



The Wishing Tree Project Report 2023





1. Introduction

This report presents the data collected through The Wishing Tree Seeds of Change Project, delivered by Salford CVS in Partnership with Salford Family Hub Partnership and The Lowry. The project sought to connect with children, young people and families across Salford by providing a creative consultative mechanism for them to shape services within the Family Hubs.

2. About the project

The aim of the project was

- **To engage children, young people and families in writing wishes and posting them into the Seeds of Change box**
- **To deliver sessions providing immersion in arts and crafts activities to increase engagement with the art installation**
- **To implement children, young people and family's wants and needs into the delivery of the Family Hub Partnership**

As part of their Arts for Social Change project The Lowry have been working with a young parent carer group, whom they consulted about the Seeds for Change box. They said that they wanted it to be sustainable, bright, colourful and interactive. The Lowry commissioned local artist, Emma Evans, to design and create the Seeds of Change box and facilitate art and crafts activities at some of the locations to increase engagement with the art installation.





The art installation was displayed at 13 locations across the city, including the four main Family Hubs (Central, North, West and South), the two youth centres (The Beacon and Deans) and six voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

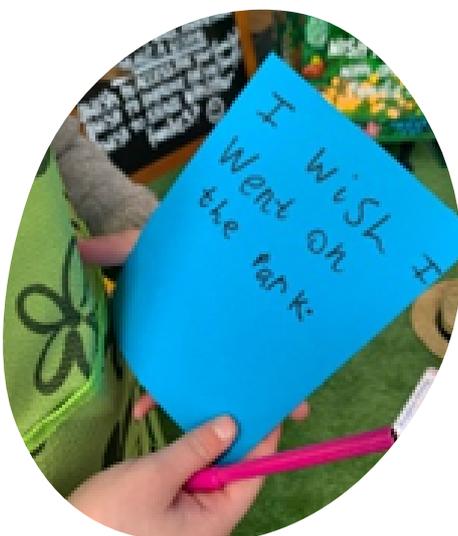
There was also an online survey was developed which asked

- What do you wish to access for your family?
- What do you wish to improve for your family?
- What do you wish for your family?

The engagement part of the project began on August 22nd 2023 and was completed by March 23rd 2023.

3. The Findings - Seven Key Things

Of the 424 responses, the overall data suggests that the main wishes were for:



Safe and accessible outdoor spaces for recreation and play, including parks, play areas, skate parks, allotments, community gardens and nature walks. Communities said they would like to see spaces free of litter, to ensure children can play safely in local parks and green spaces. In addition, they felt outdoor spaces would be safer if they were monitored by groups of volunteers holding evening walks around parks, to deter criminal activity.

Access to creative activities, including arts and crafts, messy play, and stay-and-play sessions. There are many creative and engaging activities delivered across Salford, however, it has been found that children, young people and families may not be aware of these, or do not know where to find local information.



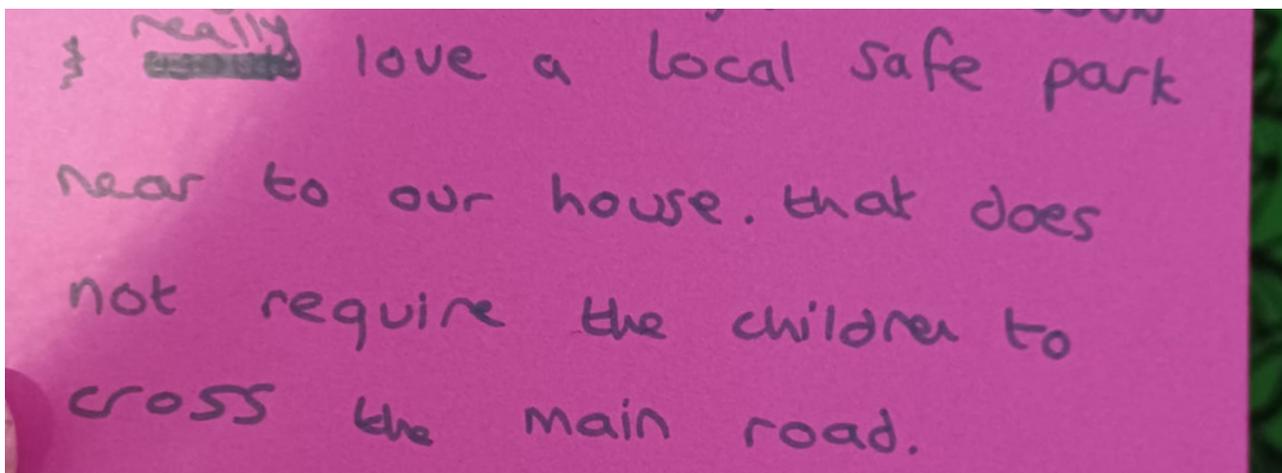
Access to sports, including football, cricket, volleyball, basketball and more sports for girls. The main barrier to accessing sports was that a number of clubs in Salford have membership or subscription fees, which isn't manageable for some families. There is also the ongoing cost of engaging in sport for example the need for specific kit. A donation centre for old kits may offer a solution.

Removal of financial concerns, including families wishing for more money, reduced cost of living, or support with the cost of living crisis. This included things like access to hot meals, toys, mobile phones, electronic tablets etc.

Better health and happiness, including things like more time with family and friends.

Safer, kinder and more inclusive communities including a desire for less crime, more peace, and more acceptance and kindness.

More youth activities which included both indoor and outdoor activities.





4. The Wishing Tree Legacy

4.1. The Wishing Tree art installation

The local artist, Emma Evans, who was commissioned by The Lowry to design the Seeds of Change also created the Wishing Tree art installation. The tree displays some of the wishes posted into the Seeds of Change box and is a permanent feature within The Lowry's Lookout (a popular creative space for children and families and engagement of communities). Residents and visitors can continue to post their wishes.



4.2. Implementation of some of the wishes at Little Hulton Family Hub

Little Hulton Family Hub did some further work with young people in the area who said they would like to see the following in the Hub:

- **More creative space** – with fun creative activities including access to music and arts sessions
- **Activities to support health and wellbeing**
- **A space within the hub** – that is inviting, warm and allows young people to be together to chat. A space they have ownership over.

This work also connected the Hub with the families of the young people involved in the group at the presentation event. It resulted in a dedicated space for young people in the Hub and they also set up a young people's photography group.



Established a young people's photography group – Our Time, Our Place. The group created a map of the places they wanted to photograph and went out to photograph them. The photographs were collated into an exhibition at Salford University. The young people who participated in this group fed back how it had increased their confidence and wellbeing and have continued with a creative group space, after the funding has finished.





Appendix 1 Locality Responses

For the purpose of this report, the large number of responses relating to personal wishes for family and for themselves were removed. Those personal wishes are however still represented on the Wishing Tree art installation.

Brookhouse Estate Community Centre

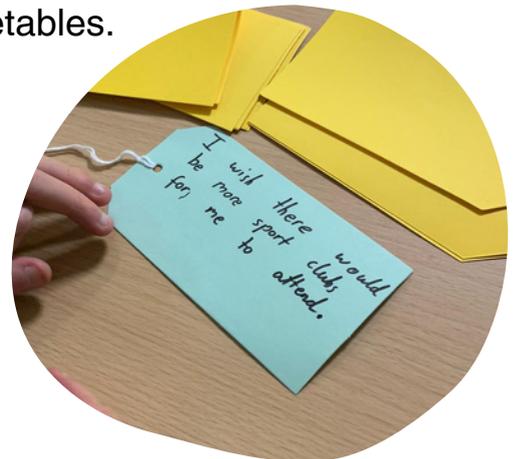
There were 20 responses with the following wishes:

- 65% A park/safe outdoor play area– been asking for 20 years
- 10% More youth activities
- 10% Petting zoo
- 10% Community garden for families to grow vegetables.
- 5% Cooking lessons

Broughton Gateway

There were 74 responses with the following wishes:

- 15% Creative activities
- 14% Play and stay sessions
- 14% Outdoor activities
- 12% Toy bank
- 12% Sports clubs – volleyball, football, basketball, cricket, netball
- 8% A park/safe outdoor playarea
- 8% Access to mobile phone/tablet
- 5% Community garden
- 4% Food – hot meals, foodbank, food club
- 4% Improved finances – more money for families, food, warm homes etc
- 3% More youth activities
- 3% Accessible groups for disabled children and young people



Patricroft/ Castle Community Centre

There were 35 responses with the following wishes:

- 31% More youth activities
- 22% Safer, kinder and more inclusive communities
- 14% Stop littering
- 14% More green spaces and outdoor activities
- 11% Improved finances – more money for families, access to food, warm homes, etc
- 6% Accessible groups for disabled children and young people
- 2% Better facilities in the park

Pendleton Gateway

There were 23 responses with the following wishes:

- 30% More stay and play sessions
- 26% Better health and happiness (more time with family and friends, happier families, improved health, better life)
- 22% Improved finances, more money for families, food, warm homes, etc

Langworthy Cornerstone

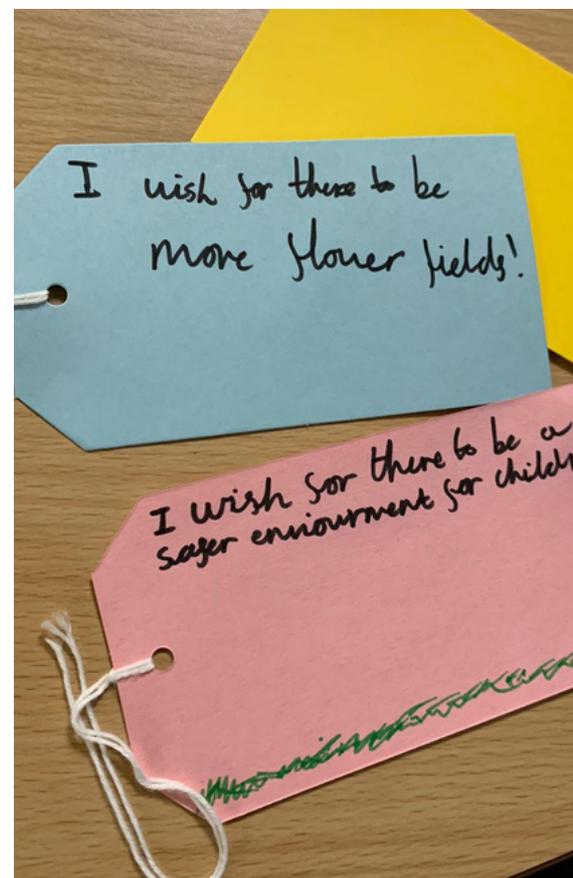
There were nine responses with the following wishes:

- 55% Better health and happiness
- 33% Safer, kinder and more inclusive communities
- 12% Improved finances – more money for families, food, warm homes, etc

Emmanuel

There were 14 responses with the following wishes:

- 36% Better health and happiness
- 22% More activities for under five's (including outdoor activities)
- 14% Improved finances - more money for families, food, warm homes, etc
- 14% More activities for SEND Children
- 14% Better support for those who have experienced the loss of a child



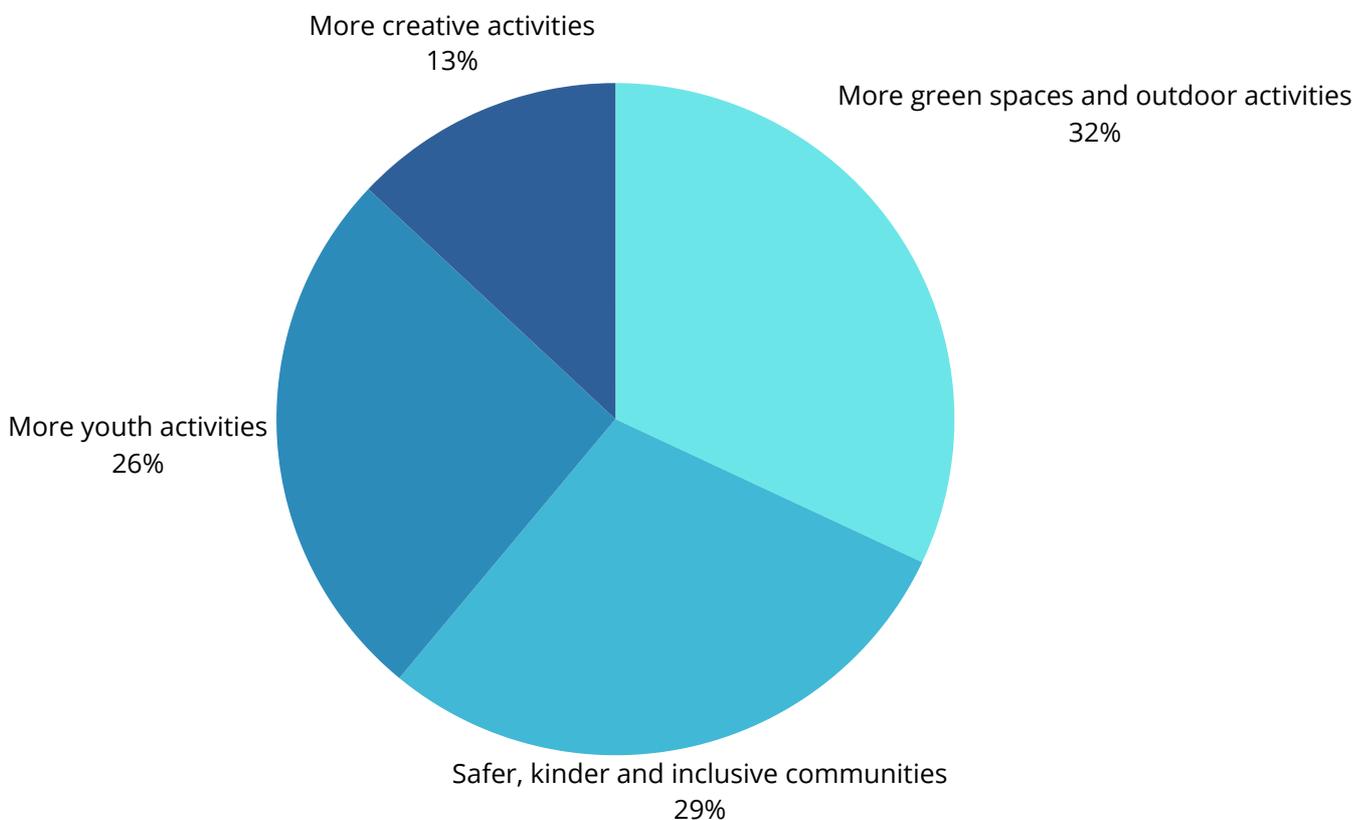
Eccles Gateway

There were 13 responses with the following wishes:

- 46% Safer, kinder and more inclusive communities
- 26% Better health and happiness
- 15% More green spaces and outdoor activities
- 13% Improved finances – more money for families, food, warm homes, etc

Incredible Education

There were 36 responses with the following wishes:



Little Hulton Big Local

There were five responses with the following wishes:

- 33% Better health and happiness
- 20% Safer, kinder and more inclusive communities
- 17% More green spaces and outdoor activities
- 15% Better care for the environment
- 15% Community garden

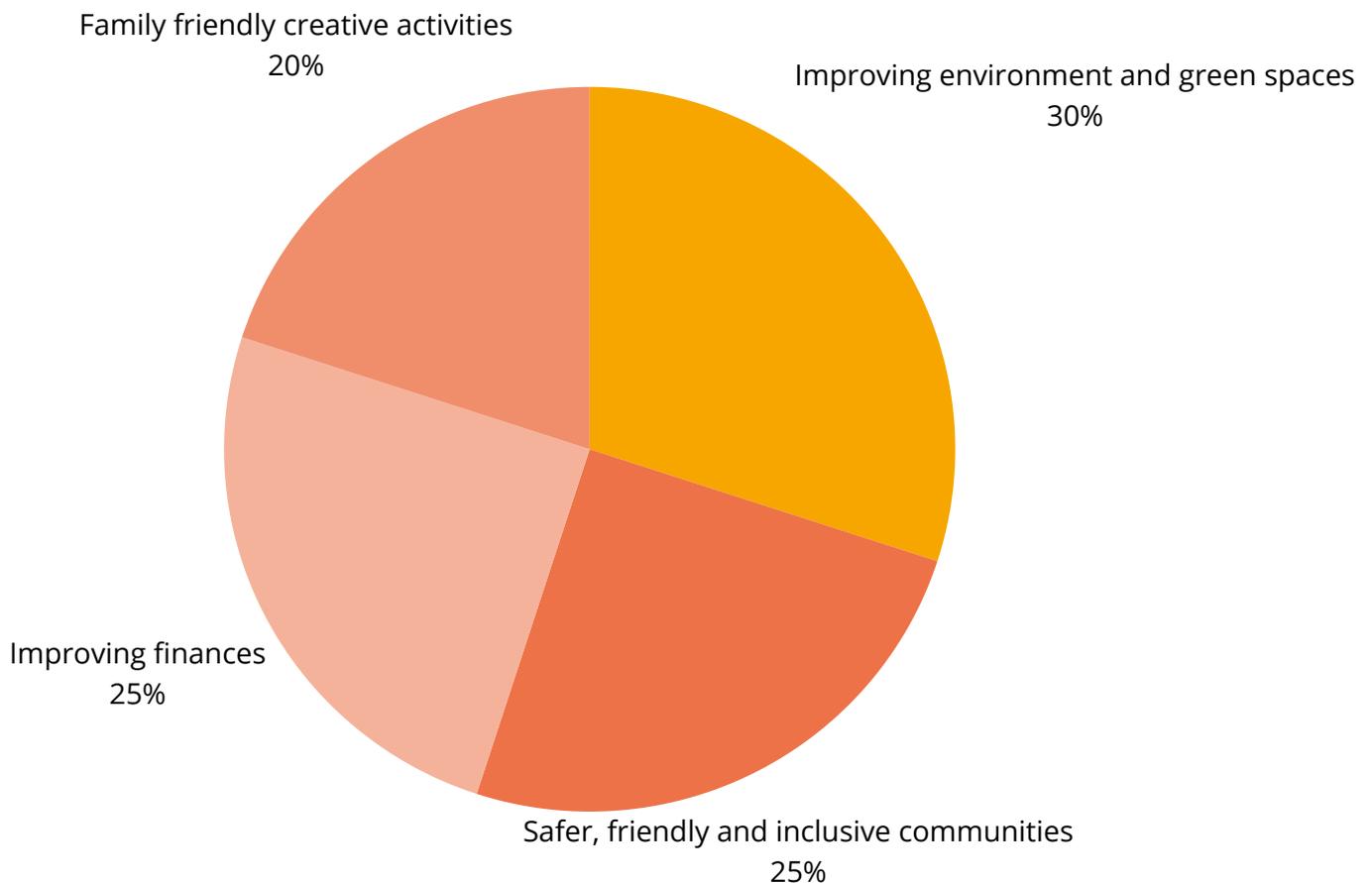
Little Hulton Family Hub

There were 63 responses with the following wishes:

- 28% Playground/outdoor play facilities for children
- 20% Improved finances - more money for families, food, warm homes etc
- 16% Access to family activities and support
- 9% Safer, kinder and more inclusive communities
- 6% Housing support
- 5% Access to mental health support
- 5% More affordable and accessible childcare
- 3% Access to art and cultural activities
- 2% Sports activities

Winton Family Hub

There were 58 responses with the following wishes:



Responses from young people

The Beacon Centre

There were 54 responses with the following wishes:

- 28% Sports activities – volleyball, football, basketball, more sports for girls
- 26% Safer more friendly and inclusive communities
- 20% Improved finances – help with cost of living crisis
- 7% For boys to treat girls better
- 7% Youth and community activities
- 7% Creative activities
- 3% Flower field
- 2% Play area – 1

The Deans Youth Centre

There were 33 responses

- 45% Safer more friendly and inclusive communities
- 28% Improved finance – help with cost of living crisis
- 11% Creative activities
- 9% Less homeless people
- 7% Sports activities



Salford CVS & Volunteer Centre

Registered address:

The Old Town Hall

5 Irwell Place

Eccles

Salford

M30 0FN

Tel: 0161 787 7795

Email: [**office@salfordcvs.co.uk**](mailto:office@salfordcvs.co.uk)

[**www.salfordcvs.co.uk**](http://www.salfordcvs.co.uk)

[**@SalfordCVS**](#) on Twitter, Instagram,
Facebook and LinkedIn

Company Limited by Guarantee: 01948293

Registered Charity: 519361