

Appendix 2 – Range of Services per library: Feb 2025– Feb 2026

Library	Highlights of the last 12 months
Abraham Moss	<p>The library is well used by young people and following consultation, we have developed a programme of after school events. Uno has proved to be one of the most popular games along with chess and cards. We hold a weekly chess club which is well attended.</p> <p>Working with GLL, we also now offer an after-school table tennis activity for around 15 young people, and this will expand to use of the pool table and football table in early 2026, with the possibility of medals to reward positive engagement being explored.</p> <p>HAF continues to prove popular and this Christmas we offered a Christmas party and a silent disco.</p>
Arcadia	<p>Arcadia Library and Leisure Centre celebrated its 10th Anniversary in February 2026. The library space was refreshed during 2025, with new benching, desks, seating and tables to create a modern and unified feel, with excellent feedback from customers.</p> <p>This year family usage has increased, as has attendance at coffee mornings and story time. Excellent engagement has enabled the library to thrive and flourish and continue its role as the heart of the community in Levenshulme.</p> <p>There is a regular young people club on a Friday which gives library space over to young people, giving them ownership and allowing them to take pride in the library.</p>
Avenue	<p>In May, the crochet group at Avenue were involved in making rugby balls and bunting for the Women’s Rugby World Cup, which were then displayed in libraries and galleries for the duration of the tournament. The RFU provided the template patterns, and Manchester Active purchased yarn sets.</p> <p>For Remembrance Sunday, the crochet group created a fabulous poppy display, including lots of knitted and crocheted poppies designed to create a waterfall display. Staff also took part in this and altogether we had approx. 300 poppies.</p>
Barlow Moor	<p>Barlow Moor Library supporting Mersey Fest 2025 we ran a stall offering free fun crafts. As part of Chorlton book Festival we went into the after-school club and ran a session decorating tote bags and making bead bag decorations.</p> <p>As part of Barlow Moor Community Associations Spooky-Fest event, we had a library stall gifting free books and doing Halloween crafts, it was a busy afternoon with lots of lovely interactions with members of the community.</p>
Beswick	<p>Being on site with The East Manchester Academy (TEMA), many activities are focused on young people. The after-school Chess Club has continued to be very popular, with a popular chess tournament held, with 30 or so players all from TEMA, engaged. The students loved it and asked if we could hold further tournaments.</p> <p>Creative writing sessions take place with TEMA students after school, and at Christmas, library staff supported students to write a ghost story for a Christmas short story competition.</p>

	<p>Around 5 TEMA leadership team students, supported by a teacher, volunteer in the library twice a week to offer support with various library activities including warm spaces, supporting customers online and to use the self-service kiosks.</p>
<p>Brooklands</p>	<p>Highlights of activities at Brooklands library include a Forget-Me-Not Dementia awareness week event, with adults and children planting forget-me-not seeds and decorating plant pots; this was done to show support for those living with dementia. Also an activity and display for National Hedgerow week, visitors enjoyed the colouring sheets, information booklets and bookmarks; younger visitors also had a special storytime and craft session.</p> <p>Brooklands continued working well with its local schools, both in the library and via outreach. An example of this was a Treasure chest gifting visit to Button Lane Primary, 38 children and 15 parents attended the session.</p> <p>Joint working with Dixons Brooklands Academy has increased, with libraries What's On now being included in school bulletins to parents and the library hosting after-school sessions for parents/carers.</p>
<p>Burnage</p>	<p>The Summer Fair was attended by over 300 people, with crafts, clothes, art, jewelry, books, cakes, plant and tombola stalls, face painting and craft activities, and a Ukulele Group entertained everyone.</p> <p>Friends of Burnage Library published their annual survey, highlighting the friendly, helpful, and welcoming service provided by library staff and volunteers. This also showed that people access the library for a wide range of reasons; collecting/returning books, accessing computers and printers, attending activities such as craft, Storytime, and ESOL classes. Comments described it as "a much-needed resource for socialising, keeping warm and improving mental health".</p> <p>Digital Cafe sessions continue, led by an experienced leader and supported by volunteers and Manchester City College students. The cafe helps bridge the digital divide by providing a relaxed drop in space for older people to navigate the online world confidently and safely.</p>
<p>Central Library</p>	<p>Central Library remains a safe, welcoming space at the heart of the city, open to all. We continue to provide free Wi-Fi, public PCs, and essential study areas, offering informal learning opportunities alongside rich cultural experiences. The library also plays an active role in addressing social challenges such as isolation and health inequalities, ensuring it is a place that supports wellbeing and community connection.</p> <p>Central Library offers a diverse and vibrant programme of cultural activities throughout the year. In 2025, the library welcomed over 1.3 million visitors, resulting in it being the most visited public library in the country.</p> <p>Central Library continues to deliver a diverse and vibrant programme of cultural activities throughout the year, reinforcing its role as a welcoming hub for learning, creativity, and community engagement. Partnership working remains central, resulting in events that celebrate reading for pleasure and encourage new audiences to discover everything the library has to offer. Storytime sessions remain a cornerstone of our family offer, including our highly valued Sensory Storytime, designed specifically for children with additional needs. By incorporating multi-sensory elements, these sessions ensure stories are accessible, engaging, and</p>

	<p>inclusive, demonstrating the library’s commitment to removing barriers and fostering a love of reading for every child.</p> <p>Multilingual Storytime sessions—available in English, Mandarin, French, Spanish, Polish, and Ukrainian—further strengthen our community outreach, welcoming families from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and creating a strong sense of belonging.</p> <p>In 2025, a new weekly Talk English Circle in partnership with volunteers from Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES). This initiative supports language development and complements our bi-weekly Conversation Club, providing friendly spaces for people to practise English and build confidence.</p> <p>Sunday Funday events—Chinese New Year, Festival of Libraries, Summer & Back to School, and Christmas—continued to attract families through creative activities and crafts. We played a key part in Oasis Week, hosting numerous musical events that included a tribute act, a string quartet and a ukulele group.</p> <p>The library offered free hot drinks for the first time this Winter, as a warm space.</p> <p>The library was closed for 3 weeks in August for a successful WiFi upgrade, during which 1000s of people were still served by a pop-up Visitor Information service in the glazed link.</p> <p>Central Library remains a welcoming, inclusive space at the heart of the city, supporting learning, culture, and community connection.</p>
Chorlton	<p>Chorlton library re-opened after its amazing transformation project in summer 2025, which restored its original heritage features, including uncovering the magnificent dome, as well as creating new meeting rooms and a beautiful new children’s library.</p> <p>The introduction of Open + offers registered customers an additional 19 hours of library use per week.</p> <p>New activities and clubs include Lego club, children’s art club, Children’s book club, Homework club, Chess club and adult craft group. All have been popular and welcomed by our community.</p> <p>Chorlton book festival returned in September to the library, with a brilliant program of authors, poets, history, stories, crafts and even a great bookish bake-off.</p> <p>Black History Month saw a health event aimed at men, but open to al. This went well with lots of health partners joining us, attendees enjoyed sharing a meal together and having the opportunity to talk to lots of health and well-being professionals.</p>
Didsbury	<p>The popular Chess club has a regular group of players and volunteers. It’s intergenerational, so children, young people and adults all get involved.</p> <p>We started a new Reading group with the support of a volunteer, of friendly library users meeting to discuss books with a brew.</p> <p>We have a seeds library and enjoy green activities; we pledge to promote all things green. In August, we had a green Storytime with seed planting, to highlight and encourage environmental literacy.</p> <p>We delivered some great outreach work including several visits to Didsbury Good Neighbours, including art sessions in the park.</p>

	<p>We deliver a French Storytime as well as a regular weekly Storytime.</p>
Fallowfield	<p>During 2025, there were significant capital works in the Place at Platt Lane to repair the roof, with some new furniture planned for 2026 to uplift the library space.</p> <p>The Lego and Forever Young clubs continue to be busy and popular. The Summer Reading Challenge sessions included a Love Science event, giving children a hands on exciting learning experience with lots of fun. Another popular session was the Odd Socks activity ran by local artist Mandy, with the children designing a sock plant pal that they could grow on at home.</p>
Forum	<p>The Creative Space won several awards during 2025, including the Culture and Creativity Award at the Libraries Connected Award and Best Live Event for the Wythenshawe Live Night at the Manchester Culture Awards. Highlights of the programme being a feature on BBC Radio Manchester. The founders of Liveinshawe discussed the Creative Space helping support local poets, musicians, and artists. 100 people attended our first movie premiere with Top and Tails Production. It was a community-inspired project with an intergenerational focus, even with a red carpet. Our regular Music Evermore sessions continue giving young local people the opportunity to play and learn about music.</p> <p>Forum meeting rooms offer an invaluable resource, with advice and recreational sessions such as CAB, Social Circle and Paint Pots; this enhances the support we offer.</p> <p>The Holiday Activity and Food sessions are delivered with Leisure Services, providing a program of physical and creative activities. We have continued to strengthen our relationship with schools by promoting the library service through visits to both the library and schools.</p> <p>Outreach includes Wythenshawe games, our library stalls delivered crafts, library information, and book gifting over a busy weekend.</p>
Gorton	<p>The Bread and Butter Thing continues to provide a low-cost weekly food shop every Friday, supporting more than 50 local residents.</p> <p>Women's community support groups meet monthly and include Read with Doja, The Inspirational Woman, Mams Aloud, and Esther's Hub.</p> <p>The ICT sessions support around 40 residents per month.</p> <p>The Festival of Libraries: showcased Tai Chi, Chess Club, Storytime, calligraphy, and creative community activities.</p> <p>Sewing Workshops promote sustainable fashion and culminated in a successful fashion show in the Atrium.</p> <p>Families designed a flag to promote green libraries which will feature in a Greater Manchester-wide exhibition later this year.</p> <p>Gorton Library partnered with Care Success Services to deliver a weekly work-experience programme for adults with additional needs</p>
Hulme High Street	<p>The age friendly coffee morning group meets Tuesday 11am – 12pm, and has become a much-needed hub for the over 50's in the community.</p> <p>Talk English sessions on Wednesday mornings for non-English speakers continue to be popular</p>

	<p>The Lego club is also buzzing with excitement, enthusiasm, and creativity e</p> <p>The weekly Hello Saturday session continues to grow each week.</p>
Longsight	<p>Longsight Library remains at the heart of the community, working closely with partners such as Manchester Adult Education (MAES), Asian Careers, Citizens Advice Manchester (CAM), Olympians Music Foundation (OMF), and many others within the Longsight area.</p> <p>We have delivered and supported a wide range of family and children’s activities. Including school visits, Lego Club, Story Sessions, Poetry Sessions, and HAF programs</p> <p>Our Age-Friendly Coffee Morning group for over 50s continues to be actively involved in library projects. In addition, our IT volunteers have supported the community by delivering basic IT sessions.</p> <p>On Wednesday, 3rd December 2025, Rusholme and Didsbury Jobcentre hosted a Volunteering Job Fair at Longsight Library. The event brought together local volunteering organizations, including Oxfam, Mustard Tree, and MCR VIP, to showcase opportunities for job seekers.</p>
Miles Platting	<p>In conjunction with Jigsaw Housing, library staff offer four fun days throughout the year for the local residents providing activities, food and drink. In what is becoming a regular feature at Christmas, the real-life reindeer are a big hit.</p> <p>In partnership with the Canal & River Trust, we offer a bike loan library on the last Saturday of every month. Fully maintained bikes of all sizes are loaned out free of charge to anybody who may need one. This has proved very popular with local mums and dads who do not have a bike of their own, but their children do so this means they can all go out together on a bike ride.</p>
Moss Side Powerhouse	<p>Powerhouse Library continues to be a vibrant community hub for local families with activities taking place every evening.</p> <p>We remain committed to supporting the local community and have been offering two Talk English clubs a week since September 2025. These are run in partnership with MAES and very well attended.</p> <p>Other community offers include an ESOL/IT drop in for women delivered by Community Advice Link, an over-50s social group, a coffee morning, and a job club. One thing we could not do without is our volunteers. They help us deliver clubs for children and young people every day. There are about 15 people a week who give their time and expertise to help local children with their homework, practice chess, and hone their craft skills.</p>
New Moston	<p>Libraries worked in partnership with Rizwan Iqbal who created the Up North project, a portrait photography project for the people of North Manchester. People from all backgrounds aged 18+ were invited to ‘Up North’. This photography project aims to collect local portraits exclusively from diverse communities across North Manchester along with images of some of their personal objects, heirlooms and stories putting North Manchester on the map of art, culture and community. One of the images is of loyal customer Dennis Houghton, an extraordinary individual who has loved, lost and stands a proud North Manchester resident. He is 83 years old with an extremely sharp memory of life in North Manchester. He was a ballroom dancer and is still an artist and writer with some of his artwork on display in the library.</p>

<p>Newton Heath</p>	<p>Newton Heath Library was refurbished at the end of 2025, with excellent feedback from customers.</p> <p>The library is used by a number of partner organisations, all of whom offer services to local residents. Housing Solutions have begun running a session at the library. The library is a great example of a community hub that improves the lives of local residents.</p> <p>Library staff have attended several engagement events in parks this year including a cold and rainy day at Brookdale Park in Newton Heath to celebrate the Christmas season. Families visited Father Christmas in his grotto, receiving a book from Read Manchester and a selection box. Everyone enjoyed free hot drinks and pies together (both savoury and mince pies!) alongside the festive craft activities, lovely stalls with lots of freebies and even the chance to feed a reindeer! Library staff ran a festive craft activity, and the atmosphere was full of fun and cheer.</p>
<p>North City Library</p>	<p>North City Library turned 20 in January 2026, and celebrated with a week of fun packed events for our customers, including a silent disco, author talks and a fun nature walk to Boggart Hole Clough with RSPB.</p> <p>A new meeting pod was installed during the year to facilitate community group meetings and activities.</p> <p>Libraries are involved in the successful Harpurhey Together project, which included a parade from the leisure centre to Queens Park, stalls, activities such as a climbing wall, facepainting and free food and ice cream. Customers created a banner in a workshop at the library, which was displayed as part of the parade</p>
<p>Northenden</p>	<p>Age Friendly Coffee Afternoons continues to be a highlight, well attended, and well-loved. Described by one user as the 'friendliest little library in Manchester' - the Age Friendly Coffee Afternoon is a huge part of that warmth and accessibility.</p> <p>Connectivity and IT reliability have been improved with help from the digital inclusion team.</p> <p>We had a junk-bug summer activity that inspired creativity and demonstrated the importance of eco-friendly activities. All through the summer holidays, crafts and colouring were available in the library, with over 110 customers taking part in our summer crafts.</p>
<p>Withington</p>	<p>For South Asian Heritage Month, we had a fantastic celebration event, the event was a collaboration between Manchester Libraries and Saheli Manchester. It was a day of workshops, experiences and South Asian food and drink. The day went well and was enjoyed by all. Another highlight was the launch of the new weekly GCSE Book Club, it's for GCSE students to come, read and discuss their set texts in an informal environment, it got off to a great start with many students attending and giving positive feedback.</p> <p>In summer we delivered HAF. We ran three sessions per week for four weeks, the sessions were all well attended and gave the children a mix of creative activities to do as well as enjoying a meal together.</p> <p>The library continues to host and help The Bread and Butter Thing, set up to offer affordable good quality food, it is super busy each week. It runs on the power of volunteers, so it's great that the library can advertise and register new volunteers.</p>
<p>HMP Manchester Prison Library</p>	<p>The library continues to host regular chess groups, creative writing and the other activities.</p> <p>A new focus of work has been on a specific group within the prison – the isolators. These are a group of people who do not engage with the prison regime, stay isolated in their cells and have very little contact with other prisoners or the staff.</p>

	<p>We have added a weekly visit to the wing library rota to ensure that this group of people had the opportunity to have contact with the library. On average there are around 20 men who isolate, these men now receive a weekly visit from the library officer sharing the ways in which the library could be helpful to them. We have on average 6 requests from the isolators per week, for books, magazines, prison/law information. This work has been recognised within the prison by the Governor</p>
<p>Books To Go</p>	<p>We are looking at increasing the number of routes across the city to 30 as some areas such as North Manchester have increased in numbers dramatically.</p> <p>We have continued to support the reading schemes set up last year and are also in the process of supporting a new reading group within another residential facility.</p> <p>We have purchased several CD players for our blind and partially sighted residents to loan and also use as replacements of broken equipment. These were previously loaned to them by British wireless for the blind charity, who sadly no longer supply CD players. Audio books on CD are very popular with our service users and by having a supply of sets this means our residents can carry on listening to a choice of books.</p> <p>Books to go have attended winter warmer events and gifted the winter warmer bags to 25 of our most vulnerable service users within the Wythenshawe area.</p> <p>The Books to go flyers have been included in hospital discharge packs from the AU ward at north Manchester hospital.</p> <p>We are now working in partnership with the district nurses based at Victoria Mill in North Manchester. They now have a supply of our updated flyers and are very supportive of the home delivery service.</p>