Charity Registration Number : 1213348

# BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO

A CHARITABLE UN-INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2026

**BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026


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**BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO**

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trustees** | Rajab Noor<br>John Claughton<br>Siraj Hussain |
| **Charity Number** | 1213348 |
| **Registered Office** | 249a Ladypool Road<br>Birmingham<br>B12 8LF |

# BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO

# TRUSTEES' REPORT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.

### 1. Chair’s / Trustees’ Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present the first annual report of Birmingham United Foundation CIO, covering the period from the charity’s registration on 19 May 2025 to 30 June 2026.

This has been a foundational year for the organisation. Although the Foundation is a newly registered charity, its work has developed from a strong community-rooted sport infrastructure built around Birmingham United FC Foundation CIC, which was converted to the CIO in May 2025.

Our purpose is simple: to use the power of sport to transform the lives of Birmingham’s next generation.

We believe that every young person has potential, but that potential is not distributed equally. Young people growing up in some of Birmingham’s most deprived communities face barriers relating to poverty, educational attainment, access to safe spaces, physical inactivity, social isolation, unemployment and exposure to antisocial behaviour.

Our response is to put sport at the heart of community development.

During the year, the Foundation established and expanded programmes across inner-city Birmingham, providing young people with opportunities to participate in football and other sports, develop confidence and life skills, build positive relationships with trusted adults and access wider opportunities.

The Trustees are particularly proud of the Foundation’s ability to combine grassroots sport, education, youth development and community engagement into a single model.

Our long-term ambition is bold: for every child in inner-city Birmingham to have access to a regular Birmingham United Foundation session within walking distance of their home by 2030.

The year 2025/26 has provided the foundations from which we intend to build towards that ambition.

### 2. About Birmingham United Foundation

Birmingham United Foundation CIO is a Birmingham-based sport-for-good charity established to support young people and communities through sport, education and wider personal development.

The charity was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 19 May 2025, charity number 1213348. Its charitable objects include providing advice, assistance and programmes of physical and educational activity for young people, advancing education, relieving unemployment and providing recreational and leisure activities that improve people’s conditions of life. The charity also seeks to provide sporting and recreational facilities for people experiencing disadvantage, poverty or social and economic hardship.

The Foundation operates primarily in Birmingham, with a particular focus on communities where young people experience significant socioeconomic disadvantage and where access to affordable, accessible sporting opportunities is limited.

Our work is built around six core values:

- Youth-led – young people are involved in shaping the programmes designed for them.

- Community first – provision is delivered within the communities we serve.

- Impact driven – we seek to measure participation and outcomes rather than simply activity.

- Inclusive – sport should be accessible regardless of background, circumstance or ability.

- Ambitious – we seek to create opportunities that match the potential of Birmingham’s young people.

- Transparent – we seek to build trust with participants, families, funders and partners through openness and accountability.

## 3. Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is: To use the power of sport to transform lives, unite communities and remedy social inequalities.

We believe sport is much more than physical activity. It can provide young people with belonging, positive relationships, confidence, discipline, resilience, leadership skills, improved physical health, improved wellbeing, educational engagement and employability opportunities.

Our vision is for a fair, equitable and healthy society in which young people from every community have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Our 2030 ambition is to ensure that every child in inner-city Birmingham can access a regular Foundation session within walking distance of their home.

## 4. Review of Activities During 2025/26

The 2025/26 year saw the Foundation develop a broad programme of community and youth activity.

### Community Football

Community football has remained at the heart of the Foundation's work.

The Foundation delivered accessible football sessions, leagues and recreational opportunities across communities including Sparkhill, Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath.

The programme engages more than 350 young people each week and has been designed specifically to remove barriers that prevent young people from participating in mainstream competitive football.

A key principle of the programme is that football should be brought into communities rather than requiring young people and families to travel significant distances to access provision.

The Foundation has also worked in partnership with other organisations to broaden opportunities for young people and create clear pathways from community participation into grassroots and elite football.

### Football Fridays

Football Fridays has developed as a regular community intervention, providing young people with a safe and positive place to participate in sport at a time of the week when levels of antisocial behaviour can be higher.

Sessions have been delivered across communities including Alum Rock, Nechells and Sparkbrook.

The programme uses football as an engagement mechanism while also creating opportunities for young people to develop relationships with coaches and mentors.

### Holiday Activities and Food Programme

During the year, Birmingham United Foundation continued to develop its holiday provision through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

The Foundation's HAF activity provides young people with access to football and other sports, enrichment activities, structured holiday provision, social interaction, positive relationships with coaches and youth workers, and nutritious food.

The Foundation has developed provision across multiple sites, making activities accessible to young people from different communities across Birmingham.

By combining sport, enrichment and food provision, the programme addresses both physical inactivity and wider inequalities affecting children and families.

The Foundation's 2026 programme included provision at sites including Rockwood Academy, King Edward's School, Hodge Hill College, Fox Hollies Leisure Centre, Birmingham Central Mosque and Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School.

## 5. Beyond The Game

During the year, the Foundation developed Beyond The Game, a programme designed to support young people who are disengaged from education.

The programme uses football as a gateway to re-engage young people who may be excluded or at risk of exclusion, persistently absent from school, disengaged from learning, or struggling to see a positive pathway through education.

Football provides the initial point of engagement, after which the programme incorporates mentoring, in school support and links to wider Foundation programmes.
The Trustees believe this approach demonstrates the Foundation's wider philosophy: sport is not the end goal; it is the vehicle through which wider change can take place.

### 6. Care Leavers Football

The Foundation continued to develop its work with care-experienced young people through its partnership with Birmingham Children's Trust.

The Care Leavers Football programme provides regular football sessions designed to give young people leaving the care system a consistent community, positive relationships and a sense of belonging.

The programme focuses on social connection, physical activity, belonging, confidence, trusted adult relationships and personal development.

The Foundation also delivers the Care Leavers Cup, an annual football event celebrating care-experienced young people across the country and bringing participants together in a positive sporting environment.

### 7. Talent Development and Pathways

A key element of the Foundation's work is ensuring that talented young people from disadvantaged communities are not prevented from progressing because of their socioeconomic background.

The wider Birmingham United football structure provides a pathway from community participation into grassroots, elite and professional football.

During the year, Birmingham United developed formal relationships and pathways involving organisations including Birmingham City FC, Birmingham City Foundation, Aston Villa Foundation and other sporting partners.

BU Foundation's South Asian Talent ID programme has been developed to address the historic underrepresentation of South Asian players within professional football.

The programme identifies talented players through community sessions and other grassroots activity before providing access to higher-level coaching, experiences and potential academy pathways.

This work reflects the Foundation's commitment to ensuring that talent is identified on the basis of ability and potential rather than postcode, background or access to existing networks.

### 8. Nations Cup and Community Cohesion

The Foundation has continued to use football as a means of bringing Birmingham's diverse communities together.

The Nations Cup was developed as a community football initiative involving multiple communities and cultures across Birmingham.

The project was born from a desire to use football to celebrate Birmingham's diversity and create positive interaction between communities.

Rather than focusing solely on competition, the event uses sport to promote community cohesion, cultural understanding, pride, belonging and participation.

### 9. Beyond The Lens

The Foundation also developed Beyond The Lens, providing young people with opportunities to develop skills in photography, videography, social media and digital content creation.

The programme recognises that the modern sports industry provides opportunities beyond playing and coaching.

Young people are therefore encouraged to develop practical skills in filming, photography, editing, storytelling, social media, content production and personal branding. It is a programme designed to boost the employment skills of young people.

The Foundation's own media output has also provided a practical environment in which participants can see their skills being used in a professional context.

## 10. Schools Programme

The Foundation has continued to develop relationships with schools across Birmingham.

Our schools work uses sport and enrichment as tools to support physical activity, confidence, resilience, teamwork, behaviour, aspiration, engagement and personal development.

The Foundation's approach is to work alongside schools rather than simply provide isolated sports sessions.

## 11. Partnerships

Partnership working has been central to the Foundation's development.

During 2025/26, the Foundation worked alongside community organisations, schools, sports organisations, funders and public-sector partners.

Notable relationships include work with Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham City Foundation, Birmingham City FC, Aston Villa Foundation, local schools, community organisations, Sport Birmingham and other local delivery partners.

The Foundation became part of the Active Birmingham network, alongside other community organisations working to increase physical activity and co-design solutions with residents across the city.

In January 2026, the Foundation also participated in the Play it Forward programme in Sparkbrook, supporting young people to access safe community spaces and sport.

The Trustees believe that collaboration is essential to achieving sustainable impact and avoiding duplication of provision.

## 12. Impact During the Year

The Foundation has experienced significant growth during its first year.

Current organisational data indicates that the Foundation has supported more than 5,500 young people, with approximately 90% coming from highly deprived areas, and delivers approximately 2,500 hours of sport each year. The organisation currently engages around 550 young people each week.

The Trustees recognise that these headline figures are only one measure of impact.

Our longer-term measures of success include whether young people become more physically active; feel safer and more connected to their communities; develop positive relationships; improve their confidence and resilience; remain engaged in education; develop employability skills; progress into further sporting opportunities; develop leadership skills; and experience a stronger sense of belonging.

The Foundation will continue to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation systems so that the organisation can demonstrate these longer-term outcomes more effectively.

## 13. Youth Voice

The Foundation is committed to ensuring that young people are not simply recipients of services but active contributors to the organisation.

A Youth Advisory Board has been established to provide young people with a formal mechanism through which they can influence programme design and organisational priorities.

This youth-led approach helps ensure that provision responds to the actual needs, interests and experiences of the communities being served.

## 14. Inclusion and Equality

The Foundation works within some of Birmingham's most diverse communities.

Approximately 90% of Foundation participants are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, reflecting the communities in which the organisation operates.

The Foundation seeks to remove barriers to participation by delivering activities within local communities, keeping provision accessible, working with schools and community organisations, providing free or subsidised opportunities

where funding allows, creating appropriate spaces for different groups, developing culturally relevant programmes and creating pathways for groups historically underrepresented in sport.

The Foundation's work with South Asian communities is an important example of this approach, particularly in relation to talent development and access to elite football.

## 15. Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains a fundamental priority for the Foundation.

All activities involving children and young people are delivered with safeguarding at the centre of programme design.

The Foundation maintains appropriate safeguarding procedures, including safer recruitment, DBS checks where required, safeguarding training, appropriate supervision, safeguarding reporting procedures, risk assessments, health and safety procedures and clear escalation routes for concerns.

The Trustees recognise that the Foundation works with children and young people who may be particularly vulnerable and therefore consider safeguarding to be one of the organisation's most important governance responsibilities.

Safeguarding policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and updated where necessary.

## 16. Governance

Birmingham United Foundation CIO is governed by a board of Trustees.

The Trustees recorded publicly for the charity include:

- Siraj Hussain – Trustee
- Rajab Noor – Trustee
- John Claughton – Trustee

The Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, including ensuring that the charity operates in accordance with its charitable objects; safeguarding charitable assets; overseeing financial management; monitoring organisational risk; ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements; setting strategic priorities; monitoring impact; and ensuring compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

The Trustees seek to ensure that the Foundation remains focused on its charitable purposes while maintaining appropriate separation between charitable activities and the activities of Birmingham United FC.

## 17. Financial Review

The Foundation was formally established as a CIO in May 2025 and therefore this report represents its first period of charitable operation.

During the year, the Foundation secured external support to develop its charitable activities. The Foundation also developed relationships with a range of funders and partners to support its community programmes.

Financial information for the year should be read alongside the charity's independently prepared annual accounts.

## 18. Reserves

The Trustees recognise the importance of maintaining sufficient reserves to protect the continuity of charitable activity and provide financial resilience.

As a young organisation, the Foundation is still developing its reserves position.

The Trustees will continue to review the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves in light of the scale of the organisation, committed expenditure, future programme commitments, funding uncertainty, staffing requirements, safeguarding responsibilities and the need to maintain continuity of provision for young people.

This is also in line with the charity's long-term goals, where the charity is looking to grow its reserves for the acquisition of land or assets to house its youth and community work long-term.

The Foundation's reserves policy will be reviewed regularly as the organisation grows.

## 19. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees recognise a number of principal risks facing the Foundation.

Financial sustainability: The Foundation relies on a combination of grants, donations, partnerships and other charitable income. The Trustees recognise the risk associated with short-term funding and will continue to diversify income sources.

Safeguarding: The organisation works extensively with children and young people. Safeguarding remains a critical operational and governance risk and is managed through policies, training, recruitment, supervision and reporting procedures.

Programme capacity: Demand for community sport continues to exceed the capacity available in many communities. The Foundation must ensure that growth does not compromise quality or safeguarding.

Staff and volunteer capacity: The Foundation relies on skilled staff and volunteers to deliver programmes. Recruitment, retention, training and development will therefore remain important priorities.

Facilities: Access to affordable, appropriate sports facilities remains a significant challenge in inner-city Birmingham. The Foundation will continue to work with partners to increase access to safe, high-quality spaces.

Reputation: The Foundation's reputation is an important charitable asset. The Trustees therefore recognise the need for high standards of governance, safeguarding, financial management and communication.

## 20. Environmental and Social Responsibility

The Foundation recognises its responsibility to operate in a socially responsible manner.

Our primary social contribution is through direct investment in young people and communities.

We seek to maximise the social value of our activity by using local coaches and practitioners, providing opportunities for volunteers, creating pathways into employment, working with local schools and organisations, supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, creating opportunities for underrepresented groups and developing community partnerships.

The Foundation will continue to consider environmental sustainability in its operations as the organisation grows.

## 21. Looking Ahead – 2026/27

The Trustees enter 2026/27 with considerable ambition.

Our immediate priorities are to:

1. Expand weekly community sport provision across inner-city Birmingham.

2. Increase the number of young people accessing safe, positive activities.

3. Strengthen our schools programme and develop further education partnerships.

4. Expand Beyond The Game to support more young people at risk of educational disengagement.

5. Develop employability pathways through Beyond The Lens and other programmes.

6. Expand opportunities for girls and young women to participate in sport.

7. Strengthen provision for underrepresented communities, including South Asian young people.

8. Develop our work with care-experienced young people.

9. Increase the number and quality of community partnerships. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation so that we can demonstrate the outcomes generated by our work.

Develop a sustainable funding model that allows the Foundation to reduce reliance on short-term grants.

Continue working towards our 2030 ambition of making regular Foundation provision accessible within walking distance of every child in inner-city Birmingham.

The Foundation will continue to develop its infrastructure alongside its programme delivery so that growth is sustainable and maintains the quality, safety and community focus that underpin our work.

## 22. Trustees' Statement

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity is managed in accordance with its charitable objects and that appropriate arrangements are in place for the governance and stewardship of its resources.

The Trustees have considered the activities undertaken during the reporting period and are satisfied that the Foundation has continued to pursue its charitable purposes.

The Trustees are particularly proud of the progress made during the Foundation's first year and grateful to the young people, parents, volunteers, coaches, staff, schools, partners, funders and supporters who have contributed to that progress

The Foundation was established because we believe that every young person in Birmingham deserves the opportunity to fulfil their potential. We remain committed to achieving that through sport.

## 23. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: Birmingham United Foundation CIO

Charity Number: 1213348

Legal Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation model)

Date Registered: 19 May 2025

Principal Area of Operation: Birmingham, England

Trustees:

Siraj Hussain – Trustee

Rajab Noor – Trustee

John Claughton – Trustee

Website: www.birminghamutd.com

Social Media: @bufcfoundation

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

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**Rajab Noor**
**Trustee**

Date : **26 August 2026**

## BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

| Recommended categories by activity | Notes | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total Funds 2026 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income and endowments from:** | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 22,895.51 | 185,245.49 | 208,141.00 |
| **Total** | | **22,895.51** | **185,245.49** | **208,141.00** |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | |
| Raising funds | 3 | 1,527.47 | 12,358.60 | 13,886.08 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 14,922.00 | 120,732.62 | 135,654.62 |
| Other | 6 | 64.36 | 520.75 | 585.11 |
| **Total** | | **16,513.83** | **133,611.97** | **150,125.80** |
| Net income | | 6,381.68 | 51,633.52 | 58,015.20 |
| **Net movement in funds** | | **6,381.68** | **51,633.52** | **58,015.20** |
| **Reconciliation of funds:** | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | - | - | - |
| **Total funds carried forward** | | **6,381.68** | **51,633.52** | **58,015.20** |

## BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO

## BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

| Recommended categories by activity | Notes | Total Funds 2026 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Tangible assets | 7 | 2,340.46 |
| **Total fixed assets** | | **2,340.46** |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 8 | 56,374.74 |
| **Total current assets** | | **56,374.74** |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 9 | 700.00 |
| Net current assets | | 55,674.74 |
| **Total net assets** | | **58,015.20** |
| **Funds of the Charity** | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 10 | 6,381.68 |
| Restricted funds | 10 | 51,633.52 |
| Endowment funds | 10 | - |
| **Total funds** | | **58,015.20** |

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 26 August 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

**Rajab Noor**
**Trustee**

Date : **26 August 2026**

**BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Charity for BIRMINGHAM UNITED FOUNDATION CIO is a Charitable Un-incorporated Association in Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered office is 249a Ladypool Road, Birmingham, B12 8LF.

## 1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

### 1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

### 1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

## 2. Income from Donations and Legacies

| Analysis | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total funds 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Restricted Donations | - | 185,245.49 | 185,245.49 |
| Unrestricted Donations | 22,895.51 | - | 22,895.51 |
| **Total** | **22,895.51** | **185,245.49** | **208,141.00** |

## 3. Expenditure on Raising Funds

| Analysis | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total funds 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Community Programmes | 235.19 | 1,902.87 | 2,138.06 |
| **Total** | **235.19** | **1,902.87** | **2,138.06** |
| Support Costs | 1,292.28 | 10,455.74 | 11,748.02 |
| | **1,527.47** | **12,358.60** | **13,886.08** |

## 4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

| Analysis | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total funds 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Subcontractor | 13,549.94 | 109,631.37 | 123,181.31 |
| **Total** | **13,549.94** | **109,631.37** | **123,181.31** |
| Support Costs | 1,372.06 | 11,101.24 | 12,473.30 |
| | **14,922.00** | **120,732.62** | **135,654.62** |

## 5. Support Costs

| Analysis | Total funds 2026 £ |
|---|---|
| **Support Costs** | |
| Advertising and marketing | 400.00 |
| Staff costs | 410.00 |
| General Insurance | 496.74 |
| Software | 1,441.55 |
| Telephone and internet | 758.92 |
| Equipment Expensed | 1,032.78 |
| Facility Hire | 18,956.04 |
| **Governance Costs** | |
| Accountants fees | 700.00 |
| Bank Charges | 25.29 |
| | **24,221.32** |

## 6. Other Expenditure

| Analysis | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds 2026 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Depreciation Charge for the Year - Heritage asset 1 | 64.36 | 520.75 | 585.11 |
| **Total** | **64.36** | **520.75** | **585.11** |

## 7. Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Fixtures & Fittings |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| **7.1 Cost or valuation** | |
| At 19 May 2025 | - |
| Additions | 2,925.57 |
| Disposals | - |
| Revaluations | - |
| Transfers | - |
| At 30 June 2026 | **2,925.57** |
| **7.2 Depreciation and impairments** | |
| At 19 May 2025 | - |
| Charge for the year | 585.11 |
| Disposals | - |
| Revaluations | - |
| Transfers | - |
| At 30 June 2026 | **585.11** |
| **7.3 Net book value** | |
| At 19 May 2025 | - |
| At 30 June 2026 | **2,340.46** |

## 8. Cash at bank and in hand

| Analysis | Total funds 2026 |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| Cash in hand | 56,374.74 |
| **Total** | **56,374.74** |

## 9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| Analysis of Creditors | Total funds 2026 |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| Trade creditors | 700.00 |
| **Total** | **700.00** |

## 10. Charity funds

### 10.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

| Fund names | Income | Expenditure | Fund balances carried forward |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| **Unrestricted funds** | | | |
| | 22,895.51 | 16,513.83 | 6,381.68 |
| **Restricted funds** | | | |
| | 185,245.49 | 133,611.97 | 51,633.52 |
| **Total** | **208,141.00** | **150,125.80** | **58,015.20** |