

FOREWORD

Thanks to the on-going dedication, hard work and sheer passion of the team at Groundwork Greater Manchester, 2023-24 has been an impactful year centred around growth, focus and learning.

Growth

We have increased our staff team by one-third from 2022-23, increasing our capacity to support some of the most marginalised groups in Greater Manchester.

We have launched new programmes and expanded existing ones, with the aim of maximising outcomes against our twin objectives of delivering environmental and social justice.

Focus

We have deepened our roots in neighbourhoods across Greater Manchester, layering our services to deliver multiple benefits for the people who live there. This includes our work in Brinnington, Stockport partnering the Big Local to expand services from the community hub and develop plans for the future.

We are proud to have maintained and strengthened key partnerships, not least celebrating 25 years as a Prince's Trust delivery partner! Facilitating shared interest partnerships is core to our approach, and I would like to personally thank all of our partners for their support this year.



Learning

We have given a greater focus to listening and learning across our activities this year. Employees and project participants are now invited to every board meeting to share their stories and feedback. Trustees and Executives alike have been inspired and humbled by hearing first-hand the personal journeys of those we support and the sessions have brought a greater closeness between the boardroom and our day-to-day work.

Groundwork Greater Manchester continues to grow and develop and we are excited for what the future holds.



Deborah Murray
Executive Director

2023/24 **IMPACT REPORT** 02.

PEOPLE

25 years building young people's confidence for the future

2023 marked the 25th year of Groundwork delivering the Prince's Trust TEAM programme in Greater Manchester.

The 12-week personal development course helps 16 to 25-year-olds who are not in education, training or employment to gain qualifications, boost their confidence and start their path to employment and a bright future.

We've supported over 4,400 young people through the programme, who have in turn given over 20,000 hours of their time to more than 350 community projects!

Find out more





people provided with 1-2-1 coaching and mentoring support



people gained formal qualifications



Kayden's Story

Before Kayden met Youth Worker Claire, he was struggling with his mental health, with school and found it hard to trust people in his life. After a series of 1-2-1 coaching sessions Kayden began to trust others and think differently on his skills and strengths.



Coaching young people to reach their potential

Over 140 young people from schools in Manchester were provided with 1-2-1 coaching so they could understand how to manage their feelings, develop more self-confidence and avoid becoming involved in crime.

View project →



2023 saw the extension of our veterans' employment programme into HMP Forest Bank and HMP Buckley Hall. Employment coaches ran courses, provided support to veterans and worked with local employers so veterans could secure work when released.

View project \rightarrow

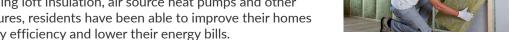
Reducing energy costs by retrofitting homes

In 2023 we engaged with residents living in cold and damp homes to start the process of retrofitting their homes. By installing loft insulation, air source heat pumps and other measures, residents have been able to improve their homes energy efficiency and lower their energy bills.

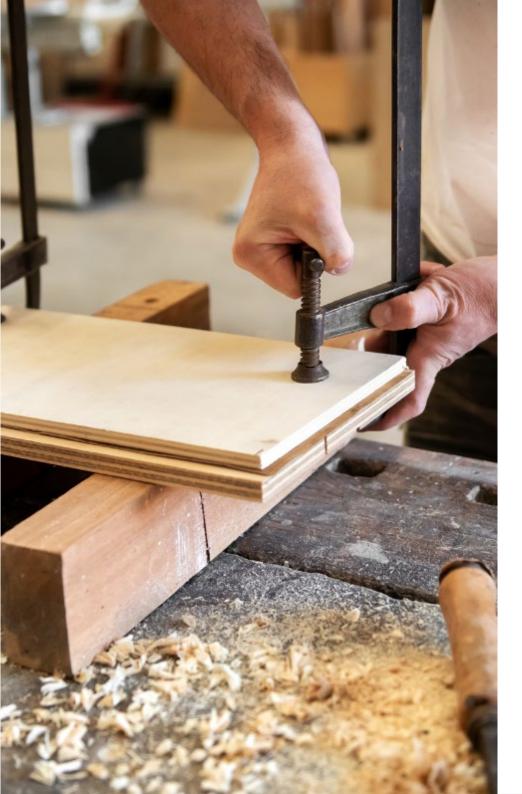








View project → 2023/24 IMPACT REPORT 03.





Spotlight on: Groundwork Green Skills Academy

Meeting Greater Manchester's 2038 Net Zero target will require the workforce, in all roles and at all levels, to have the right skills and competencies needed within a greener economy.

To support a just transition we are committed to supporting those facing multiple barriers into employment to access jobs in a greener economy; increasing the diversity of the environmental sector through targeted support for under-represented groups; and supporting the growth of our own natural environment and energy services.

Working towards this goal, over the past year we have:

- > Expanded our training provision, providing entry level access into energy careers via our Energy Adviser Academy.
- Responded to the under-representation of ethnic minorities in the environmental sector, running our New to Nature programme.
- Expanded our delivery of short courses in construction and retrofit into new prisons, including HMP Styal.

Find out more

COMMUNITIES

Putting local people at the heart of climate action

Over the course of the year we worked with residents across multiple neighbourhoods across multiple neighborhoods in Manchester as part of our collaboration on the In Our Nature partnership project. Using a variety of engagement techniques, we engaged with residents to understand what matters to them and their ambitions for the future. From here we supported individuals and community groups to develop their skills, knowledge and networks so they could deliver practical actions which reduce carbon emissions, save money and strengthen community connections.

Community-led initiatives included:

Gorton

Giving old clothes and materials destined for landfill a new lease of life.

Crumpsall

Discovering local and low-carbon ingredients and creating delicious yet sustainable recipes.

Harpurhey

Developing a new Friends Group and establishing a new community greenspace.

Find out more







Tom's Story

Tom had an ambition to create a community based sustainable food project. Working with Groundwork this became a reality in 2023, when he established FungALL; a community led mushroom farm designed to regulate itself and produce mushrooms from waste for the local community café.



Understanding the neighbourhood level impacts of climate change

We spoke to residents in Edgeley, Stockport and Higher Folds, Leigh about climate change and how it affects them, to help inform future neighbourhood plans.

View project →

Getting active in Brinnington, Stockport

The event inspired the community to get on their bikes with bike repair workshops and a bike giveaway. It featured an appearance from Greater Manchester Walking & Cycling Commissioner, Dame Sarah Storey.

View project →

Supporting Community Centres to take action for climate & nature

We supported Deeplish Community Association in Rochdale to develop a Climate and Sustainability Roadmap and Action Plan for both the centre and the local community.

View project \rightarrow













Spotlight on: **Green Community Hubs**

In our 2023-26 strategy we pledged to support communities in Greater Manchester to become stronger and more connected through the development of Green Community Hubs; green spaces where local people are empowered to access and host activities and services which meet community needs.

Working as part of the **Northern Network** programme, we supported the community at West Gorton in Manchester to develop their Green Community Hub. The newly established Friends of West Gorton Park group worked with residents and other voluntary organisations to:

- > Deliver over 65 community events, a mixture of one off and regular events.
- > Create a new sensory garden.
- > Develop a new tree trail.

Find out more

PLACES







Creating and enhancing greenspaces across Greater Manchester

The Green Spaces Fund was established by the Mayor of Greater Manchester to support community-led projects that increase the amount and quality of accessible, nature-rich green space across Greater Manchester.

Groundwork's role in the programme is to lead a partnership of environmental organisations who act as Green Space Fund Advisors and empower grassroots community groups to apply, especially groups and places that are typically under-represented.

Advisors provide tailored advice throughout the application process and throughout project delivery, ensuring the new initiatives are embedded in the local community.

Since the programme began in December 2022, Green Space Fund Advisors have supported:

- Delivery of 86 community projects
- Investment of £1.9 million in Greater Manchester, with nearly 50% of the projects in areas of most need
- Creation of over 85,000m2 green space
- > Improvement of over 500,000m2 green space

Find out more

Revitalising Suffragette Square, Stockport

Following a number of engagement activities with the local community, Groundwork worked with volunteers to install a diverse range of colourful plants, new signage about the Suffragette movement and more accessible seating at Suffragette Square in Stockport town centre.



Helping farmers create resilient landscapes

We've been working with farmers on a range of projects that help reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance biodiversity; all factors increasingly important in a changing climate.

View project \rightarrow

Transforming Pigeon Park to Slade Lane Gardens

Working together with residents, we co-designed a small greenspace in Levenshulme, formally known as Pigeon Park. The redesign included a raingarden, new planting scheme and bird feeding station, providing a space for the local community to enjoy and where native wildlife could thrive.

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Apprentices enhance neighbourhoods in Rochdale

The sixth cohort of Green Team apprentices have been gaining new skills and qualifications by enhancing community spaces within Rochdale Boroughwide Housing estates

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Spotlight on: **Urban Greenspace for People, Nature** and Climate

Creating and protecting greenspaces where nature can thrive and that people can enjoy has been core to Groundwork's delivery for the past 40 years.

In 2023 we outlined some specific focuses for the year ahead, including:

Working with local communities to co-design and deliver greenspace which meets local needs – We worked with a group of dedicated volunteers in Tameside to clear overgrowth, build raised planters and create new pathways and polytunnels for food growing, creating a new community space called Vitality Gardens.

Installing features which help with climate adaption design solutions – We worked with Housing 21 to transform two residential bungalows on Brown Edge Road in Oldham, into a Community Centre with an inviting, and resilient, outdoor space featuring several rain gardens.

Raising awareness about the connection between greenspace, climate and nature – We engaged farmers in a number of workshops, capturing their ideas on how we can bring back and protect nature on farmland, helping inform the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in Greater Manchester.

Providing jobs and training opportunities that enable people to deliver habitat improvements and which also tackle climate change – Community volunteers have enhanced their understanding about how nature can be used to enhance health & wellbeing, thanks to courses provided through the **Northern Network** programme.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership with public, private & community stakeholders, we harness the strengths of Greater Manchester's communities in order to mobilise practical action that delivers environmental and social justice.

A wholehearted thank you is extended to all the organisations we have worked within 2023/24. It is impossible to list all of our partners, but a selection of our core delivery partners includes:



SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS IN GREATER MANCHESTER







MANCHESTER CLIMATE CHANGE AGENCY



































