

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS 2025/26

Spend Report
2025 - 2026

Creating homes.
Building lives.



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“In the context of rising living costs and increasing inequality, Neighbourhood Plans matter more than ever. They enable us to intervene early, focus on prevention, and deliver targeted support that improves wellbeing, financial resilience and opportunity in our most deprived neighbourhoods. They enable us to invest not just in our communities but also the people who live in those communities”

Donna Kelly,

Jigsaw Group Director of Neighbourhoods and Support.

Introduction

Jigsaw Homes manages approximately 38,000 homes across the North West and Midlands. The Neighbourhood Plan model is Jigsaw's 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 employee time.

Our Strategic Goals

Health and Wellbeing

Promoting 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 opportunities to residents to develop new skills, access training, gain qualifications, gain work experience, volunteer, move closer to work. Promote careers in housing and provide support for social housing tenants to gain employment in housing.

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 activities and food for families in the school holidays and providing access to low-cost food initiatives.

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The investment and activities we provide to our communities, supporting residents beyond the provision of safe affordable homes, is vital during the cost-of-living crisis, as it serves as a frontline defence against poverty, social exclusion, and health crises.”

Ivan Wright

Operations Director of Neighbourhoods

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“We are committed to creating opportunities that make a positive difference for individuals and communities.”

Sue Cox

Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods

Our Projects

In 2025/26 the Neighbourhood Plans team spent £349,852 delivering projects and initiatives across our communities with a focus on our 20 plan areas.

The funded projects achieved the following priorities:



519

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED
TOWARDS
EMPLOYMENT

36

HEALTH AND
WELLBEING
PROJECTS



365

TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES

37

FINANCIAL
WELLBEING
PROJECTS



49

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPROVEMENTS



Supporting women

Several projects have focused on supporting women this year. We ran a weekly women’s group, exercise class and creative writing group and celebrated International Women’s Day with a series of events. We worked alongside Angels of Hope who aim to increase women’s independence through confidence building, yoga and exercise classes.

Jigsaw leads a pioneering menopause project that received high recognition across Manchester and which is now being replicated in other areas. The project included educational events and seminars covering nutrition, exercise, bone health, relationships, medical advice and treatment options. The sessions were participant led which encouraged people to share experiences and learn together. Eleven women from the pilot cohort in Harpurhey have been trained to be menopause champions so they can continue to support women in their communities.



Menopause project

Payment for session leads	£2,400
Refreshments for sessions	£363
Items for events	£167

Other women focused projects

Sewing classes	£3,474
Angels of Hope sessions 3 x 12 week courses	
Promoting physical activity and confidence	£2,580
Creative Drama sessions	£1,465
Creative confidence course x 7 sessions	£700
Ensemble Theatre sessions	£480
Dance sessions	£425
International Women’s Day	£336

Total £12,390

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This group has saved me in a way, and I have been able to get the help I needed. Not only has it helped me but now I will be able to support others.”

Lisa, Local resident,
Moston and Menopause champion

Midlands Community Grocers

The fifth Community Grocer project opened in the Midlands in February 2025 in response to identified need in the Killisick area and the proven success of our four projects in the North.

Its first year has been successful, led by a Neighbourhood Engagement Officer and supported by seven volunteers, providing affordable groceries using FareShare surplus food. Open to the wider community, the grocer offers fresh fruit and vegetables for £4 per weekly shop, serving 35-40 customers each week. Membership fees help offset operating costs, leaving a total cost to Jigsaw of £1,102.



FareShare food deliveries	£5,108
Room hire	£2,775
Flyers and refreshments for volunteers	£330
Total	£8,213

Income from membership	£7,111
Total cost to Jigsaw	£1,102

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“We really appreciate it and it is really useful to us, especially at this moment in time when this year’s bills have come in with large increases. Times are tough, not only for us, but for a lot of people and the help through this shop is needed”

Michelle, Grocers Customer

Growing, Greening & Environmental Clean-ups

We encourage residents to engage in community growing projects and green spaces to which the benefits are wide reaching to people of all ages and abilities. They promote healthy eating, reduce food costs, increase physical activity, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. The team have supported a variety of green projects; some have low costs and others are higher depending on the existing landscape and improvements needed. Costs can include building planters, laying flags, improving pathways, providing compost and topsoil or furniture for people to use whilst enjoying the space.

Chippenham garden in Miles Platting has been significantly improved this year. The site has six new accessible sleeper beds with pathways and a new shed. The project was funded by a £15,000 social value contribution from Lovell and a £3,936 grant from Co-op Live which covered the costs of the project as well as a polytunnel and skip hire.



Chippenham garden improvements
Skip/clean up days
Environmental improvements
Polytunnel

£14,495
£10,695
£5,783
£2,016
Total £32,989

Income

Lovells contribution
Co-op live funding

£15,000
£3,936
Total £18,936

Hit Squad

The Hit Squad is a team of four operatives, dedicated to delivering one-off environmental improvement projects that support the work of the Neighbourhood Plans team. Their work is varied and includes improving community gardens, increasing accessibility of sites by adding pathways, supporting the Plans team with clean up days. They also support the Neighbourhood safety team by offering one-off garden clearances for tenants whose gardens have become unmanageable.

The Hit Squad completed 32 environmental improvement projects and 73 Garden Clearances.



Hit Squad costs

Van rental	£20,549
Petrol	£8,403
Materials	£1,762
Tipping	£15,535
PPE	£1,894
Tools service & repairs	£3,906

Total **£52,049**

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“Tenants are delighted with the patio area and are very grateful for the extremely hard work you put in. Thank you for going above and beyond, the tenants now have a lovely even surface to safely sit in the garden.”

Jigsaw employee

JET & 20% movement

The Jigsaw Employment Team (JET) offers a tailored service which supports residents towards employment, learning opportunities, volunteering and business start-up. The team runs work clubs, helping with job searching, completing job applications and writing CVs.

In 2025/26 we supported 519 residents towards employment and facilitated training for 365. Food Hygiene level 2, Confident Steps to Work, Business Start-up and training for Jigsaw volunteers are delivered by the team. We employ external providers to deliver First Aid, Sewing for Employment and Barista training.

Jigsaw joined the 20% movement this year, which alongside 10 other Housing Associations, aims to have social housing tenants forming 20% of the work force. We ran our first 20% movement careers event in Ashton to promote careers in housing to social housing tenants and support them into a role within the sector. 31 people attended the event, and all have joined our recruitment talent pool which gives members the opportunity to apply and interview exclusively for particular roles, prior to them being advertised publicly. They are also offered tailored support with applications and interviews.

Residents who complete our Business Start-up course can apply for a Jigsaw Business Start-up Grant of up to £500. In 2025/26, 15 residents completed the training and three were awarded a grant to launch their business proposal.



JET costs

Training provision (internal and external)	£18,111
Business Start-up grants	£1,491
Other (including equipment and refreshments volunteers)	£1,537
Room Hire for work clubs	£480
Contribution to Tameside job fairs	£500

Total £22,119

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Thank you for all your help and patience. The CV looks great now.
I’ve started applying for other roles,
so things are moving forward”

Fatou, JET customer

Income

We generated an income of £45,855 through successful external funding applications, social value contributions, donations and partnership working. A further £25,725 was gained through successful applications to the HACT (Housing Associations Charitable Trust) fuel voucher scheme.. This funding was used to contribute towards tenants’ energy bills over the winter.

Internet access is essential for accessing many services, yet it remains inaccessible to millions of people. This often impacts vulnerable people facing other inequalities. In January 2025 Jigsaw became a digital inclusion hub, in partnership with The Good Things Foundation and the National Databank, to provide free SIM cards and data to those that cannot afford it. Since the launch we provided 60 free mobile SIM cards.



Income

Successful External funding grants	£19,271
Partners & contractors donations	£19,938
HACT energy fund vouchers for pre-paid meters	£25,725
HACT fusion 21. Debt contributions for billed accounts	£3,250
Total	£68,184

Donations

National databank	60 SIM cards with 6 months data.
Jewsons	Materials for a natural play area at Oasis Centre, Ashton.
John Southworths	Food for Dukinfield Pantry and emergency food packs for Cavendish customer hub.
Every month	Sanitary products for our food pantries.
CLC Group	Redecoration of Miles Platting pantry.
Book Mark	Books donated four times a year to improve literacy.
Jewsons	Gifted 84 Easter eggs.



www.jigsawhomes.org.uk

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