

Community Investment  
Benchill Community  
Centre



*Investing in Wythenshawe*



Wythenshawe  
Community Housing Group



**photo on cover:**

Kayleigh Newton, aged 8 doing Arts and Crafts with a professional artist in the Play scheme.

**photo below:**

Kyle Newton and Emilio Byfield aged 8 enjoying a game of pool

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## Welcome

All housing associations invest in communities. Most do this through the development of good quality affordable homes, some go further and develop community programmes which help build resilient communities.

Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, based in South Manchester, is a community landlord that goes further. With 14,000 homes and 20,000 tenants, our vision is to create a community where people choose to live and work.

The Group has a strong track record in successful community investment and partnership working. A recent independent analysis showed that our investments have generated a five-fold social return for the community of Wythenshawe.

This brochure offers an insight into the work we do in our communities and specifically focuses on Benchill Community Centre, which is owned by Wythenshawe Community Housing Group and managed by a committee.

The centre is a much valued facility for people of all ages and abilities and provides a whole range of activities for the local people of Wythenshawe.

We welcome conversations with partners, old and new, and anyone looking to invest in Wythenshawe.



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Community Centre Manager

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## Out and About: Our Community Centres

Community Centres are at the heart of our neighbourhoods. Places to meet, volunteer, learn new skills, play sport, gain qualifications, celebrate with friends and family or just have a bite to eat.

Wythenshawe Community Housing Group supports the delivery of community services through community centres in Benchill and Woodhouse Park. The centres are

funded through a combination of grant funding and facilities hire.

The main funders are:



### Benchill Community Centre

Benchill Community Centre is a fantastic hub of activities for all ages and local people in Wythenshawe. The building is owned by Wythenshawe Community Housing Group and managed by a committee of local people. Its facilities include:

- After School and Holiday provision for children aged 6 to 14 years

- IT facilities for beginners, elderly residents and people wanting to gain qualifications to improve employment opportunities
- “Talk English” – a programme to enable people to learn English at pre-entry level
- Community Arts programme for local disabled residents to socialise with other local residents

## Benchill Community Centre User Feedback:

# 120

people took part in the survey and rated the following as Excellent:

# 99

Excellent Room Set Up

# 97

Excellent Cleanliness of Centre

# 105

Excellent Staff Support

# 88

Excellent Overall Experience

# 96

Excellent Warmth of Welcome

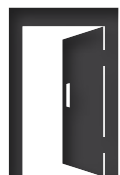


*“At Benchill Community Centre, we will continue to build on our successes, learn from the past and continue to grow and develop our services in partnership with the community and local organisations.”*

**Brenda Gixti**, Community Centre Manager



# Our IT Suite Statistics



**24,474**

user visits in 2014 with  
**160** new members



**549**

**Record attendance  
in our IT suite in  
September 2014**  
(beginners, European  
Computer Driving  
License (ECDL),  
Over 50's)



- Community sports programme – 40 young people registered and taking part regularly. The facilities are also open to all young people every day of the week.
- Youth Hub - The youth hub is open for all young people aged 11 to 25, and is free for everyone. There are various activities on offer, which change on a daily basis and a thriving atmosphere for young people!



**June 2014** English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)



**15 people** completed

## New Activities:

Dementia Café



ESOL

Yoga Classes



Parenting Courses

Functional Skills



- The Centre was awarded Big Lottery Funding of £499,246 which will secure the centre's funding for 4 years commencing March 2015



### LOTTERY FUNDED

- Over 50's Coffee mornings now taking place on a monthly basis.

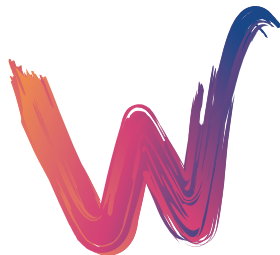


- In January 2015 the centre secured £13,482 from the European Social Fund to deliver Functional Skills (Maths & English)
- Sensory Suite for hire - The Sensory Room can be enjoyed by all ages for relaxation and therapeutic purposes and can be booked directly through the Community Centre for either one-off or recurring sessions.





*“a community where  
people choose to  
live and work, having  
pride in their homes”*



**Wythenshawe**  
Community Housing Group