

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2026



URBOND Community Integration
Advancing racial harmony, equality and
diversity for the public benefit

About URBOND

Community Integration

The Community Integration programmes bring people together from all walks of life, irrespective of their beliefs, background and ideologies to build a bigger and stronger community for all.

Through locally rooted, partnership-led delivery, URBOND creates safe, inclusive spaces where people can connect, learn and thrive.

Our Goals

Champion Inclusion & Diversity

Advance Racial Harmony

Promote Equality

Community Cohesion

Training & Development

Health & Wellbeing



It's been a busy and energising start to the year at URBOND. Throughout the first quarter, we continued to deliver consistent weekly activities, respond to growing community needs, and create spaces where people feel connected, supported, and part of something meaningful. From sports sessions to large-scale events, this period has been defined by growth, collaboration, and momentum.

Alongside our regular programmes, we hosted two major planning events, one for the Portsmouth Cultural Festival and another for our Entrepreneurs in Residence event in partnership with the University of Portsmouth. Our food provision service also continued to support around 350 individuals each month, reaching over 1,000 people across the quarter.

Our weekly sports and wellbeing sessions remain at the heart of our work. Volleyball continues to lead the way, with over 100 participants attending weekly sessions and increasing engagement in both beginner and women's sessions. Football sessions have remained steady, while our larger community volleyball events have been a standout success, bringing together up to 53 participants and demonstrating the power of inclusive, shared spaces.



It's been a busy and energising start to the year at URBOND. Across the first quarter, we've continued to deliver consistent weekly activities, respond to growing community need, and create spaces where people feel connected, supported, and part of something. From sports sessions to large-scale events, it's been a period of growth, collaboration, and momentum.

Alongside our regular programme, we delivered two Cultural Festival events, our Women's Conference, and an Entrepreneurs in Residence event in partnership with the University of Portsmouth. We also continued to support around **350 individuals** each month through our food provision, reaching over **1,000 people across the quarter**.

Our weekly sports and wellbeing sessions have remained a core part of our work. Volleyball continues to lead the way, with regular sessions welcoming **between 15 and 26 participants**, and growing engagement in both beginner and women's sessions, with some reaching **over 20 attendees**. Football sessions have remained steady, while our larger community volleyball events have been a standout success, bringing together up to **53 participants** and showing the power of shared, inclusive spaces.

JANUARY



Laying the Foundations

January set the tone for a collaborative and ambitious year ahead. We were invited to attend a City of Culture event at Portsmouth Guildhall, where we contributed feedback to help ensure that the voices of our communities are reflected in the city's cultural future.

Our Cultural Festival planning event brought together volunteers, partners, and stallholders in a space that felt both practical and full of possibility. It was a chance to begin shaping ideas together, while also welcoming new people into our growing volunteer network.



Get Involved!

Be part of a celebration that connects communities and inspires positive change. Whether you want to attend, volunteer, perform, sponsor, or partner with us, we welcome individuals and organisations who share our vision of inclusion and community spirit. Join us in celebrating culture, building friendships, and creating lasting community connections.



The team also attended the Shaping Portsmouth Conference, strengthening connections and opening up new opportunities for partnership working across the city. Kyla and Courtnee took part in Appreciative Inquiry training with HDRC, developing new approaches to working with communities that centre strengths, positivity, and shared learning.

And finally, we made time to come together as a team and celebrate (a slightly delayed!) Christmas lunch – a reminder of the importance of connection within our own team as well as the wider community.



Health & Wellbeing

We kicked off the new year with a bang, burning off those Christmas calories and building healthy routines together through our Women's Gym Group. What started as a small idea has continued to grow, with the group now reaching 8 regular participants.

The sessions have become about far more than fitness. Women have been exercising together, encouraging one another and sharing personal fitness goals in a supportive and welcoming environment. The group has created a space where participants can build confidence, improve their wellbeing and connect with others while working towards their individual goals together.

It's been amazing to see the motivation and friendships forming within the group, with participants continuing to push and inspire each other every week.



Community Partnerships

Amazing coffee morning hosted yesterday, bringing people together from across the city to have a cuppa, a good conversation and chance to network.

Thank you to Kirsty from National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR), Gemma from Tesco and Gloria Miller for coming along.

Make sure to join us to our next one on Wednesday 25th February!



FEBRUARY



Celebrating Impact & Building Momentum

February was a month of recognising impact while continuing to build energy across our programmes. We hosted our Entrepreneurs in Residence event in partnership with the University of Portsmouth, bringing together inspiring individuals and celebrating the impact of our work. With incredible food prepared by our URBOND chef and a real sense of shared pride in the room, the event captured both the spirit and success of our community.

Our sports and wellbeing sessions continued to see strong engagement, with participants showing real commitment as they settled back into routines after the start of the year. The women's gym group in particular has continued to grow in confidence, with participants supporting one another and building both physical strength and a sense of belonging.



Health & Wellbeing

Our sports and wellbeing sessions continued to see strong engagement, with participants showing real commitment as they settled back into routines after the start of the year. The women's gym group in particular has continued to grow in confidence, with participants supporting one another and building both physical strength and a sense of belonging.

Community volleyball events were a real highlight this month, attracting large numbers and creating vibrant, welcoming spaces where new and returning participants could come together.



Wreath Laying Service

It was an honour to be invited by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE, to attend a wreath laying service this morning commemorating the 109th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Mendi off the southern coast of the Isle of Wight during the First World War.

The SS Mendi, carrying hundreds of South African men, sank in the English Channel near the Isle of Wight on 21 February 1917 and more than 600 people lost their lives.

We are deeply grateful to take part in SS Mendi Remembrance Day and to pay our respects to those who paved the way for us.



Women's Conference Planning

We met with Hannah from Seed Wellbeing to begin shaping plans for the upcoming Women's Conference. The meeting focused on developing a new partnership centred around wellbeing, community support and creating safer, more accessible spaces for women across Portsmouth.



Restorative Forum

URBOND held another powerful restorative forum, bringing together a growing number of local leaders for challenging conversations around key community issues. As attendance continues to grow, so does the group's collective impact and ability to create positive change within the community.

Community Partnerships

Another great coffee morning held with great conversations! Thank you to everyone who came along including James from Enable Ability, Natalie from This New Ground, Duke Harrison-Hunter, Jasmine Rowe and Robin Lander-Brinkley.

MARCH



Growing Partnerships & Responding to Need

March focused on deepening relationships and responding to increasing demand across our services. We continued to strengthen partnerships across Portsmouth, ensuring that our work remains connected, collaborative, and responsive to the needs of the communities we support.

Team members attended International Women's Day events, including "Chat Over Chai," where we heard powerful and personal stories from women sharing their lived experiences. These moments reinforced the importance of creating spaces where voices can be heard, valued, and supported.



Food Support

Our food support saw continued high demand, with over 20 collections per week and ongoing support for around 350 individuals each month. This work has been made possible through strong partnerships with Portsmouth City Council, Pompey in the Community, and FareShare, helping us to provide consistent and reliable support where it's most needed. On 31 March, Richard Luker, Networking Team Leader from Rapid Relief, kindly delivered food boxes to support our ongoing provision.

The team also undertook Gambling Harm training, strengthening our ability to offer informed and compassionate support to individuals facing additional challenges, and ensuring we continue to develop as a responsive and responsible organisation.

Community Voices & Support



We have had a very busy first quarter of the year, creating a more connected, inclusive and cohesive city by strengthening communities, encouraging collaboration and ensuring every voice has the opportunity to be heard and valued.

We have been helping people bring community ideas to life by supporting the planning, development, and delivery of projects that respond to local needs and aspirations.

We have also been equipping grassroots organisations and community leaders with the tools, skills and confidence they need to grow, lead and thrive. This work is extremely important, as it ensures that the people and organisations we support do not repeat the challenges we faced, and that they receive the essential guidance required to better serve their communities.

During this quarter, 13 group leaders have received weekly mentoring sessions and 17 groups have been supported with access to infrastructure, governance, project development and branding. Each of these organisations has a reach of approximately 50 to 70 members, highlighting the scale and impact of the support URBOND is providing.

This work has grown rapidly, and we now have many organisations coming forward in need of support. We are actively seeking additional resources so we can continue working alongside these grassroots groups, ensuring that together we keep demonstrating our commitment to the local communities we serve.



Case Study

When X first came to URBOND at the end of 2026, he initially accessed our food support services while navigating a difficult period alongside his family. During this time, we were also able to support them through furniture referrals for their new property and connect them with wider financial support to help create greater stability at home.

As our relationship developed, X began speaking more openly about his interests and future goals. Through ongoing conversations, he shared that he wanted to become involved in volunteering and give back to the community that had supported him.

Since then, X has become one of URBOND's regular weekly volunteers and a hugely valued part of the team. His commitment, reliability and positive attitude have made him a standout volunteer within the organisation. Beyond volunteering himself, he has also encouraged family members to attend youth groups and inspired others in his network to get involved in supporting URBOND.

Over time, we have seen a significant transformation in X's confidence, communication and overall wellbeing. He has grown into someone who actively contributes to his community, builds connections with others and is excited about the future and the opportunities ahead. His journey highlights the importance of relationship-based support and how creating welcoming community spaces can help people move from accessing support to becoming leaders and contributors within their own communities



Impact in Numbers



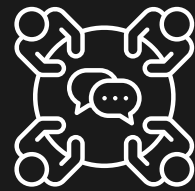
1,442

Participants benefited from community health and wellbeing activities.



1,000

Local people were supported through the foodbank.



42

Community leaders and professionals benefited from the restorative forum.



28

Members of the community received one-to-one support.



17

Grassroots community groups empowered.



13

Community leaders supported and mentored.

Looking Ahead

This quarter has built a strong foundation for the year ahead. With growing participation across our activities, increased engagement through events, and strengthened partnerships across the city, we're excited to keep building on this momentum.

As we move into the next quarter, our focus remains creating inclusive, welcoming spaces where people feel connected, supported, and able to thrive.

Thank You

We'd like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to all of our partners, supporters, and collaborators who have contributed to such a strong start to the year. Your continued support, trust, and shared commitment make this work possible and help us reach our goal of building a bigger and stronger community.

URBOND would like to say a big thank you to all our partners and supporters. Without their hard work, dedication and generosity, these life changing opportunities would have never been possible.

We're excited to see what opportunities arise ahead for the communities we support.



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



**SPORT
ENGLAND**



NIHR | Research Delivery
Network



Upcoming



City Buildings, PO1 4BD

Itchen College Job Club

Join us from 10am-2:30pm for CV skills, workshops and interview preparation.

JUNE
30



Victoria Park, PO1 3HJ

Cultural Festival

Join us for a vibrant, free, family friendly celebration of the city's rich diversity and community spirit.

AUG
1

Launching Soon

Big Pompey Pitch Up – Dragons den style community event pitching community projects for 2026 – 2027

Womens self defence class in partnership with ACT.

