



Trustees' annual report and AGM or the period:

Period start date: 01.06.2024

Period end date: day/month/year 31.05.2025

Reference and administration details

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

Other names charity is known by: Advantage!

Charity's principal address: The Northern Competitions 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

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)

Louise Scarr – Foundation Manager



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, Furness Carers.

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 need 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 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 Peter Harrison Foundation, 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, Community Project Of The Year award for Cumbria. We have also been nominated for a number of Love Barrow awards.

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.

In June 2024 we merged with Barrow Community Sports Trust, both organisations then coming under Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation. The merger resulted in one member of clerical staff taking voluntary redundancy. Advantage! continued to deliver the contracted activities for both organisations.

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 15 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 31.12.2024	£154947
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Cash funds at 31.12.2023	£ 42528
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It is the trust's aspiration to have a reserve of £40,000, 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 23.07.2025

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/members of

Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation

On accounts for the year ended

31.12.2024

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

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Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation			
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	01.01.2024	To	31.12.2024

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 and provision	21669			-	21669	
Received from BCST on merger	40452	20398		-	60850	11321
Core funding	35500			-	35500	-
Project Funding		80703		-	80703	61509
RFL Funding	45349			-	45349	24950
Staff secondment	8147			-	8147	16700
HAF Funding	32185			-	32185	-
Other income	23249			-	23249	11457
	206551	101101			307652	1115
						127052
33						
A2 Asset and investment sales						
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
Sub total	206551-	101101-		-	307652-	-

Total receipts	206551	101101	-	307652	127052
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A3 Payments

BRLFC staff for community projects	88572	41663	-	130235	116155
HAF Camps including venue hire	14977	-	-	14977	17531
Programme Delivery		20200	-	20200	1175
Training	394		-	394	292
Uniform	1661	-	-	1661	2727
Rent	5426		-	5426	-
Printing, website, & bank charges	907	-	-	907	1704
Adjustment & miscellaneous	11433		-	11433	5167
		-	-		-
Sub total	123370	61863	-	185233	144751

A4 Asset and investment purchases

Debentures Barrow RLFC	10000	-	-	10000	
		-	-		
Sub total	10000	0	-	10000	-

Total Payments	133370	61863	-	195233	144751
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Net of receipts/(payments)	73181	39238	-	112419	-17699
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A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
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A6 Cash funds last year end	33356	9172	-	42528	60227
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Cash funds this year end	106537	48410	-	154947	42528
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Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cumberland Building Society	9678	48410	-
	Natwest	96859		-
				-
	Total cash funds	106539	48410	-
Unrestricted funds				
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Barrow RLFC Debentures	10000-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current value
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	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				12.05.25
				12.05.25

L Neale
K Scarr

Dear Trustees of Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation

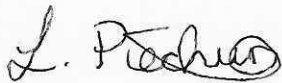
RE: Accounts for year ending 31st December 2024

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 MAAT
Mazuma GB
30th July 2025