



Trustees' annual report for the period:

Period start date: 01.06.2023

Period end date: day/month/year 31.05.2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name: **Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation**

Other names charity is known by: Advantage!

Charity's principal address: The Matt Johnson Prestige Stadium (Craven Park), Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1XP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Lisa Neale	Treasurer		Board of Trustees
Karen Scarr	Chairperson		Board of Trustees
Kerry Laughran	Secretary		Board of Trustees
Terry Barker			Board of Trustees
Paul Littlewood			Board of Trustees
Deborah Maguire			Board of Trustees

Name of trustees for the charity, if any

N/A	

Names and addresses of advisors

Steve Neale	Chair Person Barrow Raiders RLFC	6 Kirkstall Close, Barrow-in-Furness
Lucy Piechura MAAT	Accountant	TI Accountancy, 74 Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (optional information)

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Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	By appointment

Additional governance issues

The trustees oversee the strategic vision of Advantage! and evaluate its application. The charity has a Child Protection Policy in place and carries out DBS verification checks prior to the commencement of employment. All organisations which work with us are required to have appropriate policies.

A sample of organisations we work with, include: Westmorland & Furness Council; NHS, a variety of schools and education establishments; Cumbria CVS, Cumbria Constabulary, Furness Youth Work Partnership, Groundworks.

Advantage! is subject to professional scrutiny from these organisations, before embarking upon joint projects.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	The promotion of community participation, healthy recreation for the public benefit of our community by coaching and the playing of rugby league and associated sports and activities. To provide or assist in providing facilities for sport and recreation to persons who are in need of such facilities by reason of youth, age, disablement or social economic circumstances, or for the public at large in the interest of social welfare. To promote other charitable purposes under the laws of England and Wales from time to time.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects	Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation is a registered charity, and has been



	in existence since January 2019, with charitable status being achieved in May 2021. Advantage! is the community arm of Barrow Raiders RLFC, and our aims are to tackle disadvantage in the area of Barrow and Furness, through sport and health and wellbeing activities and the promotion of, and playing opportunities of, rugby league. We work in a proud community which is beset with the problems associated with high unemployment for the young, and deprivation (both social and health) across the community. Advantage!, with its mix of enthusiastic volunteers and professional coaches, has a unique partnership with its professional rugby league club, which supports our charity in its pursuit of the general public good in our community. We have also sought the assistance of major business partners in our area, such as the BAE Systems and Furness Building Society, and our work has been endorsed and supported by Westmorland & Furness Council and our local MP. We are using sport and wellbeing as a vehicle to improve the social and health conditions to numerous groups of disadvantaged people within our community.
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Additional details of objectives and activities



We have been awarded grants from national charities, such as Sport England, BOOST and the National Lottery Community Fund, and from local charities, such as Sir John Fisher Foundation and Cumbria Community Foundation. Advantage! has attracted support from prominent local businesses, such as BAE Systems and the Furness Building Society. The support of Barrow Raiders, based on The Memorandum of Cooperation, in providing seconded staff and facilities has been fundamental in the success of Advantage! allowing us to afford to deploy professional coaches.

Advantage! enjoys tremendous community support having won The People's Project for the Granada region, Foundation of the Year for the Rugby Football League and having been nominated for a number of Love Barrow awards, and it is supported by a growing group of volunteers, and its young sports leaders' cohort.

Advantage! has been identified as a trusted partner, and awarded contracts, in delivering health and wellbeing projects in our community.

Achievements and performance

Advantage!, the community arm of Barrow Raiders RLFC, is designed to support people who suffer disadvantage within the heart of Barrow.

Advantage! is now a sustained, but still developing, programme, still with its focus of making an immediate dynamic impact improving the physical and mental wellbeing of the young people and adults, and vulnerable adults, in the heart of Barrow: tackling issues such as the social isolation.

Our work, supported by the prestigious endorsement of our partners, has led us to offer a comprehensive prospectus of sport and wellbeing activities in our town and attracted the interest of agencies such as Westmorland & Furness Council, NHS Population Health and Cumbria CVS and Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner, who has commissioned us to work within our communities tackling anti-social behaviour. We are a trusted and "go to" organisation within our community. To meet the challenge of increased demand, due to the quality of our services, we have a team of eight permanent staff and a number of casual staff delivering a diverse schools and community programme.

Our funding streams, which come from donations and successful grant awards, are vital to us for sustainability. The relationship we have been building with funders and partner organisations, has allowed us to be more precise in focusing our activities in terms of the needs of the local area, and, as such, our targeted approach reflects the gaps and needs of our community.

The future and prosperity of the town, economically and socially, lies in its young people,



and we have expanded our educational provision to include over 14 schools each week, plus the Pupil Referral Unit.

Charitable donation is a vital element in allowing us to expand our programme of activities, so we are offering numerous different community programmes, from nursery to ninety, and, as we mentioned earlier, a very extensive school's programme. Through the Government Holiday and Food Programme initiative, we have provided sports camps specifically targeted at children from families on lower incomes or those with health related benefits. A vital element of this being the delivery of our nutritious food and healthy eating workshops.

One of our most successful programmes is Able Raiders – weekly sports and health and wellbeing provision for adults with learning disabilities. This involves wellbeing walks from different locations around the South Lakes area, a weekly multi-sports session and a tag-rugby training session. These activities are attended by around 100 people weekly. Launched during Covid, from small beginnings, Able Raiders has gone from strength to strength, and we are now fielding an adult with learning disabilities rugby team in the Community Integrated Care rugby league Super League structure. Able Raiders is a particularly well received, and much needed, initiative within the community and recently we have expanded this provision to children with disabilities, working within the special needs schools in the area.

Recognising the health disparities experienced by the elderly in our community, we deliver chair based exercise to the elderly, in community settings and in an expanding number of care home throughout the Furness Peninsula.

The impact we are having within our communities can be seen in the numbers that attend our activities, which is over 1000 per week, including schools coaching. The longer term impact in our contribution to the entrenched problem that is health and wellbeing, is more difficult to measure in the short term. We are one of several groups working within the area to help alleviate the health issues of the local population and tackle the challenges to those experiencing social isolation.

The effect of our work will become clearer as time goes on, but even then, it is often hard to isolate that from the work of other agencies.

It is also worth noting that our work in coaching rugby in primary schools, plus Raider Girls and Raider Braves (a group for boys who are initially reluctant to join rugby clubs, because of issues such as shyness, or even autism) has contributed to an increase of around 25% in the participation of children of primary age in local rugby community clubs (figures from Barrow and District League representative). Our new touch rugby initiative has also been greatly accepted and we have over 150 people playing each week. This includes people who have never picked up a rugby ball before, 5 new ladies teams and people who had previously had years out of the game. This initiative is proving to be a huge success and we have received a number of accolades from the RFL for our provision.

It is universally acknowledged that health and wellbeing activities are vital in improving the lifestyles and chances of a community, and that Barrow desperately needs our sort of provision. However, amongst that provision, we believe we are among the most accessible



and affordable, and therefore are able to be more effective in dealing with aspects of deprivation on poverty.

In our long term journey, it is vital that our patrons, such as the Furness Building Society, that have a real regard for 'social value' remain with us, and hopefully increase the level of their funding to help us meet the increased level of the challenge.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash Funds at 31.12.2023 £42528

Cash funds at 31.12.2022 £60226

It is the trust's aspiration to have a reserve of £30,000, but, we are subject to availability of grants and donations.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details:

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about: The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising). How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity. Investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity does not invest in other areas beyond its key objectives.

Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Signature (s) L K Neale

Full name (s) Lisa Kay Neale

Position Treasurer

Date 12.06.24

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/members of

Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation

On accounts for the year ended

31.12.2023

Set out on pages

Please see attached report.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 2023.

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination,

I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.

Signed:



Date:

Name:

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

Address:

Disclosure Section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation			
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	01.01.2023	To	31.12.2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Sponsorship & Fundraising	11321		-	11321	
Peoples Project Lottery Fund		24950-	-	24950	-
Boost, Frieda C Scott, Bailey Thomas	16840	-	-	16840	-
Cumbria County Council & PCC	34669	-	-	34669	-
RFL Funding	16700	-	-	16700	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	10000	-	-	10000	-
Tesco token scheme	1115	-	-	1115	-
Sports Provision	11457	-	-	11457	-
	102102	-		127052	-
33		24950-			
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
2330					
Total receipts	102102	24950	-	127052	
A3 Payments					
BRLFC staff for community projects	106435	9720-	-	116155	-
HAF Camps including venue hire	12141	-	-	12141	-
Programme Delivery	1175			1175	-
Venue Hire	2896	2494	-	5390	-
Training	292	-	-	292	-
Uniform / clothing	2627	100	-	2727	-
Printing, website, & bank charges	1704	-	-	1704	-
Trophies		444	-	444	-
Transport		3020		3020	
Sports Equipment	1703	-	-	1703	-
Sub total	128973	15778	-	144751	
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
		-	-		
		-	-		
Sub total			-		-
Total Payments	128973	15778	-	144751	
Net of receipts/(payments)	-26871	9172-	-	-17699	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	60227	-	-	60227	
Cash funds this year end	33356	9172	-	42528	

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	Cumberland Building Society			-
	Natwest	26300	9172	-
		7056-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	33356	9172	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			Cost	Current value
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current value
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
B5 Liabilities				
		L Neale		
	K Scarr			



Dear Trustees of Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation

RE: Accounts for year ending 31st December 2023

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

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

Yours faithfully

Lucy Piechura

Lucy Piechura MAAT
TI Accountancy
1st August 2024



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Licensed and regulated by AAT under licenses Tracy Irwin – 10227788, Lucy Piechura – 20019382, Chris Belcher – 20135499

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Company Number 08472699.