

## Appendix 4: Manchester Libraries Vision 2023-28 Progress document

This document shows the progress with actions listed in the Libraries Vision document since Feb 2023

### 1. Our Manchester, Our People

Our libraries will continue to focus on people, helping to make our neighbourhoods great places to live and Manchester a world-class city. We will

No.	Action	Progress
1.1	Be neighbourhood venues where local residents are welcome, can talk to people and be helped by skilled hospitable staff	Support to use computers, free Internet and Wi-Fi, a wide range of books to borrow, place to relax and meet people, offering a wide range of events for all ages. Somewhere to study and get help with homework.
1.2	Provide a warm welcome to all, helping people to live side by side, and be Libraries of Sanctuary	Warm Spaces, including free hot drinks, delivered from Oct 23-Feb 24. Libraries of Sanctuary reassessment to take place in 2025
1.3	Be fully accessible, increase opening hours through Open+, and deliver books to people who are housebound	Opening hours increased by 11 hours per week by introducing Open+ at Longsight Library. 450 residents with mobility difficulties currently receive library books through the Books To Go service
1.4	Support people's skills and job prospects	Libraries are key element of City of Learning initiative – offering community venues to partner organisations and promoting online learning opportunities
1.5	Increase engagement with young people	Youth Friendly Libraries - new standards currently being developed. Training received by libraries staff from the Youth, Play and Participation team
1.6	Support local businesses and start-ups through the BIPC and other projects	Manage the Greater Manchester Build a Business project, including delivery in Manchester. Enterprise Hub opened in January 2024 in the ground floor of Town Hall Extension
1.7	Implement the Green Libraries Manifesto, contributing to Zero Carbon	Signed up to manifesto. <a href="#">Green Libraries week</a> events delivered in October 2024. 'Green' is embedded into the delivery of library services. Increasing number of sessions for children delivered around 'green' themes. The Roundview activity piloted at Central Library in June 23
1.8	Continue to invest in high-quality buildings refurbishing libraries and outreach venues	New libraries and libraries refurbs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abraham Moss Library &amp; Leisure Centre opened on 12/08/2023</li> <li>• Central Library refresh underway including IT, furniture, signage, archives storage and AV equipment</li> <li>• Northenden Library opened in St Wilfrid's Church Hall in January 2024</li> <li>• Chorlton Library will be transformed in 2024-25</li> </ul>
1.9	Support safer and stronger communities and thriving neighbourhoods	Over 5000 meeting room bookings in libraries across the city. The use of these rooms provides community groups with a venue in the heart of communities and residents receive a range of services and participate in a huge variety of groups and activities.

1.10	Tackle poverty and social exclusion, combating disadvantage	19 of our libraries are now food collection points, for their local foodbank. The Bread & Butter Thing operate from 4 libraries. Initiative launched to combat period poverty at all libraries, using public health funding Bookgifting via foodbanks
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## 2. Literacy and Reading

Reading remains at the core of our library service. Literacy is key to life chances. We will:

No.	Action	Progress
2.1	Run Read Manchester as a National Literacy Trust Hub	See Appendix 5 for the highlights of the Read Manchester programme
2.2	Provide access to books for all ages, in all formats, including ebooks and books in different languages	Total amount of items borrowed in 2023 is 1.48 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 228k Adult fiction books</li> <li>• 173k Adult non-fiction books</li> <li>• 412k Children's books</li> <li>• 142k Ebooks</li> <li>• 214k Eaudio books</li> <li>• 300k Emagazines &amp; newspapers</li> </ul>
2.3	Ensure that libraries and archives stock represents our diverse communities	See myself in books children's collections rolled out in libraries; neurodiverse collection being prepared. More diverse archives collections being collected – for example the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People archive.
2.4	Run Storytimes in every library	Well attended storytimes are run at every library.
2.5	Manage Bookstart	Over 10,000 packs are delivered to babies and 3-4 year olds – value of £130,000
2.6	Engage with schools, running class visits	70,000 attendees of class visits in 2023 – a combination of face to face and virtual libraries. 68% of schools have class visits with libraries 53,000 children receive the transition read book
2.7	Run the Summer Reading Challenge	Over 35,000 books were read by children who joined the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge 42 schools were part of the schools engagement pilot in 2023. In 2024 the school pilot will include all 10 Making Manchester Fairer early years kickstarter schools
2.8	Gift thousands of books to children	138,000 books and magazines gifted to Manchester residents and community groups
2.9	Support book clubs	We currently support 30 book groups across the city, most of which take place in non-library venues
2.10	Host regular author events, book festivals, e.g. Chorlton Book Festival, Manchester Literature Festival	153k attendees of events in 2023. Major book festivals supported, including for the first time the Black British Book Festival in September 2023
2.11	Work with the Shannon Trust to improve prisoners' literacy	The library in HMP Manchester has worked with all areas of the prison to help them develop reading areas in the wings, and host workshops. Borderline Books has donated 400 books to get the individual collections started, creating promotional displays for the Shannon Trust Reading Program in all Reading Areas. Over 50 Shannon Trust mentors have been trained. The library has provided collections from publishers to ensure low level reading needs are met and are dyslexia friendly
2.12	Work in partnership with Read Easy, improving residents' literacy	Read Easy promoted at all libraries and sessions run at Forum Library and Withington Library

### 3. Digital inclusion

Our libraries provide free, high-quality access to Wi-Fi and the internet, and help residents with their skills and confidence. We will:

No.	Action	Progress
3.1	Provide drop-in and structured learning and skills sessions	Each library has at least one session per week where extra support is given. AbilityNet sessions for over 50s launched in 5 libraries
3.2	Support residents with specific initiatives, eg. parking permits, voter ID	Library staff support residents online – both in libraries and telephone support via the digital inclusion team. Internet computers in all libraries being replaced in 2024 to ensure high quality Internet access continues to be offered
3.3	Provide higher-level skills sessions through the Business and IP Centre	Start-up businesses supported in the BIPC and through the new Generator space. More details provided in Appendix 6
3.4	Seek opportunities to provide free data and devices for residents	Over 4000 free data Sims and 50 free devices provided to residents. 30 devices provided to community organisations to lend to residents
3.5	Continue to provide & improve services & resources online that are available 24/7	E-Press is launched enabling emagazines and newspapers to be available alongside ebooks and eaudio books

### 4. Culture and creativity

Our libraries are neighbourhood cultural and creative spaces where people can enjoy creative activities and events on their doorstep. We will:

No.	Action	Progress
4.1	Programme vibrant, diverse and exciting events, accessible to all ages, including International Mother Language Day, Festival of Libraries and Fun Palaces	All the events mentioned held with high levels of attendance. In total 153,000 people attending over 8,000 creative opportunities.
4.2	Encourage and foster creativity and participation for all ages	A full, regular programme of creativity took place across libraries providing social, fun and learning activities. Programming is delivered by library staff, community volunteer groups and cultural organisations. It has included: early years Storytimes, school holiday activity, exhibitions, discussions and talks, painting clubs for adults, knitting, crochet and other craft clubs aimed at older residents.
4.3	Widen access and opportunities by partnering flagship organisations, such as Factory International, HOME, and Royal Exchange Theatre	Example this year have included: Beswick Library is a partner in the Royal Exchange's 4-year Local Exchange programme for Beswick, Ancoats and Clayton. The library has hosted local Culture Ambassador meetings, a youth company session, Grand Day Out group, attendance with a subsidised ticket for a mainhouse matinee and supported the success of theatre's mobile auditorium – the Den with a 9-day programme of performance, events and activities. Central Library was a venue for Factory International's The Welcome Roadshow, introducing residents to Aviva Studios through creative activity and the Manchester International Festival event The Find by Ryan Gander.

4.4	Run Holiday Activity Fund sessions	Well-attended HAF sessions offering a range of activities and a packed lunch were held in 6 libraries during Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.
4.5	Host exhibitions	Highlights from Central Library programme include: Jill Furmanovsky 'Photographing the Invisible' Exhibition, 50 years of rock photography. Curry Mile – A changing neighbourhood "You can see me, but I don't exist" A photography exhibition about refugees.  Neighbourhood libraries have hosted numerous exhibitions in the last year, including the gas holder exhibition at Beswick Library
4.6	Bring archives and local history to neighbourhood libraries and Central Library	Several libraries host interactive touch screen kiosks that enable residents to access videos and sound recordings around their local area. Libraries with these so far are Gorton Library and North City Library. Events were held in several libraries for Local and Communities History Month in May 2023.
4.7	Present Library Live, Central Library's cultural and creative programme	An extensive, vibrant diverse programme has taken place, listed in more detail in appendix 6. A highlight this year was the Black British Book Festival which was hosted at Central Library for the first time in September 2023.

## 5. Health and wellbeing

Using our libraries makes people feel better. We will:

No.	Action	Progress
5.1	Encourage people to use our safe, warm, free spaces, helping to reduce loneliness and make people feel better	Libraries are a place to relax and meet people, offering a wide range of events for all ages. All Libraries registered as warm spaces, offering free hot drinks from October 2023 – Feb 2024.
5.2	Be Age Friendly libraries	Manchester Libraries are Age Friendly Libraries, offering a variety of activities and social groups. All libraries also offer an Age Friendly Hour drop-in session once a week.
5.3	Run social clubs, reading groups, coffee mornings	Wide variety of clubs for all ages held in libraries across the city, including age-friendly sessions in each library
5.4	Provide access to health information in the library and online and through signposting	Health information provided, both in the library and via the Manchester City Council website. Increasing number of partnerships developed, and sessions delivered and promoted in libraries
5.5	Provide and promote health books and books that improve wellbeing	Health books and wellbeing books promoted in libraries, including the Reading Well collections. Health book collection established in Northenden Health Centre.
5.6	Host organisations that support people's health	Heart valve sessions run in libraries in September 2023. 350 people over 50 years old had heart checks.
5.7	Increase the number of volunteers	Volunteers provided 12,000 hours of volunteering over the last 12 months. This is a 20% increase from the previous year. It is a key priority to improve this further over the next year
5.8	Be a trusted ear to residents	All libraries act as community hub with staff and volunteers ensuring a warm welcome in libraries

5.9	Increase people's pride in their local area through archives and local history	An increasing number of archives+ sessions and resources held in libraries across the city, including during Local and Communities History Month 2023. This will be increased in the next 12 months, including engagement with the Assheton Collection. BFI Replay promoted in libraries across the city.
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