Life Cycle

Impact Report

2026



Welcome!

It's hard to summarise the power of a bike. From travel freedom to financial relief, access to work or social connection. **It's amazing what two wheels can do.**

If you're wondering what I mean, then take a look. Each page – each cycle story – is a small window of discovery into the life transforming power of a bike.

From Harvey's new life away from crime (pg. 11), to Misha's path to independence (pg. 8). Every one of the 13,643 people touched by Life Cycle's work this year is testament that when we pull together, a better world is possible.

And it's thanks to you. Whether you've attended a project, volunteered, or donated – our work is only possible because someone like you got involved.

Feel inspired? Good! Because this year, we've made it easier than ever for you to make your mark. **Every page gives a small but tangible action you can do to make a difference.**

In a world where community seems more fragmented than ever, our 2026 Impact Report is proof it doesn't need to be this way. Each page you turn will show you how.

So thanks for being part of our incredible community. **Proving that when we pull together, we can change lives and the environment through cycling.**



Ed Norton
CEO
Life Cycle

A year in numbers

April 2025 – March 2026

642

bikes saved from landfill and refurbished.

5,425

children in deprived areas given free bike access.

5,821

children and adults taught to cycle.

285

people qualified as Cytech bike mechanics, including prisoners and ex-offenders.

13,643

people reached by our work.



Access to bikes

Healthy, compact, and cheap to run. **The magic of a bike unlocks freedom, financial relief and lowers stress.**

Despite this, more than half of people in the UK have no access to a bike. With ownership lowest in deprived areas. We're here to change that.



From our bike recycling project to our free bicycle scheme – we helped hundreds of people access their own bike. With help from learners on our in-prison mechanic training programme*, this year we refurbished 642 donated bikes. Finding each one a happy new home.

Punctured tyre? Loose gears? No problem! Our mechanics serviced a further 1,967 bikes, extending each bike's life span while keeping it smooth and safe to ride.

Our Take a Stand scheme installed 240 secure parking spaces at 41 community venues. Making cheap, green travel easier for everyday visitors.

438 bikes to people living in transport poverty.

1,188 community bike repairs.



Refugee, Omar, uses his bike to attend volunteering, English lessons, sewing class and more. Having fled violence as a teen, a Life Cycle bike will help him access legal support, friendship, and the means to contribute to society.

Your support means people like Omar can have a brighter future. Thank you.

> Of course, I feel excited – it will give me freedom of travel. I am trying different classes and training, this bike will help me.

> This bike is so helpful for daily life. I can go to college on time. I can save money daily.

—Amol, recycled bike recipient

*Discover our prison work on pg. 10 & 11

Donate a bike!

Your old bike could give some else travel freedom.

Click to donate



Cycle training

Once learnt, it's muscle memory. But not everyone has someone to teach them how to ride. That's why we help children, adults and families gain the powerful life skill of cycling. **Equalising opportunities. Boosting green travel. And strengthening communities.**

This year, our Bikeability training reached children in Swindon, Bristol and North Somerset. Helping each child access exercise, adventure, and a lifetime of benefits.

5,344 school children taught to cycle.

477 adults had confidence boosting training.

> A huge thanks to all the Life Cycle instructors. Particular thanks for supporting those with extra needs to learn successfully.
>
> —Yeo Moor Primary





It's never too late to learn! And our Adult Cycle Training proved it. From teen to retiree – this year, the number of lessons we delivered grew by 40%.

We're proud to say more than half of participants were women – boosting safety and confidence, reducing gender inequalities.

Local councillor, Lizzie, knew cycling was the most practical way to get around but felt intimidated by city roads. After just two lessons, she started cycling independently. Now she uses her bike daily to meet community members and advocate for constituents.

> Learning how to ride confidently and hold my position on the road has given me so much freedom. I'm so grateful to my instructor for helping me get there.

Your time to learn?

Confidence boost or beginner – we're here to help.

Click to book a cycle lesson

Extra Support



Cycling opens doors. And that's what our inclusive cycling projects are all about. **Empowering children and adults through bike mechanics, play, group rides and more.**

From smoothie bikes to spanners. Free bike loans or just a chat. Our friendly youth worker, Benny, is there to help. In the corner of the local adventure playground, each session offers space to learn, grow, and build confidence.

Attending Youth Project boosted Misha's confidence. Not just in bike mechanics but in himself. Now he's checking brake pads, helping others, and cycling across town to see the views of Bristol with no hill too big to get in his way!

> "The hills were so hard to get up, but I've been up there six times now, so I'm getting fitter and it does get easier."



Struggling with school, escaping a topsy turvy home, or just here to make new friends – everyone is welcome. This year, 5,425 kids had access to our free loan bikes, bike repairs, and cycle sessions. Many who'd have no bike access if we weren't there.

Your support can broaden horizons for more children like Misha.



Imagine being blind. You might feel isolated. Find it hard to leave the house. You might lose access to exercise, fresh air, or community. That's why our tandem rides exist.

179 kids bike sessions in deprived areas.

770 hours of free supported activities.

From social connection to adventures in nature. This year our tandems were powered by 51 blind or disabled riders and sighted volunteers. Speeding into the countryside every summer weekend, each ride was an opportunity for connection and exercise – boosting mental health for all involved.

> "The biggest thing for me is the joy of motion and travel without having to concentrate on walking with a long cane. Getting out of the city, smelling plants and flowers, feeling wind in your hair is fantastic."

—Paul, blind tandem rider

We rely on gifts from readers like you to keep our wheels turning.

Give monthly
Change a life!

Click to donate



Industry training

Knowledge is power. And when shared, it is multiplied. That's what our bike workshops are for. **In prisons or at the Life Cycle Hub, each room is a place of empowerment and discovery – boosting confidence, employability, and a chain reaction of learning.**

Our Life Cycle Hub delivered 125 qualifications to the public. Some were delivered for free to volunteers at other charities, others paid a fee that helped fund our work.

285 bike mechanic qualifications.

150 of these delivered to prisoners.

Our Bikes Beyond Bars project gives prisoners the tools to turn their lives around. Through accredited training, prisoners gained qualifications, dignity, and self-worth. This helps prisoners get back on their feet – breaking the cycle of reoffending.

This year, 150 prisoners gained a life changing Cytech qualification, whilst refurbishing donated bikes – later returned, fixed, to people in need.

Harvey gained two qualifications and a new perspective. At our in-prison workshop he found a passion for bike mechanics and plans to start a bike repair business once home. Asking the Life Cycle tutors for help with his business plan, he shared his other post release plan – cycling Lands' End to John O'Groats – on the very same bike he built during his sentence.

> It's opened a part of me I didn't know existed. Thank you for not giving up on me when others had. Thank you for helping me discover my passion for building and repairing bikes.

> Confidence, respect, pride and self-belief – when you put all that together, you're giving people a real chance at a life away from crime.

— Tommy, prisoner HMP Bullingdon



Your support can help more prisoners like Harvey find a new sense of purpose.

Buy a bike!

And support our life-changing prison work.

Learn more



Thank you

People like you keep our wheels turning. Thank you.

Volunteers!

55 of you gave up your time to to make an impact. Recycling bikes, tutoring prisoners, piloting tandems, or teaching kids – every moment makes a difference.

Fundraisers!

Whether you fundraised through cycling or gave to the Big Give. Each gift is powerful and makes all we do possible.

Instructors and freelancers!

Teaching learners to ride or fixing a bike – you spread our impact into new communities.

> Volunteering for Life Cycle makes me feel like I'm giving back to my local community.

— Gerry, Life Cycle Hub volunteer

Dr Bike at Bristol Business Improvement District!

4,000 free bike repairs since our partnership began – amazing! By booking weekly Dr Bike sessions with us, you've enabled greener healthier commuting, whilst funding our charity work. Thank you.





Our finances at a glance

12 months ending 31st March

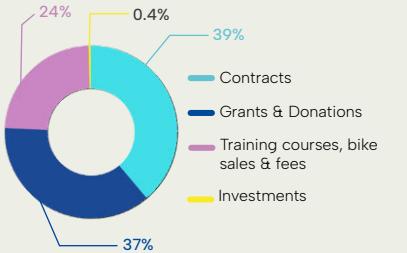
We raised enough to give our tandem bike fleet its first permanent home. Thanks to every volunteer, donor, and blind rider who've kept our tandems moving for almost 20 years. What a way to celebrate!

Trusts, Funders, and Corporates!

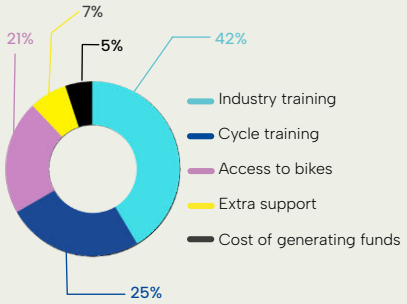
Funding tandems, tool kits, tutors and more. Thanks to the funders who made our work possible:

Albert Hunt, Anchor Society, Aviva Community Fund, Bristol BID, Bristol Cabot Probus Club, Chase The Sun, David Brooke Charity, Garfield Weston Foundation, John James Bristol Foundation, Medlock Charitable Trust, National Benevolent Charity, National Grid, National Lottery, Nisbet Trust, Permira Foundation, Quartet Community Foundation, Sport England, Sports Foundation for the Disabled, Singer Foundation, Swire Charitable Trust and many more.

Income



Expenditure



We're pleased to report a stable financial position at year end. Thanks to everyone who helped us get there.



Get excited

Cytech Technical three is here!

Our training Hub is levelling up. From December 2026, we're offering the 'Master Technician' course – Cytech Technical three!

Book your Tech three, Tech two, Tech one or Home mechanic course on our website. Your booking will support our charitable work, while deepening your technical skills.

Our website has a new look!

Making it easier to find the services you're looking for, with more info about our charity – check out the new site now: www.lifecycle.org.uk

The Big Give is back!

All gifts matched! Our annual Christmas Challenge is the best time to donate. Launching **Tue 1st Dec** 2026, for just one week, your gift via our Big Give page will be doubled.

Make twice the difference by putting the date in your calendar or scan to give.

Click here to donate

Christmas Challenge BigGive

Get involved



> I love that I can take a bike that might have ended up in the dump and bring it back to life. And then people can get a bike who might not be able to afford one brand new.
>
> — Gerry, Life Cycle Hub volunteer

Volunteer

If you can cycle confidently or fix a bike – we need you! Volunteer with our...

Tandem rides: help a blind rider find social connection by piloting one of our tandem bikes.

Youth project: help kids find confidence in themselves and their bike mechanics. Only basic skills required.

Hub or prison: get greasy in our workshop refurbishing bikes or helping prisoners learn. Skilled mechanics desired... or come and learn at one of our Cytech courses first.

Visit the Life Cycle Hub

It's the bike shop that gives back. From quality refurbished bikes, premium servicing or bike mechanic courses – our friendly team are here to help.

Your business makes a difference – with a third of our charity work funded by Hub sales, every visit powers our work.

Book your service by calling 07884 990 920 or visit Life Cycle Hub | Community bike shop Bristol and find a bike today.

Life Cycle

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Some names have been changed to protect identity.

Registered charity: 1077575
Registered address: Life Cycle, The Create Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR