



IMPACT REPORT 2024 - 2025

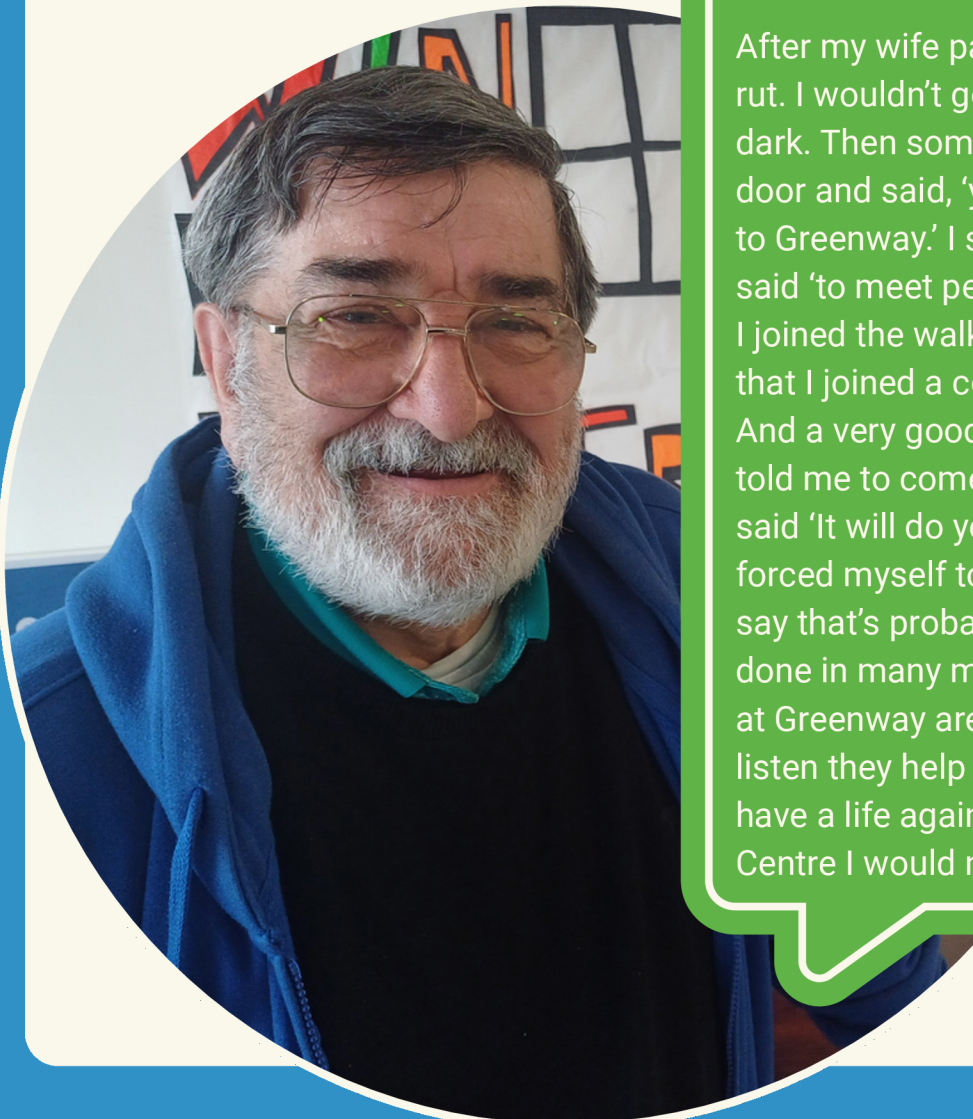


What We Do

As a charity made up of staff, volunteers, and residents, we work together to bring the services people need to our community. We help to raise local voices and energy so Southmead can thrive. Our work supports all ages and stages of life to offer belonging, community connection, and resilience.

We manage Greenway Centre and The Ranch Adventure Playground & Youth Space. They are much loved venues at the heart of our community where sessions, activities, groups, and events help to transform the lives of people like Bert. When Bert was encouraged to visit Greenway Centre he was at a low ebb. After becoming involved in different groups, Bert became a volunteer, and we are so proud that he is now one of our Trustees.

Meet Bert



“After my wife passed away I got in a rut. I wouldn't go out unless it was dark. Then somebody knocked on the door and said, 'you should come over to Greenway.' I said 'what for'. They said 'to meet people, do things'. I joined the walk and talk group. From that I joined a couple of other groups. And a very good friend of my wife's told me to come to Grief Cafe. She said 'It will do you the world of good.' I forced myself to go and I'm going to say that's probably the best thing I've done in many many years. The groups at Greenway are outstanding, they listen they help and I'm just glad now I have a life again. If it was not for this Centre I would not be here. (Bert)

”

From our CEO

AMY KINNEAR

Stories like Bert's typify how we help to transform lives here at Southmead Development Trust. We have been at the heart of the community for 30 years working to ensure people can thrive, and to narrow the inequality gap between Southmead and the rest of the South West.



In this time of instability and insecurity it is easy to feel powerless. Facing issues such as climate change, growing inequality, social isolation, mental health struggles, and youth violence, to name just a few, can be daunting. But here in Southmead we believe in the Power of Community .

We know that change happens when people are connected, and have choice and influence. Our mission is to connect people - with each other, with services, with opportunities, and with the environment. We help to equip people with the skills and resources to solve their own challenges and to shape their own community's future.

Our two centres, Greenway and The Ranch, are at the heart of this mission. Community owned hubs like ours bring people together, helping to reduce isolation, offering vital support to those who need it most, and bringing jobs and opportunities to our area.

The hubs drive our community work and that is why, this year, we have completed our biggest refurbishment programme for 20 years to make our centres more welcoming, sustainable, and fit for the future.

This year we have expanded our programme of community services and events to increase opportunities, promote health and wellbeing, and protect our local environment. The annual Southmead Festival attracted more than 3,000 people, our new employability service has been launched, and numbers at our group play and youth sessions have continued to grow.

This report tells the stories of both individuals and the community, alongside the wider social impact of our work. I hope you enjoy reading it.

We could not do our work without our extraordinary volunteers, staff team, Trustees, and partner organisations - thank you to everyone we have worked with this year. We look forward to seeing even more of you in 2025.

From our Chair

KEVIN SWEENEY



We not only secure and improve local facilities – we are here to improve the lives of people in our community. It is inspiring to see how much our community values the warm welcome they receive in our spaces, and how young people are stepping up to shape the future of Southmead.

Our track record of delivering high-quality places to connect, learn and grow – alongside our ability to evidence real impact – continues to give the community and funders confidence. They can see exactly where their money goes, and the difference it makes.

Please enjoy our report and help us share it as widely as possible to show that as a community-led organisation we are making a huge local impact.



**Staff and
Trustees
at our 2025
Away Day**

At a glance

In 2024/25
we generated
£35,936,478
of social value

*calculated using HACT UK
Social Value Bank



89
community events

65
volunteers

3,550
hours given by our
volunteers

1,235
children, young people
and adults receiving
one-to-one support

11
community spaces
secured or
improved

30
regular groups or
activities every
week

10,000
printed copies of the
Mead community
magazine

182,930
visits to our centres

Greenway Centre, our Community Hub

6,000
Meetings and
activities
facilitated

Our community buildings are essential to the wellbeing of the entire population here in Southmead, and are where agencies offer vital services, and businesses support the local economy and provide employment.

As well as our own events and services, we host space for dozens of wellbeing and health groups, services, meetings, conferences, and are a base for 14 local employers.



Greenway Gym & weekly fitness classes

Predators Cheerleading Gym TNT Fitness

Southmead Rugby Club Dads Rock

Snooker & Badminton Club ARA

Maroon Fist Martial Arts Homestart

Cafe Des Amis Community Cafe

Monthly Market Community Church

Birthday Parties Christmas Panto

Alfresco Disco festival Face Charity

Bristol Dance Bristol Fashion Choir

North Bristol Wellbeing Choir

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Services

Horizon's Drug & Alcohol Support Service

Greenway Learning & Wellbeing

Barclay's Local Changes Restart

Citizen's Advice Bristol Standguide

Bristol & South Glos Food Bank

WECIL disabilities group Sirona Care

Weston College ESOL classes

National Teacher's Institute MyEss

Patient First Southmead Stars

BME Children & Young People Group

Raised in Bristol Nursery Independent Nurse ZigZag Education Bluebell Nursery



Greening Greenway Centre and The Ranch

Aiming
for zero
carbon
by 2030

We want our centres to be sustainable, affordable, and here for the long term. We want to lead the way in the deep retrofit of our buildings to reach zero carbon by 2030. This year, with support from the Youth Investment Fund, we have transformed our spaces for young people and the whole community.



This year we have:

Renovated our Greenrooms achieving high energy performance.



Continued a huge new window replacement project across the Greenway building.



Installed new wooden adventure play equipment at The Ranch.



Added new insulation, double glazing, solar panels, and low energy lighting across both sites.



Community Climate & Nature Action

143
people now
active with
learning, sharing
and creating
solutions

For us climate action and social action are interwoven. The climate crisis affects health, housing, employment, and biodiversity and, therefore, the wellbeing of Southmead's residents. As decisions are made about the City's net zero future we want to champion and demonstrate climate and nature action that is rooted in community, and improves quality of life, as well as achieving decarbonisation.
(Ella, Climate & Nature Action Coordinator)



We have been engaging residents with craft activities at The Ranch, on street pop-up stalls, energy workshops, and interviews. We have heard stories about the impact of energy on health, climate, and budgets. We are co-designing projects with residents for sustainable homes, building skills and a climate resilient neighbourhood. We want to make sure our community is included in projects and skills to help us take action.



When you do the numbers on the cost of the works you might as well turn up the heat and pay the bills.
(Terry)



Community Connection

£3.6m
of social
impact

Wellbeing begins with connection to others and a sense of belonging. Our Community team supports residents to organise things that matter to them. By listening to those who would like to take action, we can help their plans to be rooted in the community and led by residents who feel more empowered. Our hubs are more vibrant than ever with 16 free regular groups for adults, and 14 family community events hosted this year.



245

people attending
groups and feeling a
sense of belonging to
their community

20

community
events bringing
people together

Community Festival

Ukuele & Singalong

Tech device support

Disability friendship

Sporting Memories

Walking & chat Knit & Natter

Lunch Club Pom pom making

Community Badminton

Death Cafe Peace Feast

Winter Celebration Panto

Community theatre

Grief Cafe Coffee Morning

Board games Arts & crafts

Refugee celebration

Writers group



We help to keep residents connected by publishing a popular quarterly magazine - The Mead - as well as a bi-weekly digital newsfeed.

Wellbeing Support For Vulnerable Adults

Neighbours Connect Southmead

£1m
of social
impact

We build tailored support for those who maybe alone, or receiving adult social care.

Neighbours Connect Southmead matches residents with volunteer befrienders, as well as life planning with a trained Occupational Therapist.



“Although I felt very nervous I did it and that’s what counts!
(Tracy after a day-trip out with us)”



75%
of participants
said their
confidence was
higher

Tracy was referred to us when her life changed after major surgery - a partial leg amputation. She had lost her confidence to go out, and felt low. We created goals with Tracy, she came to Lunch Club, and was matched with a volunteer so they could go out and about together.

Without our support Tracy would have been stuck at home, without the confidence to go out using her prosthetic limb. Most likely this would have resulted in her falling, and her mental health would have deteriorated, both requiring further medical treatment.



32 Lunch Clubs, and four day-trips this year, have built participants' confidence to go out, and to live independently in the community.

Wellbeing Support For Vulnerable Adults

Going Home from Hospital

£1m
of social
impact

Going Home from Hospital supports people to connect with their community and services, once they have left hospital.

We support wellbeing, health, and access to needed service with the aim of keeping people well and safe in the community, and to reduce their chances of readmittance to hospital.



“The Link Worker kept in contact, was consistent and present in a non-judgemental way. There should be more of them available.”



When Oliva was discharged from hospital her drinking increased. She was using alcohol to cope with her loss of confidence and with loneliness.

After starting sessions with our Community Link Worker, Oliva stopped drinking and now regularly attends social activities, alongside a peer support group and therapy sessions with Developing Health & Independence at Greenway Centre.

She is reconnecting with her son and starting to enjoy her life again. During one of our last visits she was knitting a cardigan for the baby of one of her carers.



70%
of participants
reported progress
in their wellbeing.



“The service was 100% helpful - I loved you coming to visit[.] Could I have it every day?”

Volunteers

Supporting everything we do

£1.4m
of social
impact

Volunteering builds confidence, skills, and social connection, gained in roles that bring fulfilment. Helping out at our activity groups and Lunch Clubs, being matched with a Neighbours Connect participant, or supporting sessions at The Ranch, we offer something to everyone. Our Volunteer Coordinator trains and supports people to help them feel valued and connected.

94%

felt a sense of
achievement
and purpose



“I have gained confidence, learned new skills, and met so many lovely people (Jill)”

Jill has been a volunteer with us for six years and helps with many of our events and activity groups. She is a befriender for Neighbours Connect Southmead and is one of our Trustees. Her role is helping her, while she is helping others.

65

volunteers
supporting
our work

3350

hours of
time given



Learning & Wellbeing

Adults achieving life goals

New in
2024, with
funding from
The Lottery

£641k
of social
impact

We work with adults providing one-to-one coaching to achieve wellbeing, learning, and employment goals. Anyone can self-refer or be referred by our City partners including; Citizen's Advice, Job Centre Plus, and North Bristol Family Hub. We host a quarterly hub for participants to connect with a range of services to help them.



If it weren't for your support, I wouldn't have been able to achieve this. You've helped me so much throughout my journey, especially through the one-to-one support [.] It's truly been a great service.
(Martin)

77
participants

9
referral
partners



Fitness

For adults and young people

£14.7m
of social impact

We are proud that members tell us we are the 'friendliest and most supportive in Bristol'. We encourage people to come and exercise when otherwise they may not have the confidence, and our buddy system helps members to support each other with motivation and alleviating fear. This kind of support can make all the difference, helping to enable people who might otherwise never access a gym or exercise.

This year we have grown our fitness timetable to offer more than 36 classes and we have launched a new Boxing Zone with boxing related fitness classes for all ages.

Greenway has a wonderful community spirit! - everyone from the general community, to the staff, to the class instructors, are super friendly and welcoming. I don't ever feel judged when I attend the Gym or classes - it's a perfect community hub with a real inclusive vibe.
(Caroline)



Caroline lost her confidence to walk and exercise after a complicated ankle break and long recovery. She joined us to begin with low impact movements at Pilates, and light cardio exercises. Caroline's confidence began to grow and she joined more classes. A year later, Caroline feels healthier, stronger, more energetic, and more mobile than she has done for many years.



1087
Greenway Gym
members

Our membership grew by
30% this year

36
Weekly
Fitness
classes

The Ranch

Adventure Playground & Youth Space

£6.8m
of social
impact

This year more than 1100 children and young people are registered with us. Every week we run three free open access play sessions, and two open access youth sessions.

We are proud to offer a supportive space where parents and carers can reach out to each other or to our team. Also one where we help to develop young people to become leaders, volunteers, role models, or apprentices.

Our focus is on learning through child-led outdoor play, prioritising nature and food skills, cooking, creativity, and climate action.

Children need to create their own order out of chaos and their own chaos out of order. With free, unrestricted play to explore, experiment and invent, The Ranch is a place where friendships and alliances are made, arguments are navigated, and compromises are found. It is a collaborative space for the youngest in this community - a haven. (Matt, Play Manager)



1354

free school
holiday
meals

240

holiday
hours delivered

835

youth and play
hours
delivered



The Ranch Youth Leadership

177

Young People
Regularly
Engaged

Significantly this year our team have facilitated young people to become part of Bristol's Youth Council, helping them to attend meetings and to amplify their voice. Apprentice Youth Worker Mason has been integral to this success, even meeting Minister Lisa Nandy to discuss his ideas for Youth services. Youth Engagement Manager Del has been mentoring Eva and is proud of her achievements.



“Eva identified having stress, anxiety, low self-esteem and confidence, which was influencing her to behave negatively, and sometimes making her aggressive. She agreed to join our Empower programme. She responded well to one-to-one sessions and has developed an interest in supporting others through peer mentoring and/or a career in youth work in the future.

She continues to grow in self confidence and has joined our Young Leaders Group, attending both Bristol City Council's Youth Voice Conference at City Hall, and a Youth Mapping event at Greenway Centre to look at identifying spaces in the community of value to children and young people.

”

“She thought I had amazing ideas for young people development and how to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour and knife crime[. I told her] we are the main youth club for the surrounding areas, and we are also the only support network for young people locally.

”

Children's Mental Health & Wellbeing with Link Forward

£6.8m
of social
impact

My favourite thing about Link Forward is getting to express myself. I loved playing different games with my Link Worker - it showed how competitive we both were. He hated losing! Board Games Cafe is fun. I've noticed changes in our group - some people used to be really nervous but now we're all showing our true selves. Also, there's really nice hot chocolates with milk and the best bit - marshmallows!

My emotions still go up and down and I still feel sad sometimes, like my feelings are going down a slide. But I feel happier a bit more often now. I feel more comfortable. There are people who care for me. I'm a giggly person and when I feel really good it feels like I might fly! (Lily)



Link Forward is for Children aged 7 - 13 years who are referred to us for support with low mood, anxiety, and isolation. They receive enhanced support from a team of specialist child wellbeing workers. Through one-to-one sessions and small groups, children connect with our team during Board Games, Wellbeing Arts, Forest School and Resilience Lab. We have supported 104 children and their parents this year, taking an individualised and whole household approach. We also work with trusted partners to support parents with specific topics like school avoidance, and connect parents through Parent Pop-up sessions throughout the year.

90
hours of
small group
activities

104
children and their
families have
benefitted from
one-to-one support

THANK YOU

TO OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2024 - 2025

We are hugely thankful to everyone who has helped to make our vital work possible this year. You have helped us to transform lives.

I want you to know how much Greenway has changed my life and how happy it makes me feel when coming here. (Katie)



I can do things with people I don't know. It's helped me feel free. After the first [Link Forward] session you learn to trust people. It was amazing. (Jade)

I found the Greenway Centre and so happy I did. My life is so busy with the social events I attend, I've had to buy a diary to put all the dates in. I have a life now! (Mike)

