



/ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES /

Annual Report & Accounts

2024-2025





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About SCOREscotland

Vision

SCOREscotland's vision is to achieve social justice and race equality in a diverse and inclusive society.

Mission

Our mission and purpose for existence is to work in partnership with others to address the causes and effects of racism and to promote race equality. We aim to break down barriers to the full participation of minority ethnic communities in all aspects of civic life. By participation in civic life we mean equality of access to public services and information, ability to contribute to and influence policy development and service delivery, freely participating in social, political, cultural, and economic life and feeling valued and integrated as part of society.

Value Statement

We are committed to social justice and equal opportunities for all. Please visit our website to find out more:
www.scorescotland.org.uk



Chairperson's Foreword

It is with great pride that I present this year's Annual Report, reflecting on what has been another impactful and inspiring year for SCOREscotland. In 2024–25, we have continued to play a vital role in our community, offering a wide range of inclusive, responsive programmes that address both immediate and long-term needs. This has only been possible thanks to our passionate staff team, tireless volunteers, and the unwavering support of our partners and funders.



Shaz Humayun

Throughout the year, we have focused on deepening our understanding of the communities we serve by undertaking research that helps us remain agile and responsive to change. We have built on our development work, reinforcing our position as a trusted collaborator and a proactive force for positive social change.

As we look ahead, we remain clear about the challenges. Our top priorities include diversifying our income streams to ensure financial resilience and strengthening our reserves policy, even as we recognise how difficult it is to build substantial reserves in the current economic climate. We will also continue to evolve and expand our services, amplifying our visibility and ensuring we remain rooted in the real, everyday experiences of those we support.

Volunteering continues to be one of our strongest foundations, and we are committed to expanding our volunteer base, particularly by engaging more New Scots, and enhancing the experience for all who contribute their time and talents to our mission. Building new partnerships and nurturing existing ones will also remain at the heart of our approach.

We are acutely aware of the pressures our communities face. The cost of living crisis, international conflicts, and the distressing rise in far-right protests and hate incidents in summer 2024 have disproportionately affected minority ethnic families and communities. These realities only sharpen the urgency of our work.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank everyone—staff, volunteers, partners, funders and supporters, who make our work possible. Together, we will continue to build a more inclusive, just, and resilient community for all.



Adil Ibrahim - Manager's Report

The year 2024–2025 has been another remarkable chapter in SCOREscotland's journey. The following pages offer a closer look at the diverse range of projects we delivered over the past year—each one reflecting our ongoing commitment to promoting social justice and race equality in a society that celebrates its diversity. I firmly believe these initiatives and programmes have fostered stronger social connections, supported integration, and helped create a vibrant, inclusive environment where people feel empowered, connected, and optimistic about the future.

This report also gives me the opportunity to express sincere thanks to those who make our work possible. We are proud of what we have accomplished together, and we remain committed to building a future where everyone can thrive. Thanks to:

- **Our dedicated staff team**

Your tireless commitment is the foundation of everything we achieve. I look forward to continuing our shared journey toward a fairer and more inclusive society.

- **Our board members**

Your steadfast support and strategic guidance have been vital to our progress. On behalf of the entire team, thank you.

- **Our members and service users**

Thank you for your trust, involvement, and valuable feedback, which shape and strengthen our work.

- **Our incredible volunteers**

Your generosity with your time and energy continues to inspire us. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

- **Our partners**

Your collaboration enables impactful service delivery and meaningful community learning and development. Your continued support is invaluable. Together, we look forward to another year of progress, partnership, and positive change. Special thanks to: All or Nothing, Action for Children, Changeworks, Community Wellbeing Collective, ECCAN, Edinburgh Carnival, Edinburgh College, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Edinburgh University, ELREC, EVOC, FareShare, KFC, Open Heavens Church, Macro, National Museum of Scotland, Neighbourly, NKS, Passion for Fusion, Police Scotland, Prospect Community Housing, Push The Boat Out, TopHat Discovery, Spectrum Arts, St. Augustine's High School, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, Strathclyde University, Support@Work, Tasting Change, Telugu Association of Scotland, The King's Trust, Tinderbox Collective, Tynecastle High School, Waitrose, Wester Hailes High School and Whale Arts Centre.

Our Projects

CashBack Youth

X-Change Project

Funded by the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities, our Youth X-Change project aims to engage young people (12 – 16 year-olds) in meaningful activities to improve their relationships with their schools and communities.

For the second consecutive year, this project has shown that giving young people access to positive opportunities, strengthening their engagement with school, and supporting them to gain both formal and informal qualifications can lead to lasting, positive impacts on their development. A key element to the success of this project was improvement in young people's relationships with their schools. Through regular participation in activities such as basketball and boxing, many students reported feeling more connected to their school community and engaged with education.

This year has been marked by significant achievements in youth engagement, skills development and positive community impact. We successfully delivered a wide range of programmes designed to provide young people with constructive opportunities for personal growth, while helping to divert them from potential involvement in anti-social behaviour or crime.

This year we engaged with 95 young people in diverse activities, including physical programmes such as basketball and boxing, creative workshops such as poetry and music, and other informal learning opportunities. Every activity was designed to provide the young people with opportunities to develop new skills, improve their confidence and form positive social connections.



Highlights include:

- Weekly basketball sessions at Wester Hailes and St. Augustine's High Schools improved young people's teamwork, discipline and fitness, building both physical and mental resilience and focus.
- Creative poetry and music workshops by Push the Boat Out and Tinderbox provided young people with opportunities to express themselves artistically and gain confidence through creativity. Many found a new sense of purpose in the activities, with some continuing to develop their skills independently of the programme.
- Money Management Youth Camp at the University of Edinburgh provided participants with valuable financial literacy skills, equipping them with knowledge and tools to manage their finances responsibly. The camp received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with participants expressing reporting feeling more prepared for the future and confident in managing money.
- One standout achievement was delivery of SCQF-accredited modules. Two courses, Goal Setting and Planning Effective Physical Activity enabled participants to earn formal qualifications that will benefit them in their future education and careers.



The Goal Setting course was particularly valuable as participants were able to connect their experiences in basketball with their broader academic and personal development while the Planning Effective Physical Activity training course equipped the young people with the knowledge to support the delivery of physical activities. Many of the 13 participants expressed interest in using these skills to volunteer within their communities, some seeing it as a stepping stone to paid opportunities in coaching and sports leadership. This course empowered young people with practical knowledge on structuring effective training sessions and understanding the fundamentals of physical education, fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership.

- Graffiti workshops, culminating in the creation of a mural, enabled young people to engage in a creative activity while strengthening their relationship with their local communities. These workshops provided an avenue for self-expression, helping to foster a sense of pride and ownership among participants, particularly in collaborative mural design and painting.

Moving forward, we aim to build on these successes by improving engagement strategies to reduce absenteeism and increase participation in all activities. We also plan to expand delivery of SCQF-accredited courses, offering more qualifications to equip young people with even more tools for their future success.

A key focus for the upcoming year will be the launch of homework support clubs at Wester Hailes and Tynecastle High Schools, which will provide secondary school students with academic support, facilitated by university student volunteers. We hope this structured study assistance will help students to develop stronger learning habits, improve their confidence in core subjects, expand their interactions with positive role models and ultimately enhance their academic performance.

CashBack Youth X-Change Project



The basketball sessions have really helped me build my confidence. I wasn't sure about my skills before, but now I'm enjoying it more and getting better every week



Connected Communities

Funded by the City of Edinburgh Council, our Knots & Crosses clubs for children (aged 7–11) and young people (aged 12–17) are designed to offer a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space where participants can relax, have fun, socialise, explore new interests, and build lasting friendships. The clubs also seek to reduce isolation and boost confidence, self-esteem, and academic performance through a wide range of engaging, educational, and enjoyable activities. This year we engaged with 124 children and young people in diverse activities.

Highlights include:

- Arts and crafts sessions to support children and young people to unleash their creativity.
- Dance workshops in partnership with Dance Base were particularly popular, with children exploring a variety of dance styles.
- Cooking workshops in partnership with B Healthy Together supported the children to develop fine and gross motor skills, mathematical development and teamwork and encouraged them to try new, healthy foods.
- Contemporary topics in society such as a visit to Sky Academy Studios, where young participants wrote, presented and directed news reports about technological advancement, debating whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) will take over, or whether we will work alongside it?
- Participation in Game On workshop in partnership with Tinderbox Collective and National Museum of Scotland. Over four sessions, young people worked together to create and design their own game, inspired by museum handling collections, which explored themes of symbolism, climate change and interpretation of different cultural artefacts.
- Sessions to build young people's confidence and encourage them to open up about their feelings. Four of these were delivered in partnership with Action for Children, offering young participants the opportunity for discussions around mental health in a safe space, focusing on emotions, paired with fun activities to increase engagement.



- A positive-mind workshop, with young people taking part in mindfulness activities, incorporating dance, music, and journaling to provide avenues for emotional expression, self-reflection and stress reduction.
- A wide range of outings, trips and visits in and around Edinburgh. In this past year a total of 56 outings were enjoyed by the clubs. Each outing was attended by 8 to 15 children and young people, who had opportunities to explore Edinburgh's beaches and visit city sites including the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh Zoo, and community festivals. The trips were hugely popular, with positive feedback highlighting beach trips.
- We were delighted to use vouchers given by our Fringe Days Out partner. Children and young people attended shows around Edinburgh, experiencing the fun of watching shows and getting involved with performers, having the chance to step outside their comfort zone. In between shows, the young people relaxed in parks and enjoyed watching street shows on The Royal Mile.
- Balgownie Castle: Over Halloween, a group of young people took a day trip to Balgownie Castle, exploring Scotland's largest pumpkin patch, taking part in climate-related activities and learning pumpkin recipes.

- Festivals: Our groups attended a variety of festivals including the Meadows and Edinburgh Climate Festivals, providing opportunities for young people to engage in activities fostering social skills, building confidence, exploring creativity and being part of the community.

Both clubs provided multiple avenues for children and young people to build friendships based on shared interests through structured activities and opportunities for youth-led engagement. The young people enjoyed opportunities to interact with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds, learn about and enjoy cultural and religious festivals, and develop understanding and respect to recognise and celebrate both similarities and differences.



I liked the Chocolate session because Number 1, I like the chocolate, Number 2, I got to know facts about it, Number 3, I ate chocolate, Number 4, I made a chocolate, and I also ate a pretzel. I like going to the sessions to meet friends, talk to them, people are funny, and experience things that I probably wouldn't experience in the future. When life gives you lemons turn the lemons into lemonade! (Chocolatarium)



Youth Climate Action

Funded by the Energy Saving Trust, our Youth Climate Action project engaged 67 high school-aged children through a diverse and enriching programme of activities, including cycling, cooking, food growing, climate and energy workshops, conservation outings, and community events. These sessions aimed to create a safe, inclusive space where young people could relax, build confidence, have fun, and broaden their experiences while learning about sustainability, community, and personal well-being.

Highlights include:

- Two trips during October school break. The first trip was a conservation-focused visit to Edinburgh Zoo for 15 participants, featuring animal handling and a tour on endangered species. One participant shared:

I learned many facts: The giraffes are going to extinct, but a silent extinction. There will be less giraffes than gorillas

The second trip, with 12 participants, was to Balgone Estate Pumpkin Farm. Alongside enjoying a Halloween-themed walk, young people discussed climate change and learned about many varieties of pumpkins grown there.

It was so interesting to see so many types of pumpkins together

- Book Club and Allotment Work: In October 2024 we launched an outdoor book club at our new allotment. Young people chose to read titles such as *Future Hopes*, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, and *Rebel Girls: Climate Warriors*. Alongside reading, they helped clear and dig the allotment, used power tools with supervision, laid out spaces for raised beds, and built a fence.
- Swap Shop: We held a pop-up clothes swap at Whale Arts, attended by 24 women and children. With 93kg of clothes and 19kg of shoes donated—and 54kg redistributed—young volunteers sorted items, welcomed attendees, and helped with set-up and clean-up in their first experience volunteering at a swap shop.
- Cooking Sessions: In partnership with Tasting Change at the Healthy Living Centre, we held weekly cooking sessions in November 2024, focused on reducing food waste, sustainable shopping, and cooking vegetarian meals using ingredients from our Community Fridge. Recipes were printed for participants to take home. Pre-session surveys showed only 2 of 15 young people fully understood how food waste impacts climate change. Attendance ranged from 6 to 14 each week.

I have learnt more vegetarian options for foods and tasty new recipes like curries, very delicious



- **Bike Maintenance:** Three bike maintenance workshops were delivered at Gate 55 by ELREC volunteers, where adult staff & volunteers learned to change tyres, adjust brakes and gear cables.
- **Sewing Workshops:** In January 2025 we began weekly sewing sessions in collaboration with Wester Hailes Library. Eight girls participated, learning to use sewing machines to make cushions and tote bags using donated fabric. The group expressed strong interest in continuing past the initial four sessions.
- **Film Screening:** A small group attended *Seed: The Untold Story* at the Salisbury Centre. The film explored seed saving and exploitation by large corporations. One young attendee reflected, "I didn't know how to grow fruits and vegetables... I realised farmers are losing their seeds."
- **Climate Workshops:** We ran four workshops: one on climate adaptation (with ECCAN), one on seeds (with Salisbury Centre), and two on energy saving (with Changeworks). Though attendance was modest, engagement was strong. In total, 20 young people participated.
- **Volunteering:** We welcomed five new volunteers, three through SCOREscotland and two via the Energy Saving Trust, plus six young peer volunteers. Two young brothers recruited at the start of the project regularly volunteered for the cycling during summer and autumn 2024. They developed practical skills in cycling, bike maintenance, group support, and environmental education. Two adult volunteers also attended outdoor based First Aid training through the Green Team in Edinburgh.



Young Start Youth Ambassadors' Project

Funded by the National Lottery's Young Start, our Youth Ambassadors' Project aims to engage young people (11 – 18 year-olds) in meaningful activities to promote cross-cultural learning (which includes anti-racist peer education) opening up discussions around racism, race hate crime, colonisation, power and privilege, as well as creating a space to share heritage, traditions and cultures.

Highlights include:

- Focused youth work activities within Wester Hailes High School and Tynecastle High School, specifically engaging minority ethnic students through regular, supportive sessions.
- Weekly group sessions, with a strong emphasis on building confidence, celebrating cultural identity, and developing leadership skills through creative and meaningful activities. The sessions focused on self-expression through activities such as knitting and afro hair care. They offered a safe and nurturing space for students to explore their identity, enhance wellbeing, learn new skills, and build positive peer relationships. In total, 15 young people participated regularly in weekly sessions across both schools, with additional one-off events extending the project's reach and broadening its overall impact.
- Cultural Days - one of the standout events was Ramadan 2024 Prayer Day, which attracted over 60 students. The day included a live prayer demonstration and an interactive workshop exploring the cultural and spiritual significance of Ramadan. This event was a powerful moment of visibility, representation, and shared learning, helping to foster inclusion, respect, and a stronger sense of community within the school.



Allotment

A key highlight of 2024–25 has been securing a new allotment space in Wester Hailes, made possible through the generous practical support of Whale Arts Centre and funding contribution from CashBack, Awards for All, Capital City Partnership and HUBBUB.

After months of committed effort to clear and restore the area, it has been transformed into a flourishing community garden. This lively space now brings together families, volunteers, and service users to grow fresh produce, explore sustainable food practices, and foster environmental awareness—while also cultivating a shared sense of belonging, pride, and purpose.

The allotment has become a valued community asset, regularly used by many of our groups, including children and young people. It offers a welcoming, hands-on environment where participants can develop practical skills, form meaningful connections, and foster friendships. These shared activities are helping to promote cultural exchange, social inclusion, environmental responsibility, and lasting personal and community development.



The new community allotment quickly became a cherished space for us. My family came together to clear the land and start planting, sharing tips and discussing the best times to harvest. What has been especially heartening is seeing Community Fridge users—who once came only to collect food—now giving back by helping to grow it. This project is about more than just growing plants—it's about growing confidence, pride, and a true sense of belonging.

The allotment feels like it belongs to all of us. Through these activities, I've made new friends and built confidence and skills I didn't expect to gain. What started as a simple effort to reduce food waste and share culture through the allotment has blossomed into something much richer: a vibrant, intercultural community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Community Fridge

Funded by the National Lottery CAF via partnership with ELREC and NKS, our Community Fridge initiative is committed to fostering sustainability and community welfare. The fridge has a combined distribution of free, good quality food and enables local community members in Wester Hailes and surrounding areas to prevent food waste, reduce carbon emissions and build trust. By harnessing the power of collective action from people involved across the community, we strive to combat food waste and mitigate carbon emissions while nourishing our community members in need.

We always speak to our volunteers and service users of our fridge to know how they feel about the project and take their feedback into account. Recently the numbers using the community fridge have increased by a half, and they have continued to rise as food, gas, electricity etc. prices increased enormously.

Operating from two different locations, (Whale Arts Centre on Mondays and St Nicholas Church on Thursdays) we shared over 59 tonnes of food over a year, with 85 to 110 people, on average, visiting the fridge each week.

Highlights include:

- We operated the fridge indoors during winter 2023 at both venues and started running it outside from the garage at Whale since summer. The fridge has been open to everyone regardless of their ethnicity or financial situation. Volunteers have played a very strong role in running the fridge successfully with more of them recruited.

- We are collecting surplus donations from Makro and KFC on Fridays since March 2024 and have been working in collaboration with Open Heavens Church, Edinburgh to share the food that has the dates of Fridays as the group runs its "Food share project" and gives away food on weekends. The food that stays fresh a bit longer and can be put in the fridge or freezer is given away by us on Mondays. We are also giving out the leftover bread, bakery and other vegetables on Thursdays to the Friday community meals of Whale Arts Centre and other members of the community who come to different activities happening in the building including Fresh Start, Broomhouse Community Hub and Sighthill parents group.
- Working in partnership with Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society (SABS), we were able to provide halal meat to the community monthly. We served 276 returning households so far.
- We have engaged with new people and groups. Every week we share our community fridge food photos on social media and encourage more people to make a difference by picking up good food and helping us to reduce food waste.
- The main impact of the community fridge over the last year is that local individuals and families have accessed much-needed food. Communities have reduced stress on family budgets and stigma of food poverty. We brought people together and built strong relationships in and across communities through food. People reduced carbon emissions of their individual households by taking action to pick up good food which otherwise ends up in landfill.

Thank you. Especially for smoked salmon, ready to eat. I saw my brother eating it a while back and thought I wanted that. You helped bring my dream into reality. Thank you. It was tasty.

Thank you for flowers and drinks, u people are the best not sure u all know how much I appreciate all this and my family you make our lives easier and help us so much - thank you every one of u for making this place a better place.

Thank you for the food and drinks today. It is good. If you have lemon grass, please give it to me if you don't mind. I want to make one of my favourite dishes, Thank you.





I like working as part of a team, meeting new people, and getting the chance to improve English language skills. Cooking for other people.

I enjoy volunteering at the community fridge, I feel like I'm doing something very worthwhile. Helping people, supplying food, and support. I take fruit and vegetables, bread of very good quality, and some other things depending on supply, which I pass on to my younger daughter, to give her a boost.



Community Meals and Cooking Clubs

Funded by HUBBUB, this project worked towards expanding our Community Fridge activities by introducing cooking clubs and community meals to teach the skills needed to cook recycled food left from the Community Fridge.

Through this project, participants learned new recipes, understood about food sustainability and enjoyed the social interactions over a series of activity sessions. Highlights include:

- Community meals: Alongside Whale Arts, we hosted eight Friday community meals themed around events including Eid, Chinese New Year, and International Women's Day. Each gathering welcomed around 15 people, boosting confidence in the kitchen and promoting sustainable food practices for volunteers while providing opportunities for community members to try new dishes, meet new people and make new friends. We used ingredients from the Community Fridge to prepare our meals.
- We hosted ten cooking sessions in collaboration with Khartoum Cafe, with each session welcoming around six participants. Together, they learned to prepare dishes such as falafel, hummus, and Greek salad—gaining hands-on cooking experience while exchanging stories and traditions from diverse cultures. In addition, six sessions were held at the allotment, creating a warm and intimate space for participants to cook, share, and connect. These sessions proved deeply meaningful, strengthening community ties and leaving a lasting impact by bringing people together through food, culture, and shared experiences.
- Cooking and food growing sessions at the allotment brought community members and gardening volunteers together to learn about the cyclical nature of food growing and consumption and have the opportunity to share their own experiences and knowledge of food. Participants shared skills from their own cultures and enhance their connections with others through group work.



Attending the Friday community meals was a really special experience for me. Each one felt like a celebration — whether it was Eid or Chinese New Year. I loved trying new dishes and learning how to cook with new ingredients. It helped me feel more confident in the kitchen and gave me the chance to meet people I wouldn't have met otherwise. I've made new friends and now feel more connected to my community

Wester Hailes Walk, Pedal and Thrive

We ran a range of cycling activities in partnership with Paths for All, SEStran, and Cycling Scotland. Our goal was to help local people develop more positive attitudes towards sustainable transport and encourage them to choose walking or cycling for shorter journeys, helping to reduce travel-related emissions.

Highlights include:

- Cycle training for individuals and families: 31 adults and 17 young people being trained with beginner and intermediate cycling skills. Training has helped people to feel more confident with balance and controlling skills on the cycle paths and roads especially with safety and navigating in traffic.
- Led Walks: We engaged 71 adults and 20 young people in our walking initiative, promoting walking as a sustainable alternative mode of transport that benefits both health and the environment. Regular weekday walks—often set in natural surroundings—were particularly successful in encouraging women to participate. These walks also helped raise awareness of local areas, improved map reading and safe route planning skills, and introduced participants to newly developed paths and infrastructure, all starting from the Whale Arts Centre.
- Dr. Bike events: 168 bikes were checked and repaired. Providing accessible free bike repairs encouraged people to keep their bikes in good shape. Plus, it lowered the barriers to cycling since people don't have to worry about expensive repairs or maintaining their bikes themselves when they are not skilled.
- Bike maintenance workshops: 7 workshops, 34 adults learnt the skills and got trained with puncture repair, adjusting brakes gears and changing their cables.
- Led Cycle rides: 25 led rides, 78 unique people participating in the rides with 45 women, 14 men and 19 young people (11 boys, 8 girls). Rides were fun and creative ways to encourage cycling for beginners building up confidence in a group, especially the night rides. It has helped riders to raise awareness around safety and visibility, while also making cycling a more social activity and it has also attracted more people to try cycling for their travel to various locations.



- Advanced Cycle training: 11 sessions of 2hrs each for adults - training 25 men and 5 women and online route planning for 4 adults.
- Men's group (New Scots): 7 sessions of 2 hours each, for refugee men. This was delivered in collaboration with Passion for Fusion. After training with advanced cycling skills and highway code the proposal was for men to get free bikes to use them for their everyday journeys. Most of the men were confident on bikes but still needed to learn to signal, use gears, road manoeuvres, and safety skills.

I thought the bike maintenance workshops were very interactive, interesting and well organised. We each had the chance to be hands on changing the gear cables, brake cables, fixing chains, fixing punctures etc. The staff were extremely helpful, obliging and even helpful with questions after hours. We were given links to access solutions to mechanical problems online. There was always tea, coffees and snacks available. Really enjoyed the workshops.



Employability and Career Guidance

Thanks to funding from the Robertson Trust, this year we worked with 123 individuals across our range of services, including drop-in sessions, conversation cafés, employability workshops, one-to-one support and training.

Highlights include:

- Delivering eleven employability drop-ins in Wester Hailes providing advice on job search and workplace rights, four of these in collaboration with Support@Work.
- Inaugurating regular drop-ins within the Wester Hailes Community Wellbeing Collectives Space in March 2025.
- Delivered Workers' Rights Event in collaboration with Support@Work. This offered specialised advice and follow-up support to five individuals, ensuring that workers' rights remain a core part of our employability services. A further five people have since been referred to Support@Work for advice.
- Continue to run in six-week blocks of employability skills workshops, providing structured guidance for job seekers, including support with CVs, job applications, and interview skills. Eighty percent of participants agreed they felt more confident about their skills and ability to apply for jobs after taking the workshops.
- Provided 53 hours of one-to-one advice for clients who need more intensive support.
- Participating in two careers fairs in Edinburgh to raise awareness of our employability and youth support services.
- Provided office-based work placements for four students studying English for employability at Edinburgh College. The students gained an understanding of the services we provide, assisted with activities, engaged in networking events and provided interpretation for flyers in their first language.
- Working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to promote their 'BME Volunteering in mainstream schools project 2024-25'. From this we referred or signposted 20 volunteers. We will continue to support this project for their 2025-26 cohort.





- Successfully piloting a Conversation Café in collaboration with SCOREscotland's Women's Group. The Café is designed as a relaxed and informal space for individuals to practice and improve their English language skills. The expanded service, renamed 'Learn English Together', is open to everyone who wants to practise or improve their English language skills. This initiative is supported by qualified sessional worker, fluent in Arabic, English, and French, with extensive lived experience as a migrant. Their personal and professional background allows them to provide culturally sensitive support and engage effectively with learners, improving the overall accessibility and impact of our services.
- We prioritised staff and volunteer development through interactive Canva training to improve overall digital and visual communication skills, leading to better brand cohesion for SCOREscotland.
- Participation in the Charity Learning Consortium, providing access to a wide range of online training resources to enhance staff and volunteers' continuing professional development.
- We regularly attend a roundtable for ethnicity and employability to bring together partners to reflect on progress, share insights, and plan future collaborative actions.
- During this past year, we strengthened our collaboration with several organisations in order to extend and enhance the support we offer. A key partnership with the Community Wellbeing Space, who generously allowed use of their facilities at reduced rate, enabled us to significantly expand our services, including regular job search support drop-ins now held every other week.
- We continue to build and maintain partnerships with employability advice services and other local community organisations throughout Edinburgh to offer a range of additional support, including interview preparation and clothing, parental employability advice.

Katie (the project coordinator) is very knowledgeable about career matters and works at my pace.

I have lived in the UK for almost 20 years and I learnt something new today!

Women's Groups

Supported by Edinburgh University (Edinburgh Local) community grant, Henry Duncan, Corra Foundation and the Mental Health foundation we successfully delivered a dedicated programme supporting refugee and migrant women living in Wester Hailes and across South West Edinburgh. Many participants have experienced displacement and conflict, and this project provided them with a safe, welcoming environment where they could begin to rebuild their lives, develop new skills, and connect with others in their community.

The programme supports two key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Good Health and Wellbeing—through regular physical activity, creative workshops, and informal learning that promote both mental and physical wellness—and Reduced Inequalities—by improving access to local services and information, and helping participants build communication and social integration skills. At its core, the programme aims to break down barriers to social inclusion and strengthen both bonding and bridging social capital. It does this by providing consistent opportunities for engagement, building confidence, encouraging volunteering, and creating spaces for participants to share their experiences.

Highlights include:

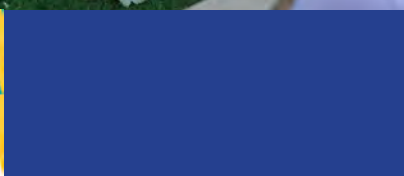
Weekly Workshops: Sessions supported mental health through both discussion and hands-on activities such as sewing, food growing and gardening. These sessions offered a safe, nurturing space for women to share their stories, build friendships, and learn new skills.

Physical Wellbeing Sessions: Weekly Latin dance and yoga classes to promote physical fitness and boost mental wellbeing. The sessions offered minority ethnic women a safe, fun and inclusive space to stay active, reduce stress, and build confidence.

Cultural Outings and Visits: Group visits to local sites such as Royal Yacht Britannia, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, and Jupiter Artland offered opportunities to visit new places, explore Scottish culture, make new connections, and reduce isolation.

Improved Access to Services: Bilingual information and tailored referrals helped participants navigate local services more easily. Participants were also connected to other SCOREscotland initiatives, including our employability service, community fridge, cycling and walking groups.





Staff Team



Adil Ibrahim
Manager



Kasia Banaszewska-Diaz
Finance Administrator



Harry Economou
CashBack Project
Coordinator



Katie Galli
Employability and
Careers Guidance
Coordinator



Louisa Charleston
Youth Climate Action
Project Coordinator



**Madhavi Latha
Apparala**
Project Coordinator
Community Fridge and
Cycling projects



Aisha Amjid
Youth and Children
Development Officer –
Joined in 2024



Ezza Adam
Women's Group
Coordinator –
Joined in 2024



Samir El Mouti
Young Start Project
Officer – joined in 2024



Liannna Fok
Youth and Children
Development Officer –
left in 2024



Fatima Omer
Women's Group
Coordinator – left in
2024

Board Members

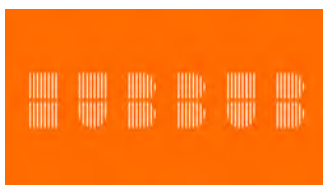
Shazad Humayun (Chairperson)
Zora King (Secretary)
Kate Betney (Treasurer until January 2025)
Zahra Hussain (Treasurer from January 2025)
Ruairi McDermott
Naomi Higham (joined May 2024)
Himi Bhatnagar (resigned June 2024)
Ekaterine Tsurtsunia (resigned October 2024)
Rosemary Okoli (resigned January 2025)

Funders

City of Edinburgh Council (Connected Communities)
City of Edinburgh Council (People and Place)
City of Edinburgh Council (Smarter Choices, Smarter Places)
Community Food Hub – HUBBUB
Cycling Scotland
Capital City Partnership
Edinburgh University (Edinburgh Local)
Henry Duncan- Corra Foundation
Morrisons Foundation
National Lottery - Awards for All
National Lottery - Young Start
National Lottery Community Action Fund (through a partnership with ELREC and NKS)
Scottish Government - CashBack for Communities
Paths for All
The Energy Saving Trust
The Mental Health Foundation
The Robertson Trust

Our Funders

Thank you for all your support on behalf of all our staff, Board members and volunteers. Your funds make a vital difference to all our community groups including children and young people as demonstrated in this report.



Accounts

Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland - SCOREscotland

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	31.3.25 Total funds (£)	31.3.24 Total funds (£)
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,149	2,495	3,644	2,675
Charitable activities Core Activities	4	300	302,143	302,443	323,791
Investment income	3	1,130	-	1,130	1,067
Total		2,579	304,638	307,217	327,533

EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities Core Activities	5	40,237	315,093	355,330	353,715
NET INCOME / EXPENDITURE					
Transfers between funds	15	(37,658) 30,981	(10,455) (30,981)	(48,113) -	(26,182) -
Net movement in funds		(6,677)	(41,436)	(48,113)	(26,182)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		65,691	148,462	214,153	240,335
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		59,014	107,026	166,040	214,153

Continuing Operations:

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.
The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Accounts

Balance Sheet 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	31.3.25 Total funds (£)	31.03.24 Total funds (£)
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12	6,156	-	6,156	7,127
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	872	29,505	30,377	31,854
Cash at bank and in hand		57,966	79,829	137,795	185,285
Total		58,838	109,334	168,172	217,139
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(5,984)	(2,304)	(8,288)	(10,113)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		52,854	107,030	159,884	207,026
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		59,010	107,030	166,040	214,153
NET ASSETS		59,010	107,030	166,040	214,153
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				59,010	65,691
Restricted funds				107,030	148,462
TOTAL FUNDS				166,040	214,153

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for –

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.



SCORE Scotland is a registered company limited by guarantee and a charity.
Company No. 274614 Charity No. SC036018.
Registered address: WHALE Learning Centre, 30 Westburn Grove, Edinburgh, EH14 2SA