

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS 2024/25

Spend Report  
2024 - 2025

Creating homes.  
Building lives.



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“We want to invest in the areas and activities our customers want us to invest in. We listen to their suggestions and through our Neighbourhood Plan model, try to address the key issues they have highlighted in their neighbourhoods. We review our key neighbourhoods each year to ensure we are utilising our resources in the best way possible to meet the needs of our residents.”

**Donna Kelly**

Jigsaw Group Director of Neighbourhoods and Support

## Introduction

Jigsaw Homes Group manages around 37,500 properties across the North West and East Midlands. The Neighbourhood Plan model is our approach to addressing neighbourhood inequalities faced by residents and communities.

The model identifies 20 priority neighbourhoods based on stock density and data on employment, poverty and health. This enables us to channel resources to where they are needed most. Funding is allocated to neighbourhoods based on this data, with high priority (high deprivation) areas receiving the most funding and staff time.

# Our Strategic Goals

## Health and Wellbeing

Promoting physical wellbeing, improving physical health, taking part in activities, healthy eating initiatives, improving mental wellbeing, increasing confidence to manage own health, to live more independently, reduce isolation.

## Work and Skills

Giving residents opportunities to develop new skills, access training, gain qualifications, gain work experience, volunteer, move closer to work.

## Environment and Sustainability

Engaging residents in improving spaces or places, improving green spaces, increasing usage of community spaces, improving lifestyle choices on environmental issues, improving energy efficiency, reducing tenancy turnover, creating a sense of community cohesion, increasing a sense of belonging in the community, increasing a sense of safety.

## Financial Wellbeing

Supporting maximising income and reducing outgoings by, improving access to money advice and management, giving energy advice and cost of living support, providing cooking on a budget courses, providing activities and food for families in the school holidays and providing access to low cost food initiatives.

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The significant work we do within our communities at Jigsaw Homes has never been more important as a result of the cost of living crisis. The important work of the team delivers positive change into our communities and targets those in most need, while empowering residents to come together to make real change in their neighbourhoods.”

**Ivan Wright**

Operations Director of Neighbourhoods

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“Providing the opportunities  
to help improve lives and communities  
is our goal.”

**Sue Cox**

Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods

## Our Projects

In 2024/25 the Neighbourhood Plans team spent £322,724 delivering projects and initiatives across our communities with a focus on our 20 plan areas.

The funded projects achieved the following priorities:



112

SUPPORTED  
TOWARDS  
EMPLOYMENT

43

HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING  
PROJECTS



654

TRAINING  
OPPORTUNITIES

46

FINANCIAL  
WELLBEING  
PROJECTS



149

ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPROVEMENTS



# Keeping Warm

In the winter of 2024/25, we continued to experience an energy and cost of living crisis.

We distributed 615 winter warmer packs to residents in need, which included indoor solar lights, LED light bulbs, draught excluders, room thermometers, information leaflets and a blanket.

All ten of our existing warm hubs (set up between 2022 and 2023) have continued to run and remained open throughout the year, providing a community space where people can meet and find out more about our services and projects. Hubs run in Miles Platting, Ashton Central (two hubs), Dukinfield, Audenshaw, Crumpsall, Springs, Harpurhey, Newton and Oldham.

We set up a new hub this year in Coppull, Chorley. All hubs offer a warm space, hot food and drinks, activities and energy advice.



## Keep Warm costs

Blankets, draught excluders, hats, gloves and socks	£12,903
Thermometer cards	£2,352
Hot drinks/soup for packs	£1,484
Draft excluding tape	£1,199
Food and activities for 11 warm hubs	£3,955
Energy advice leaflets printing cost	£498
Delivery costs for long distance packs	£232

**Total £22,623**

“The warm hub is a god send to me. I particularly enjoy sitting and eating with other people and forgetting my worries for the day. I can charge my phone and take food home for my tea which is very helpful as money is tight. I am grateful to have a warm place to go for the day and not worry about the money side of things.”

**Anne - Local Resident**

**Crumpsall, Greater Manchester**

# Oldham Community Grocer

The Pantry has **84 members**

With the continued cost of living crisis, the need to support residents by helping reduce their expenditure has remained a priority for the team. The Grocer, facilitated by our Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, has 84 members and 10 dedicated volunteers, who help manage it.

Three of our previous volunteers went on to find paid employment this year through their work experience and with support from our Jigsaw Employment Team. The Grocer is open to the community and uses FareShare surplus food to provide a wide range of low cost, affordable food. The Grocer costs £5 per individual for a weekly shop and helps 25-35 members weekly.

We run Grocers in Dukinfield, Ashton and Miles Platting, and recently opened a new Grocer in Killisick in Nottinghamshire.



## Costs relating to the set up of Oldham Grocers

Venue rental	£9,630
Fareshare food costs	£5,106
Top food up costs	£1,123
Storage cupboard	£1,674
Non-domestic rates	£102
Income generated	£1,874
Total	£19,509

“I’ve been volunteering since the start of the opening. It’s given me a lot of confidence and I have been able to find work. I work part time and still come and volunteer as it helps me mentally. I enjoy being around other people and learning new skills.”

Shopna, customer and volunteer.

# Food Growing and Greening & Environmental Clean-ups

Promoting wellbeing and physical activity

We encourage residents to engage in community growing projects, with wide-reaching benefits for people of all ages and abilities. These promote healthy eating, reduce food costs, increase physical activity, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. The team has initiated several growing projects; some have very low set up costs and others are higher depending on the existing landscape. Costs can include building planters, laying flags, improving pathways, adding bark and topsoil and providing seeds, tools and training.

We support schemes that are experiencing fly tipping and misuse of bins by carrying out a one-off engagement event. We speak to residents and promote the correct use of bins, collection days, bulky waste collection services, local recycling centres and provide split waste bags to encourage waste separation.



## Examples of environmental funded projects

Community growing course- Miles Platting	£5,250
Split recycling bags	£2,867
Materials for planters and raised beds	£1,838
Contributions to community garden groups and sheltered accommodation	£1,050
Soil, bark, stone and flags	£1,045
Green house and bench	£910
Tools, bins and padlock	£321
Plants, stepping stones and childrens gardening equipment	£337
One-off bin purchases and stickers	£2,477

Total £16,095

“Thankyou for teaching me how to plant plants and for letting me litter pick, you made my weekend a happy weekend.”

Megan, Chorley

# Hit Squad

Completed **49** improvement projects.

The Hit Squad is a team dedicated to delivering one-off environmental improvement projects that support the work of the Neighbourhood Plans team. This includes creating community gardens, growing spaces and making our outdoor communal spaces more accessible. They also support the Neighbourhood Safety team by carrying out one-off garden clearances for complex cases where gardens have become unmanageable.

The Hit Squad completed 49 community environmental improvement projects and 67 garden clearances.



Hit Squad



## Hit Squad costs

Van rental, repairs, insurance & tracker	£20,461
Petrol	£10,969
Materials	£5,349
Tipping	£11,554
PPE	£1,308
Tools service & repairs	£3,671
Equipment	£306
Total	£53,618

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What a difference! We really appreciate the hard work of the Hit Squad; they are a credit to Jigsaw Homes.”

June, Chorley

# JET & Business Start-up

Supported **772** towards employment

The JET (Jigsaw Employment Team) offers a tailored service which supports residents towards employment, learning opportunities, volunteering and business start-up. The team runs work clubs, offering assistance with job searching, completing job applications and writing CVs. They also deliver free training courses including, Food Safety, Mental Health Awareness, First Aid, Basic IT Skills, Sewing for Employment and Business Start-up.

In 2024/25 the team supported 772 residents' towards employment and facilitated training for 654 residents. Several of our courses are written and delivered by the team and we employ external providers to deliver First Aid, Sewing for Employment and Mental Health Awareness.

Residents who complete our Business Start-up course can also apply for a Jigsaw Business Start-up Grant of up to £500. In 2024/25, 30 residents completed the training and five were successful in obtaining a £500 grant. We also offer a session with a business start-up consultant and six people accessed this service.



## JET costs

Training provision (internal and external)	£19,880
AQA certificates	£3,347
Business start-up grants	£2,500
Other (including equipment and refreshments for volunteers)	£782
Room hire for work clubs	£520
Contribution to two job fairs	£1,000
150 online training licenses	£1,280
Business start-up consultant costs	£300
Promotion	£202

**Total £29,811**

“For the first time in a long time I had a sense of purpose again - a reason to get up, go out and do something constructive. To feel useful again has been rewarding and has had a positive effect on my self-confidence.”

**Chris, from Chorley (who attended a JET work club and is now a volunteer).**

# Income

## Income of £43,397

We generated an income of £43,397 through successful external funding applications, social value contributions, donations and partnership working.

A further £56,011 was gained through successful applications to the HACT (Housing Associations Charitable Trust) voucher scheme. This funding was used to contribute towards residents’ energy bills over the winter.



# Income generated

Efficiency East Midlands Framework	£7,976
Successful External funding grants	£11,051
Filming contributions	£4,000
Jigsaw Foundation applications (in partnership)	£8,900
Partnership contributions/donations	£11,470
HACT energy fund vouchers	£56,011
Total	£99,408



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[www.jigsawhomes.org.uk](http://www.jigsawhomes.org.uk)

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Building lives.

