

Newsletter: January 2026



A Very Happy New Year from all at Sobus!

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News & Updates

Charity Compliance Changes for 2025/2026, Sue Spiller, Sobus CEO

What you need to know

The Government is planning changes to the tax rules that apply to UK charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs). These changes are included in the draft Finance Bill for 2025/26 and are expected to take effect from **April 2026**. [Read on](#)

The Updated Charity Governance Code, Sue Spiller, Sobus CEO

The Charity Governance Code has recently been updated, providing trustees (and leadership teams) with refreshed guidance on good governance. While many of the core concepts remain consistent, the revised Code introduces a new principle, expands on existing ones, reflects societal and sector developments, and presents its guidance in a more practical, navigable way. [Read on](#)

Other Updates, Sue Spiller, Sobus CEO

Code of Fundraising Practice

The Code of Fundraising Practice sets the standards that apply to fundraising conducted by all charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK.

The new Code of Fundraising Practice came into effect on 1 November 2025. You can read the code in both digital and PDF format, along with accompanying code support guides.

If you have any questions about the new code and how it compares to the 2019 version you can view our table of changes, read our FAQs, or contact our Code Advice Service.

For further information, visit: www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk

Charities Act 2022: changes to ex gratia payments

Changes on ex gratia payments take effect on 27 November 2025. Charities will be able to make ex gratia payments of up to £20,000 without Charity Commission consent, with the maximum amount tied to their most recent gross income.

Trustees may also delegate decisions to staff or committees. A moral obligation to make the payment will still be required, assessed objectively. Certain national museums and galleries, including the British Museum and Tate Gallery, are excluded from these new provisions.

Employment Law: ACAS Early Conciliation extension

On 3 November 2025, the government published a proposal to extend the ACAS Early Conciliation period from six weeks to 12 weeks, with effect from 1 December 2025.

Early Conciliation is mandatory before an employee can bring a claim in the Employment Tribunal. Many charities will welcome this extension as it allows more time to resolve disputes before a claim is submitted. However, with plans to increase Tribunal time limits from three to six months under the Employment Rights Bill, charities may face longer periods before receiving notice of claims.

For further information:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2025/1153/made?mc_cid=58fc17c820&mc_eid=74c4583dfb&utm_campaign=3495276_Charity%20law%20bulletin%20Dec%202025&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Russell-Cooke%20LLP&dm_i=2ME9,22WZ0,9G0I1P,7MYEF,1

FREE Work & Meeting Space

Sobus are providing the below offers to any small, or start-up VCS organisations based in, or providing services within H&F.

Free workspace - Up to 8 days a month, any weekday between 9am & 5pm at Dawes Road Hub.

Free board room hire - Book any weekday between 9am-5pm, up to 6 weeks in advance at Dawes Road Hub, either 2 half days, or 1 full day per month (with a maximum of 4 bookings in any 12 month period, per organisation).

Hot Desk



Board Room



Building a Strong Case for Support: The 6 Questions Every Charity Must Answer

Whether you're launching a new campaign, applying for a grant, or engaging major donors, one thing is certain: your case for support needs to be clear, compelling, and credible. [Read more.](#)

Charities Encouraged to Sign a Donor Code of Conduct pledge

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising, in collaboration with fundraising think tank Rogare, has called on charities across the UK to pledge to create and enforce a Donor Code of Conduct aimed at protecting fundraisers from inappropriate behaviour by donors or supporters. [Find out more here.](#)

Charities Refuse to Comply with Home Secretary's Migrant Volunteering Plan

Over 300 charities and voluntary organisations have signed a letter to the home secretary, declaring their refusal to support her “immoral and impractical” plan to implement a volunteering “test” for migrants seeking indefinite leave to remain in the UK. [Read more in this Civil Society article here.](#)

Responding to Extremism

NCVO has published a report that explores the impact of the rise in extremism on the voluntary sector. [Give it a read here.](#)

DSC's digital guide on responding to racism offers practical steps for charities to safeguard themselves and maintain their operations helps organisations reassess their strategic planning and stand in solidarity with others to combat racism and bigotry. [Take a look here.](#)

Training & Events

Sobus Monthly Workshop – Setting up a New Charity, CIC or CIO

Sobus is pleased to announce a regular monthly workshop for those wanting to set up a new charity, CIC or CIO. These monthly workshops will be held at Dawes Road Hub, and provide an introduction to different structures available, and the process of registration.

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/getting-started-charityciccio-registration-tickets-1969378849152?aff=oddtdtcreator>

Tackling Child Poverty: Improving Welfare, Security & Future Prospects

Webinar: 13th January 2026

An invaluable opportunity to bring together stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, charities, local authorities, policymakers, and schools, to discuss the underlying causes of child poverty, evaluate current efforts to tackle child poverty, and exchange views on what the government's upcoming strategy to tackle child poverty should look like.

Programme

- Identify the key provisions that the government's child poverty strategy should include in order to ensure its meaningful impact
- Evaluate the importance of scrapping the two-child benefit cap to tackling child poverty

- Understand the history and the economic, political, institutional and socio-cultural drivers of child poverty in the UK, and UK child poverty levels in the context of comparable developed economies
- Generate specific strategies for tackling child poverty among minority, disadvantaged communities
- Formulate specific strategies for tackling child poverty within working households
- Design strategies specifically aimed at supporting children living in deep poverty
- Learn about best practice international examples of policy platforms, institutional frameworks and macroeconomic structures designed to guard against and tackle child poverty
- Evaluate current efforts across the four nations of the UK to tackle child poverty and consider the role that austerity and Brexit have played in driving child poverty

To register for the briefing, please [click here](#).

Food Resilient London: Mapping our Community Food Assets

We are delighted to share with you an upcoming webinar, “**Food Resilient London: mapping our community food assets**”, taking place on **Tuesday, 13 January from 2-3pm**.

This event is hosted by Sustain, GCDA and London Resilience, featuring the launch of a community food asset registration portal, insights from community food initiatives and enterprises, and resources to support London’s communities prepare for emergencies.

Register here: <https://www.sustainweb.org/events/dec25-food-resilient-london-mapping-assets/>

New ADHD Workshop

Workshops are live online via Zoom **10.00 to 12.30**. Each workshop costs £95 per participant.

19 Feb ADHD in the Workplace

30 Apr ADHD in the Workplace

For booking details and 465 reviews – [NFP Workshops – 19 Training Courses – 465 Reviews](#)

Digital Unite FREE Courses

Digital Unite’s free course on Online Safety – bite-sized

Learn how to spot digital “tricks” and discover simple steps to protect yourself, the people you work with and those you care about. Don’t leave them in the dark.

Free course on Affordable Internet

This course shows how to find low-cost broadband, mobile deals, and support with digital costs—so everyone can enjoy the sweet side of being online.

[Free Courses | Digital Unite](#)

Funding

Screwfix Foundation (UK)

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to local charities and not-for-profit organisations (including specialist not-for-profit schools) to fund projects that will fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need in the UK. The funding is being made available through Screwfix Foundations, and the grants are available for a wide range of projects, from repairing buildings and improving facilities in deprived areas to decorating the homes of people living with sickness and disabilities. **Applications are reviewed every quarter, and the next deadline for applications is 10 February 2026.** [Screwfix Foundation \(UK\)](#)

Apply Now: Go! London Open Innovation Challenges

Go! London—a partnership between the Mayor of London, London Marathon Foundation, Sport England, London Marathon Events and London Sport—has launched two new **Open Innovation Challenges**.

The two challenges will help explore how physical activity and sport can help to address some of today’s biggest challenges:

- **Sport for Climate Action:** Inviting bold, creative solutions that are harnessing the power of sport and physical activity to build climate awareness in young people, and shift behaviours in response to climate change.
- **Reimagining Sport & Play:** Seeking innovations that increase the availability of safe, inclusive, and affordable spaces for sport and physical activity by adapting or reimagining spaces previously not used for this purpose, and those that make existing spaces more welcoming and relevant to engage young people who have been excluded.

We’re looking for ideas that bring different stakeholders together and work directly with young people to create safe, inclusive spaces where they can play and be active.

Apply to the Go! London Open Innovation Challenges for a chance to:

- Receive up to £100,000 in funding
- Join a two-month capacity building programme
- Connect with social innovators across London who are looking to positively impact children and young people in their communities.

Are you eligible?

- Initiatives must be designed for and delivered in London.
- The lead applicant or organisation must have a registered legal entity, and should be a non-profit organisation (including schools, universities and local authorities). For-profit organisations can be part of the partnership, but not the lead applicant.
- Previous and existing Go! London grantees are eligible to apply and/or be part of a partnership that is applying.

Learn more and apply [here](#). **Applications close at 5pm on 17 February 2026.**

Please help us reach more changemakers by sharing this opportunity with your networks and partners. For any questions, contact golondonchallenges@ashoka.org.

Go! London is a multi-year, £22.5m partnership between the Mayor of London, London Marathon Foundation and Sport England, supported by London Marathon Events and London Sport. The Open Innovation Challenges are being delivered in partnership with Ashoka and Play Verto.

Funding to Support Disadvantaged Young People & Offenders (UK)

UK charities and charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs) are invited to apply for grants to support initiatives that help young offenders, ex-offenders, and other disadvantaged young people secure pathways to meaningful employment and community engagement. In some cases, applications from community interest companies (CICs) may also be considered. The programme offers two funding streams: small grants of up to £5,000 and main grants with no formal upper limit, although typical awards are generally between £10,000 and £15,000. The funding is being made available through the Worshipful Company of Weavers Charitable Grants Programme. **The next application deadline is 12 March 2026.** [Funding to Support Disadvantaged Young People and Offenders \(UK\)](#)

Grants to Support Individuals & Families in Need (UK)

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to charities, housing associations, schools, and social services that support individuals and families across the UK in financial need. The Cosaraf Charitable Foundation's Hardship Grants will support individuals and families who have exhausted all other funding sources and are struggling with everyday costs, such as basic living expenses, household items and utilities, work- or education-related expenses, or rent arrears. Priority will be given to the most financially excluded people, families over individuals, those with caring responsibilities, and items that will make the most difference to the individual/family's

long-term future. The Foundation distributes both Zakat and Sadaqah funds. Sadaqah funds are available for all people of all faiths and none. Zakat funds are only available for Muslim applicants. **Applications can be made at any time and are assessed every six weeks.** [Grants to Support Individuals & Families in Need \(UK\)](#)

Grants to Support Families in Need (UK)

Families facing financial hardship can receive small grants to help purchase essential household items. The grants typically range from £200 to £300 for items such as beds, cookers, and fridge-freezers. Additionally, women living in Greater London may be eligible for up to £1,500 to fund a short break or holiday. Applicants must be referred by recognised agencies and belong to priority groups, including those affected by mental health issues, domestic abuse, or old age. **The programme supports individuals receiving means-tested benefits who are under exceptional pressure, and there is no deadline for applications.** The initiative is delivered by the national charity Family Action through its Welfare Grants Programme. [Grants to Support Families in Need \(UK\)](#)

Funding for Leisure Activities for Children with Additional Needs (UK)

The Happy Days Children's Charity is inviting applications for funding towards trips, respite breaks and group activity holidays for disadvantaged children and young people with additional needs. The charity awards funding for different types of activities to support families with children aged 3-17 who have a disability, a special need or have been abused. Activities include family day trips, and family holiday breaks. Applications can be submitted by parents, guardians, grandparents or siblings, as well as GPs, consultants, nurses or social workers. Groups that work with special needs children, including SEN schools and women's refuges, are also eligible to apply for funding for either a day trip, theatre visit, or a group activity holiday. **Applications can be made at any time.** [Funding for Leisure Activities for Children with Additional Needs \(UK\)](#)

Grants to Support Early Years Development for Deaf Children (UK)

Grants of up to £10,000 are available through the National Deaf Children's Society's Community Grants Programme for community groups, charities, and not-for-profit organisations supporting deaf children and their families across the UK. In this round, funding will support projects and activities that promote the development of deaf children in their early years (ages 0-5). This stage is crucial, particularly for children who may face challenges with language, communication, and social skills without the right support. Projects may involve families, professionals, and older deaf children provided they contribute to early years development. Funding can cover costs such as venue hire, transport, promotional materials, wages for sessional workers, interpreters, language tutors, and equipment. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with set assessment dates throughout the year.** [Grants to Support Early Years Development for Deaf Children \(UK\)](#)

Funding to Support Disadvantaged Young People (UK – excl Greater London)

Grants of up to £15,000 are available to charities and not-for-profit organisations working with young people aged 12-21 who are socially excluded or marginalised, and who may have experienced significant issues within their lives. The grants can be used to support a range of activities, including core costs, project work, and capital expenditure. To maximise the impact of its grants, the Foundation will only fund smaller organisations. Organisations that work across a local area, such as a village, estate, or town, must have an annual income of less than £100,000 to be eligible. Organisations that work across the entire UK must have an annual income of less than £250,000 to be eligible. **Applications can be submitted at any time.** [**Funding to Support Disadvantaged Young People \(UK – excl Greater London\)**](#)

Grants for Older People on Low Incomes (England & Wales)

Small grants of up to £600 are available to support vulnerable older people living on low incomes in England and Wales. The funding which is being made available through the charity Friends of the Elderly assists individuals and couples who are of or over the state pension age, have savings of less than £5,000, and do not meet the criteria for other funders. The funding aims to assist with various needs such as purchasing a new fridge, paying unexpected bills, obtaining food and clothing, or covering gas and electricity costs. To apply for these grants, individuals must submit their applications through a third-party Referral Agent. Acceptable Referral Agents include charities, local authorities, housing associations, community organisations, Information, Advice and Guidance providers, as well as social services representatives. **Applications can be submitted at any time.** [**Grants for Older People on Low Incomes \(England & Wales\)**](#)

Grants for Suicide Awareness & Prevention Projects (UK)

Grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available for charitable organisations delivering suicide awareness and prevention programmes across the UK. Funded by the David Riddell Memorial CIO, the grants support innovative projects that educate people about suicidal ideation and inform them of ways to prevent suicide. Eligible applicants include charities, charitable incorporated organisations, and community interest companies limited by guarantee. Preference is given to smaller organisations with an annual income of less than £1 million. Funding can be used for both project delivery and core costs, including full cost recovery. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and, if successful, are typically funded within three months.** [**Grants for Suicide Awareness & Prevention Projects \(UK\)**](#)

[**Click here to view Sabus' latest Funding Alert**](#)

Health & Wellbeing

Walk in Centres for Non Emergencies, Shad Haibatan, Sobus Head of Engagement & Partnerships

Parsons Green Walk-in Centre – Here when you need us

Located in Fulham, the Parsons Green Walk-in Centre is open to anyone aged 2 years and over who needs prompt, non-emergency care.

No appointment needed – just walk in.

Open 7 days a week (Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00; Sat–Sun 09:00–13:30; Bank Holidays 09:00–17:00. Closed Easter Sunday, Christmas Day & New Year's Day).

Service led by advanced clinical practitioners who can help with:

- Sore throats, coughs, ear infections
- Sprains, minor cuts and bruises (no x-ray available)
- Minor burns and scalds
- Insect bites or stings
- Rashes and skin irritations
- Emergency contraception
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- Acute wound care (new cuts, abrasions, tear or after surgery)

By choosing the Walk-in Centre for minor illnesses or injuries, you can help our local A&Es focus on those who need urgent, life-saving care.

Visit the Parsons Green Walk-in Centre at 5-7 Parsons Green, London, SW6 4UL.

St Charles Urgent Care Centre – Supporting our community

The St Charles Urgent Care Centre in North Kensington is here for you and your family when you need care for non-emergency conditions.

For patients aged 2 years and over

Open every day: 08:00 – 20:00- 365 days per year

No appointment required – walk in anytime.

Staffed by experienced advanced clinical practitioners who can help with

- Minor injuries (sprains and strains, minor fractures) X-ray available for limbs only
- Flu-like symptoms and infections
- Rashes and allergic reactions
- Eye infections
- Minor burns and scalds
- UTI symptoms
- Acute wound care (new cuts, abrasions, tear or after surgery)

By choosing our Centre for minor illnesses or injuries, you can help our local A&Es focus on those who need urgent, life-saving care.

Visit St Charles NHS Urgent Care Centre at St Charles Hospital, Exmoor St, London W10 6DZ.

Soho Walk-in Centre – Convenient care in central London

Right in the heart of central London, the **Soho Walk-in Centre** is here to help local workers, residents, visitors, and tourists.

For anyone aged 16 years and over

No appointment needed – just walk in.

Opening hours:

- **Tuesday–Friday:** 08:00 – 18:00
- **Saturday–Sunday:** 10:00 – 18:00
- **Bank Holidays:** 10:00 – 18:00 (*Closed on Christmas Day*)

Staffed by experienced advanced clinical practitioners who can help with

- Coughs, colds, sore throats
- Skin, chest, ear, and throat infections
- Sprains, minor cuts and bruises (no x-ray available)
- Eye or ear problems
- Skin conditions (eczema, rashes, bites)
- Stomach upsets and digestive issues
- Acute wound care (new cuts, abrasions, tear or after surgery).

By choosing the Walk-in Centre for minor illnesses or injuries, you can help our local A&Es focus on those who need urgent, life-saving care.

Visit the Soho Walk-in Centre at 1 Frith St, Soho Square, London, W1D 3HZ.

Flu Cases are Rising

Please if you have symptoms of flu: coughing, sneezing or fever – help stop the spread.

Stay home if you can and wear a mask around other people.

Look after yourself, rest, keep warm take paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower your temperature and treat aches and pains.

Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.

If you need medical help or advice use NHS 111 online or over the phone from home.

Please do not travel to our hospitals or emergency services.

Help stop the spread.

More information www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu

If you are eligible for a flu vaccination:

- over 65
- children aged 2-3 all school age children
- people with health conditions
- and those who are pregnant – **make sure you get yours now.**

Need Urgent Dental Care? Help is Available Through NHS 111

Access to urgent dental appointments has been improved, don't suffer with painful tooth problems, you can now call NHS 111 to get help.

Appointments can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week through NHS 111 — either online or by calling 111.

What the service covers

Urgent dental appointments are there to help people experiencing serious dental problems, including:

- severe toothache that cannot be managed with over-the-counter painkillers
- dental abscesses causing swelling, pain or fever
- broken, fractured or knocked-out teeth and fillings
- bleeding in the mouth following an injury
- infection
- severe gum bleeding.

How to access care

You do not need to be registered with a dentist to use this service. Anyone in need of urgent advice or treatment can contact NHS 111.

More information about urgent dental conditions is available at NHS.uk/urgentdentalcare.

Jobs & Volunteering Opportunities

New Year Message from The Kids Network

We have ambitious plans in 2026 to reach even more children who would benefit from support.

You can help us identify children who would need the life changing experience of having a mentor. If you're a school leader or work with children in education, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with our Schools Partnership Lead [Priya](#) to make a referral and explore how we can partner with your school this year.

More information here <https://www.thekidsnetwork.org.uk/i-work-with-children>

Become a volunteer mentor with The Kids Network

Just one hour a week – a walk, a board game, a chat over hot chocolate – can help a child feel seen, supported and full of possibility. You'll never find a resolution quite so easy to keep: mentoring is deeply rewarding, and genuinely life-changing for the young person you're matched with.

If you're ready to start the year with purpose, connection and joy, we'll give you all the training and support you need. Apply now and you'll be able to join our training session in January!

Sign up to be a mentor and make 2026 the year you changed a child's story for the better. <https://www.thekidsnetwork.org.uk/i-want-to-mentor>

Our first training of 2026 will be on 17th Jan!

News & Events for H&F Residents

In-Person & Online Business Support

Running a business is busy work. And we know that finding time to access training and guidance opportunities can be tricky.

That's why we offer a mix of online and in-person support – so that you can make these resources work for you.

Opportunities include:

- Win investment, learn how to create a standout pitch and gain publicity with our [Dragons' Den-style competition](#) with online and in-person events.
- [Meet with our expert business advisors](#) who specialise in tax, accelerating profitability, brand development, marketing and more at our free advice clinics.
- In your own time, catch up on our [latest business blogs](#) from experts in the know.

Looking for more in-person events? Find new contacts and local connections at our [Hammersmith.Networking](#) and [H&F Local Supplier Project](#) networking sessions.

The Mum Club Launches in H&F – A New Social Space for Local Mums !

Calling all mums-to-be and mums in **Hammersmith & Fulham** and the surrounding community – an exciting new mum group has arrived!

Meet The Mum Club – a nationwide network of local meet ups created to put mums first. From brunches and coffee clubs to walks and fitness classes, every event is designed to help mums connect, feel supported, and enjoy time for themselves.

Why Mums Need The Mum Club

Motherhood is rewarding, but it can also feel overwhelming and isolating. Not every mum finds her people in NCT classes, and for many second-time mums or those who have moved to a new area, making new connections can be tough. That's where The Mum Club comes in.

“Good mum friends are essential when you have children, but they’re not always easy to find,” explain founders Lauren Webber and Jessica Lawes. “When we had our babies, we’d go to classes where the children were entertained, but we’d leave without making real connections. We created The Mum Club so no mum would ever have to feel that way.”

Recent research shows that 89% of mums have felt lonely at least once since giving birth – a reality The Mum Club is determined to change.

What to Expect

Imagine a group of local like-minded mums chatting over food and coffee, sharing laughs, advice, and stories. Every event is designed to feel welcoming and inclusive – whether you’re a first-time mum or a seasoned pro. Come alone or with little ones; this is your time.

When's the Next Event?

Follow [@themumclubhammersmithandfulham](https://www.instagram.com/themumclubhammersmithandfulham) on Instagram or email your local hosts, Fran and Liv, at hammersmithandfulham@themumclub.com for details and ticket updates.

How to Book

Browse and book all events via the main website: <https://themumclub.com/events/>

For press enquiries, please contact:

Fran and Liv – The Mum Club Hammersmith and Fulham

Email: hammersmithandfulham@themumclub.com

Better Cycling Community Project

[Better Cycling](#) is a community project that combines creativity with cycling safety to inspire young people in **Hammersmith**. The programme uses graffiti art as a way to promote safer, more independent cycling, while also encouraging environmental awareness by helping to reduce carbon emissions and prevent accidents.

Together we are offering 2 workshops:

- Freehand and Stencil Spray Painting
- Safer Cycling Training

For £100, participants will have access to both workshops. Places are limited and early booking is advised. We are also opened to explore ways of being able to offer the workshop for a year group of your school.

By taking part, pupils and families will also be contributing to the creation of the [Better Cycling](#) mural at OMA Bikes, funded via the [Space Hive crowdfunding platform](#).

Venue: OMA Bikes, 325 Fulham Palace Road, London SW6 6TJ

We would be delighted to work with your school and available to arrange a meeting to explore collaboration possibilities further. We would be grateful as well if you could share this opportunity with your pupils or their families.

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