

JIGSAW FOUNDATION REWARDS & HARDSHIP

YEAR AT A GLANCE 2024-2025

Creating homes.
Building lives.



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...I feel immense pride when I reflect on the positive impact Jigsaw Foundation has had on community projects across the neighbourhoods we serve.

Donna Kelly

Jigsaw Group
Group Director of Neighbourhoods & Support

Introduction.

The Jigsaw Foundation launched in April 2019 and is part of the Group's approach to community investment. The Jigsaw Foundation has a budget of £450,000 per year and offers funds for projects which make a difference to the lives of our residents and their communities.

The fund is open to charities, resident and community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and local partner agencies. We want the projects that we fund to complement our Neighbourhood Plans.

Any applications for £25,000 and over are reviewed and a decision made by our operational directors team. All other applications for £24,999 and under are voted on by our residents using our Jigsaw Rewards portal.

Our Strategic Goals.

Health and Wellbeing

Promoting physical wellbeing, improving physical health, taking part in activities, healthy eating initiatives, improving mental wellbeing, increasing confidence to manage own health, to live more independently, reduce isolation.

Employment, skills and training

Developing new skills, accessing training, gaining a qualification, getting into work, gaining work experience, volunteering, moving closer to work.

Environment and Sustainability

Engaging residents in improving spaces or places, improving green spaces, increasing usage of community spaces, improving lifestyle choices on environmental issues, improving energy efficiency. Reducing tenancy turnover, creating a sense of community cohesion, increasing a sense of belonging in the community, increasing a sense of safety.

Financial Wellbeing

Improving access to money advice and management, increasing individual confidence to manage money, reducing debts, increasing savings and improving digital usage and access.

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...Jigsaw Foundation is a powerful catalyst for change, helping communities thrive and creating lasting impact where it matters the most.

Ivan Wright

Jigsaw Group
Operations Director of Neighbourhoods

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...We remain committed in our mission of enhancing the lives of our residents and strengthening their communities.

Sue Cox

Jigsaw Group
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods

Our Neighbourhoods.

Jigsaw Homes manages over 37,500 properties across the North West and Midlands.

In 2024/25 we funded **79** projects across the group totalling **£449,999**.

The funded projects achieved the following priorities:



31

HEALTH &
WELLBEING
PROJECTS

20

EMPLOYMENT
WORK & SKILLS



11

ENVIROMENT &
SUSTAINABILITY
PROJECTS

17

FINANCIAL
WELLBEING
PROJECTS



Please note: Out of the 79 funded projects, some met multiple themes.

Smallshaw Tenants & Residents . Awarded £12,500

This project continues to engage with our local community. The area it serves is densely populated and home to many unemployed individuals and working families. Each week, the project supports around 75 young people through its homework club and has hosted over 100 events, such as the Christmas party and pantomime. During this period, 2,503 local residents also accessed the foodbank.

The £12,500 in funding helped support these families' social and mental wellbeing by providing a safe and welcoming space at the weekly youth club for both children and adults. The program aimed to offer opportunities for learning new skills, including first aid, cooking, fitness, arts and crafts, and college courses.

A range of board games was available to encourage participation, and a fitness coach provided weekly wellbeing sessions. The foodbank, a vital resource for those in need, offered a variety of fresh and tinned food items, along with essential hygiene products. The project also organised activities for families and older residents, such as community fundays and Christmas events, which were well attended and appreciated.



Other Funded Projects...

Tameside Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd:	£27,930
Hyde Festival Community Association:	£1,899
Branching Out:	£7,350
Create at Cedar Park:	£5,175

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...It keeps my kids off the streets and gives them something to do. I also use the foodbank, which provides me with 2 meals a week for all the family.

Samantha Irvine
Local Resident

Brink Dance.

Awarded £14,350

A weekly street dance session at the Powerhouse in Moss Side, Manchester attracted 65 young people aged 5–12, including 44 regular participants from Jigsaw Homes. This diverse group attended to have fun, dance, socialise, and build new friendships.

The sessions promote confidence and self-esteem through a variety of musical styles and dance routines. They also help young people expand their social circles, improve physical fitness, and boost overall wellbeing.

The project provides a safe space for creativity, self-expression, and skill development, encouraging participants to find their voice, be themselves, and steer away from negative or anti-social behaviours. Through engaging music and dance activities, the sessions highlight young people in a positive light and nurture their personal growth.

Each session begins with games and a social circle to help participants feel at ease, get to know one another, and foster a sense of teamwork. Performing gives the young people a further opportunity to build confidence and self-worth. The group enjoys being creative, and families appreciate the free, meaningful activities and the opportunities they offer for their children's development.



Other Funded Projects...

Humans MCR:	£42,770
Chorley Youth Zone:	£20,000
Growing for Goodness:	£6,818
The Social Supermarket:	£4,550
Reubens Court:	£2,218
Bamber in Bloom:	£585

“...The funding has enabled us to engage with new young people from the area, including young people with special educational needs. The confidence has grown so much with the group, it is good to see them supporting each other and showing patience whilst learning routines.

Lisa Ellis

Project Lead at Brink Dance

One Step at A Time. Awarded £18,000

The project funded the Carlton Community Connector role with the goal of improving community engagement and increasing physical activity in Carlton. This involved listening to residents to understand their needs, identifying the barriers and motivators to becoming more active, connecting and supporting local partners, and encouraging participation in local services and events.

Activities Included:

- Engaging with residents and community partners
- Supporting Age Concern in relaunching Age Friendly Carlton
- Regular visits to community venues and events
- Supporting various community projects like Carlton Voices and Carlton Art Week
- Involving residents in the Bench mapping project and creating walking leaflets
- Development of support networks and collaborative relationships among community partners
- Launch of Carlton Community Hub.

The project directly engaged 70 Jigsaw residents and indirectly benefitted an additional 400. Both residents and partners shared positive feedback, highlighting the project's impact on community engagement and the development of a more supportive and connected environment.



Other Funded Projects...

TLC for Jigsaw Housing:

£46,479

Netherfield and Colwick Senior Citizens Club:

£2,525

Let's Dance:

£7,500

“...I just do not know what we would do without the Community Hub now. It is a place of true fellowship, providing an opportunity to talk, have fun, exercise, socialise, discuss local issues, and develop new friendships.

Jigsaw Homes Resident
Community Hub User

Hardship Fund.

Invested **£173,756**

Cost of living increases have made it extremely difficult for some of our residents and we have a Hardship Fund in place to assist those in severe hardship.

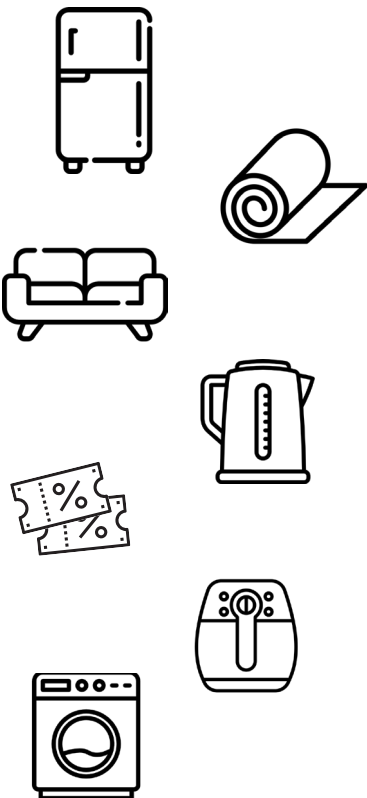
The Hardship Fund helps residents facing severe financial hardship due to the rising cost of living. With an increased demand in 2024/25, the fund's budget grew to **£100,000**, bolstered by **£15,000** from EON and **£58,756** from Jewsons.

Our residents can apply for up to a maximum of **£750**. Applications will be considered from individuals who are in immediate and significant hardship or are at serious risk of becoming in significant financial hardship.

From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 we approved **567** applications, a **69%** increase from last year. A total of **£173,756** has been spent assisting residents who have found themselves in severe financial hardship.

Our residents, if in significant financial hardship, can seek financial advice from our **Money Advice Team** who may refer them for the Hardship fund. Visit bit.ly/jigsawcostofliving for more assistance.

(Applications will be considered from individuals who are in immediate and significant hardship or are at serious risk of becoming in significant financial hardship.)



Jigsaw INVESTMENT

Items Purchased for Residents...

Food shopping vouchers:	276
Cooking appliances:	151
Washing machines/dryers:	123
Fridge/Fridge freezer:	97
Beds/mattresses/cots:	72
Carpets/Flooring:	38
Bedding:	32
Furniture:	18
Other:	19

Total

826

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...Now I can cook and store food, thank you for your kindness.

Ms S (Carlton)

...As someone with Hemophilia A, the fridge was essential for my medication.

Mr C (Tameside)

...Not having to rely on others anymore is life-changing.

Mrs E (Preston)

Jigsaw Rewards.

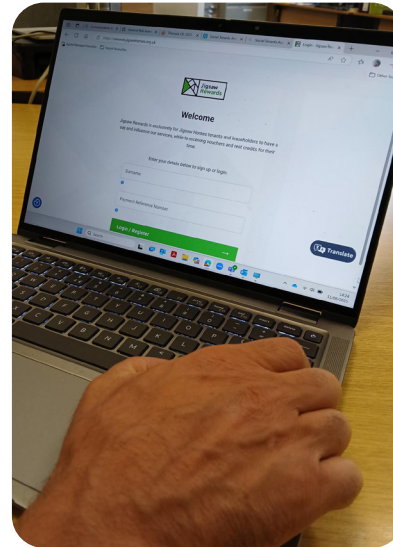
Users: **3,759**

Jigsaw Rewards is an innovative platform through which Jigsaw Group residents give us feedback on our services and our plans. Once signed up, residents receive points whenever they take part which. Can be exchanged for gift vouchers or rent credits on their account.

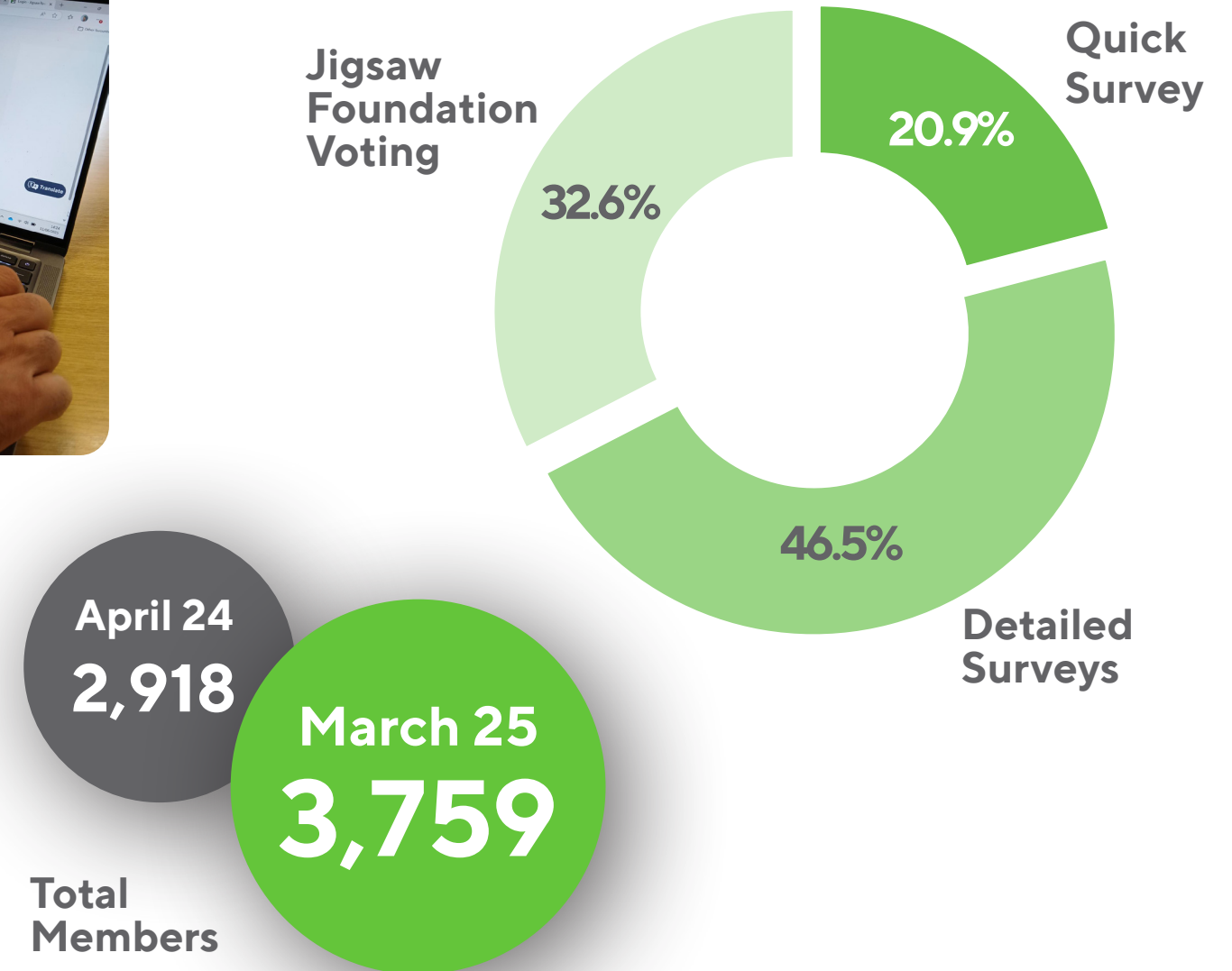
At year end, we had **3,759** users which is equivalent to **10.29%** of our residents. Compared with traditional engagement routes, Jigsaw Rewards reaches a wider and more diverse audience, while simultaneously achieving increased value for money and delivering greater social value by helping households with living expenses.

We also recruit Jigsaw Rewards members to our scrutiny panels, with 6-14 Jigsaw Rewards members partaking in each panel (**46 in total**). In addition to this and by working with the resident led scrutiny panels, we were able to gather the views of **212** additional residents across the two scrutiny exercises that took place in 2024/25.

From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, we received **5,880** responses from our residents across **43** surveys



Rewards SUMMARY



Jigsaw Homes Group Ltd.

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 foundation.jigsawhomes.org.uk

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Building lives.

