

# Miles Platting spotlight



Summer 2026 - Issue 75

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This document is available in other languages,  
larger text, braille and on audio cd



**LOVELL**

MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL



## Welcome

### If you are new to the area – welcome! This is your quarterly Summer Newsletter.

I'm your Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, Steven. It's been just over two months since I started in my new role, and I just want to say a big thank you to all the residents and services I've met so far. You've all been incredibly welcoming and have shared some fantastic ideas.

We're keen to continue working with residents on local projects and events that make a positive difference in the community. If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to get involved in a project, we'd be happy to hear from you.

## Contact Us...

If you'd like to get in touch about anything related to Spotlight contact:  
[steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk) Tel: 07827 360498

## Let's Get Social

Why not like our Facebook page for regular updates of community news:

 [Jigsaw in Miles Platting](#)

We post all of our upcoming projects and events here so keep your eye out!



## THINKING OF VOLUNTEERING? WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miles Platting Community Grocer

Queensbury Court, Wardle Street, Miles Platting M40 7DD.

Volunteering  
Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to work alongside Jigsaw staff and existing volunteers to help at the Miles Platting Community Grocers on a Thursday. As a volunteer you can:

- ✓ Improve your CV
- ✓ Take part in training
- ✓ Learn new transferrable skills
- ✓ Meet new people
- ✓ Assist in a project that supports the community
- ✓ Help to reduce food waste
- ✓ Gain knowledge & work experience

For more information, please contact:

[steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk)

T: 07827 360498

[www.milesplatting.co.uk](http://www.milesplatting.co.uk)



## Miles Platting Community Grocer

Queensbury Court, Wardle Street, Miles Platting, M40 7DD.

ONLY  
£4 FOR  
A SHOP!\*

**OPEN WEEKLY, EVERY THURSDAY!**

From 12:00pm-2:00pm.

**FREE TEA, COFFEE and TOAST** included!

Cost of the shopping is £4.00

For more information, please contact:

[steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk)

T: 07827 360498

[www.milesplatting.co.uk](http://www.milesplatting.co.uk)



\*Please note: Items purchased at this community grocers are done so on a personal choice basis. The shopper picks the items that they want, no food bags are pre-filled.

# Social Super Market – Jigsaw Foundation Funding

Organisation: Social Supermarket, based at The Church of the Apostles, Manchester Funding received: £5,000 from the Jigsaw Foundation (Miles Platting) 2025/2026

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Social Super Market provides low cost, healthy, fresh food to residents of Miles Platting, helping families access nutritious food while reducing financial pressure. Alongside food provision, the Social Super Market has developed into a community hub, offering:

- A welcoming space for residents to socialise
- Groups, activities and community events
- Access to advice, support and signposting
- Low cost, pre loved clothing and household items
- Recycling opportunities for items not collected by the local authority
- Volunteering opportunities for local people

The project also contributes to environmental sustainability by redistributing surplus food (via FareShare) and reducing waste that would otherwise go to landfill.

The Social Super Market supports a wide range of community priorities, including: Health & Wellbeing • Social Inclusion • Environmental Improvement • Financial & Digital Inclusion • Sustaining Tenancies

## Project Reach and Usage

- 4,352 visits to the Social Super Market
- 150+ families supported
- Equivalent to around 400 people each week
- 70+ free shops provided to people in crisis
- Over 50% of members are Jigsaw residents

Each shop costs members £5, providing £30–£40 worth of food, significantly reducing household expenditure.

## USE OF JIGSAW FOUNDATION FUNDING

The £5,000 grant was essential in delivering the project. Funding was used primarily to cover the cost of our FareShare bill, which provides:

- 4 deliveries per week
- 150–200kg of surplus food per delivery
- Food that would otherwise have gone to landfill

By covering these costs, the funding allowed member contributions to be used for:

- Additional bulk food purchases
- Utilities
- Staffing and operational costs

This ensured the Social Super Market remained affordable, sustainable, and accessible to the community.



## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The project has delivered significant benefits for local residents:

- Reduced reliance on emergency food provision (e.g., food banks)
- Improved access to fresh fruit and vegetables
- Lower household food costs
- Increased access to advice, support and community services
- Improved confidence and self esteem among volunteers
- Greater social connection and reduced isolation

The Social Super Market has become a major community hub, offering events, groups, social opportunities, and wider support services.

## MEMBER FEEDBACK

Residents consistently report positive experiences and meaningful financial savings:

***“Even though I work full-time, this place is still for me.”***

***“Normally we would spend £50 per week on shopping. Now it’s £20 per week.”***

***“It’s amazing. For £5, I have got a trolley full.”***

100% of members say they have saved money on their groceries since joining.

## Join Jigsaw Rewards Today



Jigsaw Rewards is an exciting opportunity for Jigsaw Group residents to give us feedback on our services, and our plans for the future. Once signed up, residents receive points whenever they take part, which can be exchanged for gift vouchers or rent credits on their account.

Since the beginning of April 2024 we have done 38 consultations and surveys and from our residents feedback we have made some changes to the way we do things! We would like more residents from the Miles Platting area to register onto Rewards so we have a good representation from our Manchester area.

To take part all you need to do is register on our website at:

**[rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk](https://rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk)** – if you have any difficulties registering please email **[jigsawrewards@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:jigsawrewards@jigsawhomes.org.uk)**

## JIGSAW FOUNDATION

**Our £500,000 community fund!**

Jigsaw Foundation is an exciting opportunity for you to support local projects run by charities, resident and community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and partner agencies.

Applications are open with funding £24,999 and under voted on by tenants through our Jigsaw Rewards surveys. Entries over this amount will be approved by the Jigsaw Homes Group’s Executive team. Applications will also be assessed alongside the Jigsaw Group’s neighbourhood plans.

Jigsaw Foundation supports Jigsaw Group’s vision of ‘We want everyone to live successfully in a home they can afford’ and mission of ‘Creating homes. Building lives. Jigsaw Foundation 2026 is now open to any groups that would like to apply for funding. Please take a look at our website for more information **<https://foundation.jigsawhomes.org.uk>**



Take part. Collect points. Be rewarded.

check out our  
NEW WEBSITE

HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY!

## Join Jigsaw Rewards to give us feedback on our services.

Complete quick and easy online surveys to earn Reward Points, which can be exchanged for Gift Vouchers or Rent Credits!

You could earn over £175 worth of SHOPPING VOUCHERS per year!



Registration is QUICK and SIMPLE and takes less than 60 SECONDS!

Simply visit our new look website:

[rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk](https://rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk)

...and follow the instructions!



Vouchers include:

- Aldi
- Amazon
- Tesco
- Morrisons

...and more!



scan me

Rated by Jigsaw Rewards users



For more information about Jigsaw Rewards, please email:

**The Jigsaw Rewards Team.**

[jigsawrewards@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:jigsawrewards@jigsawhomes.org.uk)

Take part.  
Collect points.  
Be rewarded.



[rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk](https://rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk)

Website Accessibility

Language Translation

Large Text

Audio

## Yoga And Sound Bath Sessions

On 17th and 18th March, we hosted two free yoga and sound bath sessions at Miles Platting Community Centre. The sessions were a great opportunity for members of the community to relax and focus on their wellbeing.

Please follow our social media pages for new dates and upcoming sessions over the summer or contact [steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk)



## Level 2 Food Hygiene Training

Our team of volunteers at the Community Grocers recently successfully completed their Level 2 Food Hygiene training.

If you'd like to join our team, there are plenty of opportunities and further training available to help you build your CV, gain valuable experience, make new friends, and support your local community.

Contact details –  
[steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk)



# What's On?

## Community Clean-Up & Family Fun Day

**JOIN US ON THE 19TH AUGUST BETWEEN 10AM AND 1PM.**

Skips will be located on Troutbeck Avenue and outside the gates of Chippenham Road Community Garden. You can use these to dispose of any unwanted household waste. Biffa will also be in attendance at the event. Fun activities and refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Why Getting Muddy Might Be The Best Thing For Your Child This Summer

**HOW A MILES PLATTING NURSERY IS GIVING LOCAL CHILDREN SOMETHING SCREENS SIMPLY CANNOT.**



Most parents know the feeling. You call your child away from a screen, hand them something to do, and within minutes they are back, thumb scrolling, disengaged. It is not a parenting failure. It is what happens when children do not have enough of the unpredictable, the hands-on, and the genuinely interesting.

The evidence is clear: children who spend regular time outdoors, exploring with their hands and their senses, develop stronger

concentration, better language skills, and greater emotional resilience. The question for most families is where, in a busy city neighbourhood, they can actually access that kind of experience in a structured, safe, and professionally guided setting.

For families in Miles Platting, that provision is already here at the end of your road.

This summer, WMB Winstanley Day Nursery is opening its Nature Discovery Garden to children across the local community.

## WHAT CHILDREN ARE ACTUALLY LEARNING - IN PLAIN TERMS

Sessions run every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am to 11:00am throughout the summer. They are built around the Early Years Foundation Stage framework but what that means in practice, for your child, is simpler than it sounds.



**They will learn to talk.** Nature is one of the richest sources of language for young children. Describing what a worm feels like, asking why a plant grows toward the light, debating whose mudpie is bigger. These are real conversations that build real vocabulary. Children in these sessions speak more, listen more, and ask better questions.

**They will learn to figure things out.** Outdoor environments are open-ended. There is no single right answer to why the beetle has stopped moving or whether the puddle is deeper near the fence. Children who regularly work things out for themselves in this way become more adaptable, more curious, and more capable of thinking independently.

**They will learn to be with others.** Planting, building, and exploring together requires negotiation, patience, and cooperation. These are not skills that can be taught through instruction alone. They are developed through real activity, with real children, in real situations.

**They will learn to recover.** Age-appropriate challenge, a muddy slope, a wobbly plank, an unexpected earthworm, builds resilience. A child who has tried something uncertain and come through it carries that confidence into every other area of life.

## WHAT A SESSION ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE

You will not find children sitting in rows. You

will find them crouched over a patch of soil, arguing quietly about whether what they have just found is a centipede or a millipede. One child carefully tips a small watering can over a seedling they planted the week before, checking whether it has grown. Another moves compost in a red wheelbarrow with the focused purpose of someone who has important work to do because, in their world, they do.



Sessions draw on planting and nature care, sensory mud play, minibeast exploration, and outdoor discovery. Each activity is deliberately open-ended. A child who arrives tentative leaves having made a decision, taken a risk, and seen it through.

There is no pressure to perform. The process is the point. Children, freed from the pressure of outcome, often surprise themselves with what they are capable of.

## WHAT OUTSTANDING ACTUALLY MEANS FOR YOUR CHILD

WMB Winstanley Day Nursery holds an Outstanding rating from Ofsted, the highest grade a nursery can receive. But what matters is what that means in practice, day to day.



It means your child is welcomed into a setting where practitioners understand how young children learn and plan carefully around each child's individual development. It means the quality of interaction, the environment, and the guidance your child receives has been independently assessed and confirmed to be among the best available. It means parents can trust that what is promised is genuinely delivered.

The Nature Discovery Garden is a direct extension of this standard: structured enough to be purposeful, open enough to let children lead, and grounded in the understanding that what happens in the early years shapes everything that follows.

WMB Winstanley has also been recognised nationally as a Top 20 Nursery Group, independently assessed, not self-reported.

### THE KIND OF CHILD THIS ENVIRONMENT PRODUCES

Think about the child you hope your son or daughter is becoming. A child who speaks with confidence, not just when they know the answer, but when they are still working it out. A child who can sit with uncertainty, try something new, and not fall apart when it does not go to plan. A child who plays well with others not because they have been told to, but because they have practised it in a genuinely social environment.

These are not outcomes you can rush or force. They grow gradually, through consistent experience, in settings that take early childhood seriously.

That is what regular time in the Nature Discovery Garden builds and it starts this summer, for children in Miles Platting.

### THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME, STARTING THIS WEEK

Good early years practice does not stop at the nursery gate. Here are three simple ways to extend the benefits of outdoor learning in your own routine:

1. Slow down outside. When you walk with your child, let them stop and look. A crack in the pavement with weeds pushing through, a snail on a wall, a puddle catching the light — these are genuine learning moments. Resist the urge to hurry past.
2. Ask open questions. Instead of “What

colour is that flower?”, try “What do you think that flower needs to grow?” There is no wrong answer, and the thinking it requires is worth far more than the correct one.

3. Let them be messy. Sensory experience; soil, water, sand, mud is important for early brain development. A change of clothes is a small price for the development it supports.

### COME AND SEE WHAT YOUR CHILD COULD BE PART OF

Nature Discovery Garden sessions run throughout the summer term, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am to 11:00am at WMB Winstanley Day Nursery, Miles Platting, M40 7WN.

The best way to understand what makes this setting different is to visit. Come and walk the space, watch the children, and speak with the team. Places at WMB Winstanley are in demand and availability for the summer programme is limited, so if you are considering it for your child, it is worth making contact soon.

Call 0161 205 7933 or visit [wmbchildcare.co.uk](http://wmbchildcare.co.uk) to arrange a visit or ask any questions. The team will be glad to show you around. Children should come dressed for the weather: wellies, a raincoat, and gloves. Everything else is provided.

WMB Winstanley Day Nursery is an Outstanding-rated early years setting serving children aged 9 months to 4 years. Funded places available for eligible 2, 3, and 4-year-olds.

Know a local family who would benefit? WMB Winstanley’s referral programme rewards families who recommend the nursery, and offers two complimentary sessions for every child newly enrolled. Details at [wmbchildcare.co.uk/refer-a-parent](http://wmbchildcare.co.uk/refer-a-parent).

## Create With Others

### BRICK-BASED BRAINS - A NEW GROUP FOR MEN TO BUILD, CONNECT AND BELONG.

Build, connect and belong. Come along and get involved! For more information contact Kitty on 07739 370690 or email [Creativeconfidence@gmail.com](mailto:Creativeconfidence@gmail.com)



## Walk With Others

Walking Mum's Club is looking for mums to come together to walk, build new friendships, support each other and share stories and learning. Meets outside Miles Platting Sure Start Centre at 10am every Thursday (next to the school, Holland St, M40 7DA). Contact Becca via email: [walkingmumsclub@gmail.com](mailto:walkingmumsclub@gmail.com)

## Exercise With Others

St Georges Youth and Community Centre provides fun, welcoming exercise classes in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

Not only good for improving your physical health, the sessions are also fun and can be a great way to make new friends - participants often meet socially outside of class, travel together, and support one another beyond the sessions themselves.

### Why not try one of their classes as part of health week?

If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more, please contact Cath on: 0161 834 9368 or email: [info@stgeorgescollyhurst.co.uk](mailto:info@stgeorgescollyhurst.co.uk)



## Tuesday Wellness Walkers

Tuesday Wellness Walkers sessions are adapted to meet the needs and paces of all. This is a lovely interactive group where members like to share their experiences and stories of living in Manchester. The group walk together for approximately an hour or more, followed by a lunch at St Georges Youth and Community Centre.

Meet at St George's Youth and Community Centre every Tuesday morning (Bothwell Road, Collyhurst, M40 7NY), If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more, please contact Cath on: **0161 834 9368** or email: **info@stgeorgescollyhurst.co.uk**

## Baby Bees Mum & Baby group

Our mum and baby and toddler is a relaxed group for mums and babies aged 0-18 months. Come along to meet other local mums, share tips and tricks, socialise or just get out for a change of scenery. It's ok if your baby is being fussy, feeding or napping, please still come along and join us.

Our group is free to attend and refreshments are provided. Every Monday (except bank holidays) 10.30am – 12.00pm at Miles Platting Community Library.

If you have any queries, please contact Steven on **07827360498** or **NeighbourhoodEngagement@jigsawhomes.org.uk**



**Baby Bees**  
**Baby & Toddler Group**  
**0-18 months**

Baby Bees is a NEW mum and baby group for Miles Platting and surrounding areas. Suitable for babies and toddlers aged 0-18 months.

Whether you're a new mum or simply looking to meet other parents, you and your little one are very welcome!

Join us every Monday morning 10.30am - 12pm to meet other local mums in a relaxed environment. You will be able to chat with a hot (or cold) drink made by us and enjoy a sweet treat.

There will be a soft play mat and toys for your baby to play, sleep or feed!

We regularly have themed photo sessions – perfect opportunities to capture special memories of your little one throughout their first year.

Our group is free and we'd love to see you there!

For more information or any questions, contact Steven:

☎ 07827360498  
✉ [steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk)



# What's On at St George's Community Centre

We have a range of free, age friendly activities taking place each week at St George's Community Centre. Everyone is welcome, so come along, meet old friends and make new ones.

## Monday

Monday Movers (Age Friendly) • 11:30am – 12:30pm • Followed by lunch

## Tuesday

Collyhurst Walking Group • Meet at St George's at 11:00am • Return around 12:30pm for lunch

## Thursday

Line Dancing • 11:30am • Followed by a small snack and a brew

All activities are free of charge. For more information, please contact us on **0161 834 9368**

## Tiny Tots & Toddler Time

**Date:** Every Thursday  
(excl. school holidays)

**Time:** 1.15pm

**Location:** Miles Platting  
Community Library, located in  
Victoria Mill Park

**Address:** Lower Vickers Street,  
Miles Platting, M40 7LJ



## Community Garden

There are a number of community gardens to get involved with in Miles Platting, just reach out to see how you could be involved. Whether you want to dig in, learn, or simply enjoy the fresh air, you're always welcome at Chippenham Community Garden.

**Contact Steven on 07827 360498**

or by emailing **NeighbourhoodEngagement@**

**jigsawhomes.org.uk** to get involved with Holland Street and Chippenham Community Gardens. Find out more about Ridgeway Community Garden at Church of the Apostles.



## Mental Information

MON	<b>Stockport</b> Edgeley Park - SK3 9DD
MON	<b>Wilmslow</b> Guild for Lifelong Learning - SK9 5HD
MON	<b>Chester</b> Hoole Community Centre - CH2 3AP
MON	<b>Hyde</b> The Grafton Centre - SK14 2AX
WED	<b>Cheetham Hill</b> Irish World Heritage Centre - M8 0AE
WED	<b>Gorton</b> The Monastery - M12 5WF
THU	<b>Glossop</b> Bradbury Community House - SK13 8AB
THU	<b>Macclesfield</b> The Wellbeing Space - SK13 6HB
THU	<b>Congleton</b> Town Hall - DW12 1SN
THU	<b>Crewe</b> YMCA - CW2 4EL
THU	<b>Buxton</b> Grapevine Wellbeing Centre - SK17 6EQ
MON & THU	<b>Online</b> Online Zoom Meeting

## Bike Loan Library

**Date:** Last Saturday of every month

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Location:** Miles Platting Community Library, located in Victoria Mill Park

**Address:** Lower Vickers Street, Miles Platting, M40 7LJ



## Community Library

The library's opening hours are:

**Tuesday 10am – 5pm**

**Thursday 1pm – 7pm**

**Saturday 10am – 1pm**

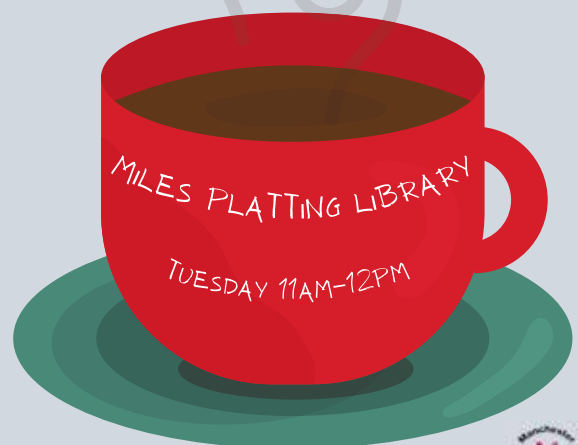
The library are offering a warm space and a cuppa during opening hours.

You can also go to the library during their opening hours to ask for parking permit advice.



# Fancy a Brew?

JOIN US FOR A DRINK AND A CHAT AT OUR WEEKLY DROP-IN FOR OLDER PEOPLE



MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



## Holiday Support For Families

Over the summer holidays, we'll be hosting a range of fun-packed activities for local children and families at Miles Platting Community Centre. Lunch and refreshments will be provided on the day.

For more information, please follow our Facebook page for updates or contact your Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, Steven add contact details.



## St Anne's RC Primary School

**"Growing and learning together through faith, love and care."**

- ✓ A welcoming Catholic school at the heart of our Ancoats community
- ✓ Now accepting new admissions with immediate start!
- ✓ Places now available in selected year groups
- ✓ Free full-time Nursery places available for September 2026

At St Anne's RC Primary School, we are proud to be a loving, faith-filled school where every child is cherished, nurtured, and inspired to shine. Our mission goes beyond education — we are a family rooted in faith, love, and community, caring deeply for every pupil and every family, both inside and outside our school gates.

Join our dedicated family of learners where children develop not only academically, but spiritually and morally — guided by Gospel values and a deep sense of belonging.

Our committed staff, supportive parish links, and inclusive learning environment make St Anne's a special place where all are truly welcome. Together, we are shaping bright futures, full of kindness, confidence, and faith.

Call us today: **0161 273 2417**

Email: **admin@st-annes-pri.manchester.sch.uk**

Visit us to see the difference a truly caring Catholic school can make.

**St Anne's RC Primary School, Ancoats, M4 7EQ**

**St Anne's RC Primary School – A community built on faith, love, and opportunity.**



## Summer Holiday Activities – We Want Your Ideas!

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA THIS SUMMER?

Tell us your ideas:

Your voice matters! Help us create activities that are fun, inclusive, and right for your community.

Get in touch:

Email: [steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:steven.delahunt@jigsawhomes.org.uk)

Phone: **07827 360498**

**HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP SHAPE THIS SUMMER!**



## Wellbeing and Tenancy Support

Jigsaw Support provides Wellbeing and Tenancy support for Jigsaw tenants, to help our customers live a fulfilled life. This support is tailored to individual needs and can include building resilience, confidence and providing support to reduce and manage anxiety and stress.

We also provide support to help people understand their tenancy, set up of bills, utilities and payment plans, budget advice and to put you in touch with other agencies and wider community groups for further advice and support.

Here is what our customers said:

“Your support to overcome barriers has changed my life. I would like to say a very big thank you for all the support and helping me see there are positives in my life and that I can do things out of my comfort zone. I would recommend this service if anyone asked me because it is a life changer all for the good.”

“My support worker went above and beyond to reassure me and support me.”

“My support worker was outstanding. Kind, easy to talk to, understanding. She went above and beyond her job title and I will be forever truly grateful for her support. She listened to me when I was at my lowest point and gave excellent advice. The support I got is the best I’ve had from everyone since my trauma, and I will never ever forget the Angel you sent me.”

**To find out more or to access the service, please speak to your housing officer.**



## Money Advice

### ENERGY SUPPORT

For people struggling to pay energy bills or top up prepayment meters, they may be able to get help through grants or benefits. More information can be found on the Citizens Advice website here - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/#h-check-if-you-can-get-a-fuel-voucher>

The Fuel Bank Foundation provides advice for people who are struggling to top up their prepayment meters. This includes advice on energy-saving measures, budget cooking and where to get help.

<https://www.fuelbankfoundation.org/>

Jigsaw Homes also offer free energy advice if you are struggling to warm your homes. Contact [NeighbourhoodEngagement@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:NeighbourhoodEngagement@jigsawhomes.org.uk) for more information.

### MONEY ADVICE JIGSAW HOMES

Our resident Money Adviser Tina Chadwick is available, either by face to face appointment, or telephone appointment Monday to Thursday.

#### What sort of help is provided?

- Full benefit advice
- Advise and assist with claiming state benefits, including help completing forms and online applications
- Benefit reviews and appeals.
- Budgeting advice and guidance.
- Debt advice including referral to specialist debt advice agencies.
- Grants and other available financial support.

To arrange an appointment, or for further information about the service, you can contact Tina in a number of ways:

- Baker House office, book an appointment with reception or call 0161 203 2600
- Through a referral from your Housing Officer
- Or email [christina.chadwick@adactushousing.co.uk](mailto:christina.chadwick@adactushousing.co.uk)



# Cost Of Living Scams!

Scammers are using the cost of living crisis to mislead people into providing their personal information and bank details, believing that this is needed in order to receive rebates or cost of living payments.

Beware of texts, emails, social media messages or letters that ask you to follow a link and ask for your personal information. This may then allow them to hack into your account or use your bank details. If you want to check if a message or letter is genuine do not use the contact details provided, check on official websites or with your own bank, internet or energy provider account details. If you receive a phone call don't engage with the caller but again, use the contact details you have with your account and call directly to check if the call is genuine.

Scammers use worrying or time-limited messages to make us react, take time to think and find out how the cost of living payments will be paid.

## **COST OF LIVING PAYMENTS**

If you are eligible you do not need to apply, payments will be made in the same way you usually receive benefits or tax credits. If you get a text or email regarding this, it may be a scam. Do not click on links or give personal information. The eligibility criteria, with payment amounts, is listed on the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment> You can also use the report missed payment reporting tool if you think you have not received a payment you were entitled to. You can also contact your local citizens advice if you need help or advice with benefit claims or to check if

something may be a scam. <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

## **ENERGY REBATE SCAMS**

There are a number of ways scammers target people about energy rebates, such as,

- **'Claim your energy rebate' emails or texts with links for you to input your personal information in order to receive the payment.**
- **Bogus letters, emails, texts or social media messages pretending to be government organisations such as gov.uk or Ofgem (the energy regulator) again asking you for your personal information in order to receive the payment.**

You do not need to apply for the payment as it will be paid to you by your energy company. This will be paid in instalments and will vary depending on how you pay (direct debit, prepayment meter etc...) The information about how you will be paid can be found here <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/>

## **FAKE SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS**

These can be offers seemingly from well-known supermarkets or shops, offering today-only offers, which then ask you to input information in order to receive the voucher code or discount. You should check with the supermarket or shop if the offer is genuine. Do not click on links or provide

your personal details, as again scammers can use this to access your accounts or money.

### **FAKE PREPAYMENT METER TOP-UP CARDS/ KEYS**

This scam involves someone knocking at your door with discounted prices on prepayment meter cards. Energy companies do not sell top-up cards/ keys at the door. These cards are cloned, which means the energy company will not receive your payment. Only use authorised outlets

to top up your prepayment meter, you can check with your supplier for the nearest places or use the paypoint locator website <https://www.paypoint.com/storelocator> or [payzone](http://payzone.co.uk/blog/gas-electricity-top-ups/), which will also provide details of post office pay points too [www.payzone.co.uk/blog/gas-electricity-top-ups/](http://www.payzone.co.uk/blog/gas-electricity-top-ups/)

**Contact your energy supplier as soon as possible if you think you may have been a victim of this scam.**

## **Benefit Changes from April 2026'**

### **BENEFIT CHANGES FROM APRIL 2026**

#### **GENERAL**

State Pension age will increase from 6th May 2026 and will reach 67 in March 2028.

Income-Related Employment Support Allowance, Income Support and Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance Departments to be closed down - DWP target is at the end of March 2026. Income Support and Income Based-Job Seekers Allowance are formally abolished on 1st April (unless in the 2 week run-on).

The Household Support Fund will be replaced by a Crisis and Resilience Fund which will incorporate Discretionary Housing Payments.

#### **UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

The last of the Income-Related Employment Support Allowance / Income Support / Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance / Housing Benefit only claimants are expected to have moved onto Universal Credit

through managed migration by end March 2026.

The government's Universal Credit Act, will half the value of the Limited Capability for Work Related Activity Element for new recipients on or after 6th April 2026 (unless they come under the special rules for end of life or meet the 'severe conditions criteria') this means the element will be reduced from £429.20 to £217.26 for new claimants only.

The Two Child Limit is scrapped from April (although some families will still be affected by the Benefit Cap)

The two child limit on the UC Childcare Costs Element is also to be lifted at some point during 2026/27 - increasing the maximum that can be covered if the claimant is paying childcare for a 3rd, 4th etc child.

From September 2026 free school meals will be available to all claimant's on Universal Credit.

## HOUSING BENEFIT

There was a longstanding plan that Pension Credit would eventually extend the Housing Costs Addition so that it supported a claimant's rent (instead of them receiving Housing Benefit). However, the new government has confirmed that Housing Benefit will remain in place for State Pension age customers for the foreseeable future, but that they will be bringing together the administration of Housing Benefit and Pension Credit to make a more streamlined process sometime in 2026. The aim is to make it easier for pensioners to receive the help they are entitled to.

## PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

The government has scrapped its proposal to restrict Daily Living PIP entitlement to those who are awarded at least 4 points on an activity. Any change to PIP will take place after the Timms review - outcome due Autumn 2026. The government may then decide to make changes to the assessment and / or eligibility criteria.

## PROPOSED CHANGES

The government has announced, in its Pathways to Work Green Paper, its proposal

to replace the Work Capability Assessment, replace the Limited Capability for Work/ Limited Capability for Work Related Activity Elements by a Health Element, and remove the link to capacity for work (linking it to an award of Personal Independence Payment instead). They are also looking are delaying entitlement to this Element until a claimant is aged 22 or over.

The government is currently consulting on replacing New Style-Job Seekers Allowance and New Style-Employment Support Allowance with an "unemployment insurance". This would be a contributory benefit where entitlement is based on past National Insurance contributions – as the new-style benefits currently are. It would be paid at one rate equivalent to the current higher rate of New Style-Employment Support Allowance. There would be no distinction between those who are able or unable to work and all claimants would be given support in finding a new job. As with New Style-Job Seekers Allowance, entitlement to this benefit would be time limited.





## ADVICE LINE FOR COST OF LIVING CRISIS SUPPORT

To support Manchester residents through the cost-of-living crisis, Manchester City Council have an advice line that offers:

1. Support with benefits and help with your rent (this is an existing offer made available through the contact centre)
2. Advice about debt and paying bills (this will be done in conjunction with Citizen Advice Manchester)
3. Food support (residents will receive a call back to understand their needs and connected into a local food offer)
4. Support getting online (residents will be linked in with the Council's digital inclusion team)

Open 9am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Phone free 0800 023 2692.**

The person you speak to will have access to language line for residents whose first language is not English. Sign Video will also be available.

You can Fill in the Request Cost of Living Advice form to get online support.

Look on [manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands](https://manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands) for advice on the cost of living crisis.

## COST OF LIVING LOCAL HELP

If you are struggling to pay your water bill you can contact **United Utilities** so they are aware and can offer support.

If you are claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit, or some other benefits you may be able to access social tariffs for cheaper broadband and phone packages. Find out more on the **Ofgem** website.

**Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA)** provides a map of foodbanks, furniture repairs and advice centres in Manchester.

**Streetsupport** provides further details of support available across Greater Manchester for people in poverty and experiencing homelessness.

You can apply to the **local welfare assistance scheme in Manchester**, which may provide help with furniture or energy payments.

**Mustard Tree** and **Wesley Community Furniture** offer help with affordable furniture.

These links were recommended by Manchester Mind, for anyone who wants support.

## CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice Manchester offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and information on a wide range of subjects. Find out more on the Citizens Advice website.

## FREE SIM CARDS WITH INTERNET ACCESS

Any Manchester resident (over the age of 18) who is on a low income and struggling to pay for internet access can now get a free SIM loaded with free data.

SIMs come with free internet access for up to 6 months!

All you have to do is pop into your local library and ask for help.



## LETS GET DIGITAL

As the cost of living crisis continues, the MCC Digital Inclusion team want to share the support they can offer to residents who are struggling.

From cheap laptops and PCs to free WiFi and smartphones, they can get the kit and data that residents need to get online and for those who need to boost their digital skills, there are many locations across the city offering free classes and drop ins.

They also offer free telephone support to people who have internet access at home, but don't have the skills or confidence to use it effectively. To access this free support,

**Text: 07860 064128** or  
**Email: [digitalinclusion@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:digitalinclusion@manchester.gov.uk)**

Digital exclusion is far more likely to affect those on low incomes, can cost households up to £560 per year from the missed savings of shopping and paying bills online, and will negatively affect earnings. People with higher digital skills earn 3-10% more than those with low skills, make greater savings online and can access public services more easily. They believe that digital inclusion is an essential part of the response to the cost-of-living crisis. Please get in touch or see our website to find out more:

**[www.letsgetdigitalmanchester.com](http://www.letsgetdigitalmanchester.com)**

## MANCHESTER MIND

Their **Food For All Team** offer support for those experiencing food poverty and mental health problems. You can also access support from an Advice Worker at these sessions.

## MAX YOUR MONEY

**The Growth Company** launched this initiative to support GM residents with the cost of living crisis. **Max Your Money** allows residents to easily understand what services they offer which can help them maximise their income whether it is finding employment, securing an additional job, gaining new skills to secure a better job or accessing support to develop their business.

They are working with a partner network which includes Citizen's Advice, Trussell Trust & GM Poverty Action who will promote their offer to their customers, many of whom are accessing advice services for the first time.

## UNITED UTILITIES

United Utilities is offering online debt support service to everyone in the North West amid ongoing cost of living crisis. You can visit their **Hardship Hub** to find out more about the support available for you.



## Jigsaw Employment & Training Team

Are you looking for a job, a change in career or have an idea to start a new business? Are you interested in one-to-one advice or accredited and non-accredited training? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please contact our friendly and dedicated Jigsaw employment & training team who are experienced in all aspects of employment, learning and skills development.



## Volunteer Centre Manchester

### LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? POP INTO OUR DROP-IN!

Do you want to volunteer or have a question about volunteering? Volunteer Centre Manchester provides information, support and training to residents who want to volunteer and to organisations who work with or involve volunteers.

Our new Volunteering Drop-In is open and ready to welcome you! Whether you're new to volunteering or just exploring your options, come along for tea, biscuits and a chat with the friendly team from the Volunteer Centre.

We'll take time to get to know you and what you're looking for, then help match you with volunteering opportunities that suit your interests and goals. We can even sign you up there and then!

Need a bit of extra support to get started? No problem—we're here to help, and you're welcome to return over multiple weeks for ongoing support with applications until you've found the perfect role.

### WHEN AND WHERE?

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month  
10am – 3pm

Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square,  
M2 5PD

No need to book—just drop in!

### CONTACT US

0161 830 4770

[info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk)

[www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](http://www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk)

Instagram: @VolunteerCentreMCR

Facebook: /VolunteerCentreManchester



# Recycling

## Keeping Your Community Clean

### BULKY RUBBISH

You can have **3 items per year removed FREE by Manchester City Council**. You can book a pick-up online at **Manchester.gov.uk** or by ringing **0161 2345 004** (if you wait through the recorded message it does go through to the department).

You can take bulky rubbish to the **tip in Newton Heath**. The address is **Reliance Street Recycling Centre, Reliance Street, Newton Heath, M40 3EZ**.

### GARDEN WASTE

You can use a **green** waste bin to get rid of garden waste and food waste. If you do not have a green bin you can request a **free** bin using the website or telephone number above. You can also request a small green bin and biodegradable bags for kitchen food waste.

### OVERFLOWING BINS

You can reduce the amount of rubbish by recycling efficiently. If you crush cans and plastic bottles they take up less room. If you find you are filling the recycling bins you can have extra or bigger blue, brown and green bins. You can use the website or phone to request these bins. These bins are free but you have to pay for new grey bins.

If you place the wrong items in the bins they may not get collected. Ensure you do not put plastic bags, plastic food trays, plastic cling film or toys in any of the recycling bins. These should all go in the **grey** bin.

**Paper and cardboard only in the blue bin.**

**Cans, plastic bottles and glass bottles and jars in the brown bin.**

**If you are a household of 6 or more people you can ask for a family size grey bin.**



**Highways Service**

**Neighbourhoods Directorate**

PO Box 532  
Town Hall  
Manchester  
M60 2LA

Date: 11 May 2026

### **Electric Vehicle Car Park Chargers – Resident Consultation**

Dear resident,

Manchester City Council wants to help people who currently use an electric vehicle or may replace their petrol or diesel vehicle for an electric one in future. We will do this by making it easier to charge their electric vehicle. As part of this, we are looking at installing electric vehicle charging points in some council owned residential car parks across Manchester. **We aim to make these electric vehicle charge points accessible for all user needs.**

We are focusing on areas where residents do not have driveways or other off-street places to charge an electric vehicle.

You are receiving this letter as your car park is one of the places we're looking at potentially installing chargers.

We would like to hear your views so we can better understand whether an electric vehicle charge point in your car park would be helpful now or in the future.

Please complete the online survey at [manchester.gov.uk/ev-carpark-survey](https://manchester.gov.uk/ev-carpark-survey) before **7 June 2026** to tell us how this could help you.

Your feedback will guide our plans for any future work. **Your responses will remain confidential and will only be used for the purposes of this work.**

Switching to an EV has several benefits, including:

- Cleaner air for everyone, helping to improve the health of the whole city.
- Lower fuel costs.
- Reducing the impact of climate change.

Thank you,

**Manchester City Council**

EV Charging Infrastructure Team

# Pat's Gardening Corner



Thankfully we had a great start to the gardening calendar with some great spring weather. Being outdoors gardening or just going for a walk can really boost your mood and wellbeing and I've found just pottering around the garden going from job to job distracts the mind from some of the not so nice things that have been happening in the world recently.

Let's look at bringing some extra cheer and pops of colour into the garden right now - start by getting some essential jobs done .....

- Clear away and winter debris from gulleys and pathways
- Jet wash pathways and garden furniture
- Attack the weeds now and this will save you time in the coming months
- Cut back any overgrown bushes or tree branches that might be invading your neighbour's garden.

To bring some serious summer colour into the garden look to plant up some of the many

summer bedding plants available. Pansies are great for some bold colour and will flower all summer long – just dead head as you go along. Red hot geraniums are great for a centre display for a patio pot or basket surrounded by cascading lobelia and bacopa. Bizzy Lizzies planted on mass create a carpet of colour and again will flower all summer long.

Use good multi-purpose compost for your pots and baskets and add some slow release granular feed to ensure the plants receive a food boost in the

hot summer months. Remember to water regularly. Adding some Gel water granules when you plant up are great and can cut down the number of times you have to water.

Lawns will now need mowing weekly or 2 weekly, add a general lawn food every couple of weeks to keep it in tip top condition. Keep grass a little longer in long periods of sun.

Over the winter months, bird feeders not only help keep our little friends happy when there is little else about, but if you keep it up over the year, they can be great little gardeners too, eating the bugs and keeping the infestations at bay! Keep an shallow bowl of water out too, its thirsty work raising young chicks and birds love to splash around to bathe. Be sure to change the water regularly.



## Check Out Our Summer Freebies

Summer garden giveaways – you'll need to be quick!

- Easy to grow - Pollinator Garden, just scatter and grow
- Easy to grow – Meadow Garden, just scatter and grow
- Hanging Bird feeders with seed
- Hanging Fat ball feeder for garden birds
- Rolls of garden twine (great for securing your plants and climbers)
- Garden gloves
- Bug hotels



All you need to do to get your pick of our fantastic summer giveaways is to email me the giveaway you would like with your name and address to:

[Patrice.campbell@jigsawhomes.org.uk](mailto:Patrice.campbell@jigsawhomes.org.uk) or call Jigsaw Homes 0800 234 6826 option 3 and ask for Pat.



### .....PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Pause for thought – consider your garden as ‘an extra room’ - it deserves as much consideration as the inside of your home. Please care for your garden and keep it tidy - IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!



Language Line  
services

**ARABIC**

هذه الوثيقة متاحة باللغة العربية عند الطلب.

**BENGALI**

অনুরোধ করলে এই ডকুমেন্টটি বাংলা ভাষা ও উপলব্ধ

**CANTONESE**

本文件可以應要求，製作成中文（繁體字）版本。

**FARSI**

این مدرک در صورت درخواست به فارسی موجود است.

**KURDISH**

ئەم بەلگەییە بە پێی داواکاری بە زمانی کوردی ش دەس دەکەوێت

**MANDARIN**

本文件可以应要求，制作成中文（简体字）版本。

**POLISH**

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany w języku polskim.

**PUNJABI**

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ

**SOMALI**

Dokumentigaan waxaa lagu helaa Soomaali haddii la codsado.

**FRENCH**

Ce document est disponible en français sur simple demande.

**GUJARATI**

આ દસ્તાવેજ વિનંતી કરવાથી ગુજરાતીમાં મળી રહેશે.

**HINDI**

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ हिन्दी में भी उपलब्ध है

**URDU**

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز اردو میں بھی مل سکتی ہے۔

**VIETNAMESE**

Tài liệu này có sẵn bằng tiếng Việt khi được yêu cầu.

**Baker House Office**

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (6pm on Wednesday)

T 0800 234 6826

**Emergency Repairs**

T 0800 234 6826

**Allpay**

For direct debit, debit/credit card payments & ordering new rent cards

T 0800 234 6826

**Housing Benefit queries:**

e: [benefit.enquiries@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:benefit.enquiries@manchester.gov.uk)

T 0161 234 5003

**Council Tax queries:**

e: [ctax.enquiries@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:ctax.enquiries@manchester.gov.uk)

T 0161 234 5002

**Miles Platting Outreach Library Open:**

Tuesday 10am - 5pm

Thursday 1pm - 7pm

Saturday 10am - 1pm

T 0161 227 3787

**Environment on call:**

e: [contact@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:contact@manchester.gov.uk)

T 0161 234 5004

**Find out your utility supplier:**

Gas: T 0870 608 1524 Electric: T 0870 751 0093