

FUNDRAISING IDEAS & TIPS



Thank you for choosing to fundraise for Sheffield Mencap and Gateway! As a local, independent charity, we rely on fundraised income. Your support helps us continue to provide essential services for people with learning disabilities and autism in Sheffield. Every penny you raise supports our vision that all people with a learning disability and their carers in Sheffield are valued, included and respected so they can live fair, full and happy lives

Thank you for making a difference!

FUNDRAISING TIPS

Set Clear Goals

Define how much you'd like to raise and break it down into manageable targets. For example, if your goal is £500, think about how to raise £100 per month over 5 months.

Share Your Story

People are more likely to donate when they feel connected to the cause. Explain why you're fundraising for Sheffield Mencap and Gateway. Share personal reasons, stories, or the impact the charity has on the community.

Promote Widely

Use social media platforms, email, and community boards to spread the word. Share regular updates, photos, and countdowns to build excitement and keep people engaged.

Make It Easy to Donate

Set up an online donation page through the Enthuse platform here. Include a QR code or direct link in your promotions. Have a cash option available for in-person events.

Involve Others

Team up with friends, family, or colleagues to share responsibilities and reach a wider audience. Collaborating can also make the process more fun and less stressful.

Plan Ahead

Allow enough time to organize your event or activity. Secure venues, permits, and materials well in advance to avoid last-minute stress.

Thank Your Supporters

A heartfelt thank-you goes a long way. Send personal messages, post public shout-outs on social media, or even offer small tokens of appreciation to those who helped.

Explore Match Funding

Check if your workplace or local businesses offer donation matching programs. This can double the amount you raise with no extra effort.

Budget Wisely

Minimize costs by sourcing donations for prizes, materials, or venues. The more you save, the more can go towards supporting the charity.

Follow Up

Keep donors and participants updated on the success of your fundraiser. Share how much you raised and how the funds will benefit Sheffield Mencap and Gateway's work.



Contact Us



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FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Community Events

- **Sponsored Walk or Run**

Organize a walk or run in a local park. Participants get sponsored by friends and family for every kilometer completed.

- **Charity Bake Sale**

Bake cakes, cookies, and other treats to sell at local schools, community centers, or workplaces.

- **Family Fun Day**

Host an event with games, face painting, raffles, and entertainment to attract families and raise funds.

- **Quiz Night**

Organize a quiz night at a pub or community hall. Charge entry fees and include a raffle for extra funds.

- **Talent Show**

Invite local performers to showcase their talents, charge an entry fee, and sell refreshments.

Sales-Based Fundraisers

- **Craft Sale**

Sell handmade crafts like jewelry, knitted goods, or greeting cards at a craft fair, online or as a pop-up in a local business.

- **Car Boot Sale**

Gather donations of unwanted items from friends and family and sell them at a local car boot sale.

- **Book (or Clothes) Swap or Sale**

Collect donated books and sell them. Alternatively, charge a fee for a "bring-a-book, take-a-book" event. This works well with clothes, too!

- **Online Auction**

Use platforms like eBay or social media to auction items or experiences donated by the community.

Workplace and School Activities

- **Dress-Down Day**

Charge colleagues or students a small fee to wear casual clothes, costumes, or themed outfits - try rocking your socks in March!

- **Coffee Morning**

Set up a stall with coffee, tea, and pastries during a break at work or school, with proceeds going to the charity.

- **Employer Match Donations**

Ask workplaces to match the funds raised by their employees through bake sales, raffles, or other events.

- **Lunch-and-Learn Session**

Host an educational session about Sheffield Mencap and Gateway using our presentations and activities. Include a donation pitch during the event.

- **Office Olympics**

Organize fun, team-based activities at work with an entry fee and small prizes for winners.

- **Rock Your Socks**

Fundraising from January to March? Request our 'Rock Your Socks' fundraising pack, it's filled with ideas and resources you can use.



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FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Sponsored Challenges

- **Haircut or Head Shave**

Get sponsored to shave your head, dye your hair (Mencap pink?), or make a dramatic change.

- **Timed Challenge**

Commit to an endurance activity like dancing or reading for a set number of hours, and collect sponsorships.

- **Climbing Challenge**

Tackle a local climbing wall or a significant hill/mountain with sponsorships tied to each milestone achieved.

- **Cycle for a Cause**

Set up a cycling event on stationary bikes or through a scenic route, with participants collecting pledges.

- **Dry Month or Fitness Challenge**

Get sponsorships for giving up alcohol, sugar, or another indulgence, or for achieving a fitness goal.

Creative Fundraising

- **Charity Auction Night**

Partner with local businesses or artists to auction off donated goods, experiences, or services.

- **Photo Contest**

Encourage people to submit photos for a themed contest and charge an entry fee. Offer a small prize for winners.

- **Themed Dinner Party**

Host a dinner party or potluck with a specific theme and charge a per-plate donation.

- **Virtual Gaming Marathon**

Stream yourself or your group playing video games and encourage donations from viewers.

- **Seasonal Fundraiser**

Sell Christmas cards, Easter eggs, or Valentine's Day treats with proceeds going to the charity.



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