

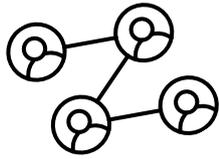


SAVTE IMPACT REPORT 2024-25



VISION

A Sheffield where everyone can
Connect, Participate and Flourish



MISSION

SAVTE staff and volunteers will work with partners, community organisations, and Sheffield residents to create opportunities for inclusive English language learning that leads to personal development, employment, community participation and action.

PRINCIPLES



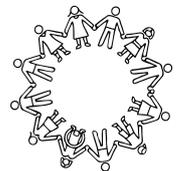
Commitment to Equity



Inclusion



Integrity



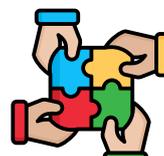
Collaboration



Compassion



Openness & Accountability



Respect for Diversity



Reflection

Welcome to SAVTE!

In this last year I became a co-chair of the trustee board in what has been an exciting and fruitful year, albeit with some real challenges.

Our experience and expertise in developing a sustainable model of community-based English language support led by volunteers is one that we believe stands the test of time.

This year has seen the strengthening of our partnerships, particularly within SPRING (Sheffield Programme for Refugee Integration and Growth) and with community organisations across the city.



**Mandy Wilson,
co-chair of trustees**



Rob & Jo

Our work is underpinned by a remarkable staff team. This year brought change due to ill health of our valued CEO, Rob Hindle, and the stepping up of Operations Director, Jo Holliday, whilst maintaining delivery and support to the staff team.

Despite a drop in new volunteers (a common challenge across the voluntary sector), staff support and development have improved retention of existing volunteers.



Mandy, Jo & Sarah

Our trustees have illustrated considerable commitment to the organisation. We are indebted to Sarah Beardsmore who left this year after more than six years (and was treasurer and a co-chair) and we welcomed several new people to the board.

During 2024/25, we spoke with 80 learners and 30 volunteers about what mattered most to them. Volunteers told us that being part of SAVTE is mutually beneficial and supports their wellbeing by helping them feel useful and valued.

Our learners value our personalised, informal approach to language learning, with 80% identifying health as their top concern. This led to new volunteer training on Healthy Conversations.

Despite difficult times including the riots and attacks on hotels housing people seeking sanctuary in August 2024 and a continuing hostile environment we remain undimmed. Supporting participants to progress and reach their potential is at the heart of everything we do.

Highlights of 2024/25

This year, SAVTE has continued to promote the education, well-being, progression, and integration of all participants, especially those facing barriers to mainstream English learning. SAVTE helps learners improve everyday English skills to become active, empowered community members. It also seeks to recruit more volunteers to provide progression opportunities and strengthen community resilience. Working with local organisations, SAVTE offers specialist English support services that are not otherwise available.

What we achieved in 2024/25

- Supported **1,534 people** with English language learning.
- **147 volunteers** provided over 15,000 hours of support; **55 new** and **20 existing volunteers** trained in key areas such as health and cost of living.
- **77 volunteers** supported **93 learners** on our home based English support programme.
- **57 volunteers** supported **1,291 learners** in **30 community-based conversation groups**, including **3 online**; **4 new groups** developed with community partners.
- Delivered ESOL classes to **150 learners** across Burngreave, City Centre, and Sharrow.
- Engaged **80 learners** and **30 volunteers** in strategic reviews and resource development; hosted a medical student to create new learning materials.
- Participated in **11+ events**, supported **4 Office Volunteer participants**, and helped signpost **300+ refugees** via SPRING partners.
- Maintained Matrix Standard accreditation and celebrated volunteers and learners at the citywide Lifelong Learning and Skills Awards.

Our Impact

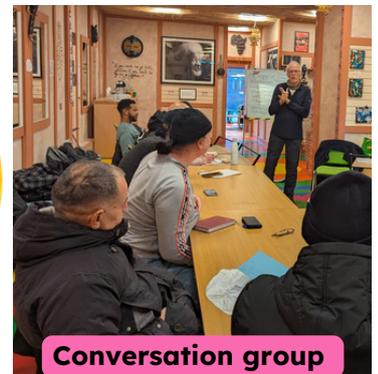
This report shares stories that highlight the impact of our work. Our approach is person-centred, holistic, and rooted in communities. We walk alongside learners, supporting what matters most to them.

Much of the impact is immeasurable for example, helping a parent complete a form can enable their child to access nursery, giving the parent time to improve their English. Change may take time, but our programmes provide multiple ways for learners to access English support. We play a small but vital role in making Sheffield a City of Welcome, fostering connection, participation, and personal growth.

Our Volunteers

For over 50 years, our volunteers have been at the heart of everything we do. Supported by a small staff team, they help over 1,384 learners across the city.

As part of our strategic review, volunteers told us that being part of SAVTE is **mutually beneficial** and **supports their personal wellbeing** by helping them feel useful and valued. They also shared that the role can feel isolating, especially for those working one-to-one, and expressed a desire for more opportunities to connect, share experiences, and learn from each other.



Throughout the discussions, **volunteers highlighted why this work matters**: seeing learners progress, building community connections, and helping create a Sheffield where everyone can flourish. They also offered to share their **expertise** through mentoring, resource creation, and drawing on their professional and international experience.

Our workshop programme began in 2024/25, focusing on issues important to learners such as health and cost of living/sustainability, and proved a strong starting point for strengthening our volunteer community.

Volunteer stories

Grace's story:

Grace is a local resident of Gleadless Valley and a full time carer.

Grace first connected with SAVTE during the pandemic, completing the online training. She later joined the Conversation Group programme, wanting to get involved in local work in Gleadless Valley. Grace has supported groups at Holy Cross Church and the Terry Wright Community Centre, where she continues to volunteer.



Grace

Grace said: "Being part of my community gives me a unique perspective. As a local, I understand learners' worries like the cost of living, housing conditions, and the Masterplan for Gleadless because we're living through them. The highlights for me are seeing learners 'move on' gaining confidence, improving their English, starting college or work, or getting their citizenship. I also enjoy seeing people outside the group and noticing their progress. Volunteering has helped me make friends in Sheffield and given me more confidence to get out and about."

Gita's story

Gita is one of our volunteers supporting learners in their homes to learn English. This role has been life-changing for both her and her learner.

Previously a successful secondary school teacher in Sheffield, Gita wanted to use her skills to help the local community.

After suffering a stroke in 2022, she faced challenges with mobility, speech, memory, cognition, vision, and reading.

With the support of health professionals and her own determination regular gym visits and stepping out of her comfort zone Gita has made significant progress while volunteering with SAVTE.



"My learner has come on in leaps and bounds in the past few months! I have a sense of purpose and I feel connected."



Gita & the mayor

Gita's energy and enthusiasm impressed both the SAVTE trainer and fellow participants. With an inclusive learning experience during training and her community placement, she has shown that significant health challenges can be overcome. In July 2025, **Gita was recognised for her achievement with the Everest Award at the citywide Lifelong Learning and Skills Awards.**



Celebrating the life of **Kathleen Wallace**

It is exactly one year since Kathleen Wallace left us. There is an African saying: “when some people die, it is the equivalent of burning down a library”. Gone without a duplicate for the knowledge, skills and experiences the person had and shared so generously in their lifetime.

We cannot find more befitting words to celebrate the life and dedication of Kathleen Wallace's support over 14 years. During this time Kathleen supported countless learners one-to-one as well as in groups in the city of Sheffield through charities like SAVTE and Conversation Club.



It is (this is no exaggeration) impossible to measure Kathleen's contribution and how many lives she impacted through ESOL most of the time giving a whole day to 'teaching' and continuing group sessions even during the school holidays.

Kathleen in her own unique way made shining a light in the lives of others seem an effortless task. She had three very large families – Sheffield ESOL community, the Quakers and other causes that she passionately supported such as the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Our learners

In 2024/25 we continued to have high levels of participation from new arrivals and other people needing help to learn English.

As part of our strategic review we had conversations with 80 learners to find out what matters most to them. Our learners across all our programmes told us they valued our personalised and informal approach to their language learning.

80% of our learners told us that **health** was the most important issue, which has fed into programme development, including **a new ESOL My Health course** to start in January 2026 and training for our volunteers on Healthy Conversations.

Our community-based programmes support learners to progress from home-based support to other opportunities, including our 27 conversation groups, ESOL classes, and volunteer programmes across the city.

But fundamentally our approach brings hope and connection to people in those early stages of their English language journey. We continue to value what our learners bring with them and what matters to them.

1534
learners
participated

800
learners
feel more
connected

93
1 to 1
learners

150
ESOL
learners

1291
conversation
group
learners



Learner stories

Kinsi's story:

Before starting ESOL classes at Sharrow Community Forum in Term 3, 23-24, Kinsi had spent over 20 years as a full-time mother to her eight children in Sheffield. Although she could speak some English, she had never learned to read or write. She decided it was the right time to focus on herself and her learning, with the long-term goal of starting her own business.

SAVTE supported Kinsi to stay in the ESOL class for three terms by adapting materials to suit her pace and helping her plan her next steps. By the end of the course, she was eager to continue learning and was referred to a Conversation Group at Ship Shape.



Kinsi in the class

Over the three terms, Kinsi's confidence grew significantly. At first, she preferred to work independently, focusing on reading and writing. Gradually, she became more confident, began engaging with classmates, shared her passion for making clothes, and asked questions during a visit from Sharrow's CEO. By the end of her final term, she had made many friends and was sad to leave the class.

"Talking, reading, writing, nice people, nice teacher, all friendly."



Kinsi giving a presentation about her skill of making clothes

Badraldeen's story:

Badraldeen attended primary school in Sudan but had no further education there. He arrived in Sheffield in 2024 to seek sanctuary and joined SAVTE's English Conversation group and Entry 2+ ESOL class at Sheffield Cathedral. He showed strong commitment, attending every session, doing homework, and asking questions. He also joined classes at Learn for Life and enrolled in College, where he is now taking Entry 3 exams.

Badraldeen attributes 40% of his progress to personal effort and 60% to SAVTE and other local learning opportunities, estimating his English skills have improved from 10% to 60%.



Badraldeen in the class



Award in July 2025

Badraldeen's goal is to reach 90%, especially in speaking and understanding. Granted full refugee status in December 2024, he now aims to train as a plumber and find a job. **He was nominated for the Lifelong Learning and Skills Outstanding Learner Award in July 2025.**

1 to 1 programme

This year, thanks to our committed volunteers, SAVTE's 1 to 1 Programme has continued to flourish and has supported 93 adults to learn English at home who are unable to access mainstream support due to lack of childcare or ill health.

150
referrals

All of our 1 to 1 learners are referred to us by other organisations in particular from Family Hubs, NHS health visitors, Social Care, DWP and Family Intervention services. This year we have focussed on developing our relationships with key referrers and have had an increase in initial joint assessment visits.

77
volunteers

One of this year's highlights has been our ability to support learners with diverse needs and profiles, such as those with vision and / or hearing impairments, as well as others with learning disabilities.

We are proud of the ways our volunteers have been able to meet these needs. Next year we aim to provide further training to build on existing knowledge, understanding and good practice.

We're pleased to have enhanced the volunteer and learner experience by celebrating one-to-one placements. Learners now receive a certificate of achievement, and volunteers get a personalised thank-you card. Feedback shows that both volunteers and learners greatly benefit from their SAVTE experience.

93
learners

23
learners
progressed to
Conversation
groups



Mohamed & Safa with their volunteers

1 to 1 stories

Chol's story

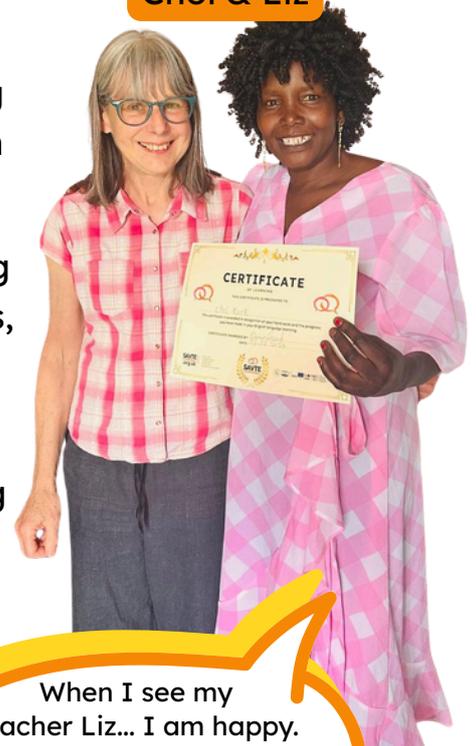
Chol, a single mother from Ethiopia in her 30s, was raising five children alone and struggled with very limited English and low literacy despite attending Sheffield College.

Without childcare, Chol felt isolated and unwell, struggling with basic literacy and unable to read letters from schools, the council, or utility companies.

In October 2024, SAVTE paired Chol with volunteer tutor Liz for weekly sessions. Liz taught her reading and writing and helped her understand official letters. Chol can now read texts, fill in forms, and manage correspondence independently.

Chol secured a nursery place for her child, she now attends the Lowedges conversation group, practices reading daily, and has gained confidence and improved emotional wellbeing.

Chol & Liz



When I see my teacher Liz... I am happy. Yeah, I don't feeling sick. Yeah, but when she go, I feeling sick. When she coming. No sick and feeling happy."

Awash's story:

Awash felt alone while her eight children were at school or work and couldn't understand English, making her afraid to go outside until she met her volunteer teacher, Alison.

Awash said:
"I have learnt a lot with Alison. She understands me, and she explains very well. Thanks to her, I know some words in English now! Alison has become part of our family."

Over a year, Alison patiently taught Awash basic English numbers, days, colours, food, rooms, clothes, and body parts. With memory loss and no schooling, Awash initially struggled to learn and remember.

With Alison's warmth and encouragement, Awash's confidence and English skills grew. After a year, she joined a Conversation Group with her husband on Thursdays, then added Tuesday and Friday sessions. She loves the groups, which boost her confidence once even impressing her teacher with her knowledge of health and body vocabulary.

Conversation group programme

Our Conversation Group Programme continued to grow in 2024/25. We delivered two training courses for **21 new volunteers**, enabling them to support existing groups and start new ones in new areas. Over 50% of attendees were based in the city centre, reflecting high demand from new arrivals in asylum hotels.

One of our SPRING partners, City of Sanctuary Sheffield, highlighted the mutual benefits of our partnership. **“SAVTE’s free and accessible English conversation classes and our free weekly community lunches have returned, creating a strong and vibrant community rooted in shared experience.”**



We set up **four new partnerships** across the city with Ashiana, the Foyer, Snowdrop and Firth Park Family Hubs to create new conversation groups.



These safe spaces allow learners and volunteers to have supportive conversations about issues that matter to them. **For example**, as St Georges flags started appearing on lamp posts in Gleadless our volunteers who run the group there devised an activity to explore the meaning of flags which was well received.

“Learners shared different perspectives some unaware of the situation, others expressing pride in their national flags, and some voicing concerns about the current climate making it a valuable discussion.”

In response to our volunteer consultation earlier in the year, **we delivered two extra workshops for our volunteers** in June '25. Due to their success we have more planned for 2025/26.

1291
learners

27
face to face
groups

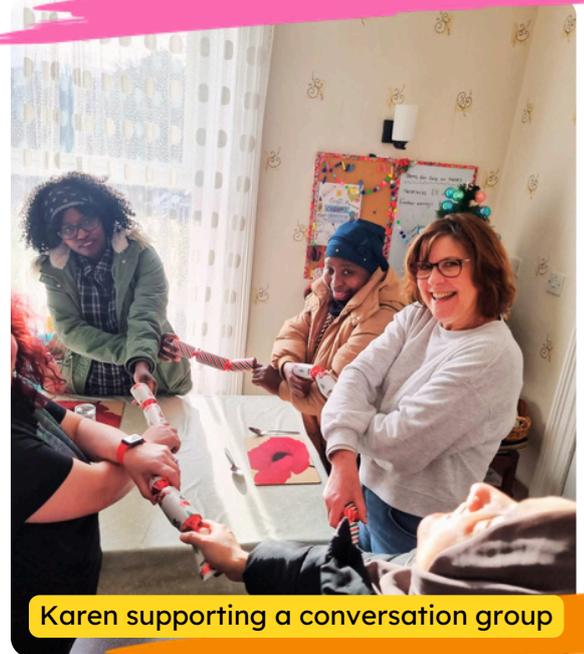
3
online groups

57
volunteers

Conversation group stories

“I’ve been quite simply bowled over by how much I’m getting out of it, I think when I went into it, I kind of felt, that I was going to be teaching other people and they were going to be learning, but actually I feel like it’s probably me that’s doing the most learning, learning about other people which I always love to do. I love the feeling that what we’re doing is helping them and sometimes it’s only in a very small way. It’s just maybe one word that they didn’t know that they’ve learned or it’s just making them feel a bit better about a situation”

Karen, Conversation Group volunteer, Pat Midgley Hub.



Karen supporting a conversation group

Xiaofang’s story

(this case study is anonymised and is not the learner’s real name):

Xiaofang started SAVTE English language sessions in initial accommodation for asylum seekers, English group sessions in the city centre and got a 1 to 1 support placement. He can now speak and write fluently in English and credits his successful journey of learning English to initial support from SAVTE.

Catching up with him recently he told us: “I have found a job and study English on weekends. I also passed the driving test and got a British driver’s license. I bought a second-hand car for transportation.”

Nahom’s story:

Nahom came from Ethiopia after conflict disrupted his university studies. Before arriving in Sheffield and finding SAVTE, he struggled with depression and isolation.

He joined our Darnall Wellbeing conversation group. Our volunteers advised him to apply for volunteering opportunities with SAVTE itself and he joined our 1 to 1 training course.

His mental health has improved greatly. He now feels “really better” compared to his previous state of depression and hopelessness.

Everything is getting better and better. I am very grateful for your love and help to me during my most difficult time.”



Nahom in the training course

We are not strangers

Kerry, Community Link Worker, reflects on the past year.

As I reflect on the past year, a carol service invitation on my kitchen table catches my eye. I picked it up while visiting former volunteers at Norfolk Park last week, and it reads: **“Light in the Dark.”**



Kerry

That phrase captures the highlights of the past year. Despite an increasingly hostile environment, the light we bring through our daily work makes a real difference.

I remember my feelings after the riots of summer ‘24 - utter despair - both at my country and in particular my own community.

Fast forward to November 24 when I walked into the community room full of new volunteers waiting to be trained, I was overcome by the hope this scene portrayed, 13 people giving up precious time to make a difference in our communities.

By May 2025, our country was labeled **“an Island of Strangers.”** Around this time, I received a poem from Liz and Grace, volunteers at our Gleadless group, written collectively by the learners. Titled **“We Are Not Strangers”**, one woman wrote:

“Here we have found a safe place, we respect each other and have made friends. When I came to the U.K. I was very scared; now that fear is gone.”

Health matters

With 80% of learners highlighting health as their top concern, we continue to prioritise activities that support learning and connection in this area.



Shruti, Medical Student, in a conversation group

This year we have: developed a **new volunteer workshop** on Healthy Conversations; **hosted a medical student** who helped volunteers create resources to support learners describing their symptoms; **and secured funding for a new ESOL ‘My Health’ course** in 2025/26 at Darnall Wellbeing.

After her placement with SAVTE, medical student Shruti said:"

"A patient's ability to communicate and build a relationship with a health practitioner is much harder when low literacy and language barriers are present. This placement has been very informative and will improve how I support patients with language difficulties in the future."

What our volunteers said about the Healthy Conversations workshop

“

I now have more ideas about how to approach the topic of health during my volunteering sessions in the community

”



Volunteer workshop

“

I know now how to use participatory techniques to foster participation and generate ideas

”

We are **SPRING!**

spring
welcomes
refugees in Sheffield

SAVTE is part of a city-wide partnership providing 'move-on support' in the first year for people granted refugee status. The Sheffield Project for Refugee Integration & Growth (SPRING) gives learners access to multiple support services through a single point of contact and easy referrals.

269
SPRING
learners

269 learners accessed SAVTE's 1:1 support, English Conversation groups, informal ESOL classes, the 10-week English Skills: Ready for Work course, and volunteering opportunities.

New Beginnings (a SPRING partner) supported our session on job adverts, cover letters, and CVs. There is also strong potential for SAVTE and New Beginnings to refer learners to each other's services.

228 people received Information, Advice and Guidance on accessing English language support at our Victoria Hall Drop-In.

228
Learners
had IAG

These numbers don't capture the full impact of our work, the value of partnerships, or the achievements of learners.

People with multiple needs such as women with childcare responsibilities, suffering from trauma/anxiety, and those with limited mobility all of which can stop them from going out to learn, connect with others and build their confidence.



Nuhu, Community Link Worker
and SPRING Lead

“I cannot emphasise enough the value for money that the SPRING partnership offers to both old and new residents of Sheffield. I can more easily picture myself without a job, than a Sheffield without SPRING. It is a privilege to be part of something so positive in giving those who benefit from what we do the opportunity to become co-drivers of the outcomes we aim to achieve.”

SPRING stories

Semri, started with 1 to 1 support at home, quickly progressing to attending one of our English groups when she felt confident enough to go out.

Badraldeen completed our ESOL class with 100% attendance and was nominated by SAVTE for ‘Outstanding Individual Learner’ at the FACES Awards.



Learners referred by SPRING
in a conversation group

I met Ian and Erin. I realise they all made the effort to accommodate and help me learn. I stopped worrying about making mistakes. Now, I come to the Conversation group at the City of Sanctuary.

I like the sessions supported by Ian and Kathleen. I am not afraid to speak with people in English anymore...”

Mohammed - SAVTE Learner

Ayesha began in our English group sessions and accessed support from City of Sanctuary, SOLACE, and housing services. She joined our Office Volunteer programme for learners with no prior UK work experience and later secured a temporary part-time role supporting the SPRING partnership within SAVTE.

Ulianna started in our group sessions and went on to volunteer with us.



ESOL classes in the community

One of the things I have loved most this year

is seeing learners connect and participate in new activities as a result of gaining confidence on the course. It's been great to see learners sharing information about opportunities with each other as well as benefitting from our signposting. This has ranged from things like volunteering on a gardening team in a local park to joining the library and signing up for a Digital Skills course.



Hazel, Lead ESOL Tutor & Quality Manager

Our ESOL classes programme delivered by the staff team provides a linked pathway for our learners to develop their speaking, reading and writing skills at Entry Level 2 and 3.

This year we supported 150 learners, located in communities across the city.

Classes have increased emphasis on progression and IAG through the courses 'My life/My Community/My Future'. Courses includes lots of authentic material about local activities and visits from organisations to talk about opportunities like Digital skills training or volunteering.

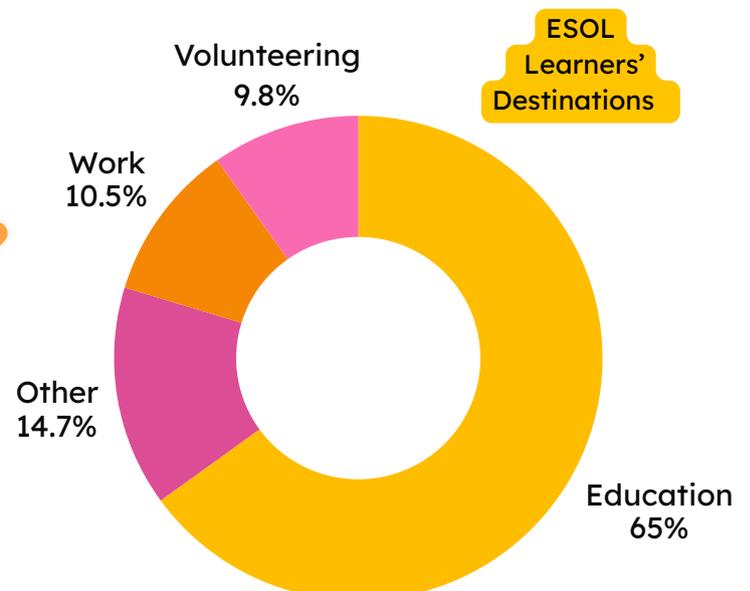


We have developed a signposting sheet used by staff at recruitment sessions with QR codes for other local providers and other options for learners e.g. Functional English, Digital skills etc.

Many ESOL class learners move on to accredited ESOL at Sheffield College or with FACES.

"I improved my confidence and I got a job for 10 hours a week. I have improved my English Skills."

Enrique - English Skills Ready for Work learner



ESOL classes stories

Fatima attended the SAVTE conversation group at Family Voice and then progressed onto the SAVTE ESOL class at Sharrow Community Forum. After attending three courses over the year she is able to look back and reflect on her learning journey.



Fatima

“Now I can do more things. I can read to my children. I am not scared to go to the doctor or to appointments. Sometimes people ask if I need a translator, but I say no. I will start new classes: Food Hygiene Level 2 and ESOL for Work. I love children, and my dream is to work with them and become a teaching assistant.”

“I now know how to find volunteering and I can create a CV in English. The mock interview was an excellent experience for me.”

– Emine, English Skills Ready for Work learner

The ‘English Skills - Ready for Work’ course supports learners to apply for work or volunteering, develop job search and interview skills.

Office volunteer programme

The programme supports adults new to the UK who are interested in office-based work. Through clear guidance and supportive staff, volunteers build confidence, independence, and practical workplace skills.

In 2024/25, **SAVTE welcomed four Office Volunteers** from diverse backgrounds, including people with lived experience of the asylum system. Having progressed through our learner programmes, they understand available pathways and act as the first point of contact for **SPRING** referrals, using their experience and language skills to build trust with new arrivals.

Office volunteer Stories

Samira's story

Samira, a qualified teacher with a law degree and a refugee from Afghanistan, wanted her voice to be heard and to feel confident in her new community. She progressed from our Ready for Work ESOL class to an office volunteer role, where she gained confidence in English, using databases, communicating with others, and managing her time.

Following her volunteering, Samira secured a placement with a legal advocacy organisation and spoke at our AGM in January 2025, reflecting powerfully on her personal transformation.

Two years ago, I dreamed of speaking in public. Now, standing here, I have achieved that dream.



Samira at the AGM

I was unsure how to start something meaningful. I'd never used public transport alone and was naturally shy, but I learn something new every time I volunteer and really enjoy this role.



Praveena, Jo & Salwa

Praveena's story

Praveena discovered SAVTE's Office Volunteer Programme while looking for a meaningful way to contribute. Through volunteering, her confidence grew as she supported staff, community events, and spoke with learners over the phone.

A major achievement was learning to travel independently on buses and trams, navigating routes and speaking with drivers. With her SAVTE experience and our professional reference, she secured a part-time role as a Lunchtime Supervisor at a school.

This programme also offers an opportunity for a wider range of staff to develop their supervisory skills and to grow their confidence in supporting others.

"I am deeply grateful to have been part of this journey and to have contributed to a programme that changes lives." Salwa, Programme Support Team

Behind the scenes...

The Programme Support Team provides the foundation for SAVTE's success through strong financial management, clear communication, effective marketing, and efficient administration. By managing the day-to-day complexities of SAVTE's operations, we enable the organisation to focus on its core purpose. We are proud to turn SAVTE's vision into operational reality: Connect, Participate & Flourish.

Throughout the year, we attended **11 events**, supported by staff and volunteers, providing valuable opportunities to engage directly with the community, raise awareness of SAVTE, and increase visibility for SAVTE and its services.



May & Salwa,
Programme support team



Katrin, Programme support team

Our social media platforms remain a key communication tool, enabling us to reach a wider audience and actively involve our community in what we do. Through regular updates, we showcase our presence, share news, highlight our provisions, and promote partnerships, ensuring our community feels informed, included, and connected.

With the support of a funded 100 hours work placement by Sheffield Students' Union we worked with a student to identify new ways to attract students to our programmes. This helped us to identify new volunteer opportunities to support our marketing. Based on this, we are planning to use **new platforms such as Instagram**, allowing us to connect with broader and more diverse audiences in the future.

260
posts on
social media

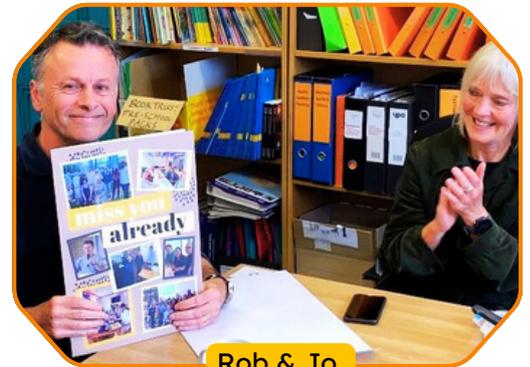
11
community
events
attended

675
telephone/
email enquiries

Reflections from staff and trustees

This year has had its challenges with the unexpected illness of our CEO, Rob Hindle, but the impact of his collaborative leadership meant that what could have been a crisis was faced with a calm and steady response.

Jo Holliday, our Interim CEO from June 2025, supported the team to successfully deliver on our core programmes as well as secure our contract under the Adult Skills Fund for 2025/26 which funds our ESOL classes, volunteer workshops and some of our volunteer training. With the start and end of the year bookended with the hostile environment her mantra has remained an African proverb:



Rob & Jo

The times are urgent, let's slow down.

Mary Oliver, the American Pulitzer prize winning poet once asked: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" It's a question I return to on a regular and increasingly frequent basis and which haunts me in the darkest hours of the night. What I know is that the privilege of working alongside such wonderful colleagues, learners and volunteers, has enabled me to spend at least some of my own "wild and precious life" in the very best possible way. Thank you so much, SAVTE.



Kay

Kay, 1 to 1 Link Worker

I was delighted to become a trustee at SAVTE in early 2025. Since moving from Hong Kong to Sheffield in 2022, I've worked as a social worker in adult mental health, and have referred some service users to SAVTE. I'm impressed by the organisation's impact and its collaborative work with volunteers and learners. SAVTE helps people from diverse backgrounds learn English, gain confidence, and often give back as volunteers themselves—a wonderful cycle of support and community in Sheffield.



Kei-chuen Lam

Kei-chuen Lam, Trustee

Each conversation I have with a colleague, volunteer or learner reminds me just how precious and unique every person's life story is. On a daily basis I stand in awe, as I watch the relationships between my volunteers and learners bloom over time, and also as I in turn feel supported, encouraged and nurtured by everyone in the SAVTE community. It's amazing and a real privilege to be surrounded by so much compassion and wisdom!

Isabella, 1 to 1 Link Worker



Isabella

I've been with SAVTE for almost a year, but have been living in Sheffield for five and a half years. I was genuinely amazed to discover a community I never knew existed, one filled with passion, kindness, and people who support others in every way they can. Watching the volunteers, their enthusiasm, and the way they take initiative without being asked made me hopeful again. It reminded me that the world isn't only harsh; there is a deep warmth and energy here, like stepping into a beating heart full of life and compassion.

Dareen, 1 to 1 Link Worker



Dareen



Our financial activities

For the period ended 31 July 2025

Kehinde, Treasurer

I have served as a Trustee and Treasurer for SAVTE for over two years, a role that has been both engaging and, at times, challenging alongside my wider professional commitments.

Over the past year, the organisation faced funding challenges common across the charitable sector. Despite this, the year closed with income and expenditure exceeding budget expectations. In addition, we successfully secured new funding and achieved the renewal/upliftment of some existing funding.



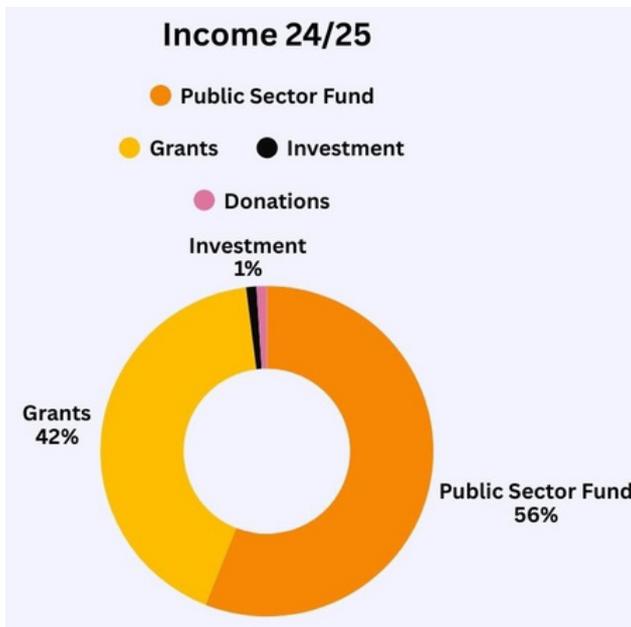
Kehinde Obemeata

I look forward to continuing my role as Treasurer and Trustee, working collaboratively with fellow Trustees to ensure SAVTE delivers on its mission of supporting learners to become well-equipped for a bright and sustainable future.

Our Financial Activities

For the Period ended 31st July 2025

Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations	4,708	-	4,708	2,660	-	-	2,660
Charitable Activities	105,867	200,717	306,584	111,780	-	286,978	398,758
Investment income- bank interest	5,101	-	5,101	4,441	-	-	4,441
Total incoming resources	115,676	200,717	316,393	118,881	-	286,978	405,859
Resources expended							
Charitable activities	105,783	251,939	357,722	141,136	46,136	234,653	421,925
Total expended resources	105,783	251,939	357,722	141,136	46,136	234,653	421,925
Net income/expenditure	9,893	(51,222)	(41,329)	(22,255)	(46,136)	52,325	(16,066)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	9,893	(51,222)	(41,329)	(22,255)	(46,136)	52,325	(16,066)
Total funds brought forward	229,628	105,959	335,587	251,883	46,136	53,634	351,653
Totals carried forward	239,521	54,737	294,258	229,628	-	105,959	335,587



As an organisation we remain largely funded by a mix of public sector grants and contracts together with funds from other grant making bodies. As much of our income stream is multi-year funding we have been able to build long term relationships with our funders. But we are not complacent and are focussed on maintaining the trust and confidence in SAVTE by ensuring we remain focussed on our vision and mission.

Our plans for the future

The beginning of 2025/26 signalled another significant change with a change of CEO from November 2025. The priorities are to maintain the our core delivery and sustainability of SAVTE.

This coming year will see us focus on the following key areas:

- Supporting and developing our volunteer community.
- Strengthening our key partnerships across the city including SPRING.
- Securing our long term financial sustainability.
- Developing the staff team to move into leadership roles.
- Reviewing and developing a new website.

With 80% of our learners interviewed as part of our strategic review telling us that health is the most important issue for them we will continue to prioritise activities that support learning and connection in this area.

Some farewells

We said goodbye to **Polly Perkins**, Marketing and Fundraising Manager who did a great job in leading the rebrand for SAVTE.

And **Sharon Santhouse**, the Office Manager, left to take up a new challenge at the Sheffield Wildlife Trust.

Naomi Hinch, a Community Link Worker left us to take on a role with FACES.

Jo Heap, a 1 to 1 Link Worker who brought incredible energy and passion to the role.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to **Sarah Beardsmore**, the Co-Chair and formerly Treasurer, who made an incredible contribution with her wisdom and insight for 6 years on the Board.

Clive Davies, another trustee stepped down but continued as a volunteer.



Thanks to our volunteers

Arushi Chidambaram
Afica Kaiser Wilkes
Aishah Kosar
Alison Jane Moore
Alison Mcmillen
Anna Gilyeat
Anne Shutt
Ayesha Fatima
Aysha Begum
Ben Matthews
Bensu Ara
Beth Coper
Beverley Brown
Carolyn George
Carys Mapleson
Charles Heatley
Chris Duggan
Chrissy Desforges
Christine Anderson
Clara Hardcastle
Clare Smith
Clive Davies
Cynthia Sutherland
Daniel Meadows
Daniel Wigginton
Denise Annett
Diana Ridley
Eddie Greenhill
Eleanor Clark
Elizabeth Buchanan
Elliot Nicholson-Cox
Eman Abbas
Emily Hewitt
Emma Matthews
Enock Nyambiya
Ewan Margrave
Farzad Noori
Fatima Adiri
Frances Morton
Frances Robertson
Gay Horsfield
Ghada Ahmed
Gita Ladher
Giuseppina Ward

Gordon Fyffe
Grace Collins
Graham Barkworth
Hadijah Hashimi
Hamed Davami
Heabo Mohammed
Hebah Alabbadi
Heike Becker
Hendrika Stephens
Hind Taraki
Husam Hassan
Ian McHugh
Irene May
Irene Pugh
Jane Stanley
Jenny Fortune
Jenny Patient
Jim Dimond
John Cleak
John Davies
Joseph Patemba
Joy Williams
Judith Davies
Judith Watts
Juliet Heatley
June Cattell
Karen Dobson
Karolina Borys
Kate McCullough
Kate Pinder
Katharine Berry
Kathleen Wallace
Kerrie Henderson
Khadija Yasin
Krishna Harish
Laura Yoshimoto Turpin
Laurie Burrow
Lee Mercer
Lee Newell
Lesley Eva Browne
Linda Baxter

Lindie Billington White
Liz Woods
Liz Griggs
Llynwen Wilson
Louise Caborn
Lyudmyla Migal
Maggie Lowry
Maggie Tierney
Maggie Waller
Mahmoud Ibrahim
Malcolm Clark
Malcolm Reed
Maria Cecilia Callirgos Baca
Mariana Cordero Caballero
Marion Speed
Mary Helme
Maya Kostova
Megan Strutt
Melita Carty
Michael Nelson
Nooh Almashehari
Nusrat Khalil
Oskar Leigh
Pat Rogers
Paul Hunt
Paula Helder
Penny Simons
Peter Clarkson
Praveena Ravindran
Radhia Eljazi
Rama Sharaf
Raphy Poon
Rebecca O'Connell-Firth
Rebecca Spencer

Richard Kingsnorth
Ros Tratt
Rosemary Telfer
Rowan Heller
Saba Bano
Sajda Ali-Hussain
Samina Khan
Samira Darwish
Samuel James-Louwerse
Sarah Ross
Sarah Sinclair
Sarah Zadik
Shakirah Tahir
Sharon Ghosh
Sheila Harrison
Sibongile Mupereki
Solomon Fissihatsion
Sudir Narraidoo
Sue Martindale
Sue Stocks
Susanna Ma
Theresa Harpham
Tony Tingle
Trevor Goodfield
Valerie Bola Ekeogu
Yasin Hersi
Zubeda Khatib



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The National Lottery Community Fund, Sheffield City Council Voluntary Sector Grant Fund, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Sheffield City Council SPRING Project Funding, Garfield Weston Foundation, Co-op Community Fund, The Schroder Charity Trust & The University of Sheffield Students' Union.

Many thanks to all SAVTE staff and trustees

serving within the reporting period

Salwa Ahmed
Dareen Assaf
Kerry Cressey
Joanne Heap
Naomi Hinch
Rob Hindle
Jo Holliday
Nuhu Jallow
Kay Kingsnorth

Katrin Klosa
Hazel Leigh
Faisal Muhrez
Polly Perkins
Amina Sahar
Isabella Shaw
Sharon Santhouse
Maymona Ghannam

Sarah Beardsmore
Stephanie Burke
Rosemary Telfer
Kei Chuen-Lam
Hannah Thornton
Danny Gooch
Clive Davies
Celine Frohn
Amanda Wilson
Aaishah Aslam
Kehinde Obemeata





Connecting People
and **Changing**
Lives through **Local**
English Support

Refer to **SAVTE**

If you know someone who needs help with English and can't get access, refer them through our website www.savte.org.uk or call us on **0114 212 3050**

Volunteer with **SAVTE**

SAVTE introduces volunteers to learners and trains them to provide English language support. Apply to volunteer via our website [savte.org.uk/volunteering/](http://www.savte.org.uk/volunteering/)

Partner with **SAVTE**

We welcome any opportunity to come and talk to your organisation about how we could work together. Email us at: savte@savte.org.uk

Connecting People, Changing Lives

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Creating community
through conversation



PATRON: The Right Honourable The Lord Blunkett

