



Manchester East Neighbourhood plan

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Welcome to your new neighbourhood plan

At Jigsaw Homes Group we take pride in our neighbourhoods and want to work with residents to achieve our mission of 'Creating homes. Building lives.'

This plan takes on board feedback from employees and residents looking at key issues like health and employment, crime and antisocial behaviour, money management and the neighbourhood desirability.

This information helps us to identify the

main challenges in your neighbourhood and how we can work with our local partners to make improvements.

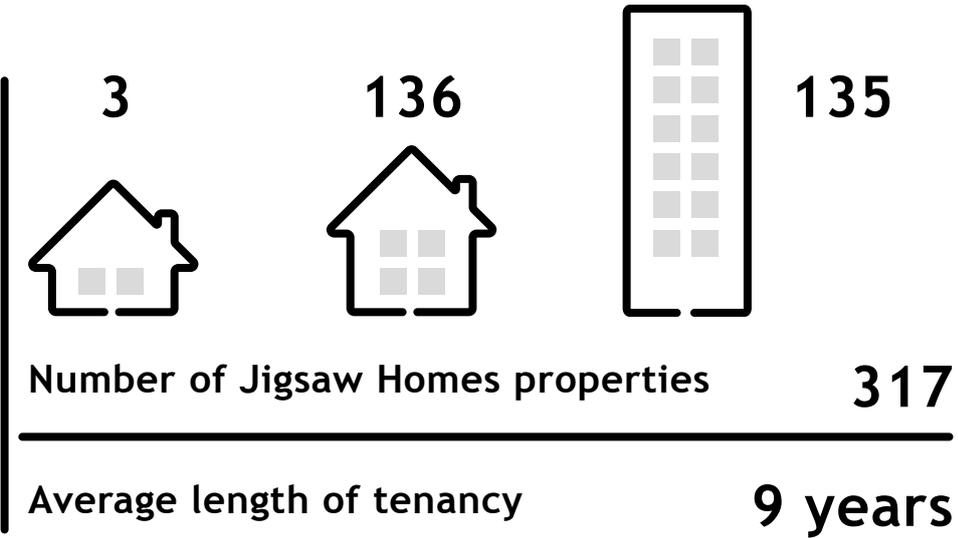
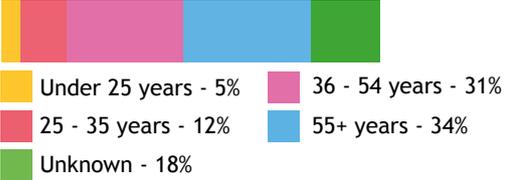
As a result of the findings, we will target resources to areas in need through a range of activities to make you feel happier with your neighbourhood.

The plan will be in place for three years. We will monitor performance regularly against a range of indicators including resident satisfaction to drive forward priorities.

Neighbourhood profile information

Here are some facts and figures about the people and properties that make up your neighbourhood which we thought you may find interesting.

Tenants by age



A great place to live...

Jigsaw Homes have 418 properties across Openshaw, Fairfield, Beswick and Droylsden which are managed by Adactus Housing.

Split by The Alan Turing Way and enclosed by Ashton Old Road and Ashton Canal. The area is bordered by Gorton, Abbey Hey, Droylsden Centre, Clayton and Fairfield Centres. There are good bus routes on Fairfield Road, Ashton Old Road, Greenside Street, Grey Mare Lane as well as Gorton and Fairfield train stations.

The area has one nursery, five primary schools including St Clements CE, St Brigid's, Ashbury Meadow Varna Community and Fairfield Road, two secondary schools: The East Manchester Academy and Higher Openshaw as well as two colleges: Connell 6th Form and Bridge College. There are four churches including St Annes, St Barnabus, St Pauls with St Johns and Fairfield Moravian Church. There are four GP practice surgeries.

Areas to enjoy include Delemere Park, Aivan Square, Sandywell Millenium Green as well as the Edge Lane allotments. Lime Street Shopping & Leisure complex offers great local amenities. On outskirts of the East Manchester area is 'Sport City' which include the City of Manchester Stadium, National Cycling Centre, English Institute of Sport,



National Squash Centre, Regional Athletics Arena and Indoor Tennis Centre.

There is the annual Openshaw Summer Festival and Community groups include the Clayton and Openshaw Residents Group as well as The Grange Community Resource Centre offering plenty of activities for all ages.

The longstanding Openshaw Gazette is available on Facebook and Twitter to keep

up with local news.

Jigsaw has plans to build around 2,400 more homes by 2022 through a mix of tenures including affordable rent, shared ownership and market sale. Some of these new homes are already being built in Manchester and we're sourcing potential sites in the city for others.

How well is your neighbourhood performing?



We have identified a range of both internal and external indicators that tell us how great your neighbourhood is overall.

The indicators range from the condition of the properties in the neighbourhood to levels of employment and poverty. You can see them all below with an explanation of what the ratings mean for your neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood experience



On average, people who move into the neighbourhood tend to stay in their homes for a reasonable length of time. The neighbourhood experiences some antisocial behaviour or neighbour nuisance cases. This indicates that while the majority of residents treat each other with respect, there are some incidents that do occur that have a negative impact on people's ability to relax and feel secure in their homes. Satisfaction with the neighbourhood is relatively high although there is room for improvement.

Household money management



When looking at the way in which people pay their rent, levels of rent arrears and the number of evictions, the neighbourhood performs to a satisfactory level. However, this means some households may still be experiencing money management issues, could be at risk of losing their homes, and may need additional support.

Community insight



The neighbourhood performs well when compared with other areas locally in relation to socio economic indicators. Performance in terms of health, employment, skills and training figures and poverty are all given consideration in this section.

Demand



The time it takes to re-let a property is generally good across the neighbourhood indicating that properties are generally popular with a low number of repairs required and people who are eligible can move into their new home relatively quickly.

Property condition



Generally, the homes in the neighbourhood are in a good condition, are energy efficient and there are no common issues with repairs and maintenance costs.

Overall summary

Overall the neighbourhood is a popular place to live offering people a good quality of life. The main aim for this neighbourhood is identifying the right activities, services and initiatives that will help it remain like this and deal with any issues that do arise quickly, ensuring that satisfaction remains high.



Local knowledge: What you told us about your area.

“I like that it is close to the town centre, the City stadium and with lots of transport links.”

“I like the local parks and my neighbours.”

“I like my neighbours of all nationalities.”

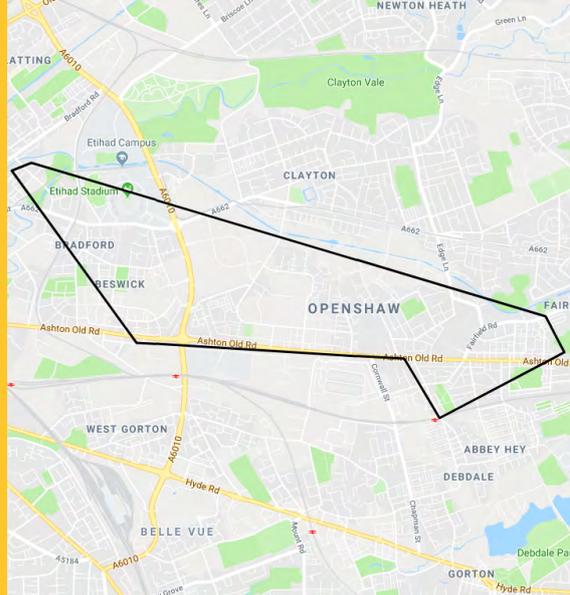
“Lime Square Leisure Centre is a good shopping area.”

“We need to improve people’s relationship in the area - restore community pride.”

“There should be more for young people to do and places for people to meet.”

“We would like to be represented more with opportunity to have input on activities in our area.”

“We would like more community worker presence in the area.”



How will we progress the plan?

Intervention work will begin in your neighbourhood on the various actions outlined in your Neighbourhood Plan as well as in the other 21 Adactus neighbourhoods in April 2019.

We will be reviewing the Neighbourhood Performance Data frequently over the next three years and we will keep you updated on the progress through our website, social media and newsletter.

You will also have the opportunity to be involved so please watch out for advertised activities or requests for feedback.

Our commitment

We will monitor how residents are managing to pay their rent and continue to offer advice and guidance to those that are struggling financially.

We will work closely with residents to ensure that the community knows where to access help and advice on money management issues.

We will increase the priority our Revenues team gives to households in the neighbourhood, ensuring early support and increasing the level of targeted contact with customers who are experiencing financial hardship.

We will look to reduce evictions, working closely with residents to arrange the most suitable ways for them to pay off any arrears, supporting individuals through money management advice dependent on the individuals needs.

We will target any properties that are more difficult to let within the neighbourhood and work to resolve any related appearance issues that may affect their popularity. We will also take action on any other issues affecting the desirability of the area, to ensure a better

customer experience.

We will regularly monitor the property condition, area appearance and management issues related to any properties that become empty. We will identify any challenges early and make sure any properties that become empty are ready to let as quickly as possible.

We will utilise the sensitive lettings process where there are problematic areas in the neighbourhood to alleviate anti-social behaviour, nuisance and crime.

We will identify where customers are not happy with the repairs service provided and look to establish any trends in this data. We will establish patterns in the number and costs of repairs and introduce a responsive plan to address areas of concern to sit alongside our targeted investment and planned replacement programmes.

Conduct a partnership speeding awareness operation to hot spot locations on the neighbourhood, using prevention and enforcement techniques to reduce the problem.

Address poorly maintained/fly-tipped gardens through joint working with MCC. Make

referrals through MCC re-cycling team where larger/extra bins are required and tackle hot spot areas of fly-tipping in the neighbourhood via joint inspections and enforcement action. Distribute further information on re-cycling and fly-tipping to residents via information leaflet/newsletter.

Work closely with the neighbourhood policing team to tackle anti-social behaviour and criminality in the area.

Alongside partner agencies, we will look at the health of our residents and deliver targeted initiatives to those areas where residents are in need of additional support, advice and guidance. We will look at the levels of unemployment in the area and guide people to our existing job clubs, where advice, assistance and support can be given to help people into training, volunteering and paid employment.

To identify current youth facilities and work with partners to provide more activities in a joined up way, making sure the community are aware of the available activities. To work with residents to identify areas of green space that would benefit from being improved.

What can you do?

Familiarise yourself with the money advice services that we and our other agencies provide and tell your neighbourhoods, friends and family about them if you think they may be in financial difficulty. Get in touch with us as soon as possible if you feel you are getting behind on your rent and bills. You can also look on our website for advice on a range of money matters and links to other sources of help and support.

Link here →

Be observant around your neighbourhood and let us know when things do not look great. It may be that the standard of communal spaces can improve, the environment could be improved or when you see something that you don't think is safe. Let us know if you think a property has been abandoned as soon as possible so that we can take action to re-let the property and avoid possible damage. Report repairs issues quickly and keep an eye on any recurrent problems you notice in your home or those of others in your community and let us know. Always fill in the repairs feedback surveys, this will really help us address any issues in your area and give you

the best service.

Get in touch if you experience antisocial behaviour or, if you feel you are seeing a rise in crime in the area so we can assist and give practical advice. Tell us if you believe properties are being used for illegal purposes. Take pride in your community and regularly maintain your own garden or clean the space outside your flat etc. We can offer low cost support if you need help with this.

Be a great neighbour - top tips

- Introduce yourself to your neighbours and consider your neighbours' lifestyles
- Be aware of the noise you create in your own home, particularly in buildings with communal entrances.
- Be mindful of where you park and be considerate of others
- Let your neighbours know if you are having a celebration
- Maintain your garden and keep your communal areas free of items
- Put your bins out on the right night and bring them in again once collected
- Keep an eye on your neighbour's property.



Getting involved

We encourage residents to get involved in improving and shaping our performance and the standard of our services. We understand that not everyone wants the same level of involvement, so we offer a range of ways to get involved.



Jigsaw Rewards

Jigsaw Rewards is an opportunity for you to give your feedback by completing surveys on our services mainly from the comfort of your own home. In return you will receive points which can be exchanged for gift vouchers or credits on your rent account.

It is simple and quick to register for Jigsaw Rewards. Just visit www.rewards.jigsawhomes.org.uk and enter your surname, payment reference and tell us which areas of the business you are interested in. We will only share with you the activities you have chosen, so you can do as much or little as you like. Activities include feedback surveys, photo tasks, mystery shopping and the opportunity to volunteer for our scrutiny panel.

In addition to Jigsaw Rewards you can also have informal involvement by attending community events or following us on social media, our websites and through our newsletters.



If you want to be more involved you can be part of a focus group to discuss different services and attend events and training. You can even become a tenant director on our Board or join/set up a residents' association or local group in your area.

We also recognise that everyone has skills, capability and drive to improve their neighbourhoods and this is happening with great success in a number of places.

We're keen to promote this and whether it's a small project near to your home or something more ambitious, we want to hear your ideas and help you to make this happen.

Our neighbourhood team will support you to do this wherever possible so please get in touch if you have any ideas on how to improve your neighbourhood.



Jigsaw Foundation

April 2019 sees the launch of Jigsaw Foundation offering funds for local 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. Entries will be able to bid for a share of £500,000 towards local projects that help to improve people's lives.

For more information and an application form, visit www.jigsawhomes.org.uk. Grants under £25,000 will be voted on by tenants through Jigsaw Rewards. Anything above this will be voted on by Jigsaw's executive team.



Your money

Housing Benefits & Universal Credit

Housing Benefit and Universal Credit can help you pay your rent if you are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits. Whilst Housing Benefit is paid along side other benefits you may receive, Universal Credit is a single monthly payment for all your living costs. The monthly Universal Credit payment will include money to pay your rent and you'll have to make arrangements to pay this money to your landlord.

Universal Credit will eventually replace the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit

If you currently receive any of these benefits, you cannot claim Universal Credit at the same time.

Payment facilities

Direct debit - these can be set up weekly, fortnightly, four-weekly or monthly and can be on any date in the month.



Recurring card payment - You can set a recurring card payment and can cancel or amend this with us at any time. If you did not have the funds when we attempt to take a payment you would not incur any bank charges.

Allpay payment card - Look for the PayPoint or e-pay sign and pay your rent with your allpay card at the till.

Through our website - You can pay on our website with your debit card and Allpay swipe card using our online services. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Standing order - Payments can be made directly from your bank or building society on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. To use this payment method please contact us and we will send you a Standing Order form for you to complete and return to us.

Over the telephone - You can pay your rent over the phone using our 24 hour automated service. Please phone connect on 0300 111 1133 and select Option 3. If you are calling outside our normal working hours which are between 6:00pm - 8:00am, you will need to select option 2 instead. Please note that you will need your allpay card along with a valid debit or credit card to use this service.

If you pay your rent on a monthly basis please be aware that your rent is charged on a weekly basis and that you must meet all your weekly rental obligations within that current financial year (1 April to 31st March). Therefore we expect you to have one week credit balance on 31st March of each year. This is to reflect the 1st week in advance payment you will have been asked to make when you signed your tenancy.

What is Credit Union?

A credit union is a financial co-operative which provides savings, loans and a range of services to its members. It is owned and controlled by the members so the emphasis is always on providing the best service to members - not maximising profits.

You can use the link below to find your nearest credit union.
<https://.findyourcreditunion.co.uk/>



Credit Union

Budgeting information

The first step to taking control of your finances is doing a budget.

Setting up a budget means you're less likely to end up in debt and to be caught out by unexpected costs. It can also help to improve your credit rating and put you in a great position to save up.

You can find out how to create a budget via the link below:
<https://www.budget.entitledto.co.uk/default>

Getting help if debt problems become serious

If you are behind with 'priority debts' such as your:

- Rent,
- Mortgage,
- Court fines,
- Energy bills,
- Council Tax,
- Child support.

Take advice straight away before your debts become unmanageable.
<https://www.moneyadvice.org.uk/en/tools/debt-advice-locator>
<https://www.stepchange.org/>

