



2023 / 2024

# Active Fusion

## Annual Report

[activefusion.org.uk](https://activefusion.org.uk)





# Foreword

**By Lindsay James,  
Founder & Director**

As we reflect on another impactful year at Active Fusion, I am filled with pride for all we have accomplished together and gratitude for the incredible individuals and organisations that support our mission. Through our shared commitment, we continue to create brighter, healthier futures for young people, empowering them to lead active, happy lives.

This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration. Through innovative programmes and partnerships spanning schools, public sector services, not-for-profit organisations, businesses, and the wider community, we have reached young people across South Yorkshire and beyond. The transformation we inspire goes beyond the individuals we serve, it touches families, schools, and entire communities, creating ripples of positive change. In a world that often feels uncertain, our values remain strong: Joy, Passion, and Nurture, underpinned by a belief in the potential of every young person. These principles guide everything we do, from delivering high-quality physical education and activity programmes to connecting with those who need us in our most disadvantaged communities.

Yet, we recognise there is still more to do. Across South Yorkshire, deep-rooted inequalities affect children and young people, especially those in care, those with special educational needs, and those at risk of social exclusion. Many face challenges such as poor physical and mental health, low self-esteem, social isolation, and a lack of positive role models. These barriers can diminish life prospects and increase vulnerability to negative influences. At Active Fusion, we are committed to addressing these challenges head-on, providing opportunities, guidance, and skills that empower young people to build brighter futures.

Active Fusion had the honour of receiving the Kings Award for Voluntary service this year. This prestigious award recognises the dedication of our volunteers in our communities and is the highest award given to voluntary groups in the UK.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission: to support all young people to be the best they can be. Our mission is to instil a lifelong love of being active, unlocking potential, and creating positive habits that last a lifetime. By focusing on the most vulnerable, we aim to build confidence, resilience, and hope, ensuring every child has the tools they need to succeed, both in and beyond the classroom.

On behalf of the entire Active Fusion team, trustees, and volunteers, thank you for standing with us, believing in our mission, and helping us transform young lives. Together, we will continue to inspire, uplift, and leave a legacy of positive change for generations to come.

**Lindsay James, Founder & Director  
Active Fusion**





# Welcome

Imagine a world where every child and young person is empowered to reach their full potential. At Active Fusion, we champion the transformative power of sport and physical activity to change young lives. Our mission focuses on supporting thousands of children who need it most, inspiring them to thrive and achieve their dreams.

Active Fusion is dedicated to helping every child develop a lifelong love of being active. Through innovative programmes and tailored services, we work hand-in-hand with schools, communities, skilled coaches and, most importantly, young people themselves.

Together, we unlock potential and create positive habits that last a lifetime. Our work impacts children and young people aged 3 to 24 across South Yorkshire, offering opportunities that shape futures. Delivered in both educational and community settings, our initiatives span four core service areas:

- Fusion Education: Enhancing physical education, leadership, and wraparound care.
- Fusion Communities: Driving place-based change by engaging children and young people in sports and activities that offer positive, diversionary opportunities.
- Fusion Inclusion: Building essential life skills, employability, and physical well-being for young people with Special Educational Needs through inclusive physical activities.
- Fusion Futures: Empowering young people through leadership, volunteering, apprenticeships, and career pathways.

At Active Fusion, we are also driven by key ambitions:

- To live in a world where all children are healthy, happy, and active.
- To prioritise services for young people facing the highest levels of inequality.
- To expand our reach, achieving over 75,000 attendances across all provisions every year.



Get to know more about Active Fusion [here](#)



## Our vision

All young people to be the best they can be.

## Our mission

We will help every child to develop a love for being active by creating positive habits that last a lifetime.

## Our ambition

Our ambition is to create a world where all children are healthy, happy, and active whilst prioritising services for young people facing the highest levels of inequality and expanding our reach to achieve over 75,000 attendances across all provisions each year.

## Our values



**joyful**

We feel inner personal satisfaction.



**passionate**

We care about you.



**nurturing**

We help others to grow.



## Our strategic goals



**Improving the physical, mind and social wellbeing of all children & young people.**



**Tackling social inequalities to support those most in need.**



**Raising aspirations of children and young people to be successful in life.**



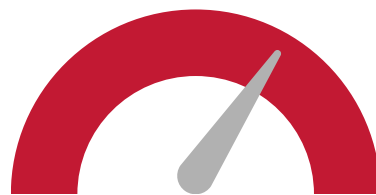
**Advocating for the power of physical activity to improve young lives.**



**A great place to work for and work with.**

# 2023 - 2024

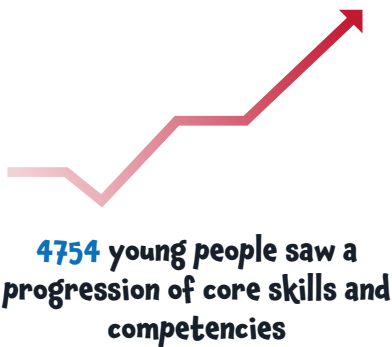
## A Year in Numbers



67% of young people reported improvements in mental and/or physical health



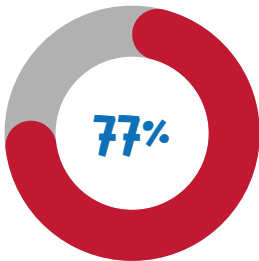
70% of young people improved their attitudes and behaviours towards healthy lifestyles



29 competitions delivered engaging 11,463 young people



professional development of 149 teachers with 1042 hours delivered



reported improved skills for work and life



9664 attendances working with 90 community partner organisations



4 charity awards won



74,000 attendances across all charitable programmes

146 young people with special educational needs positively impacted through Unified Leaders





## Fusion Education

**Our education programmes promote high-quality physical education for children and young people aged 3 – 24 years across schools, colleges and extended services. We empower children and young people to lead full, active and healthy lives through the delivery of a broad range of activities. Using a child-centred, collaborative approach, we partner with educational establishments to deliver tailored, sustainable solutions. We work with diverse education settings and align our programs with national frameworks and benchmarks to achieve meaningful outcomes for children and young people.**

### **School Partnerships: Creating a Lasting Positive Impact on Physical Education**

For over 20 years, Active Fusion has partnered with schools to enhance physical education (PE) and inspire children and young people to lead active lives. Our personalised mentorship empowers teachers to deliver engaging, high-quality PE lessons that foster a love for physical activity. Through tailored professional development, we help schools integrate active learning across the curriculum. By building educators' knowledge and confidence, we ensure a lasting positive impact on both staff and young people: making PE an essential part of every child's education.

### **School Games: Providing Opportunities To Learn**

The School Games is a national programme which puts physical activity and school sport at the heart of schools, providing young people with the opportunity to learn through physical activity and competition to achieve their personal best. The School Games inspires young people to be physically active for life through positive experiences of daily activity and competition. With three key pledges our School Games work contributes to:

- Tackling Inequalities - Increase participation of schools from the most underserved communities.
- Supporting Physical Literacy - Positive experiences are created and promoted for children and young people.
- Youth Centred - Embed and enhance the principle of 'by young people, for young people.'

### **Girls' Football: Equal Access, Equal Opportunity**

In partnership with The Football Association, Barclays, and the Youth Sport Trust, Active Fusion is making football accessible to all girls in Doncaster schools. We provide free professional development, competition opportunities and innovative resources to drive the growth of girls' football. Our initiative empowers girls to excel as players, leaders and competitors, while fostering inclusive environments and integrating football into the PE curriculum. Together, we're inspiring girls to take pride in their abilities and contribute to the future of the game.

### **Fusion Start: Nurturing Early Development Through Movement**

Fusion Start is an early years programme designed for 3 to 5-year-olds within nursery settings and Family Hubs, aiming to foster a love of movement in young children. The programme supports early developmental stages by blending movement with storytelling, creating an imaginative environment where children can learn essential physical skills while nurturing their creativity. Through parent-child activity sessions, Fusion Start also offers opportunities for families to engage in fun, interactive exercises that strengthen their bonds and promote an active lifestyle.

# Fusion Education: Celebrating Success

## School Partnerships: Creating a Lasting Positive Impact on Physical Education

**160** teachers accessed our professional development

**100%** satisfaction ratings from schools and pupils

**3,135** hours of physical activity delivered

**700** young people attended the Active Fusion Festival of Sport



“We have thoroughly enjoyed you joining Team Thurgoland this year! You have built positive relationships with staff and children and supported the children's sporting development well through the PE curriculum and during extra curricular clubs - nerf club has to be a favourite! We look forward to working with you again next year.”

**Dale Jordan, Headteacher, Thurgoland Primary School**

## School Games: Providing Opportunities To Learn

**61** schools actively engaged in promoting physical activity and healthy competition

**11,463** young people participated in School Games events

**1,352** young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities accessed inclusive competitions

**3,305** Young Leaders trained and gave back volunteering hours



“The School Games programme has supported our school to ensure we offer rich and varied sporting opportunities to all our children, no matter their age or ability. The training and support through the School Games programme has been instrumental in improving the delivery of P.E in our school.”

**Simon White, PE Lead, Auckley Primary School**

## Girls' Football: Equal Access, Equal Opportunity

**100%** of Doncaster schools providing equal access to football within the curriculum

**65%** increase in schools offering football during extra-curricular activities

**100** girls took part in the Active Fusion Girls' Football Competition

**2** new annual girl-focused events



# Fusion Education: Looking Forward

Moving forward into the new academic year, Active Fusion will:

- Prioritise children and young people facing poverty and multiple inequalities.
- Develop our services to support those young people most in need including using sport and physical activity as part of Alternative Provision to re-engage and reintegrate young people back into education, training or into employment.
- Build on our excellent provision of support for young people with special educational needs.
- Reach more young people to enhance their employability and life skills through sport and physical activity.
- Engage with and deliver Fusion Start within early years settings to encourage more young people aged 3-5 and their parents develop positive physical activity habits for life to improve health and well-being.



## Callum's Story –

**This story highlights Callum, a 10-year-old student at Crookesbroom Academy, whose journey with an Active Fusion specialist coach has significantly improved his physical education skills while also fostering his emotional growth.**

Crookesbroom Primary Academy, a partner school of Active Fusion, has experienced the transformative impact of Active Fusion's school partnership programmes on its pupils. In September 2023, Active Fusion's team recognised

Callum as a bright and enthusiastic pupil with great potential in physical education. However, it was evident that Callum faced emotional challenges that made it difficult for him to fully engage and thrive in PE activities. At times, Callum would become overwhelmed by emotions, leading to moments of frustration and withdrawal.

The coaching team created a safe, supportive PE environment for Callum to express emotions and develop coping strategies. By building trust and focusing on his individual needs, the coach fostered an inclusive atmosphere, helping Callum feel valued and confident. Over time, Callum transformed from being reserved to actively participating, engaging with peers, and sharing ideas, significantly enhancing his experience in physical education.

“PE has taught me lots of different games and skills that I sometimes play with my family at home. My coach is really fair and energetic. If I'm having a bad day, they give me time to sit out and talk to me about my problems to help me solve them. I always look forward to PE, and it makes me excited to come to school.”

**Callum, Student, Crookesbroom Primary Academy**

Callum shared that he enjoys participating in PE because it energises him and helps him feel calm. He described PE as an outlet for his emotions, providing a space where he can release energy and refocus. The support he received through Active Fusion's programme has not only increased his enthusiasm for school but also improved his overall well-being. You can read more inspiring stories like Callum's here.

“I want to share some praise for Dawid, as you know, I rate him highly, and he continues to make Active Fusion proud with his thorough planning, consistent behaviour management, and excellent role modelling. Additionally, Daisy is a superstar too, always a pleasure to have at Crookesbroom, where the children love her PE sessions.”

**Rob Harvey, Head of Academy, Crookesbroom Primary Academy**



## Fusion Communities

**Fusion Communities promotes place-based change through diversionary sports and activities. We coach and mentor young people to take part, then take the lead to create the change that they want to see in their local communities. We work in collaboration with young people and local community organisations focusing on those most disadvantaged and in need of our support.**

### **Fusion Camps: Healthy, Happy and Active Holidays**

Creating memories that will last a lifetime. Active Fusion provides Fusion Camps for children aged 5-16. These camps provide a safe, engaging environment where children stay active, learn new skills, and build lasting friendships. With a range of activities from sports, teambuilding, music and crafts. Fusion Camps ensure every child has a fun, inclusive and enriching experience.

### **Fusion Youth: Combating Inactivity for a Healthier Future**

Fusion Youth addresses the growing issue of inactivity among young people by providing fun, informal sports-based sessions that are delivered at the right time, in the right place, for the right young people. Working with our community coaching team, together, they provide an exciting and varied sports offer to young people who would otherwise not engage. Fusion Youth promotes physical, emotional, and social well-being, shaping a healthier future.

### **Fusion Streets: Turning the Tide on Anti-Social Behaviour**

Fusion Streets tackles gang involvement and anti-social behaviour by addressing boredom and disconnection among young people aged 10-17. Through inspiring activities and partnerships with the police and youth organisations we channel energy into constructive outlets. By fostering positive relationships, developing leadership skills, and promoting positive behaviours, Fusion Streets empowers young people to become role models within their communities and drive lasting change.

### **Fusion Community Leaders: Empowering Young Change-Makers**

Fusion Community Leaders empowers young people aged 13 – 21 years to lead, inspire, and drive positive change in their neighbourhoods. Through training in sports and community development programmes, we work with young people and their communities to provide solutions that are driven by their lived experience. Tackling issues like social isolation, disengagement with education and anti social behaviour, supported by Active Fusion mentors, Community Leaders create initiatives that make a real impact in the areas that matter to them the most.

### **Fusion 3k: Fit Families**

The Fusion 3k has attracted thousands of families to get fit together. In partnership with Curly's Athletes, we have created inclusive, accessible and friendly environments encouraging participants to get active, create social connections and discover new places to visit in Doncaster.

# Fusion Communities: Celebrating Success

1800 hours of  
community sports  
delivered

67% improvement of  
physical activity and  
mental well-being

9664 attendances  
across all community  
sessions

856 participants  
across 4 3K events

“Moses had an incredible time for his first ever camp at Active Fusion. He had attended a few different clubs throughout October half term but when I picked him up after Active Fusion he was absolutely buzzing! He had had the most amazing day, and said he wanted to go every time after that! He enjoyed playing all the games, meeting new people and he said the staff were super friendly and kind. I won't be hesitating to book him on more sessions in the future, he absolutely loved it, thank you so much!”

**Verity, Parent of Fusion Camp Attendee**  
Tickhill Camp, October 2023

“Oliver and Tèa are brill, they made me feel comfortable from day one and I enjoy coming down to speak to them about my week. I am sad that we have finished these sessions however I hope I do see them in the future as I am so thankful for everything that they have done for me!”

**C, Attendee of Active Fusion session delivered in partnership with Doncaster Mind**  
January 2024

“The leadership opportunity on camp allowed me to improve communication, teamwork, organisational and problem-solving skills. I will use the skills that I have learned in the future if I become a sports coach. When I am older, I would like to be an Active Fusion coach. I feel I will be good at it because I like speaking in front of people and I know a lot of different sports that I could teach to other children.”

**Ellie, Fusion Camp Attendee**  
Tickhill Camp, October 2023

# Fusion Communities: Looking Forward

Moving forward into the new academic year, Active Fusion will launch the Fusion Disruptors, Active Fusion's Youth Voice. It will give young people the power to shape their futures, which will create a ripple effect of positive change across communities. Through advocacy and business-community collaboration, the Fusion Disruptors will foster sustainable partnerships that drive social good. This approach ensures lasting impact, empowering the next generation to lead, thrive, and inspire change.



## Mathew's Story –

**In October 2023, Sheffield played host to Fusion Camp, a remarkable initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable children during the October half-term. This is the heartwarming story of Mathew, a 7-year-old boy who attended Fusion Camp, and how the experience transformed him into a confident, engaged, and socially active young person.**

The Sheffield Fusion Camp, proudly supported by Sheffield Council, not only offered a safe and engaging environment but also provided essential structure during the school holidays. Mathew's first experience at the camp, during the summer of 2023, presented some challenges. He was initially reserved, struggled to interact with others, and found it difficult to communicate with coaches. However, Fusion Camp became a transformative journey for him. Over time, Mathew began to find his voice and build confidence, thanks to the nurturing atmosphere created by the coaches. He became more expressive, developed bonds with fellow campers, and forged connections with the coaching staff.

The activities were tailored to suit the diverse needs and abilities of all campers. Mathew particularly enjoyed trying new games like 'Kick Cricket', which reflected Active Fusion's ability to make exercise enjoyable. One of the highlights of Mathew's camp experience was the opportunity to express his artistic side. He delighted in getting creative with paints and pens, designing Halloween-themed tops to take home to his parents or carers.



"My favourite thing about camp is playing with other children who don't go to my school. I really like it here; we get to go outside, play, and make friends. The coaches are great; you keep us so entertained. I want to come back because I love this place so much, and I want to see you again."

**Mathew, Fusion Camp Attendee  
Sheffield Camp, October 2023**

What truly set Fusion Camp apart for Mathew was the infectious enthusiasm of the coaches. It wasn't just the fun activities that drew him back; the nutritious meals provided at the camp also gave him the energy to enjoy the day to its fullest. For Mathew, Fusion Camp was more than just a way to spend the school holidays; it was a transformative journey that brought out the best in him. The Active Fusion staff who worked at the camp were full of praise for Mathew, describing him as "a pleasure to have on camp" and a fantastic young person they thoroughly enjoyed watching progress. He left camp with new friends, cherished memories, and a smile that spoke volumes about the positive impact of the Sheffield Fusion Camp.



## Fusion Inclusion

Through Fusion Inclusion, we are committed to helping young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), as well as those from unique and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, including those who often face discrimination. Our purpose is grounded in the belief that everyone, regardless of ability or background, is capable of achieving greater independence. Whether it's learning a new skill, gaining confidence, or enhancing physical well-being, we are here to provide the right support, tailored specifically to each young person's unique needs. We strive to create an environment where all children and young people, regardless of their circumstances, can thrive and achieve their goals.

### Fusion Inclusion Leaders: Building Confidence and Character

Our leadership programmes help young people to develop the essential life skills to prepare them to be successful in life beyond education. Programmes like Unified Leaders, Sports Leaders (Levels 1 & 2), and Fusion Leaders are designed to positively impact on young peoples confidence, resilience, adaptability, social skills and independence.

The **Unified Leaders** programme supports children with SEND in building life skills and improving physical health through sport, while empowering them to become role models and encourage peer engagement in physical activity.

The accredited **Sports Leaders** programmes focus on employability skills such as communication, teamwork, and confidence, helping participants gain formal qualifications and prepare for future success.

Our **Playground Leaders** programme introduces leadership early, fostering communication, self-belief, and problem-solving skills, preparing young children for future roles in school and community leadership.



Watch Unified Leaders in action at Doncaster School for the Deaf [here](#).

# Fusion Inclusion: Key Successes

90 Unified Leaders trained

7 unique educational settings engaged with young people aged 12 - 18

100% improved confidence, communication, teamwork and self-management

648 young people attended Fusion Inclusion Street sessions



## Kian's Story –

Kian, an 18-year-old student at Harrison College, embarked on a transformative journey with Active Fusion's Inclusion Service. Initially reserved and shy, Kian's experience unfolded under the guidance of Inclusion Officer Tom, resulting in personal and professional maturation.

Upon arrival, Kian struggled with social interactions, finding it challenging to engage with both students and staff. His initial difficulty in communicating hindered his ability to connect with others. Recognising Kian's potential, Tom took on the responsibility of mentoring him, showing that meeting new people can be a welcoming and positive experience. Kian's enthusiasm for staying active and participating in sports from a young age laid the groundwork for his impactful journey. His internship with Active Fusion provided valuable experience in the dynamics of working within a school and sports setting. This perfectly aligned with Kian's passion for sports, allowing him to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people.

Throughout the four-month internship, Kian played an active role in delivering School Partnership and Sports Leaders programmes. His responsibilities included leading and mentoring students from Doncaster School during physical activity sessions. Engaging with a variety of groups helped him develop strong leadership and interpersonal skills. Tom acknowledged Kian's smooth integration into the team and noted the significant growth he demonstrated during the programme.



"Tom and the staff at Pennine View have pushed me out of my comfort zone. I now feel more confident as a person."

**Kian, Sports Leader and Volunteer**

Kian's time with Active Fusion marked a transformative chapter in his personal and professional growth. Assisting Tom with leadership projects at Pennine View School was a key highlight, where Tom's energetic approach to PE activities inspired Kian to confidently plan and lead sessions on his own, a significant milestone in his development. Active Fusion offered Kian the chance to stay active while gaining valuable experience in a sports environment designed for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). With support from Tom and the staff at Pennine View, Kian stepped out of his comfort zone and developed a newfound confidence. As his work programme concludes, Kian reflects on this experience as a turning point. Overcoming earlier struggles with self-assurance, he now looks ahead with confidence, equipped to embrace future opportunities with a stronger belief in himself.

# Fusion Inclusion: Looking Forward

Over the course of the next 12 months we would like to roll out our Unified Leaders programme to more schools across South Yorkshire. We are committed to ensuring that the quality of our delivery remains as high as possible, maintaining our reputation as an outstanding provider of leadership opportunities, whilst helping more children and young people benefit from the Unified Leaders programme.



## Keira's Story –

**Active Fusion helped Keira to find her passion in physical activity and aim towards impacting the next generation of leaders.**

Initially hesitant about leadership, Keira's passion for football sparked her engagement. The 12-week programme combined leadership theory with practical experience, teaching participants to promote physical activity in their schools.

Delivered in Special School settings, the project aims to develop a network of young Unified Sports Leaders who contribute to their communities through volunteering and leadership. Keira's growth was remarkable. She gained confidence, refined her ability to navigate challenging behaviours, and embraced her role as a leader. Her most rewarding moments came during coaching sessions, collaborating with Coach Tom, Active Fusion's Inclusion Officer, and the project's driving force. These experiences allowed Keira to apply her skills and showcase her knowledge, cementing her place as a leader and role model.



"Working as a team has been highly enjoyable, and I liked working with my classmates and the children across the school. I would like to be a teacher and travel the world teaching as well as coaching football, which I am very passionate about."

**Keira, Unified Leader & Student at Doncaster School for the Deaf**

We couldn't be more proud that Keira aspires to be a role model for the next generation. Her journey epitomises the profound impact that programmes like Unified Leaders can have on the lives of young individuals with SEND. These programmes not only help them realise their potential but also encourage them to reach for the stars.



The Unified Leaders programme has been transformational for Keira, showing the incredible potential within every individual. It's amazing to see how the programme ignited her passion for teaching and coaching, building her confidence and skills to inspire others. Her story is proof of the life-changing impact this initiative can have.

**Tom Horton, Inclusion Officer**



## Fusion Futures

**At Active Fusion, Fusion Futures represents our holistic approach to supporting young people in their journey from education into employment. By providing targeted pathways that blend sport, physical activity and essential life skills, we empower young individuals to develop the confidence, resilience and expertise needed to succeed in their careers and life.**

### **Fusion Apprenticeships: Paving The Way To Success**

Active Fusion, in partnership with DN College Group, offers apprenticeships that have a lasting positive impact on young people's futures in the physical education, leisure and sports sector. Our programmes, available at Levels 2, 3, and 4, equip apprentices with the skills and qualifications needed to thrive in physical education, community health and wellbeing, and sports coaching. By combining group-based learning with personalised mentoring, apprentices gain valuable hands-on experience, build confidence, and develop the professionalism required to excel. These apprenticeships not only provide a solid foundation for careers in coaching, teaching, and youth work but also significantly enhance employability, opening doors to secure jobs and further educational opportunities.

### **Fusion Careers: Shaping Futures Through Tailored Guidance**

The Fusion Careers programme is dedicated to empowering young people aged 14-24 by providing the support and resources they need to make confident and informed education and career decisions. Our free services offer expert advice, personalised guidance, and valuable opportunities to explore and pursue career pathways in education and community sports leadership. As both a local employer and sector specialist, Active Fusion has a deep understanding of the challenges young people face in entering the workforce. Through interactive career events, 1:1 mentoring, and practical tools, we help young people build the skills and confidence they need to succeed, ensuring they are well-prepared for educational success, a smooth transition into employment, and continuous career development.

### **Fusion Transition: Inspiring Change Through Empowerment**

The Fusion Transition programme is a transformative 12-week initiative designed to empower young people, particularly those at risk of falling out of education, employment, or training. By integrating sport, physical activity, and personal development, the programme enhances participants' physical health, well-being, and employability skills. Through personalised 1:1 mentoring and dynamic group sessions, young people gain the confidence, self-esteem, and resilience needed to successfully transition into positive outcomes, such as further education, training, or employment. The programme's tailored approach ensures each participant receives the support and resources they need to thrive in their next chapter.



# Fusion Futures: Key Successes

## Fusion Apprenticeships: Paving The Way To Success



## Fusion Transition: Inspiring Change Through Empowerment

25 young people (aged 15 – 25) accessed our Fusion Transition programme during 2023-2024, which was made possible by important relationships with corporate supporters, who offered support with employability skills and advice on pathways into the workforce. During this period, we also worked closely with organisations such as EPIC Doncaster and Doncaster Mind to improve programme awareness and to make the referral process as simple as possible.



### Harry's Story –

Harry, a Level 4 Sports Coach apprentice, found his passion for sports education through a unique pathway that led him to Active Fusion.

Harry's apprenticeship with Active Fusion began during a school work experience, where his determination led to a transformative opportunity. The programme boosted his confidence, helped him embrace new challenges, and enhanced his leadership skills including managing a football team and organising inclusive outings for SEND students. Grateful for the unique experiences, Harry recommends Active Fusion to aspiring sports coaches for its exceptional opportunities for growth and development.



“I would personally recommend coming to Active Fusion because they give you different experiences than other companies may not offer. I think this helps people come out and try new things that they might not have tried before and not have gotten a chance to without the help from Active Fusion.”

**Harry, Level 4 Sports Coach Apprentice at Active Fusion**

# Fusion Futures: Looking Forward

## Fusion Apprenticeships: Paving The Way To Success

To advance our commitment to fostering youth employment in the sport and leisure sector, we have outlined a focused approach that includes the following key initiatives:

- Delivering career opportunity events to raise the profile of apprenticeships in the sport and leisure sector as a pathway into employment.
- Maintaining and retaining apprentice employers to support further young people to access employment and training opportunities.
- Developing and securing new employers for 24-25 to give more young people a pathway into employment.

## Fusion Transition: Inspiring Change Through Empowerment

Fusion Transition is set to grow next year, welcoming more young people onto the programme, through new partnerships with a series of special schools from across South Yorkshire, along with partnerships with local authorities who are supporting young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). We see our Fusion Transition programme as an important step on the journey of disadvantaged young people into employment, training or further opportunities.



### Michael's Story –

**Michael, 16, disengaged from schooling at 14, feeling lost and uncertain about his future. Passionate about sports but lacking qualifications, he struggled to see a clear path forward.**

Joining Active Fusion's Fusion Transition Project in September 2023 transformed his outlook. Guided by his tutor, Tèa, Michael discovered his leadership potential through hands-on activities and regained his appreciation for education. With tailored support, he set his sights on a career in sports journalism, applied for college, and began volunteering to further develop his skills. Michael's story highlights the power of mentorship and tailored education in helping young people overcome challenges and achieve the



I would like to say a massive thank you Tèa, Micky's confidence has grown so much these past couple of months during the Fusion Transition and all I can say is thank you! I have also been trying to get him to apply for a college for ages and you have been there to help him through and now we have got him to apply I am beyond happy. I just want Micky to be happy and I believe you are helping him so much.

**Tracey, Michael's Mother**



# Fusion Fundraising

**At Active Fusion, our mission to help every child to develop a love for being active by creating positive habits that last a lifetime, relies heavily on fundraising. Active Fusion has continued to drive meaningful impact through our two primary fundraising streams: campaigns and corporate events. Both streams play a vital role in sustaining and growing Active Fusion's initiatives, allowing us to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.**

## Campaigns

### When You Tri

When You Tri launched with a bold and ambitious mission. The charity's director, Lindsay James, committed to racing a 100km triathlon to raise £100k, to build brighter futures for children and young people by supporting them to become healthy, happy and more active, through community fundraising and connecting with the businesses community to use their business as a force for good. The funding raised will support future funding of Fusion Streets as well as the establishment of the Fusion Disruptors.

### The Big Fusion Give 2023

The Active Fusion Big Give Campaign focused on supporting young people growing up in areas of disadvantage across South Yorkshire who face inequality of opportunity on many levels. Our successful campaign supported our inclusion service to deliver a transition support programme for young people 10-19, offering personal and professional skills development through sports leadership and mentoring for some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people with special educational needs. Young people experienced personal development through sports leadership skills – social and emotional expression through participating in sport and physical activities and accreditation through the Sport Leaders qualifications.

## Corporate Events

### Fusion Charity Golf Day 2024

Active Fusion's Fusion Charity Golf Day 2024, kindly sponsored by Orb Recruitment, was a record-breaking success. The event raised essential funds that will support Active Fusion's ongoing mission to enhance the health and wellbeing of young people through physical activity. These funds will directly benefit our coaching and mentoring programmes, making a lasting impact across South Yorkshire.

### Fusion Charity Cup 2023

The Fusion Charity Cup was a powerful display of connecting businesses through sport and together creating social change. This incredible support will directly create new opportunities for disadvantaged young people, making a lasting impact on their futures.



# Fusion Awards



**Active Fusion has been privileged to receive prestigious recognition across multiple categories, showcasing the profound impact of our work, our team, and our talented apprentices. These accolades are a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit that drive our mission forward.**

## **Kings Award for Voluntary Service**

Active Fusion were awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. Recognising the 100's of volunteers that make a difference within the communities we serve. This award is equivalent to an MBE. It is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and it is awarded for life.

## **Charity of the Year Award**

Celebrated at the Doncaster Business Awards 2023, this prestigious recognition highlights the extraordinary impact of Doncaster's third-sector organisations. Active Fusion is honoured to receive this award, reflecting our commitment to creating meaningful, positive change in our community. Through innovative programmes, impactful fundraising, and a focus on addressing local needs, we strive to inspire brighter futures and stronger opportunities for everyone in the borough. This recognition is a testament to the power of collaboration, and we are proud to stand alongside other dedicated charities and CICs working tirelessly to uplift lives and strengthen Doncaster's social fabric.

## **SME Employer of the Year**

In 2024, Active Fusion was honoured to be awarded the Small Employer of the Year at the Doncaster College Apprenticeship Awards. This award recognises the positive impact we create in providing high quality apprenticeship programmes and a supportive pathway into employment for young people across South Yorkshire.

## **Intermediate Apprentice of the Year - Daisy Guttridge**

Daisy Guttridge, Active Fusion Level 2 apprentice received the Apprentice of the Year at the South Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2024. Daisy has been an exceptional member of our team, embodying hard work, passion and a commitment to making a difference.

## **Health, Public Services and Care Apprentice of the Year - Aleksy Marzec**

Aleksy Marzec, Active Fusion's Level 4 Apprentice was awarded Health, Public Services, and Care Apprentice of the Year at the 2024 Doncaster College Apprenticeship Awards, recognising his exceptional impact in the healthcare sector. His technical expertise, strong work ethic, and compassion for those in care made him a standout apprentice, showcasing his potential to drive positive change in the field.



## Friends of Active Fusion

**Active Fusion relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses and organisations to continue to help us to create a healthy, happy and active future for our children and young people.**

### Corporate Partnerships

Corporate partnerships are crucial to Active Fusion's success, providing vital support through sponsorships, fundraising and donations. Business partnerships enable us to expand our reach and enhance services for children and young people, creating lasting change. We look forward to continuing our work with current partners and building new relationships with organisations dedicated to making a positive impact together.

**£693,523** total  
income secured

**£21,973**  
total raised  
through  
Corporate  
Partnerships

**16** members  
joined the Fusion  
Performance  
Club

**500** members of  
staff took part in  
our teambuilding  
days

### Team Building Opportunities

We believe that behind every success, is a strong team. That's why we take our own approaches to building a strong team, and support other businesses with Team Building days throughout the year. We worked with Fellowes, an international business who have an office based in Doncaster, as well as staff at Doncaster Deaf Trust on teambuilding days which included rounders games, Nerf challenges and other activities to get their staff working together. We were also commissioned to deliver a series of sports and team building sessions at the University of Warwick as part of the British Universities and Colleges Sports annual conference. Businesses, education partners and other charities are increasingly seeking our skills to stage similar events, using the expertise we have in our coaching team to design and deliver high quality and engaging team building events.

### The Fusion Performance Club

Active Fusion launched the Fusion Performance Club to amplify positive impact through a network of business leaders committed to social and economic change. The club brings together companies and individuals dedicated to driving meaningful transformation within their communities. By joining, members connect with like-minded leaders, expand their influence, and demonstrate a shared commitment to using business as a force for good. The club also provides opportunities for personal growth, offering learning experiences from industry leaders across business, sport, and culture, all while making a lasting difference in society and for future generations.

# Thank You to our Funders & Partners

We sincerely thank our funders and partners for their generous support and unwavering commitment; your contribution has made it possible for us to positively impact the lives of thousands of young people.



# Support Us



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