



20 Falsgrave Crescent

York

YO30 7AZ

Registered Charity Number: 1179679

A Message from the Trustees of Move the Masses / MoveMates

Dear Friends, Supporters, Volunteers, and Partners,

It is with profound sadness and with the deepest of gratitude that the Board of Trustees of Move the Masses write to share the news of a decision we have not taken lightly.

After careful consideration of our financial position and an honest assessment of the path ahead, having explored many potential funding sources, the Trustees have made the difficult decision to begin the formal process of closing Move the Masses. We anticipate the charity will cease operations by the end of *September 2026*.

This has been the hardest decision we have faced as a Board. Move the Masses was founded on a simple but powerful belief: that getting outside, to get moving, and having someone walk alongside you can genuinely change a life. The evidence that this is true is present in every story and walking log we have been privileged to be part of.

Over the years, we have:

- Paired hundreds of people with volunteer walking buddies through the MoveMates scheme
- Helped individuals overcome real barriers to exercise whether physical, social, or related to mental health
- Demonstrated that small, local charities can deliver outsized impact
- Witnessed individuals take their first steps back into their community
- Volunteers who found as much in their experience as those they supported
- Received recognition of our impact by receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS), the highest award given to voluntary charities in the UK.

None of this would have been possible without you. Our volunteers, funders, partners, benefactors, and ambassadors. You are the heart of everything Move the Masses has achieved, and we thank you sincerely.

What happens next

In the coming weeks, we will share more information about our plans, including what this means for ongoing programs, beneficiaries, volunteers, and any remaining funds held by the charity. We are committed to handling this process with the same care and transparency that has always guided our work.

The City of York Council (CYC) has expressed immense appreciation for the services our volunteers provide to the community. The CYC can no longer provide financial support for MoveMates but have asked to discuss the charity to see if there is any other support the CYC can offer that is within its remit. We have no concrete understanding of what this might include and will share any information as it comes to hand.

We want to hear from you

As we close this chapter, we would love to celebrate and recognise the remarkable impact all of you have made not only on each other, but on the communities we have had the honour to be part of.

We are inviting everyone to share their anecdotes, memories, and experiences as part of the closing chapter of our amazing story. A living record of the impact Move the Masses has had on real lives. Whether you walked with us, volunteered, supported us financially, or simply cheered us on, it is a meaningful part of our legacy. More details on how to share your story and what we plan to do with it will follow soon.

We are immensely proud of what this charity has stood for and what it has achieved, and we are grateful beyond words for every step we have taken together.

With heartfelt thanks,



The Board of Trustees

Move the Masses / MoveMates