annual Christmas party hosted by Lancashire First CIO on Sunday 14th December 2025, for our lovely staff, members, volunteers, service users and donors. With over 80 people in attendance at The Landmark in Burnley, it was a Christmas party filled with joy, laughter, singing, festivities and plenty of delicious food.

The evening featured a three course meal, raffle prizes, games including stand up bingo and pass the parcel, karaoke, spin the wheel and also a surprise visit from the Grinch too!

A massive thank you to Boohoo for their continuous donations allowing us to host such important events for the people that matter most to the charity.

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Landmark Hotel for looking after us and to Jay-Care Stairlift and Mobility for their generous donation, helping us to purchase some delicious desserts for all of our amazing guests on the night.

We also would like to thank Community Champion Mukhtar Mirza from Tesco in Burnley for supporting us with a large donation of chocolate tubs to gift to our volunteers and a thank you to Gillian from Asda in Burnley for more chocolates tubs for the party.

We are grateful to Crow Wood Hotel and Spa Resort for donating a £50 voucher to raffle on the night so that we were able to help raise vital funds for the charity.

The Entertainer and The Works also kindly donated some brilliant raffle prizes which our attendees were delighted to win by participating in the games, which were hosted by June.

Last but not least, we also give a huge thank you to Jordan Hart from Harts Electrical Services Ltd for the brilliant entertainment on the night, disco lights and his fantastic hosting skills! It would not be a Lancashire First CIO Christmas party without this man.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support the local community and businesses have shown us over the years. We are a charity that is proud to support people from our local communities and we will continue to 'strive to find opportunities for people with learning disabilities'.



The dessert table set up for attendees to enjoy after food.



The menus featuring the three course meal.



Teresa, Alegria, Susan and Margarat having a great time.



Donna, Scott and Connor enjoying the party.



Margarat and Atizaaz with spin the wheel.



Rhonda and Christine enjoying the karaoke.



Paula with her pass the parcel prize.



Christian delighted with his pass the parcel prize.



June getting everyone geared up for the party games.



Our guests of honour; the Jay Care team.



Daniel presenting the Crow Wood £50 voucher to our winner; Saiqa.



The raffle table full of amazing prizes up for grabs at the Christmas party.



Algeria happy with her raffle prize win.



Stuart and Emma posing with the Grinch.



Our attendees enjoying themselves on the dance floor.



The gift bags containing chocolate tubs and vouchers, waiting to be handed out to the volunteers.



Left to right: Adam, Paula and Adam's mum posing for a photo at the Christmas party.



Julie posing with the mischievous Grinch at the Christmas party.



Entrance of the Jay Care shop situated across our Gladrags charity shop.



Donations from the Entertainer for our raffle prizes.

Final Words…

In conclusion, Lancashire First CIO had a very successful year, accommodating and providing opportunities for over 100 people. We managed and delivered three successful and prosperous grant funded projects around the themes of fitness, wellbeing, mental health, empowerment, arts, culture and education.

Additionally, we hosted four events; including VE Day celebrations, a charity fashion show, a Halloween party and the Annual Christmas party, all of which provided a safe social space for our members and volunteers with learning disabilities along with our donors and supporters of the charity. These events were only made possible because of a joint effort.

We organised three outdoor trips for up to 50 beneficiaries each time which included travelling to Chester, Blackpool and Yorkshire. Unforgettable memories were made.

Our attendees were able to explore parts of the United Kingdom they have never seen or visited before, and they were able to learn and experience new things focusing on animals, health, history, culture and entertainment.

The organisation was also able to facilitate and organise additional activities to help improve mental health and social skills. These activities centred around motor neurone skills and included gardening, pool, dance classes, healthy eating sessions, gym sessions, cinema, crazy golf and bowling. Thanks to our grant funders for supporting these activities.

Lancashire First CIO also managed the Gladrags charity shop with the support of our amazing volunteers, customers and donors. Year on year we are seeing an increase in the number of new customers visiting the Gladrags charity shop and a greater demand for the items available to buy. We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing custom and support.

Our biggest support in 2025 came from Boohoo in the form of clothing donations for the Gladrags charity shop and donations from Tesco's Community Champion Mukhtar; these donations allowed us to fund trips and activities for our service users; many of whom volunteer at the Gladrags charity shop. We cannot thank our donors enough for their continued support and generous donations.

We have big plans for 2026 and hope to continue the great work at Lancashire First CIO.

Lancashire First

GLADRAGS

Striving to find opportunities for people with learning disabilities