



Swindon Town FC  
**Community Foundation**

Swindon Town FC **Community Foundation**  
Football in the Community

Foundation Park, County Ground Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2FD  
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Swindon Town FC  
**Community Foundation**

# TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



Main Sponsor  
**intel**



CHARITY NUMBER 1121820

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 06366200  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1121820

**Swindon Town FC Community Foundation**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Financial Statements**  
**31 December 2023**

**ELLIOTT BUNKER LTD**  
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor  
61 Macrae Road  
Ham Green  
Bristol  
BS20 0DD

# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### Reference and administrative details

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Swindon Town FC Community Foundation
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1121820
<b>Company registration number</b>	06366200
<b>Principal office and registered office</b>	Foundation Park County Ground Lane Swindon Wiltshire SN1 2FD UK

#### The trustees

K S Fraser	
C Brown	
W Craig	
M Gow	(Resigned 29 March 2024)
A Wilkins	
K Hutches	
R Parker	

<b>Auditor</b>	Elliott Bunker Ltd Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 61 Macrae Road Ham Green Bristol BS20 0DD
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<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Scotland Plc  The Co-operative Bank PO Box 101 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP
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# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

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#### Structure, governance and management

##### Governing document

Swindon Town FC Community Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 September 2007 and registered as a charity on 4 December 2007. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

##### Appointment of trustees

The trustees who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1. The number of trustees shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall be no more than twelve. New trustees are appointed upon the recommendation of existing trustees. One third of the trustees must retire at each annual general meeting and may offer themselves for re-election. It is relevant and appropriate to appoint trustees who represent a true cross section of the community and reflect its diversity, and the current Board of Trustees includes representatives from business, the Football Club, education, human resources and financial and legal organisations which together enhance the credibility and status of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation.

##### Risk management

The trustees regularly review and assess the procedures and formats for risk assessment to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Foundation to fulfil its responsibilities.

Due to the nature of the work, the Foundation never underestimates the importance of safeguarding or its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to its care. It is fully committed to working to provide a safe environment for all participants.

Every child, young person or vulnerable adult who plays or participates in sport with the Foundation should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and has the right to protection from abuse and exploitation. This is why the Foundation works to ensure that safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult in the organisation. To ensure that safeguarding is paramount across the Foundation, the aims are as follows:

- All participants, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff are recruited and checked in accordance with safer recruitment processes.
- All staff, paid and volunteers, working for the Foundation have a responsibility to report concerns. All staff are given the appropriate level of training to deal with situations which may occur and have the support required to report their concerns or suspicions.
- All staff working with children and vulnerable adults are accredited as necessary and all coaches and volunteers are appropriately qualified and checked through the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS).

##### Organisational structure

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# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

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Day to day responsibility for the charitable activities rests with the Head of Foundation Jon Holloway who holds a UEFA 'A' Licence coaching qualification as well as studying a Business HND. He is supported by Shane Hewlett, the assistant Head of Foundation.

#### Objectives and activities

The Foundation's objects are to further and assist in the education (on a social and physical basis) of children and adults within Swindon and surrounding areas, without reference to race, sex, creed or social background, through the use of the game of football (including its history and rules) and other ancillary sporting activities as educational tools and in furtherance of that object to provide in Swindon and surrounding area facilities for meetings, lectures and classes for the benefit of such children and adults. The Charity also supports the development of a Community Football Development programme in Livingstone, Zambia.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Foundation's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Swindon Town FC is one of 72 league clubs with a community programme affiliated to the English Football League Community Trust, delivering sporting and social opportunities to people within their communities.

It delivers football and multi sports-based programmes within Swindon and the county of Wiltshire, and endeavours to deliver and increase participation for people from 2 - 85 years of age. Under the guidance of the English Football League Trust, the delivery is designed to meet the four key themes of: Sports Participation, Education, Social Inclusion and Health.

The Foundation, with the support of its local partners, continues to engage with over 30,000 participants on an annual basis.

The Foundation's Charter sets out its vision, mission and core values:

#### Vision

'Where People Matter' is the fundamental consideration in helping people achieve their goals by taking part in quality and innovative programmes which focus upon their needs and requirements.

#### Mission

To deliver a wide range of programmes in Swindon and the surrounding areas. These programmes are delivered with the aims of **engaging, participating and achieving** by increasing sports



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#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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participation, whilst looking to increase the allegiance between the local community and their local professional football club.

#### **Core values**

1. Delivering professional, quality, safe and affordable programmes.
2. Listen to the views of children, young people, adults and our partners.
3. Provide excellent communication and customer care.
4. Offer opportunities for all participants to be empowered to achieve their goals.
5. Invest in and support staff to develop.
6. Make a difference.

The Foundation works closely with a number of key partners, including Swindon Town FC, the EFL Trust, the Premier League, the PFA, Swindon Borough Council and the Wiltshire Police and Probation Services. It also receives financial support from commercial sponsorship opportunities including sponsorship from the Intel Corporation Solutions.

Swindon Borough Council has supported the Community Programme since the early 1990s through the Community Initiatives Fund and continues to support the work undertaken by the Foundation.

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### **Achievements and performance**

The Foundation's activities and achievements during 2023 include the following

##### **Education**

Education is a cornerstone of the Foundation with football being used as a tool for inspiring inside and outside the classroom; whether through the C6 further education programme, coaching delivery, after school clubs, teacher CPA or PPM cover.

##### **Football Education Programme**

All teams had a tremendous 2022/23 season, and we are all really proud of their efforts. We are very pleased with all of the teams' performances throughout the season playing some attractive football and receiving praise from many opposition managers. The final standings for the season were: First team - 3rd in South East 1 Second Team - 2nd in South West 1  
Third Team - 2nd in South West 3  
Women - 4th in the Southern Division

After recruiting a full cohort, the 2023/24 preseason started with some competitive fixtures to ensure that we were ready for the new season. With more female players recruited, there are now 5 teams (2 girls' and 3 boys') competing in the programme. Although this has added some pressure to organise the logistics for matchdays, including travel and facilitating fixtures, we are pleased with the dedication and organisation of all involved ensuring that this has run smoothly.

Many students progress really well through our coach education programme, and we are pleased that at least 3 students will also enroll into our Diploma University programme that starts in September 2024.

Since September there has been a big push on 'Our values' as a college programme which has seen an increase in volunteering from both our male and female students. We have had over 30 students volunteer for our kids' cup activities, and 40 students taking part in the school cross-country event, compared to last year when only 5 took part.

In November there were over 50 applicants for the 2024-2025 season. Twenty-one of those students are female, so we are looking forward to increasing our female cohort further next year. We would expect around 75 to apply before trials start in January, with 35 places available for next year.

##### **After School Clubs**

The programme has continued to thrive throughout the year with new schools joining at the beginning of each term and by the end of the year the programme was being delivered to over 400 children in 14 schools, including a girls-only club.

Expanding the provision of After School Clubs is important, as it enables us to promote our brand across all corners of Swindon and we continuously review the provision, not only looking to grow it, but also to assess and ensure that we are delivering high quality sessions with the correct and best quality equipment.

This includes quality assurance visits which take place with senior members of staff attending our existing After School Clubs to assess the logistics and formats.

##### **Premier League Primary Stars**

Throughout March, the project's target for English Education Activations was met through the delivery of our latest writing competition. The focus was on letter writing when we were partnering the David



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Livingstone school in Livingstone Zambia with the aim of setting up a pen-pal exchange programme with a child in Zambia. This activity was delivered to five classes across three schools in Swindon, with the class teachers selecting the best letters as the winners which were sent across to Zambia ready for the children from Livingstone to reply. The winning children also had their letter published into a book which we were able to deliver to the schools during the last week of the school year.

On the last day of term before Easter, an Anti-Discrimination workshop was delivered at Holy Rood focusing on the No Room for Racism campaign. In total, 60 pupils attended the workshop which utilised resources from the Premier League Primary Stars toolkit.

Before the end of the football season, a social action project was delivered with children looking at environmental issues such as pollution, climate change and natural disasters. They then chose a cause they felt passionate about before designing a poster. The best posters were selected to be turned into banners to be paraded around the County Ground at half time.

A second social action project involved Year 5 pupils at Ferndale taking part in our Green League sustainability competition - in collaboration with our main sponsors Intel. The classes competed against each other, completing 'Earth Saving Missions' to save water and energy whilst educating children about sustainability. The children who completed the most missions were awarded with STFC and Intel goody bags with the winning class receiving free tickets to watch a Swindon game during the 2023-24 season.

In November, we held the first stage of this year's EFL Girls Cup competition at Foundation Park where we hosted twelve schools from within Swindon and Wiltshire to compete for a chance to represent Swindon Town in the next stage of the competition. It was a fantastic afternoon of football with some brilliant team performances on display. The tournament was won by Wyvern St Edmunds School who progressed into the Area Final where they represented Swindon Town. We were selected to host the Area Final at Foundation Park which saw eight clubs represented by schools compete in a tournament where one team would progress through to the next round. It was a highly competitive tournament with Walsall FC and Swindon Town making it to the final, and after a draw in their group stage game, there was just one goal that separated the sides in the final which went to Swindon Town meaning our team progressed through to the regional finals stage taking place in February 2024.

#### Health and Fitness

##### Extra Time

The Extra Time groups provide excellent opportunities for men and women who are retired and semi-retired, allowing them to remain fit and healthy while maintaining important social contact with likeminded people.

The activities, which were enjoyed by 20 men and 17 ladies at the beginning of the year include padel, group walks, pétanque, badminton and short tennis with bowls, croquet and walking football being added in the summer months.

During the summer we delivered our first ever Extra Time x Project Me Collaboration at Foundation Park, offering our members the opportunity to help, support, and interact with the younger generations. This was led by our sponsors Intel, who did a great job of engaging both groups, and making it a successful and enjoyable morning for all.

We also enjoyed our annual Summer Picnic at Lydiard Park, an amazing opportunity to really bring out and promote the social side of what the project has to offer. Both the men's and ladies' groups got together to share stories and memories with each-other, which can have major benefits on the participants mental health.



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In September, some activities including walking football, handball, and Pétanque moved to the Nigel Eady Training Centre at Foundation Park, whilst Bowls, Padel, and a Seated Chair Class remained at external venues.

October saw the introduction of Basketball on Tuesdays, while the ladies used the same nets for Netball on Thursdays at the Nigel Eady Training Centre. The purchase of new equipment and having the use of the new facility enabled the Extra timers to take part in activities that they had not done for a long time and had missed doing. Extra Time continued to use the newly purchased equipment throughout November, engaging in activities such as Basketball and Cricket for the Men's group, and Netball and Rounders for the Ladies' group.

During December, both the Men's and Ladies' groups participated in a joint session involving walking football and handball, followed by a tech support drop-in session delivered by Intel. The tech support session proved highly successful among the group, with almost all participants bringing a device, ranging from their phones to their iPads and laptops. The volunteers from Intel assisted the participants with tasks such as understanding their mobile data workings, setting up medical IDs on their phones, and downloading anti-virus software onto their laptops.

Towards the end of December, the Extra Time members had the opportunity to attend the annual STFC Christmas meal. This event is always a highlight for both groups as they come together to celebrate the end of the year and interact with the STFC first-team management and players, and were lucky to have some great players and the management team on their tables.

#### **Foundation Park Walking Football League**

The Walking Football league has been a very popular and successful activity but for a variety of reasons, responsibility for the organisation of the league has now been handed over to the participants.

Instead, the possibility of offering a non-competitive Walking Football session in the Nigel Eady Training Centre in the future will now be explored.

#### **Football Fans in Training**

By the end of the year, the 21st men's and 14th women's cohort had been completed and between the 3 groups during the year a total of 609.9 kg and 830 cm had been shed by the participants.

Two boot camp sessions and one social meet-up a month were introduced in January. During the boot camps, participants revisit topics they learnt about on the course, for example, the eat well plate, portion sizes, labels as well as talking about stages of change. The stages of change were discussed with our Men's and Ladies' groups and we talked about how they have suffered from setbacks since finishing the course, but hearing advice from their coach and other participants, helps them overcome their setbacks easier in future.

From the start of the year, we have also been running FFIT Social events once a month. These were arranged to increase the social aspect for ex FFIT participants from all different groups. In January there was a walk and talk around Coate Water, in February it was 5-a-Side or Walking Football at Foundation Park, in March cycling took place around the athletics track and in April it was tennis.

#### **Sports Participation**

##### **Holiday Courses**

Both the February and Easter Holiday Camps were fantastic examples of how these courses should be run, engaging over 500 participants across three weeks. The coaching sessions were planned to ensure that all players were able to learn and develop their individual skills and teamwork.



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Tournaments were included so that they could put all of their learning into practice.

In February, we delivered our first Pan-Disability since Summer 2022. This is such a rewarding course for both the children and coaches, and allows parents respite during the holiday period.

Easter also saw the return of the much-loved Inflatable Pitch, which helps us continuously make our courses unique for our participants.

The Whitsun (May) Half Term camp was a great success, selling out again, and delivering to almost 180 participants across the week. This included mainstream groups, as well as Goalkeepers, Girls and Project Me.

Across the course we ran mini-tournaments, skill competitions, inflatable pitch sessions and more, offering unique experiences for all the players.

During the Summer holidays, we ran 5 weeks of holiday courses with over 140 participants on each course, mixing between our mainstream, girls-only, goalkeepers, Project Me, and multi-sports groups.

We also ran 1-day courses on Mondays for 100 participants from our mainstream and elite groups who wanted a full day's extra coaching.

Each week there was a tournament on Thursday, so all the participants could show off what they had learnt that week in match situations. Some great individual skills, shots, saves, and teamwork as well as fantastic sportsmanship were on show throughout each tournament.

In October, we ran our first out-of-town course at Marlborough over 2 days with 140 participants featuring our mainstream, girls-only, and goalkeepers' groups.

In December, we hosted our last Holiday camp of the year with our Drop and Shop camp. This was during the build up to Christmas to allow parents to get any last-minute presents and for children to get one last day of action-packed football before the new year. With it only being one day it was essential to get the children feeling comfortable quickly and we did this by welcoming them into the dome facility, playing festive Christmas music. Overall, the day was a great success with lots of football being played with smiles on faces.

#### **Foundation Centres**

During February, our recruitment efforts took us past the 100% capacity mark, meaning we were delivering to over 600 players between the ages of 18 months and 14 years at the Foundation Phase level which is an excellent achievement. We also continued our Foundation Centre fixtures, a key one being a Girls Mini Festival in February. This enabled the girls to play some semi-competitive matches in a fun and enjoyable environment, putting into practise the skills they have learnt over previous sessions. We also had our Monday and Friday Mini Foundation groups on the pitch at half time of the Barrow match, an amazing opportunity to showcase the sessions and work that goes on throughout the week. These produce amazing opportunities and experiences for these young players.

Throughout June we held ten fixtures, for players ranging from 4 years up to 14 years. All games were competitive and enjoyed by all.

In June and July, we began our re-enrolment period, hitting over 55% prior to trials and within two weeks of them being released.

During August, we offered 2 Development centre days which allowed participants from all abilities between the ages of U5- U14 to join us at Foundation Park from 10 am-3 pm. This included sessions



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with our coaches, a skill zone in the Dome and plenty of football matches.

During one development day, we engaged with 90 participants across 4 groups, which overall, meant over 180 participants during the summer period. Alongside this, we ran taster sessions throughout the summer for our Mini Foundation centres.

We engaged with around 30 Participants during August, which gave us a platform for our weekly sessions which run Mondays, Fridays and Saturday mornings for our 18 months to 4 years old participants.

In September and October, our Foundation Centre sessions were back up and running on a weekly basis with over 20 different sessions from ages U5-U16 for all abilities including our invite-only sessions and our Player Development Centre sessions for the girls, which start from U8-U16 for both girls and boys.

Since November we have continued to offer Foundation Centres to a variety of different age ranges from Under 7's to Under 14's. These include Goalkeeper Specific sessions and invite-only Foundation Centres for high achievers. Together, these sessions have a maximum capacity of 352 participants and have consistently run as close to full capacity as possible with the majority of sessions also having a waiting list full of participants hoping to join the sessions.

In December we held a Christmas fun day for our Foundation Centres. Participants took part in a football tournament with children of the same age from different sessions. At the beginning of the tournament, each participant was given a bobble hat as a Christmas gift from the Foundation. The days were extremely successful, running smoothly and were greatly enjoyed by all those who attended.

During December, we also ran two Christmas taster sessions for our Mini Foundation Programme, we had one session for U2-U3s and a session for U4's in the Dome.

#### **Elite and Advanced**

It has been another busy year for our Elite & Advanced teams, with a very busy games programme. During the spring half term week there was a total of 22 fixtures.

The Elite programme and The STFC Academy strengthened their partnership once more, as our Under 10, 11 & 12 squads participated in small-sided games session at the Academy. The unique event consisted of an indoor football session, where the players played mini 4v4 games, followed by 7v7 games outdoors.

One of most anticipated events of the year involved both of Under 13's Elite and Advanced teams travelling to Lancashire, to participate in the Blackpool Cup across the weekends of the April Easter Weekend & May Day Bank Holiday. This was a hugely successful tour for both teams, with our Elite team losing in the final on penalties, and our Advanced team marginally missing out after losing in the semi-final, both in the main competitions. Above all, we received some wonderful feedback from opposition players and referees, about the conduct of our players. This made our coaching staff incredibly proud of young aspiring players, showing that they all have the qualities of a good footballer, and a good person too, which falls in line with our ethos as a Community Foundation.

During May, our U14 Advanced team made the trip to Spain to participate in The Barcelona Cup, 2023 and came up against Greek outfit PK-35, OJ Beziers from France, and EMC Academy from England.

The players were certainly put through their paces in the scorching sunshine: winning, drawing and losing in their group. This meant that the team were drawn into a playoff to decide whether they finished 7th or 8th. In their final game, after going down 1-0 before half-time, the boys pulled off a

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#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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brilliant comeback to win the game 3-2, meaning an overall 7th place finish in what is a very prestigious competition. Our Advanced team made themselves and our coaches very proud with their performances throughout the tournament.

In July, another highly anticipated event of the year was upon us. Our U14 & U16 teams embarked on a trip to Sweden to play at the biggest world youth tournament - The Gothia Cup. The week-long trip saw our cohorts match up against prestigious opposition from Sweden, USA, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway & Spain, all providing tough encounters for our teams.

During August, all age groups took part in three preseason fixtures, against the likes of Chelsea, Reading & Brentford, as well as more local sides in Fairford Town & Bath City.

Alongside our comprehensive pre-season programme, all Elite & Advanced players were invited to 'Development Days' during August, which provided a one-day training camp, to allow our participants to stay technically sharp and physically active over the summer period, before training commenced from September.

Off the pitch, our U7-U10 Boys Elite & Advanced participants were all invited to Foundation Park for an evening of fun & games, at our very own Halloween Party. The event, organised in partnership with a volunteer team from Intel, provided a chance for over 40 boys to connect socially in a fun environment, away from the pitch.

As a festive present, all of our Elite & Advanced players were provided with their very own STFC Foundation snood, which has been a real hit with our players. We have loved our players wearing these to training sessions & matches, particularly in these colder months.

#### **Girls' Centre of Excellence**

The February half term was a busy week for our girls' teams who competed against seven different clubs throughout the week with our ETC teams travelling to Exeter to compete in the EDP Regional Finals against Exeter City and Plymouth Argyle. We had a successful start to the day with our U10s and U12s going unbeaten in their games to secure their places in the EDP National Finals. Our U14s and U16s competed in the afternoon and fell just short of securing their places in the finals after some highly competitive games. Elsewhere our U11s and U13s competed against AFC Bournemouth and Exeter City. Once again these were very competitive fixtures for our teams who came away with three wins out of four. Later in the week our teams competed against Queens Park Academy, Portsmouth, Reading and Tyrone Mings Academy. It was fantastic to be able to organise so many fixtures for our teams to compete in and put into play all the things they have been working on in training.

The Easter half term was another busy period for our teams who competed against a whole host of teams. We started with a visit from Wycombe Wanderers for our U10s and U12s teams who performed brilliantly to secure two well deserved wins. This was followed, a couple of days later, by visits from Norwich City and City Ladies Emeralds for our U10s, U11s and U12s.

The first tournament for our Girls ETC was the Copa Brava cup. We took the U14 ETC and U16 Elite girl's teams to compete in the tournament. This was the U14 girls first abroad tournament which was a successful experience both on and off the pitch. During the fixtures they played two German and one Danish team. Throughout the competition, the U14's didn't lose a game but due to goal difference the highest they could finish was 4th place, which was well deserved after winning their final game 5-0 to top off an excellent tournament.

Our U16 Elite team were part of the G17 category and also played against three German and one Danish sides throughout the competition. The U16s were crowned champions in their tournament with some exceptional performances and lots of excellent goals scored.



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Overall, the tournament was a massive success for both teams, with lots of great football played and team bonding experiences on and off the pitch.

On Thursday 6th April we took our U16 Girls Advanced team to Barcelona to compete in the Copa Jordi Cup, in the Girls U17 category. The tournament consisted of 8 teams, with our group including 3 different Italian sides. We finished 2nd in our group overall which meant we were in the 3rd and 4th play off for our final game. We ended the game with a 1-0 victory which meant the girls were crowned 3rd place in the G17 category. Overall, the tournament was another success with lots of fantastic football played and memories made on and off the pitch.

Our final trip for the girls this season was the Blackpool Cup May Day tournament which involved our U13s Centre for Excellence team. Our squad was divided into two teams who competed in different groups against teams from Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland and England.

The STFC white team got off to a flying start winning both of their first two games but were narrowly defeated in their final group game which meant they finished second in their group securing their place in the cup competition.

The STFC red team faced some tough opposition in their group games, however after a defeat in their first game they picked themselves up and put in two impressive performances to claim a win and a draw in their final group games ultimately finishing 3rd in their group which meant they went into the Trophy competition on the Sunday. It was an early start for the girls on Sunday as the STFC red team kicked off their quarter final match and after a confident performance they found themselves in the semifinal where they put on another fantastic performance to secure their place in the final. The girls put in one final impressive display on the pitch in the final to walk away as Blackpool Cup Trophy winners.

Elsewhere the STFC white team battled it out in their quarter final against a Northern Irish team which ended in a penalty shootout where unfortunately the girls were beaten 3-2 which meant they went into one final match and after a valiant performance our girls were narrowly defeated. It was a fantastic weekend of football and a brilliant experience for our young players both on and off the pitch.

In May, our U10s, U11s, U12s and U13s teams competed in our County Ground 'Play on the Pitch' tournament. This was a fantastic opportunity to compete against local grassroots mixed teams in competitive fixtures, where our players had to compete against more physical and technical challenges.

Our U11s team made it to the final but just fell short of getting their hands on the trophy after losing out to Thatcham Tornados.

For our final fixtures of the season our teams were split across two venues, our U12s, U14s and U16s ETC teams headed down to Devon where they came up against some strong Devon ETC sides. Although the results didn't go our way, it was great to play some new opposition and we are looking forward to welcoming them to Foundation Park next season. Elsewhere, at Green Lane Playing Fields, our U10s, U11s, U13s, U15s and U16s teams were competing against MK Dons and Exeter. The Swindon teams put in some battling performances to come away with some excellent results to finish off their season.

Following the completion of our trials in July, we had a busy pre-season period in August with our new ETC and CFFE squads. Each team got the ball rolling with a minimum of two fixtures each throughout August to get their season started. Throughout the summer we faced opposition such as Oxford United, Ipswich Town, Bridgwater United, West Bromwich Albion and South Gloucestershire.



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After six weeks of training our girls ETC and CFFE teams were back in action in their next set of fixtures during October half term. The Monday started with our U10s, U11s, U12s and U14s hosting Queens Park Academy at Foundation Park in four highly competitive fixtures with our teams coming away with two wins and two draws. Our teams finished the week with their EDP fixtures, this time hosting them at Green Lane Playing Fields in Devizes where we welcomed Brentford and Northampton. Throughout the day all our teams put in some excellent performances with lots of positive results for our teams, and a special mention goes to our U11s, U13s and U15s teams who competed in the age groups above and showed fantastic determination to come away with some good results.

We had another busy half-term with our ETC & CFFE teams over the Christmas break, with our teams competing against Reading, Portsmouth, Herefordshire, Forest Green and some of our boys' advanced teams. Our girls' teams put in some brilliant performances and recorded a number of fantastic wins. Some highlight fixtures were against Herefordshire where we picked up a win at every age group, as well as the performances our U10s and U12s put in against Forest Green resulting in some excellent wins for both age groups.

At the start of November, we hosted our fundraising race night for the four girls' teams who are heading out on trips to the Belgium Cup and Barcelona Girls Cup in 2024. It was a fantastic evening where we were able to raise over £3000 for the trips which is vitally important in making experiences that the players will never forget. We had some great sponsors on the evening whose support we are extremely grateful for as well as some amazing raffle prizes which were kindly donated to us including a new laptop and a signed Swindon town shirt.

#### **Saturday Team Club**

The Foundation offers the opportunity for junior football teams and local youth groups to be a part of the Football League season, with a Swindon Town Football Club match-day experience -which includes: - A professional football coaching session delivered by Foundation coaches for the team. - A Domino's Pizza lunch - A match day ticket

Both players and parents are invited to take in the atmosphere and be a huge part of a home game at the County Ground.

This year has seen the highest number of attendees on the programme with most of the season sold out and operating on a waiting list.

#### **Social Inclusion**

##### **Super Robins**

Super Robins is the Foundation's Mental Health football team and this project seeks to reduce the social isolation and stigma often associated with mental health problems, whilst improving physical, and mental, health and well-being. There are now 50 men and women signed up, with around 24 attending in any given week.

The first event of 2023 was the Wiltshire FA Ability Counts Festival, which was held at Beversbrook in Calne. The group enjoyed two hours of competitive football against teams from Highworth and Stratton. It was a morning filled with competitive fixtures.

During the spring, our Super Robins Mental Health team continued their weekly training, and were also involved in multiple fixtures. In March, the Super Robins headed across to Bristol for the NHS AWP partnership tournament, which had various guest speakers. The team was unbeaten on the day, winning the tournament overall.



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#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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We also launched our brand-new kit, which was very kindly funded by the Rachel Swindall Trust. This was launched on Friday 24th March, during a game vs our Special Olympics Football Team. On Saturday 29th April, our group took part in a mini-fixture event with Highworth and Chippenham Ability Counts teams. Another unbeaten morning, competitive matches and fun had by all.

Following the break for summer, we had 14 players return to the weekly session for adults. Of this number, 7 players joined us in Chippenham for the first Ability Counts fixture where they played competitive matches against both Highworth and Stratton. This event was popular with the players, giving them something to work towards through their weekly training session.

Usually during half-terms, the Super Robins have a break in their weekly sessions. However, following feedback from the participants and recognising the importance of their weekly session to their mental health, the decision has been made to find alternative times for the team to train during the holiday periods.

In October half-term, the team trained on Wednesday evenings to allow them to stay active and connected each week. For all the half-terms moving forward, a training slot will be organised collaboratively with the participants to ensure the sessions maintain good attendance.

#### **Pan Disability**

With the opening of the Nigel Eady Training Centre at Foundation Park in July, the format of our disability provision was updated.

On Wednesday nights, we now have 3 disability sessions across a 3-hour period, with our DS Active group, followed by a U16 Pan Disability session and finishing off with a Learning Disability session for adults.

This has allowed us to engage with more participants with disabilities on a daily basis and at the same time, the splitting of groups by age, has allowed sessions to be adapted to be more suitable for ability levels.

Since September our DS Active session has moved to the earlier time of 5-6pm which has enabled some of the younger participants who used to participate before COVID to return to play. We now have 16 players registered for this session which has included a total of 6 new participants.

The new season started with a fixture against Bristol City's Down Syndrome team which took place in the Dome at Foundation Park. This was a great way to kick off the season while showcasing the fantastic new facility.

Since September we have had a total of 14 participants registered which has included 7 new players who have joined since the session moved to Foundation Park. To increase session quality, all of our coaches have completed both the FA Introduction to Disability coaching and Comets training, increasing their knowledge in adapting activities to meet individual needs.

The biggest change in our disability session has been our adult Learning Disability session, formerly known as Special Olympics, which has now moved from a Monday afternoon to 7-8pm on Wednesday evenings. This has allowed us to sustain participation of some of our older Pan Disability participants from last year while removing the time barrier for participants who are at work and college and couldn't previously attend the Monday afternoon. When the first session commenced in September, we only had 2 participants registered but this has now increased up to 12 following successful promotion via social media and through some of the ability counts teams such as Stratton. The long-term aim for this session is to join our Super Robins team in participating in the Ability Counts League with the aim of



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starting in the new year.

In November we hosted a matchday experience for all of our disability participants. We had over twenty participants from our sessions come together for a 'gladiator' style session (groups rotating across different activities) with lots of stations and activities to take part in, before heading across to watch Swindon Town vs Aldershot Town in the FA Cup. This was a real highlight for the participants who really enjoyed the day, and for a few participants it being their first-ever Swindon Town match.

Coaches have also been completing online CPD courses on Disability coaching to keep their development ongoing, most recently coaches have completed the 'Introduction to Coaching Disabled Footballers' course on the FA website.

During the year we have secured funding to purchase some disability specific equipment to support with the delivery of the sessions, adding variety to activities whilst being able to meet the sensory needs of the children. The current focus for this project is increasing the number of participants attending on a weekly basis from 16 up to 20 with the added space in the new facility.

#### **DS Active**

To celebrate World Down Syndrome Day, a collaborative event with Bristol City DS Active group was arranged for the Swindon vs Stockport game on Saturday 25th March. The event included a pre match fixture on Foundation Park between the two DS teams before playing on the County Ground pitch at half-time. As an additional opportunity our DS Active players were presented with the opportunity to be the flag bearers to welcome the players onto the pitch before the start of the League Two fixture. Following the success of the day, Bristol City have indicated that they are interested in reciprocating the visit and hosting our DS Active team for a Bristol City fixture which is another competitive opportunity for the group to look forward to.

In June our DS Active sessions also moved across the Nigel Eady Training Centre with the session moving to the earlier time of 5-6pm.

The current focus for this group is to organise some more competitive opportunities.

#### **Diabetes Event**

A Diabetes Event hosted by Louise Stevens, a Programme Manager at Swindon & Wiltshire Diabetic Eye Screening Programme was held during the year.

Around 25 people attended, mostly staying the whole time and visiting all the experts, the primary aim of the event. Some attendees were the fathers of children who were at our training sessions - the target audience for the event. They also assisted a few people who were struggling with advice and guidance, and the feedback was positive, with many asking if they would be doing it again.

We hope to host the event again at Foundation Park, potentially next year.

#### **Staying Connected**

The group remains constant with 18-20 participants.

Events during the year have included two visitors from Historic England giving a presentation about the football archives and a race night with the winner receiving an STFC medal! We had a carol concert in December, as well as a Christmas buffet. This is a tight-knit group, that all get along well with each other. They enjoy the current format of coffee and conversation regarding the football, and a quiz, and guest speakers when possible

#### **Memory Café**



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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This is a relatively new venture, which is still evolving. The group meets on the third Thursday monthly, and is for patrons with dementia and their carers.

The sessions start with a word search or quiz while the participants and their carers enjoy a hot drink and cake, followed by an active session, e.g. walking football, football skittles or a penalty shoot-out, followed by light stretches and exercises. This cohort really enjoys the relationship with Shane and his football knowledge, and the carers are a support to each other discussing their partners and offering advice and assistance, as they are all at varying stages of the illness.

#### **Refugee Sessions**

Refugee sessions have been delivered since January 2022, targeting refugees and asylum seekers aged between 16-25 who reside in Swindon or Wiltshire. The programme is delivered in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

In June, to celebrate World Refugee Day, we hosted a festival for our participants where we invited a group of Refugees currently residing in Wootton Bassett to play a small-sided games tournament.

A total of 30 refugees from different countries across the world came together to take part in the tournament. Before the games started, our STFC participants were given a Swindon Town kit to wear for the matches bringing them together as a team.

The tournament was tightly contested with only a few goals separating the teams, and the event was well supported with the teams drawing a crowd to watch the games. Following the round robin fixtures the top two teams played out an even final, which went the distance, with the Swindon Red team coming out on top on penalties. The winning team received medals in a presentation ceremony rounding off the success of the event. After the medal presentation all three teams came together and shook hands. The unity between the teams really highlighted what the event is all about. We invited our partners on this programme, Nationwide and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, to the event.

Later in the year we saw the number of participants dropping significantly, and whilst losing numbers is not something we would usually welcome, we are proud to say that a major contributor is the coach mentoring that took place during the sessions, guiding them on the session's focus, coaching points, and allowing them to contribute their ideas and to lead warm-ups. This resulted in the participants being able to set up their own peer-led session at the weekend, which is a great achievement for them and for the project.

We are currently looking at ways to attract new participants to Foundation Park, to empower them in a similar way.

#### **Premier League Kicks**

During February, our Premier League Kicks participants completed Youth Voice Activity, with our key partners, Leaders Unlocked.

They were provided with a platform to share their honest thoughts and feelings on the policing team in and around Swindon, allowing the Youth Commission team to assess our young people's relationships with the police.

These exercises generated some key themes, such as:

- o Lack of respect from policing teams to young people.
- o Stop & Search being unnecessary and not complying with legal searches.
- o Need for a greater use of bodycams/public assessment of footage.

Not only has this research informed the Wiltshire & Swindon Youth Commission Youth Voice report for

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# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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2022/23, but it has allowed Premier League Provision to be shaped around these issues, ensuring young people can be supported and relationships with the police can be improved, as part of plan to create more inclusive, stronger communities.

During the February half-term, the Community Foundation hosted a South-West Regional festival. This event saw Kicks participants aged 13-15 Years old, representing the likes of Bristol Rovers, Bristol City, Southampton, Cheltenham, and Plymouth all attending, bringing both boys & girls teams to the event.

As part of Internet Safety Day, we were lucky to be joined by our main sponsor Intel, as their team of volunteers delivered an Internet Safety workshop to our participants. The young players then participated in a round robin football tournament! Well done to Swindon (Boys) & Bristol City (Girls), who were the eventual winners.

The Premier League Kicks Cup then made a return, with the new format of a regional qualifying event before the main competition. Our Swindon team were represented by a 5-a-Side team of boys & girls, who we feel have best engaged in our PL Kicks programme. The participants all had a successful day, displaying exemplary behaviour throughout. Our team of participants also took part in workshops delivered by Street Doctors, on 'what to do when someone is bleeding'. At the end of the day, our participants were rewarded with a Premier League Kicks Jumper and football.

During April, the Foundation and Wiltshire FA delivered a girls-only introduction to refereeing qualification, at Foundation Park. Despite this being of a girls-only nature, it was open exclusively to our participants who completed the Ella Broad introduction to refereeing workshop, back in December. This provides a formal pathway onto formal qualifications, with those up taking the opportunity having a positive attitude towards their future and towards learning. We had over 20 girls complete the qualification, and we look forward to seeing them out refereeing locally soon! Finally, in April our new Year 3 delivery agreement with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner formally commenced. The working partnership with OPCC has been instrumental in expanding the Kicks programme, as we have previously delivered outreach work in the North Swindon Area, a weekly Friday Evening Kicks session at Abbey Park school, Football Disorder & Hate Crime workshops, as well as mentoring with young offenders. We're looking forward to the positive impact we can make during our third year of delivery.

During April, the 'Protect the Planet' challenge was rolled out to our cohort of PL Kicks participants. Six young people were engaged in the opportunity, on the basis that they had previously engaged well in PL Kicks provision. Following previous youth voice activity, environmental sustainability has not been an area about which our young people have expressed much interest or concern, however, this topic is high on the Foundation's list of delivery themes, which is why we saw it as a chance to emphasise the importance of this topic to these young people.

The group was challenged straight from the outset, with the participants all having very limited knowledge on the area of sustainability. The educational workshop provided at the start of the program immediately stretched the participants and put them out of their comfort zone. This provided a chance for the young people to start linking their new knowledge of environmental sustainability, to key issues we experience locally.

They all agreed that litter was a huge problem around Foundation Park, on all days of the week as many participants live locally, but particularly following PL Kicks sessions.

The project was socially impactful in two ways. Firstly, young people were provided with the choice of how they wanted to demonstrate social impact, in which they opted to create a sustainability poster, which was paraded around the County Ground stadium in front of 10,500 fans at Swindon Town's final

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# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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fixture of the season. As well as campaigning for change, the young people also completed a litter pick of the Foundation Park area, the day after a Kicks session.

The young people were also given the opportunity to play a fixture versus the Foundation's Primary Stars participants. This event forming part of a 'PLCF takeover' day.

Two more young Kicks participants began some formal mentoring with our staff here at the Foundation. Our coach mentoring programming provides the chance for young people to gain a nationally recognised coaching qualification, as well as practical coaching experience, all whilst being mentored through the provision.

Both participants were referred to our PL Kicks program via Swindon Borough Councils Family Support teams. The young people were either NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or at risk of being NEET. Effectively, both participants had very low confidence levels and didn't engage very well in mainstream academic environments.

The two young people involved have attended over ten hours of mentoring, where they have fully immersed themselves in the experience. Not only have they attended every week, but parents and social workers have reported increased confidence levels, demonstrating the impact for young people facing similar challenges. As well as the increased knowledge and confidence, both young people clearly have demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning and their futures with their fantastic levels of engagement.

During July, our Premier League Kicks cohort were engaged in workshops concerning the themes of 'Grooming, Exploitation & Positive Relationships'. The workshop theme aligns with the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioners policing priorities for the 2023-24 year. Not only this, but as an organisation we feel it's incredibly important to educate our local young people on this theme, as some members of our cohort are socially excluded, and can be quite vulnerable in this respect.

Barnardo's came into Foundation Park to deliver a workshop to two different cohorts (11-13 and 14-16 years). Both workshops were delivered in our brand-new Nigel Eady Training Centre, with over 60 young people engaged. As part of the workshop event, the young people were also given the chance to participate in a football tournament, where the overall winners were rewarded with an STFC Goodie bag and match tickets!

With school-out for the summer, our weekly Premier League Kicks Sessions continued every Friday, with the addition of some bi-weekly 'Summer Sessions', which were delivered on a Tuesday afternoon. The increased level of provision acted as an additional source of diversionary activity for young people, which decreased criminal occurrences taking place during the summer. These sessions were well received, with over 100 attending our summer sessions specifically.

Alongside our usual football activity, 3 different workshops have also been delivered with the support of the Barnardo's Safer Streets Team. Here, workshops were delivered on the themes of healthy relationships, grooming & exploitation, as well as a girls-only workshop, which had the same theme, tailored specifically to the female cohort in attendance.

From September, we were excited to formally re-launch all weekly sessions, with free football sessions now running at Foundation Park (10-18 Years), a Girls-Only Session (10-16 Years) as well as our Abbey Park sessions, which will be moving to the Moredon Sporting Hub in due course (10-16 years). There are also some additional weekly after-school clubs running at Abbey Park School & Mountford Manor. From September to date, we have engaged over 220 unique individuals in our free weekly football sessions.

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# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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In addition, a final workshop was also delivered by the Safer Streets team, on the theme of Youth Violence. Youth Voice data attained by our own PL Kicks participants, as well as insight from the Youth Justice Service's peer advocates, identified that young people believe youth violence to be a key issue locally, which led to the delivery of a workshop targeting this issue. Not only this, but the workshop & tournament event was attended by 50 young people, 20 of which were referral-based by The Youth Justice Service, local police officers, as well as participants from the PCC's Roots & Shoots programme.

During December, we hosted our annual 'Holiday Kicks session' which is an additional session, in conjunction with the weekly Friday sessions, to provide a positive diversionary opportunity for young people when they are absent from their school.

In May and June, we discussed starting a brand-new Girls Only Premier League Kicks session for all girls aged 11-15 - all about turning up on a weekly basis, playing football matches and making new friends.

Our Nigel Eady Training Centre allowed us to create a safe and fun environment for all ages to come and play football.

Prior to our first session, we went into Goddard Park Primary School and worked with around 30 Year 6 girls in order to give the girls an insight into what our weekly sessions would consist of: playing football matches in a competitive environment, alongside having fun with their friends.

In July, we launched our first session, consisting of small-sided games throughout the full hour, with five teams playing between all pitches. For our very first session, we had 32 girls attend of different ages between 11- 15, which allowed the games to be competitive and a lot of fun. We were very pleased with the success and participation levels, with it being our first foray into a Girls Only PL Kicks, and we now have an average of 30 girls turning up on a regular basis, wanting to play football and enjoying making new friends.

#### **Project Me**

Project Me is an early help mental health service for children and young people between the ages of 5 -19 years within Swindon. Practitioners, also known as Educational Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) are based in schools and work in close collaboration with nominated mental health leads within each school.

The team offers individual and group support to young people with mild to moderate mental health issues including anxiety, low mood, phobias, difficulty with anger, self-esteem and behavioural difficulties. The team delivers low intensity CBT interventions, parent-led CBT, group support, parenting programmes, and consultation for school staff.

The programme is designed to work within the community to raise awareness of mental health issues and promote healthy mental wellbeing. They also help children, young people and families, who might otherwise find it difficult to access mental health support, by introducing them to other local professionals, charities and organisations.

The programme includes weekly sessions that not only teach Self-Awareness and understanding the importance of knowing their strengths and weakness but also that increases their footballing ability, resilience, teamwork, communication and sportsmanship.

Every coach was able to see each group grow in confidence throughout the ten weeks sessions, and



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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saw some very quiet, nervous individuals come out of their shells on the way to becoming the best version of themselves.

During February two Project Me Development groups, joined together for a Project Me Festival.

All of the children came from either our 10-week Project Me Programme, that we run in schools or our Project Me Holiday Courses.

During the festival they all enjoyed some fun activity games at the start to work on their teamwork and communication skills.

They then moved onto a 'round robin' tournament which wasn't just based on winning but extra points were given to teams that showed good resilience and sportsmanship. All four teams within the tournament were then either given the opportunity to be flag bearers for the Swindon and Gillingham players to walk through, or given the chance to play a match on the pitch at half time. In June, two of our Project Me cohorts were invited to Foundation Park, for a morning of Craft activities with our Extra Time group.

The aim of the crafts morning was to bring together two generations who wouldn't normally connect with one another outside of their families. As part of the main activity, the children created friendship bracelets and completed some emotion worksheets, whilst having a chat with our Extra Time participants. This event allowed children to understand how to interact with older audiences, recognising relationships which are important to them, reflect on what makes children feel happy and sad, and how to regulate their emotions. This was a successful event because both generations were able to communicate their stories from wildly differing viewpoints. This gave our Project Me participants a chance to put into practise their developing skills of showing respect, communicating well, and socialising.

In the Summer, we ran 3 Project Me holiday courses with 25 participants on each course. Like the 10-week school programme, the first day of each course, the participants were very quiet and shy. This fortunately didn't last long and within the first warm-up game good relationships were formed.

From September the Project Me programme progressed by starting in seven new Primary Schools as well as two Secondary schools were invited to Foundation Park. During the 10-week programme, individuals focussed on their confidence, communication, resilience, and teamwork.

#### **Foundation Park**

##### **Nigel Eady Training Centre**

On July 12th we were very proud to officially open the Nigel Eady Training Centre. The ceremonial ribbon was cut by Gary Herbert and John Carter, executors of the Nigel Eady Trust, and the event was attended by over 100 supporters and friends of the Foundation including representatives of other Swindon sports clubs, and members of local government.

Prior to the ceremony, we were running a festival for young wheelchair users and their carers, playing on the brand-new pitch with specialised equipment. This was followed by speeches from Head of Foundation Jon Holloway, Chairperson Kirsteen Fraser, and executor of the Nigel Eady Trust John Carter. A buffet lunch was then provided giving the guests from all walks of life, chance to speak to each other and share their impressions of the new facility.

This brand new, state-of-the-art facility represents our commitment to the people of Swindon, and the community that has been built around the Football Club. After identifying another gap in the provision of sports facilities in Swindon, we're overjoyed to be able to provide this for our community.



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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##### **North Wilts Youth Football League (NWFYFL)**

Throughout this season, the working relationship with the North Wilts Youth Football League (NWFYFL) has been enhanced by hosting many events which has seen increasing numbers of people coming to Foundation Park.

Their flagship cup final events were held in May and the Under 7s event, which is one of the big events on the local grass roots calendar each season, took place in October. This was the first of 3 NWFYFL events scheduled to take place at Foundation Park during the 22/23 season with the other two taking place in the new year. These events are very well attended and supported with a large footfall which generates additional revenues and interest in the facility.

##### **Swindon Town Women FC**

Our support for Swindon Town's women's team has continued, with Foundation Park serving as the venue for Tuesday and Wednesday training sessions and hosting home fixtures for both the first and development teams.

We maintain a positive relationship with all levels of management and the playing squad, ensuring that STWFC respects our facility and staff.

##### **Events**

We have been very proud that Foundation Park has been chosen to host a number of regional events, such as the Utilita EFL Cups, ETC Cluster events, FA Level 2 coaching, and more. Each of these events brings new people from all over the country to Foundation Park, showcasing our facility.

##### **Bangladeshi Festival**

In July, we held our second inclusion tournament at Foundation Park for the local Bangladeshi community. This tournament is organised yearly by Walid Meah who has a long-standing relationship with the Community Foundation.

Walid has a weekly block booking on a Monday throughout the season and also arranges teams to play our Refugee Teams.

The tournament this year was held in showery conditions, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the players. The trophy was awarded by local dignitaries including Sir Robert Buckland, and the mayor of Swindon. They also had traditional music and commentary throughout the day, providing a full cultural experience for attendees.

##### **House of Wisdom**

Once again, we were honoured to team up with House of Wisdom for the third year running and host the 2023 Bayt Al Hikmah (House of Wisdom) Cup.

This event is run with the local mosque and aimed to raise funds for the Syria and Turkey earthquake appeal. The competition involves twelve local teams, and all referees and volunteers for the event are also from the local community. Plans are already in place to holding the tournament again next season after another successful and fun day.

# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### Financial review

The net incoming resources for the year were £292,202 (2023: £658,512), resulting in accumulated funds carried forward of £4,349,209, (2023: £4,057,007) of which £2,576,017 (2023: £1,739,509) are unrestricted funds. Of this amount a sum of £550,108 (2023: £570,288) has been designated to a fixed asset fund representing the Foundation's internal funding of the Foundation Park facility, and further amounts of £1,214,742 (2023: £503,636) and £200,000 (2023: £150,000) have been set aside for the Nigel Eady Training Centre/covered bowls facility and a 3G pitch sinking fund respectively. The residual free reserves figure at the year end stood at £611,167 (2023: £515,585) (see note 21 to the financial statements).

#### Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Foundation to maintain unrestricted funds at least at the level required to provide sufficient funds to cover operating expenses for a six-month period. In the opinion of the Trustees a figure of £500,000 is considered adequate to meet this requirement, and unrestricted funds in excess of this amount will be utilised for the further roll out of activities

#### Plans for future periods

The Foundation aims to continue to provide and enhance its range of activities and seek new sources of funding.

#### Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, 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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

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#### Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

#### Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report (incorporating the directors' report) was approved on 4 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



K S Fraser  
Trustee

# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

Year ended 31 December 2023

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### 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 charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including 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 charity'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.



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

#### 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### **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.

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:

#### **Key audit matters: our assessment of risks of material misstatement**

Key audit matters are those matters that in our professional judgement were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) identified by us, including those which had the greatest effect on the allocation of resources in the audit, and directing the efforts of the engagement team. There are no key areas identified as the audit is very low risk with normal audit procedures adequate in all audit areas. We agreed to report to the board of trustees any corrected or uncorrected identified misstatements.

#### **Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations - ability to detect**

##### **Identifying and reporting of risks of material misstatement due to fraud**

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of the Head of Foundation and the trustees and inspection of key papers provided to those charged with governance as to high level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud.
- Reviewing the minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account possible pressures to meet targets and our overall knowledge of the control environment, we performed procedures to assess the risks of management override of controls. To address the pervasive risk as it related to management override of controls, we reviewed material journal entries and agreed these to supporting documentation where appropriate.

##### **Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to non-compliance with laws and regulations**



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience and through discussion with the general manager and trustees. As the charity is regulated, our assessment of risks involved gaining an understanding of the control environment including the entity's procedures for complying with regulatory requirements.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably:

- Firstly, the charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting regulation (including related companies regulation), taxation legislation (payroll taxes) and pension legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures in the audit areas relevant to these items.

- Secondly, the charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect:

Health and safety laws.

Food and hygiene regulations.

Laws relating to working with, and the safeguarding of, young people and vulnerable adults.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of management and trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if any breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

#### **Limitations to the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of laws and regulation**

Owing to the inherent limitation of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as this may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement, and therefore we are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations. 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.



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 December 2023

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As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity'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 charity'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 charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Nicolas Michael FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of  
Elliott Bunker Ltd  
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor  
61 Macrae Road  
Ham Green  
Bristol  
BS20 0DD

4 September 2024



# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
	Note				
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Donations and legacies	5	97,349	235,277	332,627	565,237
Charitable activities	6	779,858	231,500	1,011,358	1,005,639
Other trading activities	7	75,672	–	75,672	98,402
Investment income	8	10,329	–	10,329	779
<b>Total income</b>		<u>963,208</u>	<u>466,777</u>	<u>1,429,986</u>	<u>1,670,057</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	9	782,915	354,868	1,137,784	1,011,272
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>782,915</u>	<u>354,868</u>	<u>1,137,784</u>	<u>1,011,272</u>
<b>Net income</b>		<u>180,293</u>	<u>111,909</u>	<u>292,202</u>	<u>658,785</u>
Transfers between funds		656,215	(656,215)	–	–
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>836,508</u>	<u>(544,306)</u>	<u>292,202</u>	<u>658,785</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,739,509</u>	<u>2,317,498</u>	<u>4,057,007</u>	<u>3,398,222</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>2,576,017</u>	<u>1,773,192</u>	<u>4,349,209</u>	<u>4,057,007</u>

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

The notes on pages 33 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

# Swindon Town FC Community Foundation

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	16	3,470,649	2,907,783
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	17	84,887	159,957
Cash at bank and in hand		891,474	1,050,847
		<u>976,361</u>	<u>1,210,804</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	<u>97,801</u>	<u>61,580</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>878,560</u>	<u>1,149,224</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>4,349,209</u>	<u>4,057,007</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>4,349,209</u>	<u>4,057,007</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds		1,773,192	2,317,498
Unrestricted funds		<u>2,576,017</u>	<u>1,739,509</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	21	<u>4,349,209</u>	<u>4,057,007</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 4 September 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



K S Fraser  
Trustee

The notes on pages 33 to 51 form part of these financial statements.