



THE **RAISE UP**
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2025



The Raise Up Foundation Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

For the period: 01st April 2024 - 31st March 2025
Registered charity number 1188653 (England and Wales)

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name:	The Raise Up Foundation
Charity registration number:	1188653
Principal address:	Raise Up Community Centre, All Saints Close, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU3 1FA
Website:	www.raiseupluton.co.uk

Structure, Governance & Management

Trustees (as of 31 March 2025)	Mrs Rehana Faisal, Mr Saif Ali, Miss Hadiqa Asif, Mr Amaan Baig, Mr Sarmad Sajid Khan, Mr Shazam Mahmood, Mr Aamir Malik.
Structure:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Governing document:	Constitution

Trustee appointments are made by the existing board, which selects individuals who can contribute appropriate expertise, insight, and experience. Once appointed, every trustee is expected to familiarise themselves with the organisation's full set of policies, ensuring they are aware of all legal duties, regulatory requirements, and recommended standards of practice.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable objects	<p>To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 25 living in Luton by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:</p> <p>(a) advancing in life and helping young people develop skills, capacities and capabilities enabling them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;</p> <p>(b) advancing education;</p> <p>(c) relieving unemployment;</p> <p>(d) providing recreational and leisure-time activities in the interests of social welfare to improve quality of life for those experiencing disadvantage.</p>
What we do	<p>Education & training</p> <p>Advice, advocacy and guidance</p> <p>Positive activities for development</p>

	Targeted interventions for young people needing additional support
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All activities are designed to advance education, relieve hardship, improve wellbeing and empower young people to participate positively in society. Services are free or heavily subsidised to ensure accessibility. Trustees confirm they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance (2024–2025)

Weekly Youth Club – A Safe, Enriching Environment for Young People

The charity delivered twice-weekly evening youth sessions, providing a consistent, safe and structured space where young people could enjoy positive recreation, learn new skills, and build meaningful relationships.

Key features included:

- Hot, nutritious meals at every session
- Games, physical activity and creative workshops
- Mentoring from trained youth workers and positive peer role models
- Informal learning on communication, teamwork and conflict resolution

Given the socio-economic context of many of the families we serve, the meal provision became an essential support. Parents repeatedly expressed how much this eased household pressures, especially during the cost-of-living crisis.

Young people reported:

- Feeling safer and more confident
- Improved emotional wellbeing
- Better peer relationships
- Reduced isolation
- Increased motivation in school

Holiday Clubs – Fun, Structure and Skill-Building During School Breaks

During school holidays the charity ran multiple structured programmes during the school holiday periods, combining fun activities with educational enrichment. These included:

- Team-building exercises
- Sports and physical activity
- Creative arts
- Communication and presentation skills
- Leadership tasks
- Problem-solving challenges

School Enrichment Programme – Preventing Exclusion & Supporting Behavioural Needs

In partnership with a local secondary school, Raise Up supported young people with persistent behavioural difficulties, additional needs, or those at risk of exclusion.

The programme provided:

- A nurturing, calming environment
- Access to specialist mental health workers
- Mentoring from positive male role models
- Reflective and developmental sessions
- Fun, therapeutic activities that reduce stress and improve emotional regulation

“Safe Space” Community Responses to Local Tensions

Following serious community incidents, including incidents to serious youth violence, Raise Up facilitated safe spaces for:

- Young people to discuss their fears and questions
- Parents to access reassurance and advice
- Organisations to come together to address misinformation

These sessions reduced anxiety, promoted community cohesion, and helped young people regain a sense of safety and belonging.

Warm Space / Co-Working & Study Space – Reducing Isolation and Supporting Education

Throughout the year, Raise Up Foundation operated a Warm Space and Co-Working/Study Space, open to young people and local families needing:

- A safe, heated environment during the cost-of-living crisis
- A quiet study area with reliable Wi-Fi
- A supportive atmosphere for homework, revision and coursework
- Space to work on laptops or access resources they may not have at home
- Light refreshments and informal guidance from staff and volunteers

This initiative proved invaluable for:

- Young people preparing for exams
- Students with crowded or unsuitable home environments
- Those without stable internet access
- Young adults needing a calm, structured place to focus

Many young people reported that having a warm, quiet, supervised environment helped improve their academic confidence, productivity and emotional wellbeing.

The Warm Space also became a hub for community connection, reducing isolation by providing an open and friendly environment.

Community Iftar Café – Dignified Support for Families

A culturally sensitive offer for the local community, our *“pay what you can”* Iftar Café ran throughout Ramadan, providing:

- Warm, welcoming meals
- A non-stigmatising way for families to access support
- Volunteers opportunities for young people

- A gateway into other support services and local charities

Chat4Change – Youth Voice, Debate and Social Responsibility

Chat4Change empowers young people to explore issues affecting them locally and globally – from inequality to global conflicts - to nurture informed, articulate and socially responsible young citizens.

Participants developed:

- Critical thinking
- Public speaking
- Debate etiquette
- Leadership
- Advocacy skills

Expert Workshops – Education, Digital Safety & Future Pathways

The charity delivered a wide range of expert-led workshops and information, advice and guidance session, including:

- Health & wellbeing
- Study skills and exam success
- Safe and responsible use of social media
- Personal statement writing
- Apprenticeship and UCAS application support
- Navigating university life / gap years
- Results day emotional support

These sessions gave young people practical tools for academic and personal success. Many participants credited the workshops with reducing exam stress and improving the quality of their post-16/18 applications.

Volunteering & Social Action – Nurturing Civic Responsibility

We supported young people to give back through meaningful volunteering opportunities with:

- Luton Foodbank (supermarket food drives)
- Inspire FM (Big Iftar)
- ABCD in Luton (community clean-ups)

Through social action, young people gained:

- Pride in giving back
- Experience of responsibility and teamwork
- A sense of ownership over their community

Islamophobia Conference – Youth-Led Advocacy & Education

Young people designed and led an Islamophobia conference addressing discrimination, identity, mental health, and community cohesion. The event fostered dialogue between youth, educators, scholars, charities and civic leaders.

It demonstrated the charity's commitment to equipping young people to challenge injustice confidently and constructively.

Ansar Ventures – Flagship Leadership, Mental Health & Civic Engagement Programme

Ansar Ventures supported 12 young men aged 14–24 across a year-long, high-intensity programme involving:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly leadership coaching • CEO masterclasses • Workplace visits • Public speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social action projects • Mental health education • Mentoring • A residential cultural trip
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Highlights included:

Tackling drug misuse	Youth-led research with Public Health Social media campaign reaching over 10,000 views 500+ survey responses Luton's first youth-led conference on drug misuse
Mental health leadership	Level 2 Mental Health First Aid training Podcast series totaling 15,000+ listens Talks delivered in schools and community events
Green space & community wellbeing	Designed and built a Foodbank allotment Consulted 200+ residents Contributed to Luton Council planning discussions
Work experience & cultural development	Investments, property, operations and philanthropy placements Visit to Google HQ Cultural/historical learning trip to Bosnia

Measured outcomes

- 100% increased confidence
- 95% improved communication
- 92% increased ability to engage with authority
- 90% increased sense of belonging

Ansar Ventures continues to be one of the most impactful youth leadership pathways in Luton.

Plans for the Coming Year

Looking ahead, the Raise Up Foundation intends to respond directly to the emerging needs and feedback of the young people and families we serve.

Key priorities for 2025–2026

<p>1. Developing targeted employability and careers programmes</p> <p>We recognise that high-quality careers support can transform long-term outcomes for young people. Our goal is to build structured, year-round support that improves confidence, supports aspirations and opens meaningful career pathways.</p>	<p>Young people have expressed a strong desire for more support around their future pathways. In response, we will be developing programmes that offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored employability skills • CV and job-application support • Networking, relationship building and presentation Greater contact with employers (from a range of sectors) in the town and beyond • Expand access to workplace visits and shadowing opportunities Strengthen links to apprenticeships, internships and early career opportunities
<p>2. Strengthening partnerships with schools</p> <p>Our school partnerships are essential in ensuring that vulnerable children receive early, preventative intervention.</p>	<p>We aim to deepen our engagement with local schools by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater engagement with schools on shaping our support programmes • Expanding behavioural, wellbeing and mentoring interventions • Providing professional development for school staff on youth voice, inclusion and co-production
<p>3. Developing stronger relationships with local businesses and organisations</p> <p>These relationships will open up real, tangible opportunities for young people — particularly those with limited access to professional networks.</p>	<p>To support the above aims, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a network of employer partners invested in youth development • Co-design opportunities with industry professionals • Encourage corporate volunteering and mentoring • Facilitate real-world project briefs so young people can solve “live” workplace challenges

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase social action and volunteering opportunities in partnership with local employers
<p>4. Grow 'youth voice' work</p> <p>Feedback from the <i>chat4change</i> sessions made it clear that young people want greater opportunities to develop their voice, explaining that this support helps them navigate the world more confidently and effectively.</p>	<p>We intend to introduce programmes which broaden youth leadership, debate, and civic engagement. These initiatives will equip young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to express their views, advocate for their needs, and take an active role in shaping their communities.</p>
<p>5. Scaling the Ansar Ventures model</p>	<p>We hope to offer more places and expand into new cohorts, ensuring more young people can benefit from the same transformative leadership development.</p>
<p>6. Building sustainability for core services</p>	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing multi-year funding for youth work • Increasing volunteer capacity • Strengthening operational infrastructure • Greater collaboration with other local organisations and support services • Maintaining provision of warm spaces and study support

Financial Review

Income	
Unrestricted:	£46,574
Restricted	£34,834
TOTAL INCOME	£81,408
Expenditure:	
Unrestricted	£56,814
Restricted	£4,859
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£61,673

The charity remained financially stable, supported by grants, individual donors, community fundraising and in-kind contributions.

Reserves Policy

Reserves at year end:	£83,725
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An amount of reserves are kept in order to safeguard the charity from unexpected financial implications, including to:

- Ensure any urgent unexpected expenses can be met
- Prevent the interruption of existing operations due to a delay in receiving expected funds
- Ensure the charity can meet essential ongoing administrative costs for a period of 6 months if no other funding is received
- Facilitate options for urgent projects in response to beneficiary needs and circumstances

Our current reserves limit is £X. This means any amount of unrestricted funds (ie. funds that are not designated to projects or other existing costs) up to and including £X may be reserved by the charity, for the reasons set out above.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above on 26/01/2026. Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Rehana Faisal
(Chair of Trustees)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Raise Up Foundation

118653

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

CC16a


Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	46,574	34,834	-	81,408	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	46,574	34,834	-	81,408	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	46,574	34,834	-	81,408	-
A3 Payments					
IT COSTS	248	-	-	248	-
CASUAL WAGES	7,222	4,264	-	11,486	-
WAGES - PAYROLLED	16,952	-	-	16,952	-
UTILITIES	3,573	-	-	4,194	-
HMRC - PAYE	3,150	-	-	3,150	-
CLEANING	1,844	-	-	1,844	-
EVENT COSTS	9,685	-	-	9,685	-
DONATIONS	70	-	-	70	-
STATIONERY	201	235	-	436	-
TRAINING	-	360	-	360	-
LEGAL & COMPLIANCE	400	-	-	400	-
RENT	12,849	-	-	12,849	-
INSURANCE	621	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	56,814	4,859	-	61,673	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	56,814	4,859	-	61,673	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 10,240	29,975	-	19,735	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	63,974	16	-	63,990	-
Cash funds this year end	53,735	29,990	-	83,725	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Balance at Bank	53,735	29990	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		53,735	29,990	-
Total cash funds		OK	Agreement Error	OK
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £ -	to nearest £ -	to nearest £ -
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Mrs Rehana Faisal	



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
The Raise Up Foundation

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/03/2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1188653

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

A .

Date:

23/01/2026

Name:

Assan Shaukat

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACCA

Address:

220 Runley Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1UB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A