

Let's kick things off.

The PFA Charity has grown into an organisation expert at giving money where it matters. The PFA **Charity's aims remain** unchanged, to help professional footballers and wider society, through advice, grant aid and funding for research. They are as relevant today as they were at the start and a solid platform for our work of tomorrow.

We provide support to the people in our footballing community who need it most, when they need it most and we use our knowledge and insight to contribute to the things that matter in society.

We are, at our core a social justice organisation and we invest in organisations that operate in that space through our race equality, community, health and welfare and our youth and education work.

We help to raise awareness of the issues that matter within football and in the wider community through our grants and funding programmes. I am proud to introduce this review of our achievements over the past eight years and I hope that everyone who reads this will find it both enlightening and informative.





We have worked hard to make sure that what we do is relevant to the times that we live in, and responsive to the critical issues in society that sometimes hit the headlines through the medium of football.

Football is the world's most popular ball game - millions of people play it and millions of people watch it, from playgrounds to the premiership.

People from all walks of life finding joy in the game, a career, an escape, a chance to meet up with friends. Football brings people together. It can also be a hard career path where many struggle with life both during and after football. Many don't earn enough throughout their careers to set themselves up for the future, and many struggle with mental health and other welfare issues in the same way that other people do.

Our charity exists to help them when they need it most.

Football and footballers have shone a light on racism and social inequality, and our charity has funded research and supported organisations that are committed to ending racism in both football and society.

Racist behaviour is not a product of football - it is a product of society that manifests itself in the visible public arena of football. We will continue fight racism through our funding for research, community and education work.

Helping people to be rounded individuals with respect for all people regardless of their race or ethnicity is an aim with no boundaries. Much of our work is interlinked with a continuum of themes which are golden threads reminding us of the importance of what we do. This will not change.





We've been on a journey throughout the years - finding our feet in the first year as a separately identifiable company from The Professional Footballers' Association Union, investing well enabling growth and security, amassing huge amounts of knowledge and spreading our reach to positively impact lives.

We are grateful to The Professional Footballers' Association Union for its support in the provision of staff and management functions, which have helped our charity to grow and as we look to the future, we will use what we have learned as a platform for our activities. Partnership has always been important to us and that will continue with the Union and other sporting and non-sporting organisations we have had the pleasure of working with.



As we look to the future, the PFA Charity is committed to helping people while finding new and innovative ways to do so. We expect to build on our existing partnership work and forge new relationships with people we haven't yet met.

In this report we look at the real difference that we have made to the lives of people we have helped over the last eight years. Through the lens of football, we will show the challenges that real people face, the opportunities open to them and why our work matters.

Brendon Batson, OBE Chair of PFA Charity



The PFA Charity existed for many years as an unincorporated body. It changed its structure in 2013 to better respond to both the current and emerging needs of its beneficiaries. The beneficiaries of the charity come from all walks of life and many of their needs are a reflection of the society and environment in which they live. The result of this modernisation is a set of wide-ranging aims and objectives that enables the charity to keep pace with changing social and economic circumstances going forward. At the time of incorporation, the PFA Educational Fund and the PFA Benevolent Fund were transferred from the control of The Professional Footballers' Association Union to the PFA Charity.





We support young, professional and former footballers in educational attainment beyond playing football. We help them gain qualifications both within the sporting arena and more widely. With our help they become equipped for life after football and enter into a variety of professions, both academic and vocational.

We provide help for people and their families who are in financial hardship and need.

We help people to be the best that they can be.

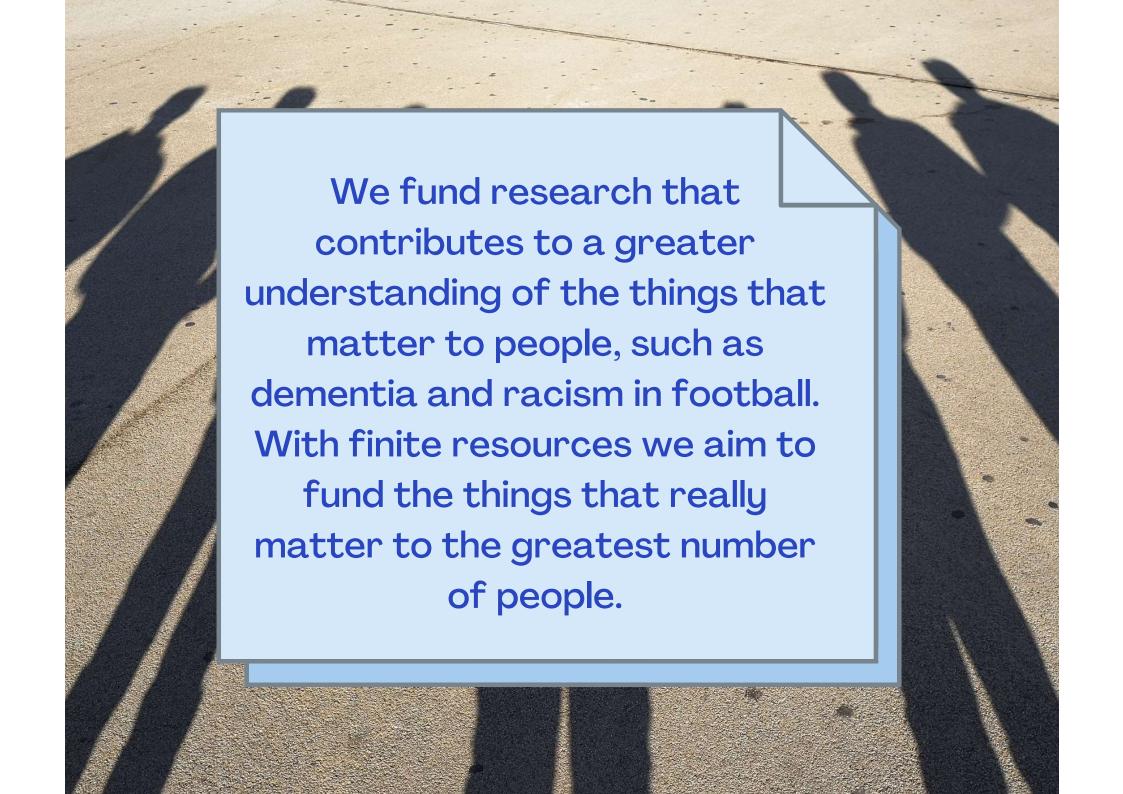
We provide information to the public about the history, the development and social impact on English national life of the game of football.





We have a role in the preservation and display of artefacts and memorabilia of educational and historic value, important because through football events and its role in our communities and in wider society, we gain insight into society.

We support and promote community participation, health and wellbeing through funding sporting facilities for children and the most vulnerable in our society. We stay true to our core values by helping those who might otherwise be excluded through inequality to be involved and feel wanted.







A lot has happened since we started in 2013 and in this section, we take a look at our journey - and some of the highlights.

We incorporated to set the charity up to respond to and support beneficiaries through the times they live in by creating a set of widened and expanded objects, adopting an agile approach to helping people and causes that matter.

In the first two years of incorporation, our focus was financial stability. We achieved a solid footing through a transfer of assets from the PFA Educational Fund and the PFA Benevolent Fund.

In these important foundation years, we secured the finances of the charity and we set our key policies on reserves, investments and risk management.



Through prudent investment in the early years, the charity grew faster than we expected - and with it came the challenges of balancing the need for building reserves to secure our future, and meeting the needs of a huge number of beneficiaries who might call upon us.

Income up from £13 million to £43 million

## In 2015, things really started to happen...

We established a grants strategy and policy, and we formalised our working partnership with The Professional Footballers' Association Union. With no staff employed by the charity, its activities were delivered via purchased services through The Professional Footballers' Association Union staff. We were able to tap into the reach of The Professional Footballers' Association Union through their established website, which helped enormously to spread the word about our work.

By 2016 our core grant activities had been established and true to our aims, our priorities included education and vocational qualifications for individuals, supported the Football League Community Fund, the Youth Development Programme, Fair Play Awards and Sporting Chance.



In 2017, our key achievements included 408 benevolent grants to people and dependents in need and suffering hardship. We funded 93 coaching courses for young people and former players and we gave 1,354 educational and vocational grants. We supported individuals attending residential treatment at Sporting Chance for alcohol and gambling addiction, we paid for mental health assessments and we supported victims of historic sex abuse who need counselling and support in bringing complaints.

1,354 educational and vocational grants.

93 coaching courses.

90% success rate.

364 people accessed advisory services.

362 accessed counselling services.

Charity funds £53 million.

We increased our grants distribution to nearly 17 million which included support for the National League Trust - supporting Community programmes at clubs who are members of the three divisions of the National League. The Trust delivers projects ranging from music and dance to encouraging volunteering, working with young people not in education or training. It helps people with disabilities to play sports and runs literacy and numeracy programmes.

Our grant aid programme is made possible by the generous support of the Trust's funding partners: the Premier League, the PFA Charity and the National League Trust.

By 2018 we had consolidated our regular core funding strategy to the Football Conferencing Community, Football League Youth Development, Football Scholarship Funding, Football League Community Fund, Educational and Vocational Grants and Football Coaching Services and Courses. We continued the work started in the previous 2 years, providing funding to specific causes and research pieces.

In February 2014 we supported the Heart4More Foundation, founded by Tobi Alabi, (an ex-professional footballer).

He was aged just 19 in 2013 when his heart stopped and he collapsed during a game of football. He never played professional football again. The Heart4More Foundation raises awareness of cardiac related issues through cardiac health workshops, donating defibrillators and running community heart screening days.

393 benevolent grants.

1,440 educational and vocational grants.

38,000 community player engagements.

24 residents at sporting chance.



Dementia in sports, for both men and women, was and remains of serious concern in the sporting community - and in society at large. Our charity gave £125,000 to fund a landmark study into lifelong health outcomes in former professional footballers.

Led by consultant neuropathologist Dr. Willie Stewart, honorary clinical associate Professor at the University of Glasgow, the FIELD study found that former professional footballers had an approximately three and a half times higher rate of death due to neurodegenerative disease (dementia, Alzheimer's disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease) than expected.



The PFA Charity has always operated in a way that stays connected to the role that football plays in society and in 2019 racism in life and in sport was highlighted by global events and in particular the prominence of the **Black Lives Matter** movement.





Footballers have been speaking out about racism for many years, and our charity exists in large part to support anti racism initiatives and organisations, such as Kick It Out and Show Racism the Red Card.

In 2019 and 2020, Black footballers were subjected to racist abuse both online and on the pitch, both at home and abroad.

We continued to support players individually and more broadly by funding anti-racism activities. We funded the launch of the #Enough Campaign which saw professional footballers boycott social media for 24 hours to demonstrate against racism on the pitch and online. The campaign had a global reach of 90 million and paved the way for the football industry to engage with social media platforms.

Led by two of our trustees, Brendon
Batson and Garth Crooks, the
charity funded the Elite Coaching
Placement Programme - to ensure
BAME coaching placements and
Chris Powell, a trustee, joined the
senior England coaching team as
part of the new PFA Charity /
Football Association BAME initiative.

2019 also brought COVID 19 to the world and we at the PFA Charity dealt with the challenges in a very positive way. Benevolent grants increased and the trustees made an extra £1 million available. We gave a £1 million donation to the NHS charities which was made possible through improved investment returns and was in line with what was happening to support the NHS throughout the country, and in which footballers were prominent.

£2 million in benevolent grants.

£1 million to NHS charities.

By 2020 the PFA Charity had become a mature organisation with a deep understanding of the societal impacts on people who are the football community, from professional players to kids with dreams, avid followers of football wherever they are, people who find respite in the joy of playing and watching the game from the realities of life. Football brings people together and unites people wherever they're from. Our charity understands this and that's why its reach is wide and many of its activities rooted in communities.

We continued to grow and develop our community partnerships with the Premier League, the PFA Community Fund and the English Football League Trust. We donated £700,000 to support local club initiatives to encourage sports participation, health, education and community cohesion, a flexible fund ready to respond to needs on the ground. Within this funding stream sits the Premier League Primary Stars initiative which is available to every primary school in England and Wales. It uses the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to inspire children to learn, be active and develop important life skills.



The PFA charity continued to provide funding of 3.2 million to the EFL Trust, the same amount donated in previous years. The EFL Trust is a national charity using the power of football to change people's lives, bringing together a network of 72 EFL clubs based in their communities, using the magnetism of the club badge and player power to connect and inspire through sport, education and community engagement.

In 2020, we maintained funding to our established partners and we started looking towards a new strategic plan for the future, ensuring that our work continues to keep pace with current issues and that our structure including the reliance on The Professional Footballers' Association Union staff is reviewed. Set against the background of the COVID pandemic and preparing for a post COVID world in which lives, communities, education, school activities and plans were disrupted, we entered into a period of re-evaluation and reflection, which continued throughout 2021.

We increased our input into helping people with neurodegenerative diseases, by funding a welfare rights advisor to assist beneficiaries with their entitlements under law to the range of benefits and other support services available.



We have, during this period of reflection, taken stock of what we do and realised that with many needs to serve and after a long period of doing many things, some of which are better handled by other expert organisations that the time has come for us to bring clarity to what we do. We are a compassionate listening ear and we signpost to specialist advisory services. We are very proud of the support we have given and will continue to give in funding research and making benevolent grants to individuals, which are in excess of £80 million over the last seven years.



We have supported brain injury research since the FIELD study in 2017/18, extending our funding to include;

- Notts University foot/ankle osteoarthritis, cognitive and Neurological impairment in former professional footballers versus the general population study (FOCUS).
- The HEADING study (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) examining brain health and healthy ageing in around 300 former football players aged 50+.



We supported the International Concussion and Head Injury Research Foundation. The Drake Foundation study into examining the link between heading the ball, concussions and long-term cognitive function, the Head Injury Research Foundation, The Concussion Foundation.

2021 was the year that really shone a spotlight on the online abuse of football players, both before and after Euro 20 (21), during which time English Black players were subjected to abhorrent and harmful abuse. We funded a ground-breaking report that analysed the results of monitoring activity of the social media accounts of 50 footballers. This report was the catalyst for Government action in the form of the Online Harms Bill and was shared with the UK Football Police Unit.

Our work in this area is not done and we will continue this year to liaise with government, support players and do everything that we can to keep the pressure on social media companies to do more to stamp out online abuse. We know from our study that Artificial Intelligence solutions exist and we will continue to develop contacts with broadcasters, advertisers and sponsors for support for what will be an ongoing campaign to stop it.



## Far Reaching and Inspiring

Our charity is all about making the most of opportunities that we discover to improve the lives of those we were set up to help. This means that our reach, often indirectly through grant funding is wide and at the same time individual and very personal to those we assist through benevolence. In this section of the report, you will see just how much what we do matters in the words of some of those we have helped.



# Supporting the Community

Saints and the City youth in the Community:

"We are writing on behalf of St Albans City Youth FC, as the nominated charity partner of St Albans City FC, to express our sincere thanks to the PFA Charity, in your role as funding partner of the National League Trust. We are extremely grateful that the Trust has awarded our charity a significant grant enabling us to deliver a rich and varied programme of community-based projects that, over the coming year, will have a transformational impact on the physical and mental wellbeing across a wide and diverse cross section of the communities we serve."



"In partnership with St Albans City FC, we will expand access to and enrich the inclusive / disability football on offer in St Albans. We will deliver in curriculum sports sessions in partnership with a local Pupil Referral Unit as part of an intervention project aimed at offering coaching qualifications to pupils excluded from mainstream schools. Moreover, we will deliver football sessions in 10 partner primary schools and at a local F.E college to students for whom English is not their first language and many are classified as displaced persons. Not forgetting the older members of our support and our community, we will also launch Walking Football sessions. Without your generous financial support and the invaluable support of the NLT none of these projects, all of which are aimed at enriching lives through the power of sport and community would be possible. "

£38 million to community initiatives and activities.



### Coaching

Many professional footballers aspire to become coaches once their playing careers have finished. The majority of professional footballers will be required to work in later life and many earlier than that. The PFA Charity has spent over £30 million supporting ex-players to obtain coaching badges through the coaching pathway. This is a levelbased progression system where an individual learns the ins and outs of football coaching. Overall, the courses cover the different ways that players learn and develop.

Most coaching qualifications (Badges) attained are 1st 4 sport level 2 Certificate in Coaching (Sport and Physical Activity), which provides learners aged 14 and over with the skills and knowledge to be able to plan, deliver and evaluate linked and progressive coaching sessions with the potential to seek employment in a coaching role.





Other coaching qualifications are the FA Level 3 UEFA B in coaching football, an internationally recognised qualification which develops abilities to work with players, exploring ways to help develop them by designing practices that encourage decision-making, while meeting their technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social needs.

The FA UEFA A licence award is the fourth level within the coaching pathway, and the highest practical coaching course we fund.

#### Education

85% of players who enter the professional game at 16 years of age are out of contract and looking for new careers by the age of 21. Courses funded are varied and include Counselling, Personal Training and Physiotherapy. Degree courses include BSc Coaching and Development, Sports Science, **Professional Sports Writing and** Broadcasting, Physiotherapy. We worked with Premier Training offering discounted AAT accountancy courses, which had proved to be both popular and successful.



Everton and England defender, Gabby George, was inspired to look at future career options when a knee injury left her side-lined for 12 months. She said:

"Having a long-term injury made me realise it's important to future proof and have something to fall back on after football. After doing a brief taster of the level 1 course (AAT Accounting), it was something I enjoyed and wanted to explore further. I'm using my spare time carefully and hopefully setting myself up for a successful career in accountancy after football. Distance learning is flexible, so I can do it when I have time rather than setting a schedule. I make my own schedule and make it fit around my life. The charity really helped me decide what pathway to go down, and I think I enjoy the business side of football! Premier Training have also been unbelievably helpful. They answer any question I have quickly and send me everything I need so I'm really thankful to both the charity and Premier Training and look forward to continuing my work with them."

#### £27.2 million to Education.

# Player Welfare

Over £7 million to player welfare.



"I've fallen on difficult times lately suffering from depression and anxiety and now some financial difficulties. I made contact with the PFA...who in turn put me in contact through the Charity with Farley's solicitors, I just want to say what a great job these guys are doing and how in such a small space of time have lifted some weight off my shoulders, I will always suffer with depression and anxiety but it's people like Jeff and Mark and I suspect countless others that make that difference and give people like me that lift and hope we all need sometimes. I hope you will pass my message on to all the guys I've dealt with in the well-being team.... Amazing bunch of people all round".



24/7 counselling telephone helpline providing access to a nation-wide network of over 200 fully trained counsellors.

Sporting Chance: An innovative centre for the treatment of behavioural problems. support and counselling for destructive behaviour patterns that exist in the world of competitive sport but that are often denied.

Founded by ex-professional footballer and Arsenal player, Tony Adams. Tony told his story about alcohol addiction in his autobiography 'Addicted'. The proceeds from this book saw the creation of Sporting Chance. It is now the largest provider in the world of education and treatment for sports professionals.

## Youth Advisory

Over £13
million on
youth
advisory work.

The PFA Charity Independent Youth Advisory service offers free independent advice to all academy members (age 9 - 16), trialists, parents and carers in respect of the Premier League and the English Football League Youth Development Rules, which apply to all academies. This service enables people to access independent advice on a multitude of issues, events and circumstances that young people and their parents and carers may face during their time in the academy system.

The service delivers independent advice on the Youth Development rules, academy registration and contractual offers, FA and FIFA rules and regulations, scholarships, time and distance rules and regulations, academy inductions, requesting release, education and much more. Over 3000 enquiries have been handled by the service. Our partnership with Achievement in Mind provides an online support platform, free and accessible 24/7 for confidential support for mental health, wellbeing, lifestyle, relationships, football responsibilities and signposting to expert organisations for further support.



## Anti-racism and Equality

Over £6 million to equality initiatives.

43% of our trustees are Black.

2 of our trustees are women.

Equality related activities funded by us are at the heart of everything we do.



Figures from Kick It Out show cases of racist abuse rose by 53% between 2019-2020.

Research commissioned by the PFA Charity and supported by Kick It Out, found 43% of Premier League players had experienced racist abuse on Twitter.

We work with government to tackle online abuse of players and have a pivotal role in gathering player experiences for evidence to prosecute and to inform our future activities in support of players.

We continue to work with researchers and social media companies to identify artificial intelligence solutions to online racial abuse.

"Project Restart" with our partner, Signify in 2021 analysed 825,515 tweets of selected players and identified over 3,000 explicitly abusive messages, 56% of all abuse was racist.

29% of racist abuse came in emoji form and 50% of the total online abuse was received by just 3 players, who publicly called out racial abuse.



We have developed and funded a programme to provide a placement scheme for Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage coaches at professional clubs.

We fund the "On the Board" programme that prepares players for working on corporate and charity boards. Campaigns are run to ensure BAME former players inclusion.

BAME inclusion is part of the selection criteria for coaching badges.

We fund equality, diversity and inclusion training. In 2019 over 900 players participated in training.

We funded educational sessions about sexual consent and respectful relationships for players aged 18 and over. We are a major supporter of the Show Racism the Red Card campaign, which uses football and footballers as a tool to educate young people. Delivery is through educational events. 50,000 school children receive anti-racism education every year. 25,000 young people participated in Wear Red Day in 2020.

The football leagues, men and women, the FA and the PFA Charity and Union united in a 2-day social media boycott in April 2021 in response to the ongoing and sustained discriminatory abuse received online by players and many others connected to football.

"I just wanted to reach out to pass on to you my appreciation for the great work... over the last few weeks around the boycott. It has genuinely felt like a team effort across the whole of football but I wanted to call Simone out for special praise around keeping us together and actively seeking to engage sponsors and partners in the boycott. She did a particularly good job with Adidas as that also got others to join and they set the example for some other commercial partners. It has also been great to work with Simone around trying to get some tech solutions trialled with Twitter and she has really helped with today's player call to create an opening there. Really appreciate and value the partnering approach and hopefully we can make progress together..."



#### From a recipient of grant funding

Tranmere, Rochdale and Rotherham Untied, as well as various overseas clubs, one of which was Brunei, were we played in the Malaysia Premier League.

Whilst playing in SE Asia, I went on a short holiday to Bali. Whilst there, I was a victim of an Al Qaeda Terror Attack. You can only imagine the trauma I saw, but I was a lucky one, I survived and was able to continue playing for a couple more years

I refused all press interviews, put the memory into the back of my mind and went back to kicking a ball, that's all I knew. I had to retire at 26 through injury and felt like my world had ended. It wasn't until then that my trauma of Bali, coupled with the retirement confirmation it came to the forefront of my mind and I was quickly diagnosed with PTSD.

I was petrified, had a small child and was completely unsure what to do, who to turn to and how I was going to get myself back. Then I reached out to you!

I was encouraged to seek help, offering me the opportunity to engage with the Sporting Chance Clinic and/or private counselling closer to my Liverpool home of which I took the latter option but I did passionately follow the Sporting Chances stories, testimonies etc, and found this to be a type of therapy too - I still do to this day!

You sponsored and helped me to pursue my ambition to go into Oil and Gas. A world no ex-footballer from England had done. I have worked my way up the ladder, using the amazing financial support the PFA Charity offer, to allow me to get more strings to my bow, be more attractive to the industry and make an impact. I am proud to say I am now working for one of the super majors in Oil and Gas. This too has taken me around the world and if I am honest, it is very similar to playing football: You have a challenging project, you get the right team in, work hard together, help each other and deliver - that applies to football too.

I have been very fortunate to offer my experience and story to the Oil and Gas industry, I am a Mental Health 1st Aider and it is amazing who wants to listen to my story and work out how the hell an ex-footballer from Liverpool could have been in that situation in Bali, as well as stood on a stage addressing hundreds of people in how you can become a better version of yourself - you just need to know how to and who to turn to. Well I knew I could turn to the PFA Charity and this is something I will never forget.

I received an award for my work last week in Total's head UK office in Aberdeen. It was based around my interactions with mental health 1st aid and what impact it has had. On the back if this, Total are developing a major project to tackle the issue of mental ill health in our company.

With the award came a small donation I could choose to a charity of my choice. I would be honoured if I could please donate this to the PFA Charity. It's not much at but will hopefully help - no amount could repay what you guys have done for me.

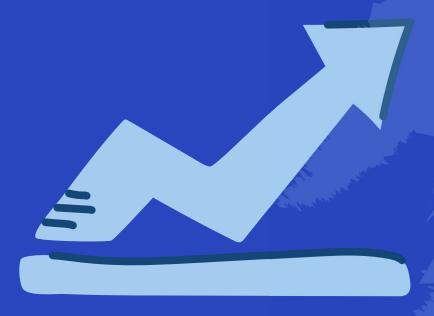
I spoke about helping in other ways too. I would love nothing more than to tell my tale to other pro's, people scared of the future, of the big world, what's next etc- promote good/positive mental health, try to tackle that before it gets harder to tackle.

You know that Footballers come with a bit of bravado (or a lot) and always try to stand out as in control, when we know that is not the case. We are all vulnerable, not many will have been as vulnerable as me - but I raised my head, spoke, and got the help I badly needed. Thanks once again, from the bottom of my heart."

#### From an ex-player with Motor Neurone Disease

"I have just received the unbelievable news that PFA Charity have agreed to support me and my family financially with mortgage and council tax this is absolutely unbelievable and can't thank you enough for helping me out again. This takes away the pressure whilst I am under the Hallamshire neurology department for further investigation and treatment. I'm still receiving the therapy also. Thanks ever so much honestly this is class and means loads to us. I have another brain scan at Hallamshire in the next few weeks"

# Our work is not done yet...



This report is a celebration of our successes so far. As we move through 2022, or priority is to complete our strategic review and plan, which will include a review and refresh of all of our key policies, in particular, reserves. We are a charity that has had its ups and downs, we haven't got it right all of the time in some of our governance practices but we have learned from our experiences. We, the trustees are a diverse Board with vast skills and experience. We will be adding to our numbers very soon and further increasing our skills base. We aspire to be the leading charity in the football industry for good governance.



We will strengthen our relationships with football club charities and foundation charities established by players so that we can guide them through the many responsibilities that come with running charities well, recruiting and training trustees. We have some exciting school's initiatives in the pipeline and we will continue with research projects and benevolent funding, in particular helping people with neurodegenerative diseases. Our commitment to community, health and well-being, youth development, anti-racism, equality and inclusion is and will remain strong.

We will be launching our own website and re-branding.

As we have become more independent from The Professional Footballers' Association Union our funding arrangements have changed and will likely change further.

We may, as a result of this and the fact that the COVID 19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on funding, see a reduction in our traditional revenue streams. Our strategic planning process will identify both the challenges and opportunities.



We, the trustees, are looking forward to a new and successful future for our charity.

We are grateful to all of the people and organisations that have helped us on our journey so a massive thanks from us.

The PFA Charity Trustees.





Monica Shafaq



Jaqueline Newcombe



Gareth Griffiths



**Brendon Batson** 



Garth Crooks



Darren Wilson