
Salford Community Leisure

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025

ENHANCING
PEOPLE'S LIVES

SOMETHING
for everyone

WELCOME SALFORD COMMUNITY LEISURE'S (SCL'S) IMPACT REPORT 2024 - 25

As an organisation we are committed to enhancing and improving the physical and cultural wellbeing of the community and it is wonderful to see that our offer is ever expanding to fulfil the needs of those who live, work and visit Salford.

OPEN SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
HONEST CARING FOR OTHERS

In the first quarter of 2024-2025 Salford Community Leisure was hit with one of the biggest losses we have experienced, with the tragic fire at Clarendon Leisure Centre. Being a whole facility down was a big blow to the organisation and the community. I am proud to say that our teams worked hard to relocate our services to other facilities and Clarendon staff were relocated to other areas of the organisation.

Despite being one centre down, it is amazing to see that we still managed to reach record membership and swimming lesson figures for the 2024-2025 period.

We continue to work hard to make sure the community around Clarendon still have access to essential leisure activities.

As an organisation SCL are continually working to make sure we are providing sport, culture, health and library services to everyone in Salford and I believe this report showcases the outstanding work our teams are doing and the positive impact this has had in the community.

As always none of this could have been achieved without our magnificent employees, volunteers and Partners.

Stephen Hassall
Chief Executive



SCL'S SNAPSHOT - 2024 - 25

 **1,800,668**
VISITS TO LEISURE CENTRES

 **GYM ATTENDANCES**
374,389

GROUP EXERCISE ATTENDANCES
198,653 

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES REFERRALS
4,435 

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS ENGAGEMENT
 **190,653**

4,141 
LEARNING TO SWIM
EACH MONTH

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES ATTENDANCES
61,359

SALFORD MUSEUM & ART GALLERY VISITORS **135,346**

ORDSALL HALL VISITORS  **25,050**



 **LIBRARY VISITORS** **773,832**
304,965 **BOOKS LOANED**

 **HOT DRINKS SERVED**
126,489

17,409 
WATERSPORTS VISITORS

COMMUNITY CENTRE ATTENDANCES **135,282** 

 **WEB VISITORS**
2,434,116

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS 
79,523

**IMPROVING
HEALTH &
WELLBEING**

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING



CREATIVE HEALTH NETWORK

SCL is leading a project to bring arts and health organisations together in Salford. The Creative Health Network includes over 60 organisations from across the city, including arts bodies, VCSE groups, and health & social care services. The aim is to understand better the power that cultural and creativity has in improving our wellbeing.

[Read more about the Salford Creative Health Network work here.](#)



- Our Library service has been working with **local sheltered housing schemes** to explore how libraries can better support older adults across Salford. Increasing access to books and social activities that better match the interest of residents.
- **MAPAS** began supporting the **Starting Life Well programme** in Salford with Tune into Talking sessions, supporting school readiness for under 5's.
[Read more about these sessions here](#)
- **Relax with Art** is a new free, monthly session that local social prescribing teams can now refer clients to. It is designed to explore how art can help us find time for ourselves.
- **Sleeping Well** explores how history and heritage can improve our health. Local people are working with Ordsall Hall to help us evaluate our wellbeing activities.

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING



- Our libraries run creative activities for people of all ages. **Creative Writing** classes at Height Library are **building confidence and connection**.

“Doing creative writing improves my brain power!”



- **Salford Museum & Art Gallery** has been working with community groups from Langworthy Cornerstone to develop a **new exhibition** about colour, to **improve the wellbeing of visitors**.

- Our Active Lifestyles team **delivered 6 one off Wellbeing Walks** for Salford Walking Festival.

See our ‘One-off’ Wellbeing Walks



SPORT

- City of Salford Swimming Club saw national success with relay swimmers Luke Adams, Joe Stout, Luke Hoey, Ryan Sanders, and Ewan Wilson bringing home two Silver medals and a Bronze, as well as narrowly missing out on a British record with a **magnificent Gold winning performance in the individual medley.**
- Open Water Swimming sessions at Salford Watersports Centre have continued to grow in popularity, with over **5,000 attendances** this year.

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

- The SCL Dance School Show 'A trip to the movies' had **over 120 dancers** performing to sell out audiences this year.
- Our **Community Facilities team** have been working with **Salford City Football Club (SCFC)** to assist them in returning some of their operations to Salford. SCFC Lionesses and the SCFC Academy are now based at St. Ambrose Barlow RC Academy.
- **10 of our Salford synchro swimmers** travelled to the Swim England Artistic Swimming National Age Group Championships in London, and they came home as **National champs!**
[Read more about the story here](#)
- **Our Artistic Swimmers made history!**
The team won the Redwood Trophy with a technical score of 146,0683; it's the first time the trophy has come to Salford! To top it off **Sophie Flemming** won the **Holland Trophy** for the highest overall score of any competitor.

£1 SWIMMING

ACROSS EACH OF OUR LEISURE CENTRES
THROUGH JULY & AUGUST, WE SUPPORTED OUR COMMUNITIES BY OFFERING



491 ATTENDED
FREE SWIMMING
SESSIONS IN MAY & AUGUST

"From the minute team Salford stepped onto the podium they brought absolute sass!"



IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING



- **Paddleboard** and **Kayak** Hire sessions remained a highly accessible and well-loved activity, attracting **2,300 attendances**. These sessions provide an easy way for participants to enjoy the water.

- **Amelie Blocksidge** was selected to swim for GB at the World Short Course Championships in Budapest, making her **one of the youngest swimmers ever to represent GBR at a World Championship** at just 15 years old. Amelie has also won the GB Aquatics Emerging Athlete of the Year award.

[Read about Amelie's success here](#)



"I started swimming lessons at Worsley in the Learn to Swim programme. I moved up through the stages and was really enjoying the journey, so I decided to join the academy with City of Salford Swimming Club."



- In July **our members covered 1,268.75km** as part of our Olympic Gym Challenge prize draw. The Broughton Members completed the total 800km of Salford to Paris. ***Congratulations to all who took part in the Olympics gym challenge prize draw!***

SCL GYM CHALLENGE



PARIS OLYMPIC

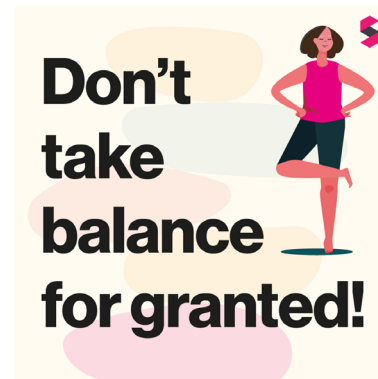
**RUN, ROW, WALK,
CYCLE, SWIM 800^{km}**

THE DISTANCE OF SALFORD TO PARIS!

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

WELLBEING

- CrossFit SCL athlete **Bella Antcliff** took part in her first **HYROX Pro competition** and finished 3rd in her category, during January's Manchester HYROX event. Bella joined us in 2024 and as well as following our programming, working with SCL HYROX coaches and attending external simulation events, she also would regularly attend open gym sessions to improve technique, capacity and skillset to become "comp ready!"



"Before joining CrossFit SCL, I had never done HYROX specific training. The coaches were so encouraging and the atmosphere in the gym is great. They always pushed me hard. Nearer race day they did their best to facilitate my training around a busy schedule working as a doctor"

- In partnership with **MIND Salford**, an **8-week Mindfulness course** was delivered with a focus on menopause in conjunction with [World Menopause Day 2024](#).
- **Active Lifestyles** worked alongside **Salford Royal Centre for Neuroscience** and Specialist Parkinson's Nurses to deliver additional **physical activity support** for patients. This innovation is a first in the city and aims to support existing treatments for Parkinson's.



- During **Salford Walking Festival** Active Lifestyles added a Wellbeing Walk to the calendar, and **Strength & Balance Exercises** at RHS Bridgewater Gardens.
- Irlam & Cadishead Leisure Centre Café now hosts "**Let's talk SEND**" provided by the Salford Parent Carers Forum. The session brings together Parents and Carers of children with SEND.
- **Cleavley Athletic Track** was provided as a venue to support Chatsworth Futures students deliver an event based on the theme **Self Worth**.

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT



Community Facilities: What's on offer?

Our venues act as community hubs for residents to get fit and active, access services, or meet and socialise with friends through local community groups. You'll find our community centres dotted across the city as well as community lettings for Grass Football Pitches, Tennis Courts and School Facilities.

This year we added the SPARCS building at St Peters School (Swinton) and the management of the revitalised Cleavleys Athletic Track to the Community Facilities team, who expanded the venue offering with a community hub space.

The team oversee community lettings at four Salford High Schools during evenings and weekends to maximise the access to these fantastic local facilities.

8 TENNIS COURTS
4 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
9 COMMUNITY CENTRES

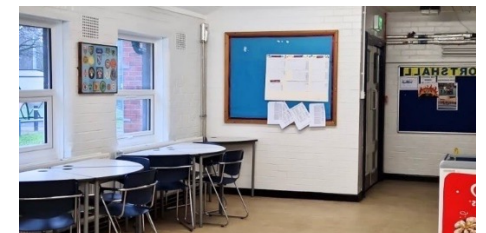
"We use Clifton Community Centre to host our diabetes prevention programme sessions. In these sessions, patients, are given lessons and support on how they can combat developing type 2 diabetes. The sessions offered offer a holistic approach to diabetes prevention as they cover, diet, exercise, but also mental health and sleep. They are very popular at Clifton Community Centre and we are arranging new courses every couple of months."

NICK - REED IN PARTNERSHIP

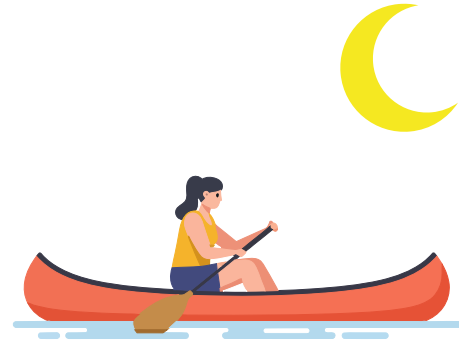
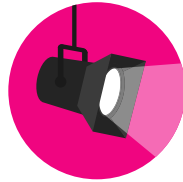


"We as a club have found that SCL have always been responsive to our requests whether that's the allocation of grass pitches, bookings, additional requests during the season, or supporting the club with funding information and bids, arranging meetings with other organisations to development the club in Salford."

ROB WILSON, SECRETARY
WINTON WANDERERS FC



IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT



Feedback has consistently highlighted the positive impact on relaxation and stress reduction, making Moonlight Paddle as much about unwinding as it is about exploring the water.

Moonlight Paddle

The Moonlight Paddle at Salford Watersports Centre has continued to grow in popularity, offering a unique and tranquil way to experience the water under the stars. Running every Thursday evening from November to March, these sessions see participants paddle through the inner basins of Salford Quays in illuminated boats, enhanced by the glow of light sticks.

Mindfulness is at the heart of the experience, with a focus on gentle paddling, quiet reflection, and opportunities to chat with fellow participants. Whether enjoying peaceful solitude or engaging in quiet conversation, these sessions offer a unique balance of gentle physical activity and the opportunity to unwind, allowing participants to stay active in a calming environment.



IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT



"It's eased the discomfort, pain and helped with movement (arm where operation took place). Helped improve my mood, boost my energy and relax my mind. Without this service I would not have been able to get back on my feet so quickly and learn to look forward to another, better day and strive for a better future. Thank you."

BREAST CANCER PATIENT

CAN-Move

The CAN-Move service aims to ensure that physical activity is a part of the cancer pathway in Salford. The programme supports patients in initiating and maintaining physical activity during & after treatment.

Patients with a cancer diagnosis are offered access to supported physical activity, enabling individuals who may not usually engage in physical activity to do so at a local facility, in a safe and supportive environment.



Prehab4Cancer

Prehab4Cancer is a free exercise, nutrition and wellbeing scheme, designed by a team of NHS professionals and exercise experts, based on latest research.



Delivered in leisure facilities across Greater Manchester, the aim is to support enhanced recovery after treatment, to help people take an active role in their cancer care and live as well as possible with and beyond cancer. Patients not only build strength and resilience before surgery, but also report increased confidence, motivation, and a renewed sense of purpose. Many participants go on to sustain healthier lifestyles long after treatment ends.

Prehab4Cancer is not just about improving clinical results - it's about changing lives, rebuilding confidence and proving that recovery can begin before treatment even starts.

"I felt like cancer had taken over everything, my energy, my confidence, even my independence. Through the programme, I started to feel like myself again. The support was incredible, and exercising with others going through the same thing made me feel less alone. By the time I went into surgery, I felt stronger, physically and mentally. I truly believe it helped me recover quicker and gave me hope when I needed it most." PREHAB4CANCER PATIENT

INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



VOLUNTEERING

This year we saw **98 committed volunteers** support our programmes by amassing over **7000 voluntary hours!** Voluntary roles included Dance teachers, Gardeners, Walk Leaders, Activity Coaches, Chaperones and Event support.

"I help lead the SCL Kersal Wetlands, Wellbeing Walk every Wednesday. I got involved in volunteering as my wife and I decided to do the walks for a way to stay active. We really enjoyed them and then they asked if I'd like to become a volunteer and help lead the walk. On a Wednesday after the walk, we spend some time at the Energise Centre to have a hot drink and a chat which is another great way to keep us out of the house for longer and meet new friends." BRIAN GALE, VOLUNTEER WALK LEADER



- **Active Lifestyles Wellbeing Walks** across Salford are supported by dedicated volunteers. This year we had 18 across the programme accumulating **over 1000 hours of voluntary support!**

Volunteering for SCL - Wellbeing Walks

- **Volunteers at Ordsall Hall** continue to contribute to the **enrichment of the Hall** and the wider area, including a series of leaf sweeps in the streets around the Hall's perimeter, aiming to stop the leaves from our oak trees making the paths slippery and potentially hazardous, the leaves were then used for composting.



- Our **SCL Dance team** are supported every year by dedicated event volunteers. This year 12 Parent Chaperones volunteered with us across rehearsals and performances at the Dance **Showcase at Lowry Theatre** in July.

"I have been volunteering at the Hall for over 12 years. I help wherever they need me, greeting guests, helping set up displays. I have met a wonderful group of people through coming here who have become good friends. It also gives me a purpose to my week and a reason to leave the house and do something two days a week."

JEAN, ORDSALL HALL VOLUNTEER

INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

PROUDLY ACHIEVED



April 2024

- MAPAS became the first music service in the country to achieve the [Rainbow Flag Award](#) with the Proud Trust in recognition of their dedication to LGBTQ+ Inclusion within the service.
- Annabel Pattison is deaf and competes for Salford City Artistic Swimming Club, she wants more people living with hearing impairment to try the sport she loves!
[Read - Annabel's story](#)
- Salford Watersports Centre was proud to host a **Disability Awareness Workshop** in partnership with Paddle UK, bringing together **18 coaches and volunteers** from across the country. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for those working in Paddle sports to gain a deeper understanding of how to support disabled participants in accessing and enjoying Watersports.



We opened a new multi-faith prayer room at Eccles Leisure Centre to encourage inclusive access to our centre in collaboration with the Yemeni Association.



INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

OLDER ADULTS

- **Digital inclusion** means more than logging onto a PC, Our Libraries **Tech and Tea** sessions support learning valuable daily digital skills.
- People from our local communities told us they want to see more walking sports opportunities. By collaborating with **Sporting Memories**, the **Active Communities** team are expanding the reminiscence offer in Salford and helping to get older adults more active with physical activity, including a new session in Irlam.
- We have been working with **Age UK Salford** to gain accreditations for all our venues under the **Age Friendly Standards** scheme.

"I've gained more confidence digitally now and I have been able to add myself onto the WhatsApp group as well as using my tablet at home more."

Height Library Member



"The thing I really enjoy is the company you meet, I've made a lot of friends here, as well as keeping myself fit. The staff here are excellent and the facilities are top class."

Dietmar Bruck, SCL Member aged 80



"The 50% offer has had a great impact because if we have some time in between our classes, we can come and have something to eat and it's not costing us too much. It gives us a social purpose, we can sit and speak to other people, whereas before we didn't do that as much."

- Throughout the year we offered a **50% discount on all café purchases saving over 70's £59k**. It was a huge success, and we've seen new social groups get together in our cafes as a result.



BEATRICE TURNED 96 IN 2024 - SCL'S OLDEST MEMBER



"I enjoy the diversity of my membership, being able to use a variety of centres and classes. The social side of the leisure centres is very important to me and the comradery between the staff and customers. I find the team members quite special, their customer knowledge and the way they greet the members means you always feel very welcome, the more mature team members are wonderful role models for the younger team members."

WE HAVE BEEN SO INSPIRED BY BEATRICE THAT WE NOW OFFER FREE LEISURE MEMBERSHIPS TO OVER 90S!

INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EVENTS

- Once again we supported **“We Invented the Weekend”**, showcasing all the SCL services that can be enjoyed.
- With a range of partners we welcomed **people from across the city who live with a disability** to share their views on what sporting opportunities they would like to see in Salford We delivered taster sessions and shared examples of activity from across the country.



- The **Salford Children's Book Award** celebrated its milestone **21st anniversary** with a bumper event attended by eleven local schools. All the authors took part in a book signing after the ceremony, so in addition to buying books, all the children this year were able to take home a **free book**, signed by one of the authors, thanks to the generous support of the Bupa Foundation.

- Through the Spring term, MAPAS organised a Play Day event **bringing pupils and families together from across the community** to showcase Music and Performing Arts in their local communities.
- Children's reading groups were set up in our Libraries to participate as judges for the **Lowry Creative Writing competition**. Children from the group participated in the awards ceremony.

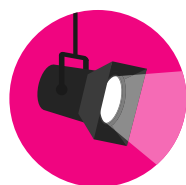


“Sessions like this are an opportunity for mums and children to get together, this makes us feel less lonely”

“I love that Libraries are giving opportunities to enhance our children's literacy and concentration skills”



INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SPOTLIGHT



Volunteer: **Ryan Brown**

"When I started volunteering with SCL, I had issues with self-confidence and travelling to venues outside my comfort zone on my own. Aaron and Steve worked with me through the Salford Youth Alliance Programme and supported me. The Salford Youth Alliance was a volunteering programme ran by Salford Community Leisure to engage with people like me to learn new skills through volunteering. Between them both they changed my life! Volunteering has enabled me to gain the skills and confidence in taking the lead of recreational sport sessions and broadened my comfort zone to assist at various SCL venues across the city. When volunteering with Salford Community Leisure I can use the personal skills I have learnt throughout my life.



Through Volunteering they were preparing me to apply for a casual position with the organisation, they saw something in me I couldn't see in myself. I would never have imagined if you would have asked me a couple of years ago, I would have had the confidence and resilience to attend a face to face and practical interview. But that is what happened and I was successful and now I work for SCL as a casual sports coach and I am very proud of myself!"

Ryan Brown, Former volunteer and now a casual staff member.

Pages of Identity

The libraries team worked closely with Naser Al-Hariry from the Yemeni community to collate a collection of Arabic written books and remember him looking nostalgically at a Collin's Big title in Arabic, telling them fondly that he read it when he was younger.

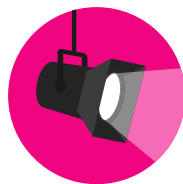
The team planned a launch day at Pendleton Library where Naser played a key role in introducing the collection to the community. Feedback from attendees indicated that they were pleased with the books available and expressed their intention to share the information with the wider community.



"We are delighted and grateful for the support in bringing Pages of Identity to life. This collection marks a meaningful step in providing much-needed resources for the Arabic community in Salford. Their commitment to going beyond expectations to serve our diverse communities is truly appreciated. We look forward to expanding the collection and developing future initiatives that will enrich and empower our community."

Naser Al-Hariry, Yemeni Association Community Trustee Breast Cancer Patient

INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SPOTLIGHT



Unlocking the Collection

Unlocking the Collections: Accessible Interpretation

We're thrilled to announce the improvements being made to accessibility at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, thanks to our Arts Council Funded project and additional funding from the Friends of Salford Museums Association.

- **Audio Described Tour:** Visually Impaired and Blind people will now be able to delve into our building with vivid audio descriptions, created by Anne Hornsby from Mind's Eye Audio Description Services and following a selection process led by our dedicated consultation group.
- **British Sign Language Tour:** This tour is led by the charismatic Deaf actor and presenter, Wayne Sharples, ensuring an engaging experience for our Deaf visitors.

Our tours are housed on Smartify, chosen for its user-friendly features, including screen reader compatibility and dark mode.



The Victorian Gallery

This tour is in British Sign Language



We've partnered with GM Sight Loss Council, Thomas Pocklington Trust, Henshaws, and Manchester Deaf Centre to ensure our tours are as useful as possible. Their insights and expertise have been invaluable.

We took advice from Henshaws as well as our community groups to introduce the following.

- **Lark Hill Place Lanterns:** A hit with all our visitors, these lanterns light up your journey.
- **Improved Visibility:** Bright yellow nosing on steps makes navigating our space safer and easier.
- **Easy Read Menu:** Our new pictorial menu in the café is designed to make ordering easier, especially those who may find written English challenging.

DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS

DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS

SCHOOLS

“Here at St. Paul’s, we have used the services of Active Education for a number of years and have been totally satisfied with the service and PE/Sport provision we have received. We use this provision to provide our teachers with PPA time. However, as we are one of the only schools that have SCL Active Education full time we also timetable slots for the coaches to work with small groups of pupils from across the whole school. This can be children with additional needs, children who need gross motor activities, children with pastoral needs etc. Every coach we have had over the years have built up excellent relationships with the pupils and staff and have been receptive to all the organisational changes that happens in a school. The PE coaching that the team provide is tightly aligned with the national curriculum expectations and outcomes for each year group. The coaches work well alongside our PE and sports lead to ensure that there is not only full NC curriculum coverage but also that accurate assessments are made for every pupil across the year.”

BRIAN JO ROWLEY, HEAD TEACHER ST. PAULS HEATHSIDE



We worked with the Brownlee Foundation to host a Primary Schools Triathlon event at Irlam & Cadishead Leisure Centre with **1,134 participating children!**

[Salford Primary Schools Sports Triathlon Success](#)

Salford Museum & Art Gallery is home to PINC College who currently have **21 learners on roll**. Pinc College run specialist colleges for creative education within cultural venues in the UK, focusing on creative study programme pathways for 16-25 year olds. Every summer some of our exhibition space to display their talents!

Our Libraries have collaborated with **Salford City College Group** to link local adult learners with **adaptive resources** in our sunflower libraries and Storynook spaces.



DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS



SKILLS



- Our **Active Gymnastics team** are now official providers of the **British Gymnastics, RISE Gymnastics Programme and Award Scheme**. The new membership offers a series of new activities across Baby Gym (9+ months), RISE: Discover (3-4 years) and RISE: Explore (5+ years).
- We saw the return of our **wreath making classes at Ordsall Hall**. Materials were harvested from the gardens by the participants, who loved the hands-on experience. The process underpins the whole sustainable ethos of the garden - we avoid 'buying in' as much as we can, echoing the self-sufficiency of the estate in its Tudor heyday.



- We continued our strong partnership with The Danny Wood **Lifesaving Club** at **Salford Watersports Centre**, which runs lifesaving sessions for both adults and children. Working together we delivered lifesaving sessions to the wider community, promoting essential water safety skills.
- Our **Active Lifestyles team** delivered **key training to Salford City Council colleagues** to enable them to become walking champions and encouraging active habits!
- Three of our **Leisure apprentices** performed exceptionally, **achieving distinction in their final awards**. Amber, Olivia, and Keyleigh are leading onto contracted work with us beyond their apprenticeships!

Distinctions for SCL apprentices



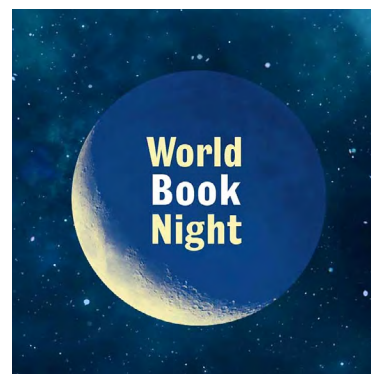
DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS



KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING



- Our Active Lifestyles team has worked with **State of Life** and **GM Active** to **develop a piece of research** which will help to fully understand the wider health and wellbeing benefits of exercise, not just physical health.
- Our Active Communities team developed an **innovative research model** with partners **#BeeWell** which will give us an insight into the health and wellbeing of young people in our communities. MAPAS have joined the journey, and we hope to expand into all services in the coming year.



- Our Libraries offered a wide range of **reading activities** in celebration of **World Book Night**. Including the opportunity to take part in the #ReadingHour, joining people across the UK in dedicating time to reading.

[World Book Night 2024](#)

It was wonderful to come and watch our daughter perform today. It was a fabulous production and really did make the children feel special. We are so proud of what our daughter has achieved over the school year and thanks to MAPAS she has found a new passion in music."

Parents of a child performing

- **MAPAS** invited **over 1000 children** to take part in ten concerts over 5 days at the **Lowry Theatre**. The children also had the opportunity to perform with a live band, featuring professional musicians working with MAPAS. [Salford School Children celebrate their musical achievements at the Lowry](#)

DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING

- We extended the opening hours of our Local History Library during the week to give visitors greater opportunity to make **local discoveries**.
- In collaboration with **StreetGames** and **Manchester FA**, Active Communities **upskilled 22 Sports Activators** and **10 Level 1 Football coaches**, enabling the expansion of the service across the city and bringing more activity to more children and young people.

“Reading and using a library is such a positive experience. Reading feeds the soul, the imagination and helps you escape (for a short while) into other worlds and scenarios.”

Height Library Member



Bookstart
BookTrust

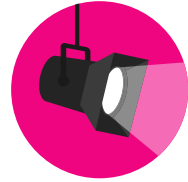
Meeting the school readiness agenda head-on, libraries are working in partnership with BookTrust, **gifting a free book and resources to every Salford baby**, helping in the **key developmental years** from birth to the first years of primary school.

To ensure that **no child is left behind**, we are providing Bookstart packs in additional languages and sensory packs for children with additional needs.

- Our **Active Lifestyles Can-Move team** worked with **Salford Macmillan Cancer Support Service** colleagues to raise awareness of our programme and the **benefits to local cancer patients**
- Our Active Communities team are now an **accredited Sports Leaders Centre!** The team have already begun rolling out Sports Leaders training to young people across the city.
- In support of an exciting expansion to our Active Lifestyles service, staff members **completed essential training** on the **positive impacts of physical activity** when treating Parkinson's.
- Salford Libraries have been working closely with the new **Salford Literacy Hub** to deliver fun, accessible events and book gifting opportunities to families all over the city, with plenty more to come over the coming months and years.



DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS SPOTLIGHT



"MAPAS is the first place I've felt like I can address my confidence issues and anxieties around performing because it is a safe space"



"Thanks to the staff, confidence in my child's talents and abilities has grown immeasurably, which has had positive 'knock-on' effects in everyday life"



Under 5's

TUNE INTO TALKING

The MAPAS Tune into Talking project combines Music with **Speech, Language and Communication skills** in Early Years children. Sessions are delivered in a fun and inclusive way and are particularly **impactful for young children with SEN**.

The school staff also benefit from the project as a **professional development opportunity**. 100% of surveyed teachers said they feel confident to continue delivering the content in their classroom after the course.

This year, with assistance from Public Health, the project has been piloted in private nurseries and directly with families of pre-school children, aiming to help improve School Readiness.

"I delivered the first session of Tune into Talking at Bridgewater School, and the Teaching Assistant told me at the end that a pupil who doesn't engage very well in carpet sessions had fully engaged in the music session; he listened to my voice for the whole session. The best bit of feedback was that they had never heard him laugh in class before, and when we were singing with scarves, he started to giggle for the first time."

MAPAS TUDOR

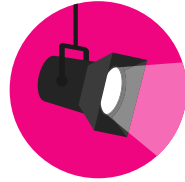
PERFORMING ARTS



The most popular element of our MAPAS Centre offer is Performing Arts. Children can access **high quality drama and musical theatre opportunities** for only **£8 a month** and there are over 80 children accessing these sessions weekly. The groups **build their performance skills and confidence** as well as providing social opportunities and are fully inclusive with no audition requirements for entry.



DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS SPOTLIGHT



Technique Tuesdays

“Technique Tuesdays” feature a prerecorded video and accompanying script with a focus to **educate, motivate and guide our members** on proper exercise form, workout routines, hints and tips to improve overall performance and workout efficiency. *These Vlogs are aimed at our members and further afield with the purpose of:*

- **Demonstrating proper form & technique:** preventing poor form, injury reduction and maximising workout effectiveness.
- **Providing workout routines:** offering our viewers the opportunity to integrate new equipment, movements and workouts into their current training programme as well as offering scaled versions to allow progressive development.
- **Educating on fitness concepts:** the explanation of muscle engagement, execution of movement patterns, safe range of motion, recovery and training principles.
- **Motivating and Inspiring:** encouraging viewers to be consistent and giving confidence to push past their limits with their new applied technique.

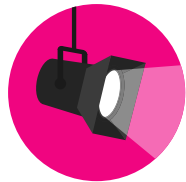


- **Sharing personal experience:** giving insight into fitness journeys, progression and challenges.
- **Performance and workout efficiency:** our overall goal is to improve workout efficiency and overall performance, via technical improvements and consistent movement patterns.

[View videos click here](#)



DEVELOPING EDUCATION & SKILLS SPOTLIGHT



- We launched new weekly Books and Rhymes sessions for under 5s in every library across the city. An **incredible 342 sessions** took place between September and January alone, **attended by over 2800 children**.

Libraries under 5 offer

Our unique Storynook in Winton Library has enabled families from all over the city to explore the awesome power of stories through play. Open to all, the Storynook also provided a **much-needed opportunity for children struggling with traditional reading and storytelling to develop a life-changing love of stories of their own**. Families told us that they loved using our small world play resources, storysacks, puppets and dressing up props as they visibly encouraged communication and bonding.

Welcoming and safe for all, the **Storynook is used both by individual families and groups, including from nurseries and the city's SEN schools**, and we are working with colleagues from the **Family Hubs team** and **NHS** to hold guided group sessions in the space.

"Makes reading books more enjoyable"

"The set-up encourages children to play and bring stories to life. Each one links to the other...which is great to extend on stories read"

- We have been promoting the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** to families in Pendleton, **giving parents and carers the confidence and skills needed to read with their children**.
- **72%** of parents reported that they enjoy reading with their child more because of the scheme We have been supporting the Family Hubs to deliver the Imagination Library to local families in Little Hulton.
- Our curated Sunflower Library, which includes books in **braille, BSL, finger-trail books and sensory stories**, has complemented the Storynook in helping to ensure that children are able to access resources regardless of their individual circumstances.

"Children who are in need of speech and language support and children with Special Educational Needs who need smaller / quieter environments to explore would benefit from this space."



ENRICHING *the*
ENVIRONMENT

ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

THE GREEN TEAM

The SCL Green Team has priority areas of work in support of local de-carbonisation goals, and our Enhancing the Environment objectives. Throughout the year our services contribute towards each of these areas.



Improving Carbon Efficiencies

- We have introduced new cardio equipment which will power down when not in use, making **energy savings** across our Leisure sites.
- Our Community Facilities team hosted a fundraising event this summer with Guild Hall resident childcare group WASPS. The money raised enabled us to invest in new and improved **energy efficient** white goods for groups to use in the kitchen.

OUR DIGITAL DEVICE GIVEAWAY AT LITTLE HULTON LIBRARY SAW
192 PEOPLE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DIGITAL RECYCLING SCHEME!



Recycling Initiatives

- **Green Waste recycling and composting** are in place at Ordsall Hall Gardens. Three new compost heaps were built from old pallets to hold our leaf compost, recycling both packaging and sweepings from the garden.
- We improved upon our waste management arrangements with Salford City Council to **improve recycling efficiencies** across the city by reducing the frequency of collections, and which recycling options are available at each site.
- Our Active Communities Team saw **amazing enthusiasm** from young people attending our **holiday programmes** when **litter picking** around Salford Quays!



- Irlam & Cadishead Leisure Centre **donated** unwanted wooden pallets and plastic crates to Springwood Primary enabling the school to make some outdoor sensory equipment.
- The “**Valuing The Valley Consultation Event**” was held outside **The Valley Community Centre**, led by For Housing, Salford City Council Health Improvement Team and our Community Facilities Team.

The event aimed to **bring residents together** to encourage pride in the area surrounding the centre and to keep it **litter free**.



ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT



Supporting Biodiversity

- Ordsall Hall Gardens implement **organic grounds management**. Propagation derives from seed, cuttings, and grafts, supporting the development of an organic garden space.
- Each Spring our Garden team and **volunteers plant our spring buds**, returning colour throughout Ordsall Hall Gardens.
- We've begun to plan a **wildflower installation** at the rear of Salford Museum & Art Gallery which will arrive in Summer 2025. Plans are well underway between Salford City Council, Salford University and our Museums & Galleries teams.
- We joined the **National Trust Bloomtown blossom trail** as an event site and we were identified on the Greater Manchester event map.

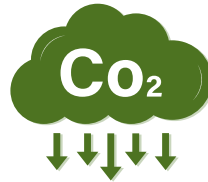


- At Irlam Library the **outdoor space** has been revolutionised to accommodate a wide range of outdoor activities, providing an **environmentally friendly social space** for members with wildflowers spread throughout the seating spaces.



Ordsall Hall proud to be involved with The National Trust's celebration of blossom

ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT



Supporting Salford Economies

- We hosted a student placement from University of Salford to work on **creative communication** centred around 'Creative Health' and to help visually map the Creative Health Network across the city. It's a vital component of the work to connect local people through **career development opportunity**.
- We announced our commitment to providing secure, flexible and fairly paid employment by becoming a **member of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter**.
- We provide a **diverse range of employment opportunities** for local people to join our workforce, and **70% of Salford Community Leisure staff are from Salford**.
- **Build A Business** is an innovative new project aimed at small businesses, entrepreneurs and anyone thinking of starting their own business.

We offer free, tailored support to new businesses & entrepreneurs through workshops and events. Our Small & Medium Enterprise Champion will provide one to one support and create a business information plan specific to you.

Build A Business
in GM Libraries



Active and Sustainable Travel

- Our MAPAS team reviewed their timetabling to reduce the number of trips tutors make to schools, cutting down on fuel consumption & **improving the service carbon footprint** in the process.
- We introduced a **cycle scheme**, enabling Salford Community Leisure staff members the opportunity to take advantage of the growing cycle infrastructure across Salford and **reducing their carbon footprint** on their daily commute.



Raising Awareness

- **MAPAS** supported a national voice for Music Educators backing green initiatives through 'This Is Not A Rehearsal', a **Music Mark national sustainability campaign**. Our Head of Service published a national blog in support of the campaign in the summer.
- Once again, we supported **National Orchard Day** with activity at Ordsall Hall, joining the campaign in **support of the diverse** benefits orchards bring to local biodiversity.



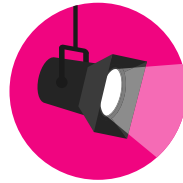
This year we had a record harvest, gathering more than **500kg of apples which were shared with visitors, volunteers and staff – we pressed over 100L of juice to share at our annual Orchard Day**.

- To encourage Salford residents to understand **climate change** and the positive impact they can have, we introduced **interactive Roundview Eco Games** at Walkden library which were successfully received. We plan to expand upon this across the city.



ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT SPOTLIGHT

Ordsall Hall Gardens



Our traditional tudor annual Wassail kicked off the New Year in the Orchard, introducing over 70 visitors old and new to this ancient tradition; we were delighted to introduce our Orchard Queen this year, who gave a special toast to the trees to ensure a bountiful harvest. In addition to this, we spotted mistletoe growing in some of the apple trees, which will be a welcome addition for our resident Mistle Thrushes who love the berries – hence their name.

6 mature specimen trees were planted in the grounds to the South of the Hall, in partnership with City of Trees and Barcham Trees: 2 Liquidambar styraciflua 'Worplesdon', 2 Liriodendron tulipifera and 2 Pawlonia tomentosa. They are all establishing well, and their introduction will provide shade for humans and additional habitat for other creatures.

We welcomed the beautiful fruit tree blossom in April, a vital source of nectar for early pollinators, and celebrated its arrival with a festival of Blossom, in partnership with the National Trust, sharing this wonderful time of year with our visitors through tours, poems and music.


Ordsall Hall

May saw some grassed areas left long as part of #NoMowMay, Plantlife's initiative to increase the number of wildflowers and grasses available to pollinators and other forms of wildlife. In June we were regularly visited by Goldfinches eager to take advantage of this.

Midsummer was celebrated by staff and visitors weaving a garland of flowers taken from the gardens,

We were able to start sharing produce from the Community Growing Garden as early as mid-July this year on a 'Pay as you feel' basis – many of our visitors went away with organic raspberries, apples, rhubarb, chard and sweetcorn in exchange for a donation.

We use traditional methods of cutting long grass here, and the moat and banks started to be scythed at the beginning of July – we take our time doing this, as it gives wildlife a chance to migrate and other plants to grow up in place of the sward that has been cut – but we do try to get the majority finished before the school holidays begin, so that it doesn't get bent over. The cut grass is either turned into bales or laid as mulch in the coppice – this has the benefits of weakening existing grass to allow for more diverse flora in spring and summer; feeding trees as it rots down and providing hibernating spots for overwintering hedgehogs.

SOMETHING

for everyone



Sports

GYMS
LIBRARIES

Cafés
Watersports



MUSEUMS

Music & Performing Arts

CHILDREN & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Community Centres

SWIMMING



salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk

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