

Appendix 2 – Range of Services per library: Feb 2024 – Feb 2025

Library	2024 Examples of services
Abraham Moss	<p>Abraham Moss Library and Leisure Centre has now been open for over a year, with 240,000 visits, the second most visited public library in the city. We continue to work closely with GLL partners on site.</p> <p>2024 saw an exciting programme of events for Shakespeare Week, Empathy Day, and World Book Day being highlights.</p> <p>There is a popular Talk English Group with around 20 attendees delivered by MAES.</p> <p>Other projects have included Fable Finders, involving art, drama and storytelling sessions. Weekly family music sessions pre-Christmas run by Intergenerational Music Making. A new teen area has been established, and a new creative corner featuring adult colouring books and dementia friendly puzzles. Our toy library features eco-friendly wooden toys including a puppet theatre and a kitchen with utensils and a variety of food. We have a weekly Chess Club after school which is proving to be very popular with both beginners and experienced chess players.</p> <p>Over Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays we partnered with GLL to deliver HAF sessions for up to 40 children, who could take part in sports and swimming, have a free packed lunch and then enjoy different activities such as Zoolab, Wise Owl, screen printing, circus skills, Born & Bred dance and skateboarding.</p>
Arcadia	<p>Each holiday we deliver activities for children, including themed activities for LGBT History Month, Black History Month, Shakespeare Day, Green Libraries Week and World Earth Day.</p> <p>Our regular Monday age friendly coffee mornings have improved significantly in numbers, with a mix of age groups attending. We provide refreshments, a space for company and the opportunity to meet new people.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Manchester run sessions every Monday providing advice and guidance to the community and are proving to be very popular.</p> <p>School class visits are also increasing, with bookings in the diary from several schools in the area until spring.</p> <p>Due to the popularity of our Storytime sessions on a Monday morning, and responding to requests from regular attendees, we are just about to start delivering an additional session on a Thursday afternoon to meet the growing demand in the area.</p> <p>We are looking to recruit additional volunteers to help with a variety of children's and adult's activities throughout the year.</p> <p>MAES run a Talk English class on a Thursday with 30 – 35 attendees from the local community.</p>

Avenue	<p>Avenue offers access to customers outside staffed library opening hours through Open+ technology. There are many activities, including Blackley Craft and Crochet Group, a Latin Reading Group (not many of them about!), two other reading groups, one for adults and one aimed at children both led by library staff.</p> <p>Avenue Library's 'Hello Saturday' craft club is very much supported and appreciated by the local community. In April, the group celebrated Stephen Lawrence Day making wonderful banners to promote peace and acceptance.</p> <p>For Festival of Libraries, local school children were entertained by poet Dom Berry who gave a wonderful performance of some of his poems. We work in partnership with Yes Manchester, a local employability charity. Their co-ordinator said, "We really value our partnership with the library service that ensures we can extend our reach of support into Blackley and allow us to help more local people."</p>
Barlow Moor	<p>As part of Chorlton Book Festival we had author Marie Basting running a session for local school children from St Ambrose RC, it was a lovely morning enjoyed by all.</p> <p>As in previous years we were part off the Mersey-Fest community event, running a library stall offering Library information and a variety of children's crafts.</p> <p>We had some great library visits with Barlow Hall primary the students then did a school writing project with us, producing book reviews to be displayed in the library.</p>
Beswick	<p>Our focus in 2024 has mainly been on developing a youth friendly library offer. School visits, both primary and secondary, involve library staff offering a library induction including joining the library and what services we offer.</p> <p>We have had author visits which are storyteller based, and primary children have received free books as part of these sessions. For secondary schools we hosted a writing workshop run by local author Diana Anyakwo, a group of year 10 students created some fantastic short stories. We have recently introduced an after-school chess club.</p> <p>The Royal Exchange deliver a Chatty Craft session fortnightly and a Beswick Young Company session on a weekly basis for children aged 11-16. The latter offers skill development such as developing acting skills, writing shows and making music. Quote from one of the young people - "I feel like it's helped with resilience, confidence, like creativity and stuff. And I feel like that's important because no matter where you go in life, it can be applied to anything you do".</p>
Brooklands	<p>Brooklands library has introduced a toy offer. There is a lovely toy box in the junior area aimed at pre-school children and a wide selection of board games that can be asked for at the counter.</p> <p>The library weekly Storytime continues to be very popular with pre-school children and parents/carers, the Storytime had a very special Graduation celebration for the children starting school, the children got to dress in a gown & hat and came to the front to receive a certificate.</p> <p>During school holidays the library runs a free cinema club for children and families, offering a movie and popcorn. It is very well attended and makes for a very special afternoon.</p>
Burnage	<p>This year we have had lots of School visits in the library, we have also attended parent's evenings at Green End & St Bernards RC, this is a great opportunity for us to meet all the children and their adults.</p>

	<p>To support the Summer Reading Challenge, we ran lots of fabulous activities in the library, including Marble Run building, Beatboxing, a special Storytime in the garden with Sow the City to mention a few.</p> <p>Burnage Library continues to run the popular Weekly Digital café, offering people free IT support.</p>
Central Library	<p>Central Library is the hub of the city's 22 libraries and delivers an outstanding collection of cultural activities throughout the year. We hosted the fantastic Town Hall workers exhibition. We have worked with multiple partners this year to deliver our programme including Blue Peter Live at Central Library, Manchester Literature festival, the Love Festival, Chinese New Year and International Mother Language Day.</p> <p>Story times have proven incredibly popular. We now run storytimes in six languages – English, Mandarin, French, Spanish, Polish and Ukrainian, as well as the Sensory Story Times.</p> <p>The chess club goes from strength to strength, now happening twice a week, and is proving a real intergenerational experience.</p>
Chorlton	<p>The listed building is currently undergoing a major refurbishment and will partially re-open April 2025. Phase one will include the uncovered dome. The full library will open in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>Chorlton Book Festival returned with 8 days of events to celebrate the joy of reading for all ages, some highlights included Brian Groom with his new book 'Made in Manchester', a school author day and 2 family fun days.</p> <p>We run the Grand Day Out group every Friday, its aimed at over 50's and is very well attended, we play games, have quizzes and guest speakers as well as IT support. This has continued during the refurbishment at the Edge Theatre.</p>
Didsbury	<p>Didsbury Library played a big part in this year's Festival of Libraries, we had the Ink to Action exhibition and a workshop with one of the artists, and Playscapes an Interactive theatre show that a local school got to enjoy.</p> <p>We launched a new chess club at the library that is already proving to be very popular.</p> <p>Supporting Libraries of Sanctuary, we offer a library session at Britannia Hotel.</p> <p>The library enjoys being part of local events such as Didsbury Pride and the Didsbury Festival in the Park.</p>
Fallowfield	<p>The library really sees the value in working closely with its local schools, so far this year we have had class visits with St Kentigern's, Heald Place, Devine Mercy and St James.</p> <p>Library staff continue to train and support volunteers in library and customer care skills, they then work alongside them to run the library offer. Over the years many of the volunteers have gone on to get paid library work.</p>
Forum	<p>Our New Creative Space was officially launched in October, and is a fabulous asset for local people providing accessible and creative provision in the heart of Wythenshawe. It includes a performance space, podcast and music production studio and an interactive classroom. See Appendix 7 for more details.</p> <p>We deliver the Reading Friends session at Village 135 (135 apartments complete with extra care and support). We visit once a quarter to run a fun and friendly activity to connect and engage people.</p>

	<p>Forum Library is a big part of the Wythenshawe Games, we attend the planning meetings and run activities at the games.</p> <p>Forum library continues to run the Holiday Activity Fund in school holidays, with children joining us for a day of activities and lunch.</p> <p>Each school term we attend Ashgate specialist school to delivery sensory Storytimes using the Bag Books.</p>
Gorton	<p>We regularly distribute resources provided by The National Literacy Trust to those attending our storytelling/toddler sessions on a Thursday.</p> <p>In January 2025 we set up a reading group for adults, aimed at the public and our hub partner colleagues.</p> <p>In August 2024 we held a 'Lilly and the Wave' workshop at Gorton Library. Gorton. This project aims to deliver a multi-sensory creative community experience by sharing an immersive audio story (Lilly and the Wave) as the basis for co-creation workshops with families.</p> <p>In collaboration with AbilityNet, we held digital sessions for individuals over 65 from May to July 2024 to improve their IT skills and confidence. Following the project, participants could join our Digital Club meetings every Wednesday for continued learning. To further support them, we launched Drop-in IT help sessions every Wednesday and Thursday starting in October, led by a team of six dedicated IT volunteers.</p> <p>We run regular community social clubs for all ages: Storytime sessions, LEGO drop in, Chess, Craft, and Coffee Mornings. There are also several craft community groups that meet on a regular basis that share a similar cultural background (Malaysian community) and life experiences (The Inspirational Women).</p> <p>We have also recruited volunteers for our LEGO and Chess clubs that are proving popular with the local community.</p> <p>With the help and support of our Loal History and Archive service, we are planning to relaunch the Gorton Local History Group and recruit additional volunteers that could help with this.</p> <p>In February 2025 we held our fist 'Death Café'</p>
Hulme High Street	<p>The over 50's Coffee morning group has grown and we continue to see members taking ownership and volunteering to lead in different ways. This has helped develop new friendships among group members, and helped combat loneliness and isolation in the community.</p> <p>The Talk English session run in partnership with MAES on Tuesday afternoons continues to grow.</p> <p>Our Reading book group restarted last December, and it's grown from 5 to 10 members, and there is a growing interest.</p> <p>The Digital drop-in session runs every Wednesday, and we are recruiting volunteers to help it run more effectively.</p>

	<p>Citizen's advice hub continues to run every other week helping customers with different issues.</p> <p>Storytime on Thursday and Hello Saturday run every Saturday and at each session we see excited and eager children ready to participate and learn.</p> <p>The library continues to be a popular hang out space for students of Loreto college.</p>
Longsight	<p>The Manchester music charity Olympus Music Foundation relocated to the library during 2024, where they lease space. It provides free music tuition to local children 3 evenings a week. The families are enjoying using the library and tell us that being in the space has encouraged their children to use the library and increased reading habits.</p> <p>Barclays also lease space in the library to provide a non-cash offer to local residents and businesses.</p> <p>The four meeting rooms are used by a wide range of groups, including Asian Carers, support for women escaping domestic abuse, 1-1 meetings with GP staff and patients from local surgery, family contact time, Bangla Saturday School and Talk English sessions take place twice a week.</p> <p>Each school holiday we deliver activities for children, including themed activities for LGBT History Month, Black History Month, Shakespeare Day, Green Libraries Week and World Earth Day. Throughout the year we offer a variety of cultural activities and creative activities that are always really well attended.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Manchester attend every Thursday morning for face to face and online consultations, that are always very busy.</p> <p>Our Warm Hub providing tea and coffee is very much appreciated by Longsight residents, with approximately 150 cups per day being drank.</p> <p>Volunteers offer digital support three times a week. Our Toddler Time volunteer Doreen has been delivering fabulous sessions for the last 11 years. We also have a young volunteer completing his Duke of Edinburgh Award who attends weekly for an hour to fulfil the community requirement of the award.</p>
Miles Platting	<p>During the summer holidays Miles Platting Library hosted a Jigsaw/MCC Sportsfest for local children. This included 4 days of activities each week with a free lunch. The Canal River Trust brought along 4 canoes to the canal alongside the library and the children were instructed on water safety and launched into the water. Approx 10 children attended and we received some lovely feedback from the parents who were delighted to have the children occupied in outdoor pursuits for the holidays. After lunch the library provided footballs from the football library for a kick about in the MUGA and there were table tennis tables on the lawn. The annual Christmas party was a big hit with Santa, a grotto and real reindeers on the lawn.</p>
Moss Side Powerhouse	<p>Powerhouse is a bustling library at the heart of the Moss Side community offer, and continues with its strong commitment to working with young people within the community.</p>

	<p>Each Holiday we have delivered activities for children, including themed activities for LGBT History Month, Black History Month, Shakespeare Day, Green Libraries Week and World Earth Day.</p> <p>We have a regular adult reading group, an age-friendly coffee morning an over 60s group that meet on a weekly basis plus other groups run by community partners.</p> <p>The varied library clubs that run (homework, chess, craft/colouring) continue to be well attended by local families.</p> <p>We have continued to work closely with local schools. In 2025 we will extend our class visits to work to include visits to Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Poetry Library, continuing to extend the ways in which we work with partner organisations within the area.</p>
New Moston	<p>The library runs weekly coffee mornings and Age Friendly hour with crafts and board games. Children from Co-Op Academy Broadhurst recently visited the library for a story and to choose books. We will continue to strengthen connections with local schools and we offer holiday craft activities for families which are always well attended.</p>
Newton Heath	<p>From September 2024, MAES re-located to Newton Heath Library to offer classes to local residents. To assist this, we now extended our opening hours by 4 hours per week (Thursday 9-1).</p> <p>The library is always buzzing and much loved by the local community, offering a wide array of activities and advice. On Mondays we offer our very popular Tiny Tots and Toddler Time, an Age Friendly digital group and a well attended Lego club after school.</p> <p>Through the week we also offer Citizens Advice Bureau sessions; Growth Company support to assist adults into work or further education; Heathfields Day Centre have a weekly tea, coffee and craft meetup; and the Newton Knitters. Up to 25 Over-55s attend our Age-Friendly coffee morning followed by armchair exercises.</p> <p>On Saturdays, we host our Hello Saturday Club for children and The Bread and Butter Thing operates out of the library distributing food to the local community.</p>
North City Library	<p>The library has recently undergone a mini refurbishment creating a modern, warm, welcoming space for the local community. The library has been painted, there is a fresh new floor in the children's area, some new furniture and a meeting pod will be installed to facilitate community group meetings and activities. The newly created craft area is perfect for our Hello Saturday activities and Lego Club.</p> <p>We have a volunteer-led Beyblades activity on the first Saturday of every month and is very popular and well attended.</p> <p>We have recently held an exhibition from RFK Human Rights UK displaying posters of the illustrated pages from their book '30 Illustrated Articles of Human Rights' and featuring a soapbox, slogan placards and a mirror to pose with the placards.</p> <p>We are building strong links with local primary schools and recently all classes from Holy Trinity CofE Primary School have visited the library for an induction. Last spring, we had a Community Arts North West event 'Force of Nature' featuring local community group Obado.</p>

Northenden	<p>The library is now firmly established in its new home at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Since opening in this location, it has continued to get busier, with over 100 new members joined so far, and active borrowers increasing.</p> <p>Thanks to the support of our wonderful volunteers, the library has extended its hours and is now open on a Saturday.</p> <p>The library runs a very popular weekly IT drop-in session on Wednesday.</p>
Withington	<p>During the winter months the library offers free hot drinks and a warm welcoming place to be. Staff run the offer with the help of some great volunteers. The Bread and Butter offer a subsidised food offer every Monday and is extremely popular and valued.</p> <p>The library offers three community rooms, these are well used by local community groups and people offering health and advice sessions.</p> <p>Withington library continues to deliver it's well used weekly IT drop-in sessions, free and open to all adults.</p> <p>The very popular Lego club is well used and well loved by local children and families.</p>
HMP Manchester Prison Library	<p>The library was the venue for a successful chess tournament throughout 2024 in which over 60 prisoners & staff took part. This culminated in a whole day session with online chess champ Carl Portman, ending with him simultaneously playing 10 games with some of the chess participants. The success of this has led to a weekly chess club (Tuesdays & Thursdays) in the library with 32 men regularly attending weekly. Books for first nighters was introduced in 2024 – this is on the induction wing & is supported by Give a Book. Inclusive reading materials are delivered quarterly to the library and taken to the induction wing talking, with information given about the library and services provided. The new prisoners can read and keep or put back for others. The library purchased several games (not for loan) which are used by the men on their library visits. These include chess, boggle, scrabble, connect 4, playing cards and others. These are extremely popular with at least 2 different games being used each time.</p> <p>Read Manchester, the prison library and prison staff worked together to gift Ukrainian dual language children's books to a Manchester charity.</p> <p>Read Manchester supported prisoners' families by gifting children's books to POPs (Partners of Prisoners) who run the visitor's centre for the Christmas visits & to DELPHI (drug & alcohol rehab team) for their family Christmas visits. This support enables the men affected to build stronger family relationships which is proven to reduce recidivism rates upon release.</p> <p>Creative writing workshops took place throughout 2024 with local performance poet Tony Curry. An exciting program was delivered featuring free writing, limericks, pantoums & others. The last session the governing governor & the deputy governor attending with some of the men sharing their work</p> <p>The library successfully supported a prisoner to take part in the Koestler Awards (an annual award for prisoners). This involved working with Koestler, the security & CTU dept & the offender management unit & other depts to allow the prisoner to have a guitar, recording his own song (lyrics & music) then sending it onto the Koestler team for inclusion in the awards.</p> <p>The library has supported the development of 4 reading groups across the prison including a 'virtual' one in which all prisoners & staff can read the same text. In December 2024 the prison library, prison chaplaincy & Manchester Archives worked together to ensure the delivery of the Prison Chaplaincy archives in a very short time frame to enable the Archives to add them to their 2024 inventory.</p>

Books To Go	<p>We have increased our service users from approximately 450 to 794 across 29 routes around Manchester.</p> <p>The service has also relocated to the new council offices at Hammerstone Rd. The shared offices are providing many opportunities to network and develop partnerships with other council services to promote the range of services offered at Books to Go.</p> <p>We have set up three new book lending schemes. One for residents in a nursing home, a reading group in a supported housing project and an individual resident initiative within a supported living and dementia facility.</p> <p>The team was also proud to be nominated for an Award for Excellence.</p>
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