

# Premier League Charitable Fund

Report and Financial Statements for  
the year ended 31 July 2022



Company Registration No. 07331384

Registered Charity No. 1137208

**The Premier League Charitable Fund  
Company Registration No. 07331384**

**Report and financial statements 2022**

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**The Premier League Charitable Fund**  
**Company Registration No. 07331384**

**Officers and professional advisers**

**Board of Trustees**

Tim Godwin, OBE QPM (Chair)  
William Bush (Premier League)  
Bobby Barnes (Professional Footballers' Association) (resigned – 20 May 2022)  
Christine Davies, CBE  
Gail Scott-Spicer  
Tom Finn (resigned – 3 January 2022)  
Maheta Matteo Molango (Professional Footballers' Association) (appointed – 21 July 2022)  
Toni Eleanor Thorne (appointed – 30 September 2022)  
Rupen Shah (appointed – 28 September 2022)

**Chief Executive**

Ruth Shaw

**Legal status**

The Premier League Charitable Fund ("PLCF") is a company limited by guarantee (Company number 07331384) incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales. It is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1137208.

**Registered Office**

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W2 1HQ

**Bankers**

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London  
E14 5HP

**Solicitors**

McCormick's Solicitors  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire

**Auditor**

Deloitte LLP  
London  
UK

**The Premier League Charitable Fund**  
**Company Registration No. 07331384**  
**Strategic report**

## A message from our Chair:



This year's Premier League Charitable Fund annual report shows how important the work of our charity, and the network of professional football club community organisations (CCOs) we work with, continues to be, both in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the fresh uncertainties presented by the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

Football is an integral part of society. This report demonstrates the remarkable ability of our charity, and the organisations we fund, to harness the power of football as a force for good. We work on behalf of the Premier League and our other funders to positively influence the lives of people of all ages in communities, classrooms and sports

facilities across England and Wales.

As always, this year's annual report demonstrates our continued dedication and determination to ensuring that access to free sports and education provision is available for those who need it the most, in communities where there is the most need.

The 2021/22 season saw two of our ground-breaking programmes celebrate key anniversaries. Fifteen years of Premier League Kicks and five years of Premier League Primary Stars gave us the opportunity to reflect on the positive impact Premier League programmes have had, and continue to have, on thousands of young people. The anniversaries also allowed us to celebrate the individuals who were instrumental in helping us to drive through positive change.

As we reflect on these successes and take steps to ensure we remain relevant in a constantly changing world, it is my continued pleasure and privilege to lead a charity whose scale and reach is unprecedented in world sport.

It's also important to acknowledge that none of the achievements you see here are made by the PLCF on our own, and I'm proud that our collaboration and partnership working continues to positively impact communities.

Together, we can serve the needs of children and young people across England and Wales; building stronger, safer and more inclusive communities for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Godwin'.

**Tim Godwin OBE QPM**  
Chair of Board of Trustees, Premier League Charitable Fund



**The Premier League Charitable Fund**  
**Company Registration No. 07331384**

## A message from our Chief Executive:

Reflecting on the last 12 months, I'm proud that our charity has touched the lives of thousands of people of all ages across England and Wales. This ranges, from five-year-old Premier League Primary Stars participants who are taking their first excited steps into the classroom, to secondary school students facing everyday challenges and opportunities.

It includes children and young people accessing free football and community activities week in week out – including in evenings, weekends, and holidays. And it extends to older fans and family groups accessing support to tackle issues including loneliness, dementia support, and physical and mental health and wellbeing challenges.

As you read through these pages, you will see how our network of 92 club community organisations has empowered communities, supported school pupils, and engaged fans, helping to create life-changing opportunities for more than 270,000 individuals. We use the unique appeal of football, and the sense of belonging that clubs and the Premier League produce, to have a positive impact.



This year saw us running certain flagship events for the first time in three years. This included a Premier League Primary Stars National Girls tournament and a Premier League Kicks Pan-Disability tournament, creating a programme that was bigger, better and more inclusive than ever before. Across the 2021/22 season these events, tournaments and summits gave 2,300 young people a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in a Premier League event. Plans are already underway to build on this success in the 2022/23 season.

Recognising the power of youth, throughout the year we have built on our commitment to not only develop programmes for young people, but to encourage and champion youth voice. This year's Premier League Youth Summit placed young people at the heart of the conversation, and Premier League Inspires continues to provide a platform for youth-led positive social change.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) also remain an ongoing priority for the PLCF. The 2021/22 season saw the launch of our new Inclusive Recruitment Guide and development of an Inclusive Language Policy, both of which support our commitment to ensuring that EDI is every team member's responsibility and at the heart of our decision-making and activity.

As the world around us continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and many feel the pressure of increased living costs, the PLCF mission remains the same: to create and support activities that inspire young people to achieve their potential and positively impact their communities. The network and programmes we fund on behalf of the Premier League continue to support young people to be the best they can be and are needed now as much as ever.

**Ruth Shaw**  
Chief Executive, Premier League Charitable Fund

## About the Premier League Charitable Fund

### The Premier League Charitable Fund Company Registration No. 07331384

#### Strategic Report

The Premier League Charitable Fund (PLCF) was established in 2010 to distribute funds on behalf of the Premier League and its partners. It is one of the biggest sports charities in the world, with an annual budget of around £35m. The PLCF provides grants to the charitable arms of professional football clubs in England and Wales to deliver high quality national programmes including Premier League Changemakers, Premier League Primary Stars, Premier League Inspires, Premier League Kicks, Premier League Kicks Targeted and Premier League PFA Community Fund.

The overarching goal of the PLCF is to help ensure that participants achieve their potential and positively impact their communities through the power of football. The PLCF is committed to funding the best opportunities for people from all walks of life to develop their full potential, particularly through sport. It does this through funding a number of programmes that meet one or more of the following themes; community cohesion, education, health and sports participation.

The PLCF works in the following ways to achieve its charitable objectives:

- I. **PLCF works in partnership:** with the Premier League which drives strategy and objectives; with the police and other partners and funders, who support the work of PLCF; and with Club Community Organisations (CCOs) and clubs, who deliver programmes for participants funded via the PLCF.
- II. **PLCF supports CCOs** primarily through funding, but also through training, guidance and networking opportunities. This contributes to CCOs' delivery of programmes with value for money, and to sustainably respond to need within their communities.
- III. **PLCF-funded programmes deliver outcomes for participants.** The wide-ranging and popular appeal of football, combined with clubs' own connections and platform within communities, gives CCOs a unique opportunity to connect with people and offer them a sense of belonging and identity.

The PLCF uses the power of football and its wide-ranging appeal across geographical locations and socio-economic groups to have a positive impact. The Premier League is widely recognised across the country and football clubs often have a unique visibility and reputation in local communities. Many people in those communities identify with their club, providing a unique opportunity for football to play a key role in engaging people in activities and supporting them to succeed and achieve positive outcomes.

CCOs across the Premier League, English Football League and National League, funded or supported via the PLCF offer a sense of belonging and identity, equality, diversity and inclusivity, which are key principles underpinning the PLCF approach.





## Performance and achievements

This year marked two milestone anniversaries for two of the largest PLCF funded programmes, and despite the continued challenges presented by the lasting impact of COVID-19, it was a year of reflection and celebration of those that have positively impacted the lives of others in their communities. The PLCF has generated income of £33.0m (2021: £30.2m) and was able to maintain all grant commitments at the agreed level. The results for the year are shown on page 40 of the financial statements.

### Partnerships

The PLCF's primary partner is the Premier League, who want young people's love of football to help them achieve more. Since the Premier League established the PLCF in 2010 its investment has made a difference to the lives of thousands, and it continues to invest time, funding and non-financial support into the PLCF and other parts of the Premier League family. It does this because it knows it can make a difference and help people lead healthier happier lives, access opportunities, make positive life choices and build safer more inclusive communities.

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is another key partner and funder whose support is not only financial, but much broader. Through the PFA, professional football players are enabled and encouraged to engage with community projects and have a positive impact in the Clubs and communities they are part of. Through the Premier League PFA Community Fund our funded network is helping to tackle inequality and respond to local challenges. From taking the knee to tackling food poverty there have been a number of high-profile cases of players and teams supporting societal and community causes, and we can access a generation of players who understand their power as role models and positive influences in their communities.

All our partnerships are built on the shared objectives of helping children and young people to achieve their potential and having a positive impact on communities. Through partnerships, the PLCF can engage new participants and stakeholders, learn and share good practice, and create greater awareness of the programmes and services that make a difference.

We also work in close partnership with our network of CCOs who deliver day in and day out up and down the country. To have the greatest collective impact we can, we support CCOs to become high performing organisations. We provide core funding to them and invest directly into their on-the-ground delivery of our programmes, and we help them to leverage funding from local and national partners.

They have an unparalleled delivery network and they allow national programmes to be tailored locally to support those who need them most. They are the trusted names, faces and services that people have relied on more than ever as financial, social and health and wellbeing challenges have increased. The collective workforce of the CCOs is greater in size and scale than many national charities.

There are a range of other partners across the football family and beyond who contribute in ways that go far beyond monetary value. These include the National Lottery Community Fund, the #iwill Fund, BBC Children in Need, the Prince's Trust, the Football Association (FA), and the EFL Trust. The PLCF has also benefitted from organisations such as the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) who have provided excellent leadership and support to the charitable sector through challenging times.

Partnerships with the police forces, Police Crime Commissioners and Violence Reduction Units are valuable to the Premier League Kicks and Premier League Kicks Targeted programmes, providing strategic, operational and financial support to both CCOs and the PLCF.



## **Support for Club Community Organisations**


The PLCF supports CCOs through core and programme grant funding which is critical to their financial sustainability. The consistency of funding helps CCOs to be a constant presence and foster long term-partnerships and deeper relationships within their communities. PLCF funding is flexible and enables CCOs to tailor their provision to local need with responsiveness and autonomy and can also help CCOs to secure match funding from other sources. In 2021/22, PLCF provided £31.3m in grant funding to enable 92 CCOs to become stronger and more sustainable organisations and to support delivery of high-quality, impactful programmes.

The PLCF also supports CCOs through a comprehensive training and development programme, advice, guidance and regular networking opportunities at all levels of the CCO workforce. This helps CCOs develop their capabilities, contributing to delivery of programmes with value for money, and enabling CCOs to sustainably respond to need within their communities. In 2021/22 the PLCF delivered 97 training and development opportunities to 2,176 delegates. This included courses in Mental Health First Aid, Mental Health Skills for Managers, Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Youth Work and Leadership and management training.

The PLCF continues to assess CCO governance and management arrangements through the highly commended Capability Code of Practice (CCOP). The CCOP provides a continuous improvement tool to help Premier League and English Football League CCOs prioritise the activities, actions and systems that will help them to thrive. In 2021/22, the CCOP has been extended to CCOs across the National League to support their development and growth. The CCOP is also used as a guide to help the PLCF determine CCO capabilities and to further inform its funding decisions. During 2021/22, the PLCF led a review of the CCOP and in January launched an updated version to assess CCO governance and management arrangements in preparation for the 2022-25 funding cycle. Of 98 CCOs assessed, 26 CCOs achieved exemplary compliance, 39 very good compliance, 16 good compliance and 13 satisfactory compliance. Three were identified as requiring improvement and one inadequate and have subsequently received support to address any development needs.

The safety and wellbeing of participants and staff is of the utmost importance to PLCF and the charity provides a comprehensive package of safeguarding support to CCOs including a suite of training courses, dedicated safeguarding sections of the CCOP, safeguarding audits of CCOs, and a dedicated safeguarding resource within the PLCF team.

The PLCF continues to provide support to senior managers in their leadership roles, to optimise strategic decision-making, build skills and promote shared values within their workforce. This can help CCOs become more welcoming and diverse, motivate and engage their staff, and ultimately deliver better quality programmes and better value for money. As CCOs continually improve their reach and their programme effectiveness, the PLCF anticipates CCOs will strengthen their ability to respond to the needs in their local communities, engage more effectively and harness the potential of their unique role in these communities.









# Premier League Primary Stars



Programmes and participants



- Since its launch in 2010, over 1.93 million participants have benefitted from projects directly funded by the PLCF
- In 2021/22, PLCF programmes engaged 272,328 unique participants, of which 37% identified as female, 31% were from ethnically diverse communities and 5.6% reported being disabled.
- CCOs also receive core funding underpinning the engagement of hundreds of thousands more people in communities where Premier League, English Football League and National League clubs deliver.



PLCF-funded programmes deliver outcomes for participants and their communities. The wide-ranging appeal and popularity of football, combined with clubs’ powerful connections and platform within communities, gives CCOs a unique opportunity to connect with people and offer them a sense of belonging and identity. PLCF delivers programmes for participants through a digital offer and through CCOs on the ground in educational and community settings.

The circumstances of every participant are unique and different PLCF-funded programmes focus on different aspects of their development. Participants have different needs and goals, and programme activities are delivered through a range of mechanisms or experiences, most of which are focused on educational, personal and physical development to help achieve positive outcomes.

Programme delivery mechanisms include classroom-based learning, online provisions, recreational and competitive opportunities to play sport, workshops, matchday experiences and more. Participants have fun and enjoy positive, engaging activities. They feel supported, included and appreciated, and feel they can talk and be themselves. This promotes social and emotional connection and development. Many show a sense of freedom from external pressures while playing football or spending time at a club, which can provide a safe space and a different perspective.

Through these activities and experiences, the aim is that participants can improve their confidence and self-esteem, feel inspired and engaged, and develop more positive attitudes towards others. Depending on what an individual wants to achieve, participation in PLCF-funded programmes can help them develop skills and knowledge or become more physically active. Through these programmes, beneficiaries have improved educational attainment, demonstrated more positive behaviours, improved interpersonal relationships and participated more in community activities.

The following table shows some of the key participation statistics across programmes in 2021/22 based on data submitted by CCOs.

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>01/08/20 – 31/07/21</b>	<b>01/08/21 – 31/07/22</b>
<b>Overall statistics</b>		
Number of unique participants engaged across all programmes	229,000	272,328
Number of participants that identify as female	80,179	101,937
Percentage of participants that identify as female	35%	37%
Number of participants that were from ethnically diverse communities	65,115	84,422
Percentage of participants that were from ethnically diverse communities	28%	31%
Number of participants that reported being disabled	12,956	15,271
Percentage of participants that reported being disabled	5.7%	5.6%
<b>Premier League Primary Stars</b>		
Number of CCOs funded	90	90
Number of schools directly engaged by CCOs	2,444	2,651
% delivery in top 30% most deprived communities	40%	62%
Number of sessions delivered	117,518	130,075
Number of young people engaged supported in PE	106,260	127,680
Number of young people in targeted intervention activities	37,950	141,750
Number of teachers supported by CCOs	6,697	7,699
Total number of schools engaged to date by digital offer	18,428	18,596
Total number of teachers engaged to date by digital offer	55,300	58,352
Reach of digital offer	1,340,000	1,300,000
<b>Premier League Kicks</b>		
Number of CCOs funded	91	90
Number of sessions	27,612	63,877
% delivery in top 30% most deprived communities	58%	46%
Number of unique participants	61,783	108,121
Number of participants that identify as female	17,188	26,354
Number of venues	1,197	1,578
Number of active volunteers	328	988
Number of participants participating in Youth Social Action*	1,159	2,836



Programmes	01/08/20 – 31/07/21	01/08/21 – 31/07/22
<b>Premier League Kicks Targeted</b>		
Number of CCOs funded	45	45
Number of sessions	7,913	9,916
% delivery in top 30% most deprived communities	64%	45%
Number of unique participants	1,266	1,538
Number of participants that identify as female	245	322
Number of venues	242	351
<b>Premier League Inspires</b>		
Number of CCOs funded	30	31
Number of sessions	12,070	22,850
% delivery in top 30% most deprived communities	47%	54%
Number of unique participants	5,284	8,779
Number of participants that identify as female	1,947	3,591
Number of venues	238	443
<b>Premier League PFA Community Fund</b>		
Number of CCOs funded	27	25
Number of sessions	21,630	48,441
% delivery in top 30% most deprived communities	50%	57%
Number of unique participants	17,514	26,210
Number of participants that identify as female	6,762	10,199
Number of venues	617	998
<b>Premier League Changemakers</b>		
Number of CCOs funded	n/a	37
Number of girls and young women engaged	n/a	914
Number of participants that were from ethnically diverse communities	n/a	347
Percentage of participants that were from ethnically diverse communities	n/a	38%

\* Note that 2020/21 KPIs for Premier League Kicks 'Number of participants participating in Youth Social Action' have been added retrospectively as we now include volunteering and Youth Social Action.

## Premier League Primary Stars

Premier League Primary Stars inspires children to learn through the power of football. It enables children to take part in and enjoy football, sport and physical activity in school, whilst also supporting teachers to develop their confidence in delivering PE and helping children gain the skills they need to reach their goals. Targeted interventions in areas such as literacy and numeracy, social action and anti-discrimination are also offered to support children's education attainment and cultural capital.

In 2021/22, PLCF funded 90 CCOs to deliver the programme, with three CCOs, (Foundation 92, Ipswich Town Community Trust and Millwall FC Community Trust) joining the programme as non-funded delivery partners. In addition, 13 CCOs have delivered the programme via Premier League funding through the National League Trust, taking the total number of CCOs delivering the programme across all leagues to 106. Across the year, the programme was delivered in 2,651 schools directly supporting 7,699 teachers and benefitting 127,680 children. 46% of participants identified as female, 28% were from diverse ethnic communities and 10% reported having a disability or special educational need.

Outcomes have been measured using the PLCF outcomes measurement tools with 16,069 questionnaires completed. The findings indicate 86% of participants improved their education attainment, 82% demonstrated improved physical wellbeing and taking part in more sport/physical activity outside of school, and 83% of participants felt inspired by the programme. An independent evaluation has also been commissioned with the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI) researching the effectiveness of the programmes targeted interventions and is due for completion in September 2022 with the insights and learning being used to further develop CCOs targeted interventions.

During the year PLCF introduced 15 new education resources, developed a match stats dashboard featuring live statistics from Premier League matches, delivered an online author event for World Book Day reaching 68,700 children, recorded a physical education masterclass series and developed a new writing intervention called Premier League Magazine Team with the National Literacy Trust. All education resources are available on [www.plprimarystars.com](http://www.plprimarystars.com) which reported engagement of 1.3million young people over the year.

PLCF was proud to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Premier League Primary Stars in 2022 and took advantage of the opportunity by asking CCOs to nominate a 'superstar' who was rewarded with a Nike match-ball and a bespoke piece of artwork by digital illustrator Zem Clarke presented to them by their Club. This year also saw the return of the Premier League Primary Stars Tournament in May 2022, held over two days at Vicarage Road, home of Watford FC. The tournament was the culmination of regional qualifiers involving 1,700 schools and over 15,000 players taking part in under-11 mixed and girls' competitions. The Minister for Sport, Nigel Huddleston MP and Premier League CEO, Richard Masters, joined the event to present the finalists with their medals and the winners' trophy.

Priorities for the programme in 2022/23 include developing new and engaging digital resources for teachers, enhancing the programme website with improved functionality, and expanding the programmes competition and events offer.



## Rhys' story

### Saints Foundation

Rhys frequently found he was being sent out of class, as he quickly became exasperated with his schoolwork and lost his temper.

Feeling frustrated and close to giving up on his schoolwork completely, Rhys struggled to maintain relationships with his classmates and often expressed feelings of anger. It wasn't until Saints Foundation started working in his school that his teachers saw the opportunity to harness Rhys' love of football to inspire him with his studies.

Now, thanks to his engagement in the Premier League Primary Stars programme, Rhys is far more confident in his academic ability and far less disruptive in the classroom.

As his move to secondary school became imminent, his teachers noticed an improvement in his attitude, an increase in his confidence and a reduction in his negative behaviour, all thanks to his positive involvement in the programme.

Cameron Sahota, Saints Foundation's Premier League Primary Stars Project Officer, said: "It was great to see how Rhys' engagement with the programme helped him in so many different ways. From our PSHE sessions helping him maintain and build relationships with his classmates, to our bespoke English sessions around match reports in football helping him to realise he could enjoy writing and was capable of so much more than he thought, I feel Rhys benefitted from many parts of the project."

It's not just his teachers and coaches who noticed a big difference in his attitude either. Rhys sees a change in himself too, having learned techniques to help him manage his frustration. He spends much longer on tasks without losing focus and with his newfound confidence in his abilities, enjoys writing more.

In conversation with his Deputy Headteacher, Rhys said: "Cam talks about football with me. He helps me with my work when I'm stuck. When I'm struggling to behave, he helps me to calm down, and when I need help or support, I know he is always there for me."

## Premier League Kicks

Premier League Kicks supports young people to achieve their potential and develop life skills with free access to weekly sessions including football, multi-sports, mentoring, and education workshops. In 2021/22, PLCF funded 90 CCOs to deliver the programme across the Premier League, English Football League and National League.

In 2021/22, the programme engaged 108,121 unique participants in activities delivered at 1,578 venues of which 46% were located in the top 30% most deprived communities. A total of 63,877 sessions were delivered with 111,850 hours of community sport, mentoring and education workshops provided. 24% of participants identified as female, 38% were from ethnically diverse communities and 7% reported having a disability or special educational need.

Programme impact has been measured through questionnaires and an independent evaluation by the University of Northampton's Institute for Social Innovation and Impact. The questionnaire responses show 92% of participants reported developing new skills and knowledge, 90% felt they had improved interpersonal relationships and 90% felt they had improved mental wellbeing.

The evaluation findings indicated that Premier League Kicks is uniquely placed to positively impact physical health, mental health, community health and education attainment. Using the draw of the Premier League, professional football clubs and CCOs local networks it attracts young people to free sport and physical activity sessions which is likely to improve their wellbeing and long-term health outcomes, particularly for those at-risk. Further to this, not only does physical engagement improve the physical health of the participants, but also the use of role-models, participatory engagement, and personal relationships can help develop the resilience and self-efficacy that young people need to navigate life's obstacles. Finally, the pro-active relationships with social stakeholders can help the participants conceptualise new forms of community and encourage pro-social behaviours.

The national Premier League Kicks Cup returned this year, delivered across three consecutive days at the Riverside Sports Stadium in Nottingham. The event involved 122 teams and 976 young people participating in under-16 boys, under-16 girls and under-16 pan-disability tournaments. The programme was hosted by presenters Kelly Somers and Nigel Mitchell, and participants were joined by Manchester United and England international, Lucy Staniforth, social media stars Sharky and Makai, and ex-England internationals and FA Disability Role Models Jack Rutter and George Ferguson.

The programme also celebrated its 15-year anniversary in 2022 with a campaign recognising staff who have made a significant contribution to their local Premier League Kicks project. 75 CCOs nominated a Premier League Kicks Local Legend with their stories featuring on Premier League and club social channels in February with support from ex-Manchester United player Rio Ferdinand and West Ham United's Declan Rice. This campaign was the most viewed Premier League Community campaign to date on social media channels and created 54 individual pieces of media coverage, including local and national media. To celebrate the 15 years of Premier League Kicks, 14 regional tournaments were hosted nationwide and engaged 1,600 individual participants.

Priorities for the programme in 2022/23 include supporting the transition of Premier League Kicks Targeted activity following its conclusion in December and upskilling CCO staff to ensure they have the skills to deliver meaningful mentoring support. Enhancing our partnership working and relationships with police at a local and national level will continue to be a focus for the programme to help build stronger and safer communities.



## Kai's story

### Swansea City AFC Foundation

For Kai, twice-weekly Premier League Kicks sessions mean more than just a chance to have a kick-about with some mates.

Having lost his dad two years ago, the Premier League Kicks coaches at Swansea City AFC Foundation offer Kai something far more valuable than a simple insight into footballing skills and techniques; they provide him with positive male role models, people to look up to, which his mum, Alison, says has been vital for his development.

"The sessions are really important because Kai's father passed away a few years ago, so it's really important for us to find male role models for Kai, which we've found at Kicks," said Alison.

Participation in the regular sessions has also given Kai a drive to improve his game, and he now regularly plays in Premier League Kicks matches and tournaments. As his confidence has grown, his ability and skillset has also developed and so in turn, has his enjoyment of the game.

"Seeing Kai's smile, and all the other smiles from participants at Premier League Kicks sessions, is why we do what we do," said Richard Harris, Premier League Kicks Coach, Swansea City AFC Foundation.

Taking part in the programme has also afforded the avid Swans fan the opportunity to meet his heroes, including the chance to show off his passing skills to 2021/22 Swansea City first-team players Ethan Laird and Michael Obafemi.

Ethan Laird said: "It's brilliant to interact with the community and it's really important for me to be able to do my bit.

"I didn't have anything like Premier League Kicks when I was younger, and I wish I had."

## Premier League Kicks Targeted

Delivered in partnership with BBC Children in Need, Premier League Kicks Targeted provides tailored support to those children and young people that need it most, including those at risk of being involved in serious youth violence. In 2021/22, PLCF funded 45 CCOs who delivered 14,185 hours of mentoring to 1,538 participants across 351 community venues and school settings.

The Centre of Youth Impact were commissioned to conduct research into the programme's impact with interim findings reporting CCOs offer high quality youth mentoring delivered by positive role models in partnership with local agencies benefiting adolescent mental health, wellbeing and socio-emotional learning.

CCOs have accessed training on county lines, exploitation and gang culture and advice and guidance on mentoring practice for young people at risk of youth violence. Training in risk management, conflict resolution and de-escalation was also provided to help staff and participants to stay safe.

Looking ahead to 2022/23, the PLCF will be providing continuation funding for a further four-month period to enable CCOs to transition participants and provision into the core Premier League Kicks or Premier League Inspires programme depending on where the engagement with the participants will occur. The key priority for the programme team is to support CCOs through this transition period, ensuring that participants and stakeholders continue to have their needs met and that learning is embedded in future programme delivery.

## TJ's story

Middlesbrough FC Foundation

It's hard to believe that a year ago, TJ was involved in drug use and offending. Known to local youth offending services, the teenager had been hospitalised twice following stabbings, and had been identified as being at high-risk of child criminal exploitation.

Now, following a multi-agency discussion, and thanks to his referral on to Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation's Premier League Kicks Targeted programme, TJ has found a sense of purpose; he is looking after his body in a bid to take his new-found love of boxing seriously.

Engaging in Premier League Kicks Targeted over a five-month period, TJ took part in over 40 hours of mentoring sessions and boxing activity, funded through the Premier League Charitable Fund.

Rachel Whitaker, TJ's Social Worker, said: "Every week TJ was waiting outside of the house to be picked up for boxing and would speak very proudly of what he had been doing at his last boxing session. I truly believe that if we hadn't been able to get TJ involved with MFC Foundation at the right time that he would have continued using substances and drinking, and there would have been a very high likelihood that TJ would have been stabbed again.

"TJ's case is proof of the brilliant work MFC Foundation, and their staff, do to engage with young people who are reluctant to engage with professionals and the value of this for the young person and their family's long-term outcomes."







## Premier League Inspires

Premier League Inspires helps children and young people aged 11-25 to develop the personal skills and positive attitudes to succeed in life. It is mostly delivered in secondary school settings using the appeal of football to engage young people in need of additional support. In 2021/22, PLCF funded 31 CCOs to deliver the programme with an additional two CCOs joining the programme (Aston Villa Foundation and Brentford Community Sports Trust) as non-funded delivery partners.

This year the programme engaged 8,779 unique participants across 443 schools of which 54% were located in the top 30% most deprived communities. A total of 22,850 sessions were delivered with 33,981 hours of education support provided. 41% of participants identified as female, 23% were from ethnically diverse communities and 14% reported having a disability or special educational need.

Over the year, 3,700 participant questionnaires were administered showing 81% of participants demonstrated more positive behaviours, 73% of participants displayed more positive attitudes and 76% developed their knowledge and skills. An independent evaluation was conducted by Sheffield Hallam University's Sports Industry Research Centre which found that CCO staff are effective at engaging participants and developing programmes to meet their needs and have built strong relationships with schools helping embed the programme for subsequent years. This also helps to ensure the programme is targeting the right participants that benefit most from this type of intervention.

This year's Premier League Inspires Challenge focused on environmental sustainability with participants from 32 CCOs designing a social action project to help reduce the environmental impact of their football club. CCOs participated in four regional development days to refine their project ideas before presenting their projects via a live virtual celebration event broadcast from Premier League Production Studios in Uxbridge with special guest appearance from Tottenham Hotspur player and England Captain Harry Kane.

Priorities for the 2022/23 year include implementing the learning and insight from the programme evaluation, building on the success of this year's Premier League Inspires Challenge event and providing support and guidance to the 14 new CCOs who will be funded to deliver the programme in 2022/23.

## Xaio's story

Manchester United Foundation

Premier League Inspires has helped Xaio find his place at school.

Invited to take part in Manchester United Foundation's Premier League Inspires Leadership programme, the teenager, who is autistic, has risen to the challenges presented. He has not only developed his teamwork and communication skills, but his cleverly thought-out social action project has cemented his position as an integral part of the school community.

When Xaio first arrived at secondary school, his teachers identified his need for additional support. Through his involvement in the programme, Xaio has found ways to engage with other pupils, with many of his peers and younger pupils now viewing him as a positive role model within the school.

His speech, language and communication skills have developed significantly throughout, culminating in Xaio presenting his social action project to the school's Board of Governors and Deputy Head Teachers. He not only spoke brilliantly about his plans but also answered any questions that came his way.

Both the teaching staff and his family have seen his green space social action plan improve his emotional and mental wellbeing. The space has had a positive effect on other students too who have engaged in outdoor learning opportunities. Xaio has even been inspired to secure a weekend job, putting the skills he honed while involved in the programme, to good use.

Eddy Griffiths, School Partnership Officer for Manchester United Foundation at Dean Trust Ardwick, said: "Being part of the Premier League Inspires programme has allowed Xaio the opportunity to take something that he is passionate about and use it as an opportunity to build his confidence and communication skills and level up towards achieving his full potential.

"As well as his personal development, Xaio has become a role model in the school and supported other students to get involved with creating a green space that the whole school benefits from. I'm proud to have been able to see the difference in him."

## Premier League PFA Community Fund

The Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Community Fund helps Premier League CCOs to develop local partnerships to tackle inequality and respond to local challenges and needs. Projects vary widely and include community engagement, COVID-19 recovery, education and training, employability, equality, diversity and inclusion, mental and physical wellbeing, older people, and youth engagement.

In 2021/22, the Premier League PFA Community Fund supported 25 CCOs and 84 projects with delivery of 48,441 sessions and 2,630 events engaging a total of 26,210 participants of which 39% were female, 30% were from diverse ethnic backgrounds and 9% reported a disability or special educational need. Delivery took place in 998 different venues this year with 47% of delivery located within the top 30% most deprived communities.

Partnership working remains a strong aspect of the fund and CCO project delivery. A number of CCOs have established partnership steering groups to identify alignment of purpose, share good practice, address local challenges and deliver project impact.

Priorities for the fund in 2022/23 include strengthening player engagement within projects, establishing communities of practice and delivering a series of networking events for project leads to share insight and learning. A conference is also planned for the summer of 2023.



## Louise's story

### Sheffield United Community Foundation

COVID-19 had a profound effect on the lives of many people across the world. But, as Sheffield United Community Foundation found, the potential impact of the pandemic on new mums' mental health was unprecedented.

With the partnership between the Premier League and the PFA designed to enable CCOs to be at the heart of effective positive change within their local communities, Sheffield United Community Foundation have created an inclusive environment that you might not expect to see at a football club; a dedicated mother and toddler group designed to support new mums as they emerge from the restrictions imposed by lockdown.

The sessions, supported by the Premier League PFA Community Fund, not only give new mums the chance to discuss the challenges of parenting, they also provide them with the opportunity to take part in a range of structured activities to improve both their physical and mental health. The children also benefit, learning how to communicate and share with others.

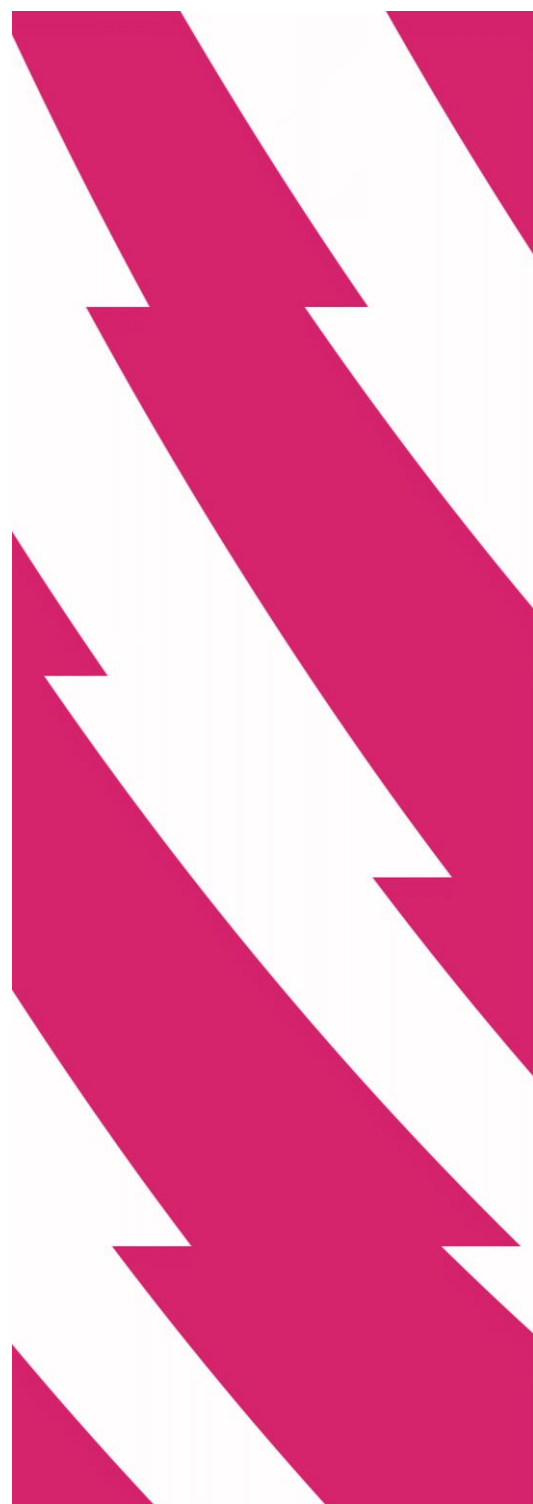
Shannon Wells, Sheffield United Community Foundation's Women and Girls Co-Ordinator, said: "Coming out of lockdown, a lot of the mums struggled with their mental health, so they asked for a session like this where they can come together for a chat and be more physically active, because they've been locked away for two years. A lot of these mums are new mums, they've had a baby during lockdown, and needed somewhere to escape to."

Offering a safe space to talk, a supportive network and often just a weekly reason to leave the house, the sessions provide a lifeline to many of the regular attendees.

Louise said: "This session's great for your mental health.

"Being active helps a lot, it takes your mind off things. This session does, I think, make everyone feel more positive about their outlook on life. Everybody just laughs. And, I think, because you're laughing along the way, you don't realise that you're actually doing exercise.

"Coming here helped the lockdown situation. I've met loads of new mums coming to the sessions, some probably from walks of life I would never normally cross paths with, which is fantastic. And it's nice to have what now is a friendship. Kids are friends, mums are friends. It's really good."





## Premier League Changemakers

Premier League Changemakers was piloted in 2021/22 as a jointly funded programme between the Premier League, PLCF and Sport Relief. The project was developed to support girls and young women aged 11-18 years to develop their personal skills and positive attitudes for leadership. The Leadership Course for participants and Train the Trainer course for CCO staff were developed in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The course covered 12 core modules including mental health, wellbeing, self and identify, confidence and self-esteem, empowerment and leadership, resilience, role models and allyship, educational attainment, career development, social action, community, leadership and body image. CCOs designed delivery of the programme to meet the needs of their cohorts with delivery typically involving youth voice, mentorship, workshops, sport/physical activity and social action. Across the year a total of 37 CCOs delivered the programme engaging 914 participants.

In March, to celebrate International Women's Day, PLCF delivered the inaugural Premier League Changemakers event at Villa Park bringing together 278 young people from 35 CCOs. The day included an inspirational keynote from Aston Villa Women's captain, Marisa Ewers, and provided the young people with the opportunity to mix with participants from other CCOs and communities, and to participate in workshops on leadership, mental health and gender equality.

The Premier League Changemakers resources and training will continue to be made available in 2022/23 for CCOs delivering PLCF national programmes.

## Lexi's story

Newcastle United Foundation

A year ago, Lexi was a quiet pupil who shied away from school activities and struggled with anxiety.

Fast-forward 12 months and the change is remarkable. Now an inspiring leader, Lexi has taken her fellow cohort of Premier League Changemakers under her wing, acting as spokesperson for her peers, and encouraging and guiding them through the Premier League programme.

With the COVID-19 pandemic having a profound impact on the aspirations of many of her fellow students, her involvement in Newcastle United Foundation's Premier League Changemakers sessions has had a positive effect on Lexi. Thriving in an environment she feels comfortable in, she has fully embraced the programme's range of physical and creative activities, becoming the main catalyst for her group's development and engagement throughout.

Premier League Changemakers has also had a positive impact on Lexi's feelings towards school. Despite having a poor attendance record prior to the programme, Lexi attended every session delivered by Newcastle United Foundation. The school has also seen an improvement in her overall attendance following her involvement in the programme.

Fair in her approach to her fellow students, Lexi's confidence, self-esteem and resilience have grown considerably throughout the programme.

Keen to support and engage others, she has listened to her fellow participants, taking an active role in all activities and inspiring others to do the same.

Newcastle United Foundation's Premier League Changemakers Co-Ordinator Paul Martin, said: "We have been able to create a safe and welcoming space in school for the Premier League Changemakers delivery which I believe has been one of the key reasons that students such as Lexi, like to attend and take part,"

## Looking ahead

The PLCF continued to achieve savings on direct programme costs and core PLCF costs, and the Board agreed to use reserves to cover some of the shortfall in income. This enabled the charity to maintain the grant allocations to Club Community Organisations for 2021-22 at the originally agreed levels, to support CCOs and their workforces and communities. Additional investment has been committed by the Premier League in 2022-23, but within a one-year rather than three-year grant agreement.

In the year ahead, as the country continues to manage the impact of the pandemic on the economy and on communities, the PLCF will focus in particular on the challenges that will emerge in terms of education, mental and physical health and wellbeing, supporting transition and developing resilience. The PLCF will continue to support CCOs to develop resources and activities for children, young people and those in communities who need them most. We know that to do this well we will need to listen to young people themselves and involve them in conversations as well as decisions that affect them. Building on the success of the Premier League Youth Summit and increased youth social action activity we plan to develop a youth engagement strategy in the year to help us do this even better.

As well as youth voice and youth inclusion, our strategic priorities in the year ahead include equality and inclusion, tackling discrimination and making improvements to data collection to ensure the CCO landscape and our activities reflect the communities and beneficiaries we serve. Communicating the collective impact of our funded network to key partners is also a priority. As part of this, the PLCF will also look to strengthen and enhance relationships with the Professional Footballers' Association and the Premier League, to ensure that the unique power and appeal of football, as a sport and an industry, is used to full effect.





## Governance

Grant making decisions are made by the PLCF Trustees based on programme specific criteria which set out the activities the trustees and any funding partners wish to support to deliver the programme and PLCF's charitable objectives. The criteria outline activities which the trustees do not wish to support because they do not consider them to be in line with the PLCF's purpose. All grants are made in accordance with charitable law. Each funded programme has a series of key performance indicators which are set out in the programme information packs for each programme.

The Board has ultimate collective responsibility for all grant making decisions in line with the PLCF's charitable purposes and any requirements agreed with donors and partners. Trustees may assign certain decision-making responsibilities to staff under a process of delegation. Such delegated decisions are subject to scrutiny from time to time and all decisions are reported back to the Board. Trustees may apply conditions to a grant through the grant offer letter process, and all grants are subject to twice annual monitoring through a robust reporting system. Grantees are required to report progress against agreed key performance indicators and to record data on number of participants, activities and outcomes.

Grants are made primarily to the charitable and community arms of professional football clubs in England and Wales and criteria are shared with CCOs through a series of briefing sessions and programme information packs at the beginning of each application process. PLCF only makes grants to support activity which is charitable in law. CCOs do not have to be registered charities to apply, but funding is always allocated in support of PLCF's charitable purposes.

Trustees expect that grants will normally support one or more of the following objectives:

- Services and activities – helping CCOs to maintain, expand or provide new services that meet the needs of beneficiaries, with an emphasis on quality and effectiveness.
- Stronger organisations – organisational development and strengthening club community organisations overall.

The PLCF strives to be an effective grant maker and allocated £31.3m in grants to 92 CCOs over the course of the year (2020/21: £30.7m). Grant size varied depending on the programme, but most grants paid were between £1,500 and £250,000 for an individual award. Grantees can apply for multiple annual grants depending on the programmes which they are delivering. In 2021/22 grants were awarded for the following programmes; Premier League Inspires, Premier League Kicks, Premier League Kicks Targeted, Premier League Primary Stars, Premier League PFA Community Fund, Premier League Changemakers as well as Premier League PFA Core Funding.

The PLCF establishes specific grant criteria for each of the funding streams that it oversees. These criteria are agreed after consultation with the relevant donors and PLCF Board, always ensuring that the grants comply with the PLCF's objectives. Each programme has a programme information pack setting out minimum operating standards and expectations for the programme in question. CCOs are required to apply, demonstrating how they would meet those programme requirements and the key performance indicators for delivery. KPIs are programme specific and vary in relation to the amount of funding requested, with higher levels of funding having more stretching targets for participation, achievement and outcomes.

Given the level of investment, monitoring and evaluation and being able to show the impact of the work taking place is a key function. PLCF has stringent monitoring processes in place to ensure the positive impact of its funded projects, with regular reviews of progress against KPIs through the "Views" monitoring system, which is used by all club community organisations to submit their data. In addition, the PLCF also requires CCOs to provide written reports on progress, submit annual financial returns and the PLCF team undertake quality assurance visits. Over the course of the year, PLCF has begun the process of moving to a new Salesforce monitoring and grant management system, with a view to have the new system replace the

existing systems in 2022/23. The existing systems hold in excess of 10 years of data and the migration of the information is challenging. However, processes have been put in place to ensure that data is migrated in a safe way and in accordance with legislation. In the interim, to ensure PLCF continue to collect the information required from CCOs, alternative temporary measures have been put into place to collect reports and store them securely, this includes an inhouse storage platform being built. In addition to using the platform for CCOs to submit grant management documents, the PLCF are also using it to provide additional support to CCOs including key information documents and toolkits. CCOs are also being trained on the new Salesforce system to ensure a smooth transition and they will continue to be supported with a dedicated Systems Executive within the PLCF team, as well as ongoing training opportunities. PLCF pays for the licences and technical support provided to CCOs to ensure the same platform is used by all.

All CCOs in receipt of PLCF funding are required to achieve and maintain a satisfactory level of compliance with the Capability Code of Practice. Any areas of development are monitored through individual CCO continuous improvement action plans.

### **Audit and Risk Committee**

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) was established in November 2018 to support the Board and the Chief Executive in their responsibilities for ensuring the adequacy of risk management, internal control and governance arrangements and that charitable funds are being used efficiently and effectively. The ARC also exists to monitor PLCF's compliance with the Capability Code of Practice (CCOP), assist in formulating the assurance needs of the PLCF and to assess how comprehensive and reliable those assurances are. The ARC is a committee of the Board and is serviced by the PLCF executive team which provides the information to be considered.

In 2021/22 the Board met on four occasions and the ARC met on three occasions. All meetings were attended by the Chief Executive (or proxy), Senior Operations and Governance Manager and Premier League Finance colleagues. The committee reports on its work to the full Board at each meeting. In 2021/22, the committee considered a range of issues including trustee recruitment, formation of an environmental sustainability working group, safeguarding audits, stakeholder engagement, and regular financial management issues including CCO project underspend policy, Management Accounts and the arrangements to produce the Annual Report and Accounts. The Committee agreed that the charities Memorandum and Articles of Association should be reviewed and refreshed as they have remained the same since the charity's incorporation in 2010. This recommendation was ratified by Board and initial recommendations of changes will go to the next ARC meeting scheduled for November 2022. The Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee are available to the public on request.

In January 2022, Tom Finn retired from his role as a trustee after ten years of exemplary service and his role of Chair of the ARC. Christine Davies took up the role of Chair of the ARC and Gail Scott-Spicer was appointed as a Member of the ARC from the Board. PLCF plan to recruit for two new trustees in 2022/23, one of which will take on the responsibility of Deputy Chair of ARC.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

The Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDI Committee) was created in October 2021 to support PLCF's commitment to embedding a culture of equality, diversity and inclusion at all levels of the PLCF and CCO network. Reporting directly into the Board, the Committee leads on the monitoring and implementation of the PLCF EDI Strategy and Action Plan, reviews strategic risks around EDI, and considers new and emerging EDI priorities for the charity. Members of the Committee include one trustee Gail Scott-Spicer, PLCF Chief Executive, Ruth Shaw, and additional Members from the PLCF Executive and CCO network. PLCF and CCO membership has changed throughout the course of the year due to staff turnover both at the PLCF and at CCOs, but at the end of the year additional Members were Andy McLaren, Premier League, Karen Stephanou, Watford FC Community Sports & Education Trust and Shin Aujla, The Albion Foundation.

## **Approach to risk management and control framework**

The PLCF is required to manage risks which may have an impact upon beneficiaries. In this context it ensures that CCOs comply with mandatory requirements in the Capability Code of Practice and the Terms and Conditions of PLCF grants, which include safeguarding arrangements, financial management arrangements, monitoring procedures and compliance with minimum operating standards for each programme. The PLCF also has a responsibility to manage any risks that could have an adverse effect on the organisation being able to meet its legal and regulatory requirements as a registered charity and company.

The PLCF's management of risk recognises that the PLCF works in a complex multi-stakeholder environment, whereby external events have an impact on delivery and organisational objectives and create risks which we must manage to the best of our ability. The PLCF has identified a number of risks that might prevent us from achieving strategic priorities and/or opportunities which we might take advantage of. Our objective is to bring each risk down to a reasonably acceptable level at which it can be managed or controlled.

The PLCF Risk Panel is responsible for the day to day monitoring of risk and reporting to the ARC on risk management. The panel convenes each quarter and reports directly to the ARC via the Senior Operations and Governance Manager.

The ARC oversees a review of risks on a regular basis. This examines both the risks to the PLCF from its policies and operations and those related to the CCOs we fund. Our risk register sets out responsibility within the PLCF for risk management, assigning risk managers and identifying measures that have been taken, or are yet to be taken, to mitigate each one. The ARC then reports risks into the PLCF Board who maintain overall responsibility for risk.

The principal risks identified for the PLCF in 2021/22 are outlined below:

### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties relate to the potential of reduced funding as a result of the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the end of a three year grant cycle, as well as risks around safeguarding, and data migration. The Trustees confirm that exposure to these risks is regularly reviewed and systems have been established to minimise them. Trustees considered the impact of environmental sustainability and a working group was created to focus on the issue and monitor it closely going forward.

Risk Area	Potential impact	Mitigation Strategy
<p><b>Safeguarding</b> - inadequate safeguarding arrangements increase the likelihood of a serious incident occurring.</p>	<p>Inadequate safeguarding arrangements at PLCF and funded CCOs increases the risk of a serious incident taking place, or being poorly managed, which may lead to harm of an individual, which in turn could lead to reputational damage and reduction in funding. There are also potential legal ramifications for the PLCF and its trustees.</p>	<p>Robust safeguarding policy and procedures are in place including DBS checks for all PLCF staff and consultants employed who will work with children and adults at risk as part of internal procedures.</p> <p>Comprehensive safeguarding training package offered to PLCF staff and CCO staff and Designated Safeguarding leads. In addition to this, PLCF Trustees are also required to undertake mandatory safeguarding training.</p> <p>Safeguarding audits are undertaken at both the CCOs and the PLCF.</p>
<p><b>Financial</b> - funding streams ending due to the end of the current three-year grant cycle and/or ongoing impact on the industry of COVID-19 and rising living costs.</p>	<p>The PLCF is dependent upon the Premier League continuing to be its main source of income. It is also supported by a number of other organisations, all of which have been negatively impacted financially by COVID-19 and rising inflation which could result in PLCF receiving reduced income in the future. PLCF are aware that some of its existing sources of income including Children in Need funding are due to end in 2021-22. This could then reduce the PLCF's ability to award grants if unable to find new sources of income.</p>	<p>There is a one-year funding agreement in place with the Premier League for 2022/23 with work ongoing to get a contract in place for an additional two years. The Exclusion Order secured by the Premier League provides greater stability and assurance for future funding from the Premier League.</p> <p>Enhanced relationship management activity with all funders and partners including future plans to recruit for a Partnerships Manager.</p> <p>Monitor and maintain healthy reserve levels and low level of overhead costs.</p> <p>Clause in all PLCF grant offer letters relating to the PLCF being dependent on receiving funds to be able to pay out grants to beneficiaries.</p> <p>Diversify income streams through new fundraising strategy.</p>



Risk Area	Potential impact	Mitigation Strategy
<p><b>The loss of key delivery data</b> both current and historic during data migration project.</p>	<p>The PLCF holds a vast amount of historical and current data on participants, grant management, grant finances and CCO grant compliance in both its grant management system and data monitoring system. Loss of this data during the migration process to the new system could result in inaccurate data being shared in reports and press releases which may lead to reputational damage for both PLCF and CCO, and in turn the Premier League and the affiliated Club. It could also lead to GDPR breaches should data be lost or stolen during migration causing both financial and legal risks to the charity.</p>	<p>Robust data migration procedures in place.</p> <p>In house, Salesforce Executive role created to support.</p> <p>External expert organisation Cirrico contracted to deliver the system and the data migration.</p>

## Whistleblowing

The PLCF is committed to conducting its business with honesty and integrity and expects all staff to maintain the highest standards. However, all organisations face the risk of things going wrong from time to time, and PLCF operates a culture of openness and accountability in order to prevent such situations occurring and to address them if they do occur. PLCF encourages staff to report suspected wrongdoing as soon as possible, in the knowledge that their concerns will be taken seriously and investigated as appropriate, and that their confidentiality will be respected, and provides staff with guidance as to how to raise those concerns.

PLCF staff are advised that they can raise genuine concerns without fear of reprisals, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

The Board has overall responsibility for the PLCF's whistleblowing policy and for reviewing its effectiveness, and the Chief Executive has day-to-day operational responsibility, including to ensure that all staff receive regular and appropriate training in relation to whistleblowing.

## Modern slavery

The PLCF has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all its business dealings and relationships. This includes the implementation and enforcement of effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in the charity or in any of our supply chains. It is committed to ensuring there is transparency in its approach to tackling modern slavery throughout its supply chains. The PLCF expects the same high standards from all its contractors, suppliers and grantees. As part of any contracting process, where appropriate, specific prohibitions against the use of forced, compulsory or trafficked labour, or anyone held in slavery or servitude

(whether adults or children) are included and it is expected that suppliers will hold their own suppliers to the same high standards.

This applies to all persons working for the PLCF or on its behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors, officers, agency workers, seconded workers, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and business partners.

The PLCF Board, advised by the Audit and Risk Committee, has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with its legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under its control comply with it.

The Chief Executive has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, monitoring its use and effectiveness, dealing with any queries about it, and auditing internal control systems and procedures to ensure they are effective in countering modern slavery.

Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them understand and comply with this policy and are given adequate and regular training on it and the issue of modern slavery in supply chains.



T Godwin  
Chairman, PLCF

16 December 2022





## **The Premier League Charitable Fund**

### **Company Registration No. 07331384**

#### **Report of the Trustees**

The Trustees, who are also directors of the company, present the annual report along with the financial statements of The Premier League Charitable Fund (PLCF) for the year ended 31 July 2022. The Trustees have complied with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006, in preparing the financial statements of this charity. The charity is a public benefit entity.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

PLCF is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1137208). PLCF was incorporated (Company No.07331384) on 30 July 2010 by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is a company limited by guarantee. The registered office of PLCF is 57 North Wharf Road, London W2 1HQ.

The charity was established as a grant-making trust to further the charitable and community causes of the Premier League, and it obtains the majority of its funding from the Premier League and supports Premier League and Football League clubs' community activities. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is also a major benefactor of the charity.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the Board of Trustees and ensuring that the organisation is meeting its aims and needs, remains financially viable and that all funds are:

- used and allocated wisely;
- used only to further PLCF's objectives;
- used in accordance with the law and accounting requirements; and
- audited annually in line with current legislation.

The appointment and re-election of Trustees to the Board is made by agreement from a simple majority of the Charity's Members in a general meeting. (Richard Masters, CEO of Premier League, is identified as a person with significant control with the right to appoint and remove trustees). An external recruitment agency has been commissioned to recruit two new independent trustees with expertise in priority areas identified by the existing board.

On appointment, new Trustees are given a formal induction programme which includes an initial meeting with the Chair, followed by a series of short meetings with the Chief Executive on all governance processes, including the power and responsibilities of the Board. Ongoing training and support is provided, including through insight sessions at the end of Board Meetings (for example, inviting programme leads or grant recipients in to meet Trustees and discuss delivery of programmes, and through the opportunity to attend events and programme delivery.)

Trustees are reimbursed any expenses properly incurred in the performance of their duties. The Trustees did not receive any remuneration for their services to the Charity during the year (2020-21: £nil) – see note 12.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set by the Trustees. Key management personnel is defined as only the Trustees and the Chief Executive as disclosed on page 1. Information on Trustee remuneration is included in note 12.

PLCF believes in rewarding staff fairly for the jobs they do and fostering a positive working environment; as such, they want salaries and employee terms and conditions to reflect this.

People are employed on the basis of specific skills that they bring to their particular role and pay is set in accordance with benchmarked roles in relevant sectors.

### **Trustees**

The Trustees during the year under review and up to the date of this report were:

Tim Godwin, OBE QPM (Chair)

William Bush (Premier League)

Bobby Barnes (Professional Footballers' Association) (resigned – 20 May 2022)

Christine Davies, CBE

Gail Scott-Spicer

Tom Finn (resigned – 3 January 2022)

Maheta Matteo Molango (Professional Footballers' Association) (appointed – 21 July 2022)

Toni Eleanor Thorne (appointed – 30 September 2022)

Rupen Shah (appointed – 28 September 2022)

### **Chief Executive**

Ruth Shaw

### **Risk management**

The principal risks and uncertainties of PLCF relate to the ability of principal donors to maintain the required funding level, risks arising from safeguarding incidents or issues and risks relating to the large-scale data migration project taking place.

The Trustees confirm that exposure to these risks is regularly reviewed, and systems have been established to minimise those risks, including regular meetings of an Audit and Risk Committee and a Risk Panel. The principal risks and mitigation of these are on pages 25-27.

### **Objectives and activities**

PLCF is committed to providing the best opportunities for people from all walks of life to develop their full potential, particularly through sport. The Charity supports other like-minded charities, particularly those operating within English and Welsh professional football clubs.

PLCF's objectives are specifically restricted to the following:

- to support the mental, educational, cultural, moral and physical development, health and improvement of the inhabitants of England and Wales without discrimination and in order that they can develop their full capacities as responsible individuals whilst contributing positively to society as community members with improved conditions of life and health; and
- to benefit such other exclusively charitable objectives and purposes as the charity might determine from time to time, and those charitable objectives and purposes that have a connection with the football clubs competing in the Premier League, the Football League or the National Football League.

The PLCF has achieved these objectives by grant funding and supporting CCOs to deliver national programmes including Premier League Primary Stars, Premier League Kicks, Premier League Inspires and local projects funded through the Premier League PFA Community Fund. Each programme has different target participants and objectives but all of them meet one or more of the benefits or objectives outlined above.

### **PLCF's work (Public Benefit Statement)**

The Trustees confirm due regard has been paid to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. PLCF supports projects that embrace one or more of the following themes which are open to all sections of our society with no restriction by ability to pay fees:

- **Community cohesion - Fulfilling potential**

Using the power of football to bring communities together, creating inclusive environments and opportunities that channel the energy and potential of hard-to-reach young people into positive activities that contribute to safer and stronger communities for all.

- **Education - Encouraging achievement**

Using the power of football to provide inspirational learning and personal development opportunities that motivate, improve skills, and enhance self-esteem, encouraging educational and entrepreneurial achievement.

- **Sports participation - Success through sport**

Using the power of football to widen access to sport and provide pathways that enable young people to realise their full potential, experience the sheer enjoyment of taking part and benefit from a more active lifestyle.

PLCF carries out its objects principally by making grants to bodies directly involved in the provision of sports activities, especially those involved with football club community organisations. A summary of the main projects that were undertaken in 2021/22 is contained in note 9 to the accounts and discussed in the strategic report.

## **Financial review**

Donation income for the year was £32.9m (2021: £30.2m) and a total of £31.3m (2021: £30.7m) was paid out for grants. The work of PLCF is reliant mainly on donations from the FAPL, the PFA, #iwill Fund, Comic Relief, Children in Need, MOPAC to fund current areas of charitable activities (see note 9). Income from grants and other sources for the year under review and expenditure expended are detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 40.

The net deficit for the period of £1.6m (2021: deficit of £3.4m) has been reflected in the available reserves which resulted in restricted funds of £16.2m (2021: £17.8m).

In August 2019, Premier League and PLCF agreed a grant agreement, which was formally approved by the PLCF Board on 19 September, for the 2019-22 broadcast cycle of £103.4m over the three years. Since then, as a result of COVID-19, the grant has been reduced by £7.3m.

## **Investment policy**

PLCF holds cash balances throughout the year as a result of donations received from its funding partners. These cash balances represent short to medium term funding requirements of the Charity. Accordingly, it is the policy of PLCF to place these cash holdings in fixed term treasury deposits in order to maintain liquidity and maximise the interest receivable. The length of term of these deposits ranges from one week to twelve months depending on cash requirements in terms of grants payable and day-to-day administration costs.

## **Reserves**

Total reserves at the end of the reporting period are £16.2m (2021: £17.8); these are all restricted. Please refer to note 10 for the future commitments. Within each of the restricted funds, management has agreed with the funding partners that the grant allocations of each programme will only be calculated after the central and support costs of that programme have been accounted for. Although all of the charity's funds are restricted and no unrestricted reserves are held, the agreement in place with the PLCF's key funder, Premier League, allows core costs to be appropriately allocated to various projects.

The current reserves policy is that twelve months of the operational expenditure should be covered by the reserves held. The policy has been considered by the Audit and Risk Committee



this season and is reviewed periodically by Trustees to ensure it continues to meet the evolving needs of the charity.

### **Going concern**

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), on behalf of the Trustees, regularly reviews management information on budgets and forecasts for income, expenditure and cash-flows. It does this for the organisation as a whole, and on a project-by-project basis.

In respect of the season 2022/23, PLCF have received a funding increase from the Premier League to £36m and have secured funding of £36.9m in total. Although Premier League funding has increased, the trustees have reflected on the fact that a number of other funding streams will have come to an end and spending plans, including a refresh of the grant funding system and CCO grant allocation, and a review of reserves to be used to cover any shortfall are in place.

PLCF funding is typically agreed in a three-year cycle, however one year funding from the main funder, the Premier League has been agreed at this time. Trustees and the Executive have taken this on board and to reflect this, one year grant agreements have been made to CCOs. Trustees have received assurances that funding will be received from the Premier League for 2023/25 and conversations are ongoing. However, as future funding is not yet committed, Trustees have discussed the possibility of a further reduction in income, and that current reserves levels are lower than current grant commitments. Should Premier League funding be reduced in future seasons, the trustees consider that they have sufficient reserves and policies in place to manage this shortfall and sufficient time to develop more detailed plans.

Trustees have taken account of the current and future operating environment including the challenges around the ongoing impact of the pandemic on our main funding partners and CCOs, the rising cost of inflation and cost of living as a result of the Russia – Ukraine war and the wider economic climate. Having done so and having reviewed the agreement and funding for the next year, the trustees have confidence that they have sufficient funding in place to cover core costs for the next year. Total core expenditure for the current season was £3.3m (2021: £2.8m). As noted in the principal risk mitigations should funding fall further then ultimately the trustees retain the discretion to reduce the grant commitments.

The trustees consider the level of funding to be sufficient to meet the objectives of the Charity. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. PLCF Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

### **Plans for future periods**

The Trustees noted that there will be ongoing challenges as a result of the impact of the pandemic on communities and funding partners but commended how the Executive and CCOs have shown agility and worked together to ensure provision continued for participants in the face of adversity. There has been a shared sense of duty across the country with the pandemic and the start of a cost-of-living crisis, both of which impact the whole country and PLCF will continue to play a role in collaborating with the public, private and philanthropic sectors to assist where it can. With a one-year funding agreement in place with the Premier League for 2022/23, The PLCF will work hard across the year to demonstrate its impact to secure additional funding for the years ahead. The PLCF will also introduce a more flexible grant funding system where CCOs, depending on the need in their local area are afforded a degree of flexibility to choose which programmes they receive more funding for within an agreed framework, to better serve the needs of their beneficiaries.

The PLCF benefits greatly from, and relies heavily on, income from the Premier League and its partners. The PLCF will continue to develop the data and evidence base to demonstrate impact and return on investment for the current funding partners. It will also explore additional future funding partners and focus on telling the story of the collective impact of our work and the work of the CCOs.

The charity will continue to support CCOs to deliver programmes that help children and young people to achieve their potential and have a positive impact on communities. The PLCF will challenge itself and the network to support the mental health and wellbeing of participants and embed equality and inclusion through their work, tackling discrimination and making improvements to organisational development, workforce development, programme development and data collection to reflect the communities and beneficiaries we serve.

### **Auditor**

Deloitte LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office and will remain as auditor unless a resolution is passed by the company changing this status.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on behalf of PLCF on 16 December 2022



T Godwin  
Chairman, PLCF

## **The Premier League Charitable Fund**

### **Company Registration No. 07331384**

#### **Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The Trustees (who are also Directors of PLCF for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



# **Independent auditor's report to the members of The Premier League Charitable Fund Company Registration No. 07331384**

## **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements of the Premier League Charitable Fund (the 'charitable company'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account);
- the balance sheet;
- the cash flow statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 14.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (the 'FRC's') Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We considered the nature of the charitable company's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management and those charged with governance about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework[s] that the charitable company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included UK Charities Act and UK Companies Act; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity Commission) regulations.

We discussed among the audit engagement team regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

As a result of performing the above, we identified the greatest potential for fraud in relation to revenue recognition over Premier League funding, and our specific procedures performed to address it are described below:

- Comparison of expected income per the main Premier League agreement to the income recognised on the ledger to determine that the value is accurate and restrictions have been appropriately recognised;
- Review of in-year minutes and communications received from the Premier League with regard to any amendments to funding in the year; and
- Review of communication from Premier League regarding future funding to determine that cut-off has been appropriately applied.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and

- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance

## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Jeremy Black*

Jeremy Black ACA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP

Statutory Auditor

London, United Kingdom

16 December 2022



**The Premier League Charitable Fund****Company Registration No. 07331384****Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)  
For the year ended 31 July 2022**

		<b>Restricted Funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2021 £</b>
	<b>Notes</b>		
<b>Income from;</b>			
Donations	2	32,924,160	30,182,761
Investments		66,757	8,603
<b>Total income</b>		<u>32,990,917</u>	<u>30,191,364</u>
<b>Expenditure on;</b>			
Charitable activities;		23,704,687	22,964,469
Community Cohesion		10,915,612	10,595,822
Education			
<b>Total expenditure</b>	3	<u>34,620,299</u>	<u>33,560,291</u>
<b>Net expenditure for the year before and after tax</b>		<u>(1,629,382)</u>	<u>(3,368,927)</u>
<b>Funds brought forward</b>		<u>17,840,827</u>	<u>21,209,754</u>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	9	<u>16,211,445</u>	<u>17,840,827</u>


There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net income for the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**The Premier League Charitable Fund**  
**Company Registration No. 07331384**

**Balance sheet**  
**As at 31 July 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	7	883,333	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	14	15,757,696	18,188,739
		16,641,029	18,188,739
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	(429,584)	(347,912)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities being net current assets</b>		16,211,445	17,840,827
		=====	=====
<b>Restricted funds</b>	9	16,211,445	17,840,827
<b>Total funds</b>		16,211,445	17,840,827
		=====	=====

These financial statements of the charity Premier League Charitable Fund registered charity number 1137208 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by;



T Godwin  
Chairman, PLCF

**The Premier League Charitable Fund**  
**Company Registration No. 07331384**

**Cash flow statement**  
**For the year ended 31 July 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Net cash outflow from operating activities</b>	13	(2,497,800)	(3,356,806)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Changes to short term deposits over 3 months		-	21,500,000
Interest received		66,757	8,603
<b>(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(2,431,043)	18,151,797
<b>Cash and equivalents brought forward</b>	14	18,188,739	36,942
<b>Cash and equivalents carried forward</b>	14	15,757,696	18,188,739

**The Premier League Charitable Fund**  
**Company Registration No. 07331384**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 July 2022**

**1. Accounting policies**

The Premier League Charitable Fund, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The Trustees comply with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2019, and Companies Act 2006.

The principal accounting policies adopted, which have been applied consistently in the current year, are described below. These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has sufficient financial resources for at least 12 months from the date these accounts were signed. This assessment has been made taking regard of the current levels of cash, the known income for the next 12 months and assessing the likely level of charitable expenditure over the same time period within each restricted fund; please refer to the "Reserves" and "Going concern" sections of the report of the trustees on pages 33-34 for additional information.

The functional currency of the charity is sterling, being the currency of the country in which it operates.

**Accounting convention**

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 9.

**Income**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA') when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

- Donations are recognised in the SOFA when receivable unless the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in particular financial accounting years or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement, in which case the income is deferred;
- Where income is received in advance of its recognition, it is deferred and included in creditors;
- Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued; and
- Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Donated staff time received from the Premier League has not been recognised in the financial statements as it is not practicable to quantify the cost.



### **Cost of charitable activities**

This includes all expenditure directly related to the objects of the Charity. This consists mainly of assessing grant applications and making and monitoring grants. It also includes support costs representing staffing and associated costs.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been recognised as support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. The allocation of support cost is agreed on an annual basis by the Trustees, as part of the budget process. No support costs have been applied to Other programmes as minimum grant making activity and staff time has been spent on these activities.

Grants are charged to the SOFA when a constructive obligation exists. Where grants are awarded over a number of years, future instalments of the grants are dependent upon the satisfactory fulfilment of the PLCF's monitoring and quality assurance requirements. PLCF reviews projects at least annually to approve future instalments of the grants.

### **Governance costs**

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Charity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day to day management of the Charity's activities. These costs are shown in note 5.

### **Pension costs**

For defined contribution pensions the amount charged to the statement of financial activities in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

### **Irrecoverable VAT**

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense in the SOFA and allocated to the same category as the associated expense.

### **Financial assets and liabilities**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when (a) the contractual right to the cash flows from the financial asset expires or is settled, (b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or (c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all its liabilities. All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, when the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash highly liquid investments. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

## Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, which are described in this note, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are no critical accounting judgments or key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date.

## 2. Donations

Income from donations comprises:

	2022 £	2021 £
Grant income – FA Premier League	22,980,000	20,192,500
Grant income – PFA	8,400,000	8,400,000
Grant income – #iwill Fund *	500,000	500,000
Grant income – Barclays PLC	-	125,000
Grant income – Comic Relief**	275,000	125,000
Grant income – Children In Need	666,666	666,667
Grant income – MOPAC	100,000	150,000
Other donations	2,494	23,594
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,924,160</b>	<b>30,182,761</b>

\*The #iwill Fund is an England wide joint investment that brings together funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and The National Lottery Community Fund, creating a central investment pot.

\*\*£75k (2021: £125k) of funding from this funder is the result of a tripartite agreement with BT Group.

### 3. Analysis of expenditure

	Year ended 31 July 2022			Total 2022
	Grants to institutions £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	£
<b>Community Cohesion;</b>				
PL Kicks	10,764,584	357,307	367,688	11,489,579
PLPFA Community	11,264,115	579,170	306,406	12,149,691
Other	-	65,417	-	65,417
	<u>22,028,699</u>	<u>1,001,894</u>	<u>674,094</u>	<u>23,704,687</u>
<b>Education;</b>				
PL Inspires	2,100,981	85,979	183,844	2,370,804
PL Primary Stars	7,153,096	1,024,024	367,688	8,544,808
	<u>9,254,077</u>	<u>1,110,003</u>	<u>551,532</u>	<u>10,915,612</u>
	<u>31,282,776</u>	<u>2,111,897</u>	<u>1,225,626</u>	<u>34,620,299</u>

Support costs have been allocated on a basis consistent with use of resources; no support costs have been allocated to Other as no direct activities were completed by PLCF staff on these projects in the current year or prior year.

#### Analysis of expenditure

	Year ended 31 July 2021			Total 2021
	Grants to institutions £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	£
<b>Community Cohesion;</b>				
PL Kicks	10,482,184	151,806	358,021	10,992,011
PLPFA Community	11,137,924	443,439	298,351	11,879,714
Other	-	92,744	-	92,744
	<u>21,620,108</u>	<u>687,989</u>	<u>656,372</u>	<u>22,964,469</u>
<b>Education;</b>				
PL Inspires	2,029,082	55,182	179,011	2,263,275
PL Primary Stars	7,077,326	897,200	358,021	8,332,547
	<u>9,106,408</u>	<u>952,382</u>	<u>537,032</u>	<u>10,595,822</u>
	<u>30,726,516</u>	<u>1,640,371</u>	<u>1,193,404</u>	<u>33,560,291</u>

#### CCO Grant payment analysis

	Number of CCOs 2022	Number of CCOs 2021	Number of Non CCOs 2022	Number of Non CCOs 2021
£0 to £500k	65	67	1	2
£501k to £1m	25	26	-	-
£1m+	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

### 3. Analysis of expenditure (continued)

The above grants are paid to a number of organisations to carry out the approved projects. CCOs and other organisations can apply for grants under a number of different programmes. As described in the Trustees' report, PLCF invited applications from CCOs from the Premier League, English Football League and National League. The largest single programme grant given in the year was £250k (2021: £250k) and the largest total grant given to a single CCO was £1.02m (2021: £961k).

### 4. Net (expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	19,800	14,400

### 5. Direct and support costs

	Direct costs 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Direct costs 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	-	894,243	894,243	-	885,433	885,433
External project support	2,111,897	-	2,111,897	1,640,371	-	1,640,371
Other expenses	-	218,883	218,883	-	200,871	200,871
Office overheads	-	92,700	92,700	-	92,700	92,700
Governance costs	-	19,800	19,800	-	14,400	14,400
	<u>2,111,897</u>	<u>1,225,626</u>	<u>3,337,523</u>	<u>1,640,371</u>	<u>1,193,404</u>	<u>2,833,775</u>

External project support consists of costs relating to external resources purchased to carry out the programme activities.

### 6. Staff costs and numbers

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Employee costs during the year amounted to:</b>		
Wages and salaries	720,141	712,305
Social security	85,084	81,131
Pension	82,891	80,970
Other employee benefits	6,127	11,027
	<u>894,243</u>	<u>885,433</u>



## 6. Staff costs and numbers (continued)

The average headcount analysed by function was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Administration and management	14	14

During the current year, the following employees' emoluments (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000:

Band:	Employees 2022 No.	Employees 2021 No.
£60,000 to £69,999	2	1
£70,000 to £80,000	1	1
£100,000 to £110,000	1	1

During the year, pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £18,923 (2021: £17,768)

Key management personnel are represented by one individual, being the Chief Executive of the PLCF. The total remuneration (including Employers' NI and pension costs) for key management personnel in the period totalled £124,395 (2021: £122,100).

The pension liability outstanding at year-end was Nil (2021: Nil).

## 7. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income	883,333	-
	883,333	-

**8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	429,584	347,912
	<u>429,584</u>	<u>347,912</u>

**9. Restricted funds (2022)**

	Balance B/F from 2021 £	Donation Income £	Investment Income £	Grants paid £	Direct and support costs £	Total C/F 2022 £
PL Kicks	6,561,824	8,946,666	20,027	(10,764,584)	(724,994)	4,038,939
PL PFA Community	6,906,125	12,014,258	16,689	(11,264,115)	(885,577)	6,787,380
PL Inspires	2,176,231	2,045,742	10,014	(2,100,981)	(269,823)	1,861,183
PL Primary Stars	1,151,301	9,915,000	20,027	(7,153,096)	(1,391,712)	2,541,520
Other	1,045,346	2,494	-	-	(65,417)	982,423
Total restricted funds	<u>17,840,827</u>	<u>32,924,160</u>	<u>66,757</u>	<u>(31,282,776)</u>	<u>(3,337,523)</u>	<u>16,211,445</u>

**Restricted funds (2021)**

	Balance B/F from 2020 £	Donation Income £	Investment Income £	Grants paid £	Direct and support costs £	Total C/F 2021 £
PL Kicks	7,867,088	9,684,167	2,581	(10,482,184)	(509,828)	6,561,824
PLPFA Community	6,959,430	11,824,258	2,151	(11,137,924)	(741,790)	6,906,125
PL Inspires	2,252,474	2,185,742	1,290	(2,029,082)	(234,193)	2,176,231
PL Primary Stars	3,366,267	6,115,000	2,581	(7,077,326)	(1,255,221)	1,151,301
Other	764,495	373,594	-	-	(92,743)	1,045,346
Total restricted funds	<u>21,209,754</u>	<u>30,182,761</u>	<u>8,603</u>	<u>(30,726,516)</u>	<u>(2,833,775)</u>	<u>17,840,827</u>

Funds received from principal donors are for specific projects including external project support and general administration costs.

The main projects represent:

#### **Premier League Kicks and Kicks Targeted**

- Premier League Kicks derived from the original “Kicks” programme which began in 2006.
- Premier League Kicks looks to engage 8 to 19 years olds from high need areas in football and other sports.
- Sport acts as the engagement tool allowing the positive CCO role models to provide guidance and opportunities such as volunteering and qualifications to enable young people on the programme to move into positive pathways, be it in sport or education/employment.
- For seven years the Premier League worked with BBC Children in Need on the Premier League Kicks Targeted programme, which aimed to challenge the normalisation of violent behaviour amongst some young people and break the cycle of violence within communities. From 2022 onwards the Premier League Kicks Targeted programme will be embedded into the national Premier League Kicks Programme.

#### **Premier League PFA Community Fund**

- The Premier League Professional Footballers’ Association Community Fund empowers individual professional football clubs to work in collaboration with local strategic partners to meet the needs of their local communities in key areas such as education, community cohesion and sports participation.

#### **Premier League Inspires**

- Premier League Inspires is an education programme developed by the Premier League and professional football clubs and introduced in 2019. The programme works with young people aged between 11-25 in educational settings and uses the unique characteristics of professional football club staff, along with learning and experience from a number of other educational programmes, to positively affect change in those most in need.

#### **Premier League Primary Stars (PLPS)**

- Premier League Primary Stars focusses on providing children and young people with a holistic whole person offer. It incorporates access to high quality coaching opportunities in football and multi-sport delivered by clubs, leading to enhanced physical literacy and fundamental movement skills. In addition, it also involves the delivery of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, literacy and numeracy, all using the unique assets of Clubs to engage young people.
- Funding is used to deliver in-school activity and is utilised flexibly at a local level to ensure that CCOs can provide an offer that meets the needs of partner schools.
- The PLPS offer includes highly developed Premier League digital resources which can be used by teachers in areas that are geographically remote from clubs, as well as adding value to club delivery. The website includes resources covering English, maths, PE and PSHE.
- The resources also connect learning to the real world of sport, helping teachers to enthuse pupils when tackling challenging topics such as resilience, diversity, self-esteem and fair play.
- Premier League Primary Stars is available to every primary school in England and Wales.

### **10. Future project funding**

The PLCF has a one-year grant extension with the Premier League for 2022/23, which was signed in September 2022 for £36 million. PLCF intends to continue its programme of project funding over the next twelve months and has issued one year grant agreements to the CCOs. The Premier League has also provided a letter which provides confirmation of their intent to continue discussions around funding for future years. PLCF grant payments to CCOs is

dependent upon the satisfactory fulfilment of the PLCF's monitoring and quality assurance requirements for the duration of the grant agreement and funding being received from funding partners to enable the PLCF to provide the grants. CCOs will be required to provide information on underspend from the grants provided in season 2021/22 which will be off-set against grant payment in season 2022/23.

## 11. Taxation

PLCF is a registered charity, No. 1137208, which benefits from corporation tax exemptions available to charitable bodies. On the basis that its activities fall within its charitable purposes and its funds are applied only for these purposes, no provision for corporation tax or deferred tax is made.

## 12. Related party transactions and Trustees' remuneration

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. One Trustee is a paid Director of Premier League; he is not remunerated for his role as a Trustee. Trustee expenses are reimbursed strictly on the basis of expenses incurred necessarily and wholly for the purposes of the Charity's expenses, being principally travel and accommodation expenses. Two trustees received expenses totalling £1,164 in the year (2021: Nil). There are no other related party transactions. Two members of the board of trustees are also a member of the PLCF's key funding partners. We are satisfied that conflicts are managed in a satisfactory manner.

## 13. Reconciliation of net (deficit) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net deficit for the year	(1,629,382)	(3,368,927)
Interest received	(66,757)	(8,603)
Decrease in creditors	81,672	12,246
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(883,333)	8,478
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>(2,497,800)</u>	<u>(3,356,806)</u>

## 14. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Cash 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Cash 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	15,757,696	15,757,696	18,188,739	18,188,739
Total	<u>15,757,696</u>	<u>15,757,696</u>	<u>18,188,739</u>	<u>18,188,739</u>