



Home from HOME

Impact Report

2024 - 25

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MANCHESTER



**“Home from HOME is
more than just art.
It’s a community.”**

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Introduction



HOME

HOME is one of the UK's leading arts centres, renowned for world-class, inclusive theatre, film and visual arts. Described by Lonely Planet as "one of Britain's best art centres," HOME has become synonymous with high-quality, adventurous cultural programming. Since opening in 2015, over 7 million people have visited HOME. We are committed to artist development across disciplines, supporting 720 artists annually (rising to 2,000 from 2025) through workshops, training, commissions, residencies, and mentoring.

Our mission is to deliver cutting-edge theatre, film and visual art that engages with pressing social and cultural issues, offering audiences both joy and provocation. We work with artists to produce entertaining, extraordinary experiences, creating thought-provoking film, art, drama, dance, and festivals, with a strong focus on new commissions, and talent development.

HOME's strategic priorities - to share compelling stories, tackle inequality, and support sustainability - underscore our dedication to making art accessible and impactful. Since 2018 we have undertaken an organisation-wide strategy to increase diversity within programming, artists, staff and audiences. We now work to embed co-creation and transform how we make and present art, to revitalise arts engagement in deprived areas of Manchester.

Home from HOME

Home from HOME is our co-created Creative Engagement programme in Hulme, Moss Side and Gorton.

Home from HOME is an intensive three-year community programme, informed by two years' community consultation, which aims to embed creativity in areas with high levels of deprivation and low arts engagement, support health and wellbeing, and build long-term relationships with HOME to transform who contributes to programming and strategic decision-making.

In 2024-27 we'll work with 3,000 people in Moss Side, Hulme, and Gorton. Home from HOME costs £450k over three years, and we have £160k remaining to raise.

“Home from
HOME
empowers you
to think ‘you
can.’”



Activity and Reach: Year One

1,174
residents
took part

| Participants |
|--|
| 78 consistent members (43 women and 35 young people) |
| 438 residents attended workshops as drop in/out members |
| 366 residents attended community performances or workshops |
| 292 residents attended community made exhibitions |

| What did they do? |
|---|
| Took part in 119 workshops exploring theatre, film and visual art |
| Programmed 7 productions for their communities |
| Attended 16 trips to see theatre, film and exhibitions |
| Attended 11 community meals to evaluate and plan the programme |
| Created exhibition 'A Sisterhood Laced in Glitter and Gold' for HOME's Inspire Gallery |
| Created community exhibition 'Our Street' |
| Made short film 'Our memories of Hulme' |
| Performed at Celebrating Gorton's Culture Festival |
| Delivered a young people's takeover day at HOME, performing their show 'The Fairytale of Moss Side' |
| Performed in HOME's professional production 'Wrestle Lads Wrestle', by Jenni Jackson |
| Took over HOME's Theatre Two space for a four-day public exhibition of art, photography, sculpture and film titled: 'HOME is Where the ART Is' which was seen by 200 people |





Beneficiaries

About the residents:

The residents live in Moss Side, Hulme and Gorton, which are highly deprived areas of Manchester.

Parts of Moss Side are in the top 1% most deprived in the whole of the UK with half the ward in the top 5%. Moss Side's unemployment rate stands at 20%, nearly triple the national average. This disproportionately affects young people and women. Gorton is in the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. Action group End Child Poverty estimates more than half of the children there are living in poverty. 47.9% of Hulme households are deprived in one or more category: employment, education, health, or housing. They are also highly diverse areas, with an average 57% of residents coming from the global majority.

We worked with two inter-generational women's groups with an age range of 25-80, and two youth groups aged 8-16.

Artist training:

In addition to our work with residents, six artists were trained in co-creation and worked closely with the communities. Where possible, the artists come from the target communities.

Project Partners:

Home from HOME works in partnership to achieve most impact. We have built on existing infrastructure to reach more people, strengthen capacity, and improve provision for the long-term future. For our full list of partners see page 25.

Impact

Impact overview

We have already seen huge impact to residents in just one year.

Feedback and case studies with residents demonstrate impact in four key areas:

1. Skill development and employability
2. Reducing isolation
3. Improved mental health and wellbeing
4. Access to the arts



Home from HOME.



Skill development and employability

Residents have developed creative skills, as well as new skills in leadership and team work.

These new skills have led one Gorton resident, P, to take positive steps forward as a freelance artist. P initially engaged with HOME during our consultation phase and following a period of adverse life events P experienced barriers to establishing a pathway into a creative career. Since P took on the role of Support Artist, our team have supported her to access training and navigate processes in order to work as a freelance artist. Alongside delivering Home from HOME, P is now working with other organisations delivering creative programmes, including programmes that support women with experience of the criminal justice system. She told us: "Seeing my own direct community come together in the manner that it has, the relationships that have been formed, the beautiful art that has come out of the space. I've found it just exciting and inspiring."

Other residents have expressed interest in working in the arts following working with us, and we will support them as they develop. They told us:

"Taking part in Wrestle Lads Wrestle was brilliant. It opened my eyes up to things I thought I could never do, I would really like to go into stage management now." Member of women's group

"Being part of this has helped me put myself out there more. I've started volunteering, which I hadn't done before. It's also made me think about my future, maybe working in a theatre, ushering people in, or even performing." Member of women's group

"I like practicing art because it helps me build my confidence, I understand stuff through art, it helps me break things down, what I thought was impossible was pretty easy to be honest." Member of youth group, aged 15

"I really want to keep coming to the art classes and I want more and more challenges so I can get better." Member of youth group, age 9



Home from HOME.



Our Gorton Home from HOME women's group meets at Gorton Central Community Centre.
We CRAFT, CHAT and MAKE...
... and most importantly SUPPORT EACH OTHER.



We've had lots of new experiences, and we've had 6 trips to Home.

We CREATED autobiographical house sculptures INSPIRED by US!



We took part in 'Celebrating Gorton's Diversity Festival'.



We learned about FILM programming and planned a women's cinema night.



AS ARTISTS we grow, developing work for our exhibition at HOME.

We are a COMMUNITY of friendship, a community of ARTISTS, a community of support.

We CELEBRATE as our exhibitions open at Home.



Happy International Women's Day

"Home from HOME is so welcoming, accepting, and respectful. You get to be vulnerable without people judging you. I have found out about myself through Home from HOME, it has been a real personal journey."

Reducing isolation

Home from HOME brings people together, contributing to social cohesion and reducing isolation. Participants told us:

"So many groups are closing because the funding has run out in our area, if I didn't have this group I'd stay in bed, I'd be isolated."

Member of women's group

"Home from HOME empowers you to think 'you can', I moved to Hulme four years ago and then I lost my husband. I was very isolated, but now I know lots of people. It's made me feel more confident to get out and live life."

"There are people who know me well and I can be a loner but I have recognised I need to do more of this. There is a lot of love and connection. Real love in here. Even though I came at last min but I feel what you have created is beautiful and I hope it continues."

"The environment is always so welcoming, accepting and respectful. You can get involved and be out of your comfort zone and be vulnerable without people judging you. I've got some disabilities, but it is really accepting. I have found out a lot about myself through Home from HOME, it has been a real personal journey."



Improved mental health and wellbeing

Feedback from participants demonstrates that the programme has helped them to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Residents told us:

"I like that you can do whatever you want with art, when you're mad you can express how you feel, when you're sad you can express it, or even when you're bored it's fun." Member of youth group, age 11

"Art allows you to be calm and stay relaxed, I feel very excited and ready to be calm and peaceful in the art sessions." Member of youth group, age 9

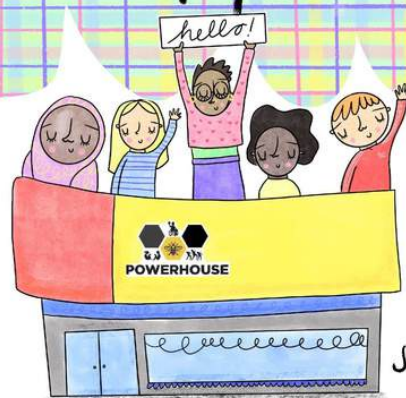
"The group is more than just art. It's a community. We look out for each other, especially on bad mental health days." Member of women's group

"HOME from HOME is a place where we can come to de-stress after being in work all week and it starts the beginning of a weekend on a high." Member of women's group

"Nothing feels too much trouble. The group is a release of tension; I've terrible tension at home." Member of women's group



Home from HOME.



We are Moss Side Home from HOME young Creatives.

We enjoyed sharing our



We really enjoyed learning CIRCUS SKILLS. We want to create art for our space, for our COMMUNITY.



≡YOUTH DAY≡ at Home with Gorton young creatives.

We can just be young, creative and have FUN.



Miracle on 34th Street

We loved seeing Miracle on 34th Street at Home.



We want to have choices and our VOICES heard.



We want to make a difference, about our COMMUNITY.

WE ARE ALL YOUNG CREATIVES!

Home trained some of our Youth Workers - helping them to build a creative tool kit.

"I like practicing art because not only does it help me build confidence, I understand stuff through art, it helps me break things down" (Young Person)

Access to the arts

This was a key impact area we wanted to develop from our consultation period. Residents told us then:

"I never go to HOME"

"I don't know anything about HOME. I haven't been to town for 10 years."

"HOME looks like it'll be expensive and for rich people – people in the café looked from Alderley Edge or something."

"I wanted to be an artist when I was younger, but I didn't think it was for me."

Now, participants say:

"Many of our women had never stepped inside a theatre before. It was often seen as inaccessible or "not for us." But this project has changed that narrative completely." Member of women's group

"The ripple effect goes far beyond the group itself. Elders in the community now have something consistent to look forward to. Local venues, like The Ascension Church, have become lively community hubs. And perhaps most importantly, Hulme—often overlooked—has been placed back on the cultural map." Lead Artist, Hulme women's group

"Having new experiences is so important, I would never go to a musical usually, it's the safety of being with the group. I would never be able to go on my own." Member of women's group

"I built confidence, I feel like I did a bit of progress in my drama skills and acting, I do drama lessons now." Member of youth group, age 10

"They have gone on to do silver award with the Royal Northern College of Music after this, now my daughter has a show coming up singing and acting." Parent of two members of youth group

"I have nothing to do all the time, but I like having something fun to do like art." Member of youth group, age 11

Case Studies

Case Study: It's a Family

A member of Gorton Women's Group

I joined the group to help with my anxiety, depression, and PTSD. It's helped me cope better. I've got a lot out of it. When I had health challenges, they were there for me too. I've always had a passion for art since I was six, always liked doing things with my hands. We've explored different types of art and activities, we built sculptures of houses, made a clay park, helped create an eight-foot woman, designed paper flowers, and made our own buttons. I made a picture for an international women's day activity, and they printed it as a postcard, gorgeous!

When you walk into the room, it's warm, welcoming. **No matter what you're going through, there's support.** Even if you just want to sit down, have a brew, and not do any artwork, that's okay. Sometimes you just need someone to be around when you're not feeling so good. When I first started, I was really quiet, didn't talk much. But now, I've opened up. I've even participated in art shows. **My confidence has grown.** My mum has some of my art up in the house, and she's proud of me. That feels good, especially after struggling so much these past few years. Knowing she can see me coming back to life has made her feel better too. She enjoys coming to the little shows we get to go watch, having meals out, and just seeing me put myself out there instead of hiding behind a shell.

I love pencil drawing and shading, but being in the group has let me try new materials. Supplies can be expensive, but they let me take some home so I can keep creating. **It's a real struggle on a lower income, so being able to take extra supplies has helped me expand what I can do.** I've been working on a big landscape piece, using different textures and materials.

The group is more than just art. It's a community. We look out for each other, especially on bad mental health days. It's like a little family. The leaders encourage us, inspire us, and give us the space to be ourselves.

Before the group, I'd never been to the theatre. Now, I've seen performances, had meals out, and even spoken in front of people at an exhibition. That was huge for me. I was shaking inside, but afterwards, people told me how well I did. It showed me I can do things I never thought I could. Anxiety makes you want to hide away, but the group has helped me push past that. It's made me realise that no one is really judging me, only I can judge myself. One day in the group, I was feeling low, and instead of just sitting quietly, I put music on and started dancing. Others joined in. It lifted my mood. The group gives you that space, to feel, to be yourself.

Being part of this has helped me put myself out there more. I've started volunteering, which I hadn't done before. It's also **made me think about my future, maybe working in a theatre, ushering people in, or even performing.** Next year, we're doing a performance at HOME theatre. I suggested we use glow sticks and dance to Matchstick Men on a blacked-out stage. **Before the group, I'd never have put myself forward for something like that.**

Seeing my work in an exhibition was empowering. It made me proud. Someone who inspired me is no longer here, but her memory lives on in my art. If I had to tell people about the group, I'd say it's a warm, friendly environment. No matter what you're going through, there's always someone there with a smile, a brew, a listening ear. It's a women's group, run by women, and that matters. **There's no judgement, just support.** We push each other to see the best in ourselves. It's a little family. Not by blood, but by choice. And I'm so grateful for that.

Case Study: The ripple effect goes far beyond the group itself

Artist lead for Hulme Women's Group



My background is in youth and community development. My journey with this incredible women's group began when I connected with the minister at The Ascension Church, who introduced me to the team at HOME. **From the moment I heard about the vision, I was excited.** As a creative myself, I saw a powerful opportunity.

In just a year this group has grown beyond anything we imagined. What began as a small gathering has evolved into a vibrant, multicultural sisterhood of women of all ages. **For many of these women, life has been filled with challenges: caregiving, isolation, trauma, cultural displacement, or simply being unheard. This group has become their place to feel seen.**

Through our collaboration with HOME, the women have experienced theatre performances, engaged in workshops, and created art of their own. In 2023, we proudly hosted a public exhibition both locally and at HOME - showcasing visual work, writing, and the emotional journeys behind them.

Each session begins and ends with a “check-in” and “check-out.” What's shared in those circles is powerful stories of growth, new confidence, and friendships that continue outside the group. **The support is ongoing, even between sessions.** Our WhatsApp group is always alive with encouragement, event updates, and reminders that no one is alone.

This project has also widened access to the arts for many women who had never thought theatre was “for them.” Through HOME, we've been able to offer tickets—many free or reduced—to performances across Manchester. We've also collaborated with other women's HOME groups across the city, bringing diverse voices together to share experiences and celebrate unity.



The ripple effect goes far beyond the group itself. Elders in the community now have something consistent to look forward to. Local venues, like The Ascension Church, have become lively community hubs. And perhaps most importantly, Hulme—often overlooked—has been placed back on the cultural map.

This initiative is not just about creativity. **It's about transformation, inclusion, and community healing.** The women love it, and so do we. Watching them reclaim joy, confidence, and purpose reminds us why this work matters.

We are proud of what we've built—and with continued support, the impact can only grow.



Case Study: The journey has been brilliant

A member of HideOut Youth Group

At Home from HOME what I've really enjoyed is meeting all the inspiring people, like artists, and working with all the young people at HideOut. We made a whole play called 'We could be weirdo's' and I was sort of the main character in it and also I'm a comedian and do standup. **So the journey has been brilliant.** We play loads of fun games and done some great things with HOME like being invited to different trips and got free food! It always tastes better when it's free doesn't it!

I've learned about working as a team, curating pieces, like new stories, and meeting new people with different creativity. It is such a privilege to be a part of HOME theatre. When I was a kid I never used to do things like this because I had a bit of a rough childhood but it's just been brilliant and I've really enjoyed it.

The project is really good because you work with people who are divergent like myself, I have learning disabilities, and we're accepted as who we are. We all come together from different backgrounds. I feel more comfortable and open and being honest and speaking with each other. **I have more confidence and feel more open about what bothers me and what gets me stressed, and how we could put that into theatre.**

Working with a big organisation gives me confidence. We're going to make a big show and I've got some ideas that I want to get onto the stage so people recognise me and people with learning disabilities. **If I can do it then other people with learning disabilities can do it.** I would describe Home from HOME as a brilliant experience and its **open to anybody who wants to bring their creativity to life.**



What's next?

The next two years

This is just the start of Home from HOME.

Year two launched in April 2025, and Year three will kickstart in April 2026.

Year two's focus is skill development and the creation of a main house production.

Up to 100 residents will:

- Work with the Manchester-based Malandra Jacks Theatre and Creative Company to co-create a main house production at HOME. The production will be a large-scale event that reaches an audience of up to 500 people.
- Co-create socially engaged work with local professional artists in 30 workshops. The groups will make legacy artworks that will benefit the wider community, including a mosaic floor next to 'Jessie's Wall' (a tribute to a local schoolboy who was shot dead in 2006 at Powerhouse Community Centre), publishing a book of poetry and using visual art to improve shared garden spaces.
- Showcase visual art in HOME's foyer Inspire Gallery, where 1,260 visitors will see their exhibition.
- Deliver two summer festivals in their communities.
- See a minimum of two professional theatre productions in their community and create work in response.
- See films, theatre and visit our galleries for free at HOME and other Manchester cultural venues, with travel provided.
- Take part in community meals to feed back on the project and help shape its future.
- Continue to learn fundraising skills and begin to implement them to realise new projects.



Year three

Year three's focus is long term change in the communities and at HOME.

Up to 100 residents will:

- See at least two productions in their community, maintaining a cultural offer, with increased programming responsibility from participants.
- Continue to take part in a minimum of 10 workshops exploring film, theatre and visual art.
- Learn and implement new skills in fundraising and delivering arts activity so they can continue to programme and make art in their communities.
- Be supported to identify the next stage in their creative journey, including job opportunities, paid apprenticeships, and internships at HOME or other cultural venues, creative opportunities at HOME such as The Manchester Open and our Artist Development programme.
- Shape the future of Home from HOME through community meals and focus groups, deciding on the future direction of the programme
- Support the making of a short film as part of the evaluation and further development of Home from HOME and its impact, to be shared with the sector, project stakeholders and current and potential funders.
- Create a cohort of 10 community members to liaise with local people about the project, continue to coordinate activity in the community setting and to support communication around opportunities at HOME.
- Have continued access to £1 tickets to film, access to theatre dress rehearsals, and free art at HOME every year, for at least three years.

HOME will also host a Co-creating Communities event to share best practice with local and national partners.

Long term change

This is a long-term project. Home from HOME sits at the heart of our organisation as a strategic tool to increase diversity in our programming, artists, staff and audiences.

We will continue to mentor the groups beyond March 2027 as they deliver their own arts activity and support them to run independently.

Should the programme continue to prove impactful we will fundraise for expansion to North Manchester and Wythenshawe, where we have developing relationships and know there is demand.



**Transform lives and
communities.
Support Home from
HOME.**

“In just one year this group has become something we never imagined. With continued support the impact will only grow.”

After just one year of delivery, residents have told us how Home from HOME has already transformed their lives. Over the next two years, we expect this impact to deepen, and to reach more people in the communities of Gorton, Hulme, Moss Side and beyond.

By supporting Home from HOME, you can ensure residents in the Manchester communities most at need have access to this transformative programme.

To find out more, please contact Development Manager Hattie Callery at hattie.callery@homemcr.org or on 0161 212 3428.

Thank you to our partners and supporters

Home from HOME would not be possible without our amazing partners and supporters. Thank you.

Supporters:

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Arts Council England
Manchester City Council
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
BFI
The Leri Trust

Partners:

Moss Side Millenium Powerhouse – Youth Centre
HideOut Youth Zone, Gorton
Ascension Church Hulme
Healthy me, Healthy communities CIC at Gorton Central Community Centre
ARCON Housing/ Bolton at Home Housing and One Manchester Housing
Local Authority Neighbourhood Management teams Gorton, Hulme and Moss Side
Rethink Mental Health
Manchester Mind
Riverside (Domestic Abuse Support)
Early Help Family Teams, Manchester City Council

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