

IMPACT

REPORT

2025



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

WELCOME FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This year, we chose to do something different. Rather than creating more pages, more statistics, or more lists of sessions delivered, we focused on what matters most - what has actually changed for the people in our community. Because impact isn't defined by how much we do, but by how much things change for the people we work with.



Chris Brannigan

Rather than trying to capture everything we've done, we've selected two stories. Two individuals, two journeys, and two examples of what can happen when support arrives at the right time and in the right way. We're aware that they do not represent every piece of work delivered across the year, but they do reflect the difference that can be made.

None of this work happens on its own. We are incredibly grateful to our partners, funders, and stakeholders who continue to place their trust in us and support what we do. Most importantly, I want to recognise our team and our Board of Trustees, who bring consistency, care, and real commitment to the people and communities they work with every day.

This report is not about us - it is about real people, and real change in Fylde.



OUR STORY THIS YEAR



AIM

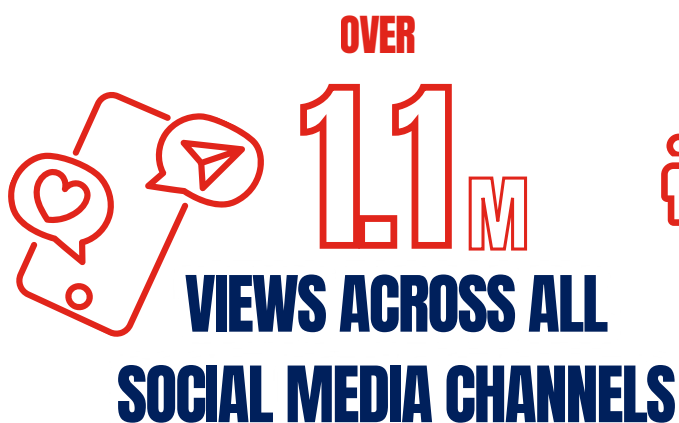
To engage and empower those within Fylde to improve their lives and prospects, while tackling the challenges and inequalities that continue to affect our communities.

FINANCIALS

1st June 2024 - 31st May 2025

INCOME: £628,040

EXPENDITURE: £620,340



PHIL'S STORY

Meet Phil Ashworth, a 75-year-old Veteran who has been receiving support from the Foundation for nearly three years.

The Foundation is extremely proud of the support we offer to current and ex-servicemen through our Armed Forces programme. Lee Geraghty, our Armed Forces Co-ordinator, has been here for eight years and has developed the programme into what it is today.

Phil opened up to explain the impact the Foundation has had on him because he hopes other people will see his story and understand that it is okay to ask for help.

Phil explained that the Foundation:

"was a lifeline, a complete lifeline.

"I became quite ill and ended up in hospital twice. When you have a breakdown a mental breakdown and you end up in hospital, you are at your lowest point. So, you need help.

"I was in a shell when I was in hospital, a complete shell. I came out lonely."

As a Veteran himself, Lee understands the impact leaving the forces can have on someone and their day-to-day life. Phil is just one of 31 Veterans that Lee sees on a regular one-to-one basis.

Lee highlighted the difference between Phil when he first joined the Foundation in comparison to the Phil today: "He's come on really well, he's gained a lot more confidence, he's coming out of his house more and attending our groups.

"Whereas, when I first met him he was a bit isolated, he wouldn't want to come out, he was happy for me to just come round and have a chat with him.

"With the breakfast clubs and the walk and talk, he's attending them now and I've seen a big improvement with his confidence. He's making new friends as well from all areas of the Armed Forces."



Our Armed Forces group meet up once a week in various different locations for different groups.

As a result of the funding from our partners, BAE Systems, Army Benevolent Fund and Veterans Foundation, We run two breakfast clubs, one at Toby Carvery Salters Wharf and one at Aroma Cafe at Mill Farm Sports Village, a Walk and Talk group at Fairhaven Lake and a NAAFI break also at Salters Wharf in Lytham St. Anne's.

Lee spoke about the purpose of the groups: "It gets them together, it gets the brotherhood and the camaraderie going. They can turn up and have a laugh, and we can take the mick out of each other because it's that brotherhood that we had in the forces."

Phil explained why the groups are so important to him and the others: "When you meet up with the Veterans, you feel at ease so much, you can talk about anything, you don't have to go in depth about what your problems are, you can talk about anything else."

"When you go to the meetings you come out thinking, 'God, I'm worth something' - we're a good laugh."

"Lee, has been a godsend to me

"He comes up once every month and we have a cup of tea and biscuits - we talk about normal things, football, but he's there, Lee.

"It's vital for me that he comes every month; if he didn't come I'd be down in the dumps."

After Lee heard Phil's comments about him, he said: "It means a lot, actually. I personally wouldn't say that I'm a lifesaver, it's my job. I'll take the compliment."

Phil ended his story by emphasising that:

"It's really really special, it's special for me. I'm 75 now, and I'm okay."

No matter what age or how long you were in the Forces for, the Foundation is here to offer a helping hand. Join Phil in attending our groups and see the difference it can make first hand.



**SCAN HERE TO WATCH
PHIL TELL HIS STORY!**



OR VISIT OUR YOUTUBE: [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@AFCFYLDECOMMUNITYFOUNDATION](https://www.youtube.com/@AFCFYLDECOMMUNITYFOUNDATION)

RHIANNON'S STORY

Rhiannon Leathwood found herself homeless at 22-years-old until Harbour House referred her to the Foundation's Employability, Education and Skills (EE&S) team.

Natasha Green, our EE&S Manager, has been supporting Rhiannon for eight months and has been with her every step of the way throughout her new journey.

Rhiannon shared that she:

"Ended up in the position of needing the Foundation's help because I ended up homeless.

"Harbour House and Fylde Council told me about the Foundation and how it can help me.

"I was nervous and I was scared when I was first introduced to the Foundation, I was frightened. I struggle to talk to people.

"I struggle to trust people and commit. I didn't trust Natasha, so I was stomping around and I wouldn't give her the time of day.

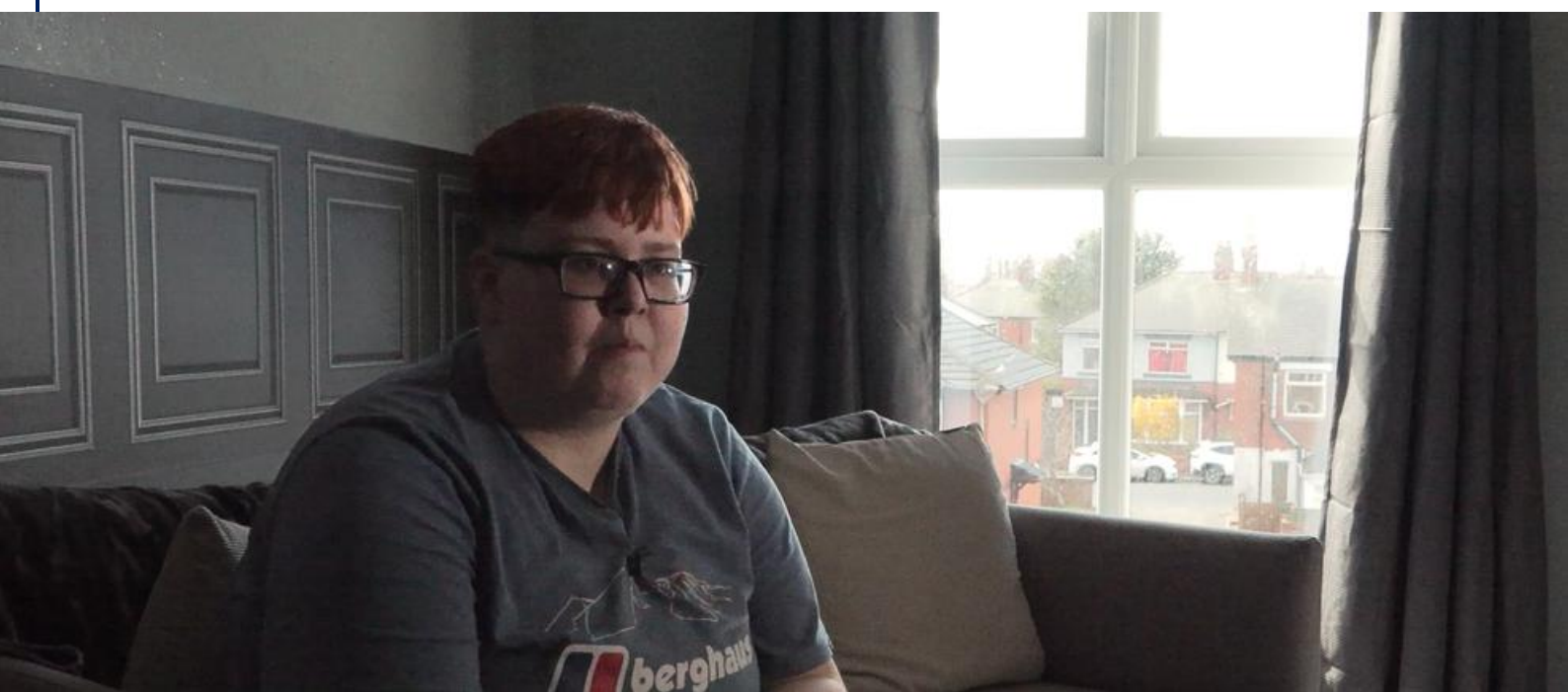
"I thought she would just give up and she didn't actually care about me. But once I started seeing her every week I learnt that she does care, that she's not going to give up and she will help you to achieve your hopes and dreams."

Rhiannon moved into her very own flat a couple of months ago and after signing up to our 'Fylde Focus' project funded by Fylde Council, is now studying an Engineering course at Blackpool and Fylde College.

She said: "The course is rejogging my memory of what I've missed and is helping me remember [how to be a mechanic]."

"I've always had an interest in cars, I love taking things apart and putting them back together.

"My dream end goal is to own my own garage and be self employed, my own boss and have my own business with my own cars."



Rhiannon told the Foundation: "Now I'm myself, I'm confident, I'm positive - it's [the Foundation has] helped me massively change who I am.

"I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for the Foundation's help."

Sarah Yates, a support worker at Harbour House, who developed a good relationship with Rhiannon, said: "If you had met her six months ago, she was a completely different person. So moody, well not so moody but a little bit moody, very closed off, but when she went she was so proud and open, like two different people really."

Sarah explained why Natasha's support is so beneficial to the people of Harbour House: "We encourage all our residents to engage with the Foundation. It's a friendly face, a familiar face that they see every single week.

"Natasha explains what she is there to do and what the Foundation is there for, and that she will reach out to colleges and employers and help out with their CV.

She takes the time to find out what they want to do and what they enjoy doing and build around the conversations and the relationship she has built with the individuals."

Sarah continued to explain that "The relationship that Natasha has with the residents, she's really open from the moment they meet her.

"Some of them might be a bit guarded initially but you can see the growth over time. Natasha will have a laugh and a joke with them, you can see her build a relationship."

Rhiannon has completely turned her life around in the space of the year, because she wasn't afraid to accept help and willingly engaged with the Foundation.

The 22-year-old said: "My family are proud of where I've come.

They've all said that life is difficult, it throws objects in the way - you don't give up and you overcome them to become someone today.

We are delighted that Rhiannon willingly shared her story with you, we believe it reflects the true impact the Foundation can have on someone.



**SCAN HERE TO WATCH
RHIANNON'S STORY!**



OR VISIT OUR YOUTUBE: [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@AFCFYLDECOMMUNITYFOUNDATION](https://www.youtube.com/@afcfyldecommunityfoundation)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all our partners throughout the year. If it wasn't for their generosity we wouldn't be able to provide the life-impacting support for our community that thousands of people benefit from every day.



WE THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT IN YOUR COMMUNITY