



South
Yorkshire's
Community
Foundation



PRESS RELEASE 25 September 2026

Sheffield Pickleball Club & Sheffield Olympic Legacy Fund working together to offer a new free activity to residents of S5.

Exercise that doesn't feel like exercise? Yes please!

As a grassroots community organisation [Sheffield Pickleball Club](#) have successfully achieved a grant of £980.00 from the Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park fund. This will support new weekly pickleball sessions at Concord Sports Centre to address physical/mental health and wellbeing issues of local residents.

The club is working in partnership with the established Move More 'leisure time' session at [Concord Sports Centre](#), Sheffield S5 6AE to offer **FREE pickleball sessions every Friday morning 11am – 12.30pm for 20 weeks from Friday 9th October**. All equipment is provided; participants just need to wear loose comfortable clothing and a pair of trainers. We are launching this to coincide with **World Pickleball Day** on Saturday 10th October 2026, a shared celebration of growth and community for one of the fastest growing sports across the UK. Anyone who would like to participate at Concord can turn up on the day or can book their place in advance by downloading the [Spond](#) app (use code JLWGF) and searching for the session by date and venue.

As a voluntary run and inclusive club since November 2024, Sheffield Pickleball Club support the need for equitable access to sport for people who have disabilities or physical and mental health issues. Residents in the Shiregreen area generally experience higher deprivation and health challenges compared to national averages and Shiregreen and Brightside are neighbourhoods ranked within the most deprived 10% nationally. Many residents face barriers to participating in regular physical group activity, including cost, transport and lack of confidence.

Pickleball is highly recommended by medical practitioners as it is low intensity but moderate exercise which can improve mobility and co-ordination, memory, and get your heart rate up! It is also a social activity due to the doubles format, is played indoors on a badminton court and is easy and quick to learn. The aim at Concord will be to build up numbers over time and for those interested in attending Move More 'Leisure Time' events and encourage regular attendance.

Fran Belbin, Leader of Sheffield City Council said: *"Sheffield Pickleball Club are promoting the take up of the sport across the city by providing free training sessions to new players at a range of venues. Pickleball is very accessible, suited to all ages and abilities, and the training provided by the club is really valuable in engaging local people with a new sport. The Club delivered training at my local park and have provided equipment so that the learners can pass on their skills. I was delighted to take part in a session led by some of the learners in Burngreave recently, demonstrating that the value of the training reaches beyond the Club-delivered training"*.

Sheffield Pickleball Club is now one of the biggest in the country running 37 weekly pickleball sessions at 22 venues across the city, run by 45 volunteers – that's 60 hours of pickleball every week.

ENDS.

For more information and images please contact Helen Blomfield (Co-Chair of Sheffield Pickleball Club) at: helenblomfield@hotmail.com Tel: 07841 235887 <https://www.sheffieldpickleball.co.uk/>