



St Peter's Community Report

July 2026

What did people in St Peter's say they need to Live Well?

Introduction

Action Together CIO is the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham, Rochdale, and Tameside. We connect people with what's happening in their community, develop community ideas into action, strengthen local organisations, and provide strategic influence for the charity and voluntary sector.

This report aims to build on some of the work which had already taken place in St Peter's such as Use Your Energy (UYE), Action Together's community investment programme to encourage children and young people (CYP) aged 5-18 years, to become more active.

The UYE project enabled CYP to become involved in all aspects from initial design, marketing, application process, interviews through to making decisions on submitted applications.

Our wrap around development offer enabled groups to become more robust in governance delivery, training, finances, organisational effectiveness, volunteer recruitment and offered space to work collaboratively within their communities and Tameside-wide.

Context

Live Well is Greater Manchester's 10-year plan to reduce health, social, and economic inequalities across the region via long-term prevention efforts, driven by community-led activity. The first stage of this plan is to prototype the model, with the aim of using this insight to adapt and scale across other neighbourhoods.

What did we do?

In Tameside, St Peter's ward was selected to prototype approaches to identifying and developing centres, spaces, and offers in a ward. The first step in achieving this was to engage with the local community to better understand what they need to live well, the services and support they rely on and what is missing.



Funding was awarded for Action Together to work with local organisations as delivery partners to conduct community engagement in the St Peter's ward. The ward has some of the poorest health outcomes in the locality, with life expectancies being 5 years lower than the average for the Tameside average.

The deep-rooted connections and trust local VCFSE organisations hold within their local communities places them in a unique and powerful position to gather insight into the challenges people are facing to inform the future directions of the Live Well Implementation Programme.



"I've never even seen a mountain for real and today I stood on the top of a mountain. It was amazing and I just want to climb more mountains."

Participant | Lindley Education Trust Adventure Day



Live Well

everyday support in
every neighbourhood

St Peter's Ward Profile Summary

People in St Peter's experience significant barriers to accessing and engaging in physical activity, including cultural, religious, economic, and intersectional challenges, alongside a lack of safe and accessible outdoor spaces and opportunities, contributing to higher levels of physical inactivity [1].

Population



Population



51.5% identify as male



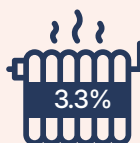
48.5% identify as female



Households



Fuel poor households



Houses without Central Heating

St Peter's population increased by almost a quarter between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. The population distribution of St Peter's is considerably younger on average than Tameside as a whole.

St Peter's has the lowest proportion of white ethnicity population out of all Tameside wards at 70.3%, with a considerable proportion of the population of Pakistani ethnicity at 15.2%. The ward also has Indian, Bangladeshi and Black populations that are higher than the Tameside average.

Around 1 in 5 St Peter's households are estimated to be fuel poor, and 1 in 30 lack central heating [2].

Health Inequalities



People with long term illness/disability



Tameside Avg 76.1 yrs

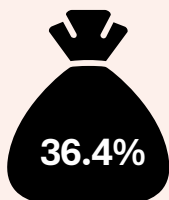


Tameside Avg 80.3 yrs

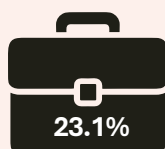
St Peter's has the second highest rate of self-reported poor health and limiting long-term illness or disability among Tameside wards.

Male and female life expectancy in the ward is the lowest in Tameside, at about five years below the average, and premature mortality rates are the highest of all wards. However, chronic condition prevalence in St Peter's is only slightly above the Tameside average, which may reflect its younger population or under-reporting [2].

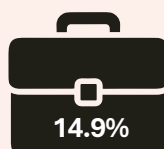
Economic Inequalities



Economically inactive



Out of work benefit claimants



ESA claimants

Gross disposable household income is significantly lower in Tameside at £16,659, compared to £20,425 in England.

The St Peter's ward consistently records the highest unemployment and out-of-work benefit claimant rates across all of Tameside [2].

Approximately one third of adult residents in St Peter's have no qualifications, with the ward being the second highest in Tameside for this indicator. A lower proportion of the St Peter's adult population have 5+ GCSEs or equivalent, 2+ A-Levels or equivalent or a degree level qualification compared to both the Tameside and England averages [2].

Community Conversations

This project took a community-led approach to data collection, recognising that local organisations know their communities best and have established, trusted relationships that place them in the strongest position to gather meaningful insight.

The Keep Improve Start Stop (KISS) formula was used as broad guidance for groups to collect insight. Five community groups were awarded funding to deliver the project; these formed the St Peter's Partnership:

- Holy Trinity Community Centre
- Lindley Educational Trust
- LEAP Children and Families Centre
- Active Tameside
- Prime Active Communities CIC (PAC)

Collectively, the groups cover a wide range of demographics and communities across the area and were selected for their complementary strengths and strong existing community links.

This will help ensure that Live Well is shaped by the people and communities it serves.

By listening to residents in the St Peter's ward, we can identify local priorities, build on community assets and strengths, and shape centres, spaces and offers that enable people to live well, with the right support in the right place.



“The women who participated were very engaged...they want community focused initiatives that support individuals, especially those with complex, long term health related conditions or social needs.”

ESOL Engagement Session | Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity Community Centre is a long-established and trusted community hub in St Peter's Ward, Ashton-under-Lyne, delivering a wide range of support and activities for local residents. The Centre has strong links with South Asian communities, particularly Pakistani-heritage families, and engages residents facing barriers such as social isolation and language needs, supported by integrated ESOL provision.

Lindley Educational Trust, through its long-standing delivery of Ashton Youth Club, provides youth clubs, sports and outdoor activities for children, young people and families in the Holy Trinity area. The organisation has strong links with local, ethnically diverse communities, with staff drawn from the area and shaped by lived experience, enabling culturally sensitive engagement and trusted relationships with children, young people and families.



LEAP Children and Families Centre is based in the St Peter's Ward, operating from The LEAP Centre and two community allotment sites. Founded by local people and embedded in the neighbourhood, LEAP works across children, families and adults using community-based hubs, volunteer pathways and its Green Services social enterprise to support participation, skill development and improved wellbeing in an area facing high levels of deprivation.

Active Tameside is a local charity delivering inclusive sport, physical activity and wellbeing programmes to help people of all ages live healthier, more active lives within their communities. Through weekly multi-sport and wellbeing sessions for children and young people, alongside family-focused community days, Active Tameside has developed strong links with local families.



Prime Active Communities CIC (PAC) is a Tameside-based organisation specialising in youth-led media and creative engagement, delivering activities ranging from detached youth work to drama, music and filmmaking workshops. Working in partnership with councils, housing associations, community groups and the police, PAC takes an asset-based community development approach to support young people to explore and share their views, experiences and ideas through creative media.

Community Conversations



Groups primarily used surveys to collect data at a range of regular services including:

- ESOL sessions for women
- Fast club for children aged 7-12
- Community fun day event
- Family day trips and walks
- Sports clubs for boys aged 8-13
- Cook and eat sessions
- Coffee mornings
- Podcasts
- Detached youth sessions in the local area
- Local dads' group
- Football tournaments
- Zipline and adventure course activity

Engagement primarily reached children, with additional participation from young people, adults and older adults.

Many activities involved mixed age groups (such as family and community sessions), meaning participants may be represented across more than one category.

The groups collected age and ethnicity information during the sessions. However, in some cases this information was not collected for each individual. As a result, the demographics show an overall picture of who attended rather than exact numbers.

Asian/Asian British people were the most represented across activities, followed by mixed/multiple ethnic groups and White people, with Black/African/Caribbean/Black British people also represented across several sessions.

Who did we not engage with?

While the engagement reached a broad range of residents, some groups were underrepresented. We had limited engagement from men (particularly White men) and older adults, meaning their views and experiences may not be fully reflected in the findings.



1352+

People engaged



33

Activities



“There are some good services in the area, doctors etc but there needs to be more community cohesion.”

Participant | LEAP Family Fun Day

KEEP



What services, support, or community spaces do you currently rely on in St Peter's that help you to live well?

Outdoor spaces

Communities value access to outdoor green spaces, including local parks and football and hockey pitches.

These spaces support informal activity like walking, playing with friends, as well as organised sport sessions.

Communal outdoor seating areas are also valued as they support people to spend time outdoors.

Trusted staff & volunteers

People highlighted the value of trusted, visible, and easily accessible staff and volunteers across community spaces and activities.

Outreach workers, youth workers, and young leaders were seen as positive role models whose local knowledge and presence supported engagement and ongoing participation.

Community events

People wanted to keep community organised events which bring people together and promote participation, inclusion and overall wellbeing.

These events also provide an opportunity to connect with local staff, volunteers and other community members.

Third spaces

People highlighted the importance of third spaces, such as family hubs, churches, sports facilities, as places that foster social connection, create a sense of community and provide access to local resources.

These spaces offer opportunities to take part in activities, build relationships and find information or support.

Affordable local activities

People want to keep a wide range of free and affordable local activities, such as youth clubs, football sessions, baby groups, sports clubs. Adults and older adults benefit from English lessons, craft groups and chair-based exercise classes.

Young people especially value sessions that promote physical activity, which brings opportunities to socialise and build confidence.

Culturally relevant activities, such as fast clubs, are particularly valued as they strengthen a sense of belonging.



IMPROVE

What services, support, or community spaces are helpful but could be improved to help you live well in your local community?



Clean & maintained local spaces

Improving local areas was a priority, with people highlighting the need for spaces to be cleaner, better maintained and more welcoming.

Litter, dog mess, and poorly maintained parks and football pitches were seen as key issues, with a need for regular upkeep, more bins and ongoing investment to make these spaces more appealing to use.

Safety

People highlighted the need to improve safety in their local community, particularly in parks and green spaces. Concerns about anti-social behaviour and feeling unsafe can limit how often these spaces are used for activity.

Some suggested this could be helped by building stronger relationships between local services, such as police, community organisations and residents.

Affordability & access to low-cost activities

Cost was identified as a barrier to participation, with some people finding gym memberships and activities too expensive.

People also highlighted that free or discounted opportunities are limited, with calls for more low-cost options and community-based activities.

Infrastructure & resources for activity

Calls for improved and more accessible facilities, including better equipment in youth clubs, more suitable park provision for older children and young people and additional outdoor seating.

Young people identified the importance of safe, dedicated spaces in which they feel welcome and are not moved on by others. People highlighted the need for improved indoor sports facilities to support year-round activity.

Range & inclusivity of activities

People would like to see more activities that meet the needs of all age groups, particularly younger children, young people, and older adults. More whole-family activities, improved access and inclusion for those living with a disability, SEN and English as a second language.

More girls-only activities to better reflect their specific needs and interests and to create spaces where they feel comfortable and empowered to participate.

Wider range of activities needed, such as cricket, padel, volleyball, crafts, baking and dance.

Knowledge of support & activities

Increased awareness of support and activities happening in the local area would be beneficial, as existing offers and spaces may not be widely known about or easily accessible, e.g. there is no social media for what is happening in the local area.



START

What services, support or activities are currently missing your local community that would help you live well?



Invest in new spaces where people can be physically active

People wanted investment in infrastructure which promotes physical activity, such as a permanent bike track in the park, outdoor gym equipment, AstroTurf pitches, basketball areas, football pitches and open field spaces.

Suggestions also included adding more play equipment in parks, developing underused green spaces like Millennium Green and installing more bins. There was also strong support for the return of Ashton swimming baths.

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Access to local health & community safety support

People highlighted the need for more accessible local health support, including suggestions for a local clinic or regular community-based surgery to better support people facing barriers such as language or childcare.

People wanted local services to have a more visible presence, particularly through greater engagement between the police, residents and young people. They also suggested practical measures, such as community-led initiatives and increased patrols, to help make shared spaces like parks feel safer.

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Activities & support for specific groups

People wanted more opportunities to get involved in sports and creative activities, such as badminton, boxing, basketball, dance and crafts. They also identified a need for more youth clubs and better employment support. A focus on provision for a wide range of groups; boys and girls, young people, individuals with disabilities, neurodiverse people, single parents, women-only groups, new mums, older adults and families.

Affordability remained a key priority, keeping activities free or low-cost. Young people highlighted an interest in more opportunities tailored to their interests, such as mountain biking, bike maintenance, technology and gaming.

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STOP

What makes it harder for you or people you know to live well in St Peter's?



Anti-social behaviour & safety concerns

People highlighted concerns about anti-social behaviour, including drug use, vaping, vandalism, and disruptive behaviour in community spaces, particularly parks.

These issues make people feel unsafe and discourage the community from using local spaces and taking part in activities.

Young people shared concerns about safety, including experiences of racism, bullying, and fear of knife crime. They described feeling threatened at times and lacking safe places to gather, adding to their reluctance to use local spaces.

Fly-tipping & litter

Fly-tipping and litter were described as persistent problems that residents want to stop impacting their neighbourhood. Although rubbish is cleared, its repeated return makes the area feel unclean and neglected, affecting pride in the local environment and willingness to use outdoor spaces.

Housing challenges

Housing shortages and instability were raised as challenges residents want to stop affecting their ability to live and thrive in St Peter's.

Single parents and larger families were particularly impacted, with limited housing options and rising costs contributing to ongoing instability.

Parking & traffic concerns

Residents highlighted concerns around parking and traffic, including vehicles blocking pavements, overcrowded streets and increasing congestion.

These issues can make roads feel unsafe and difficult to navigate, particularly for pedestrians and more vulnerable groups.

Travel & cost of living barriers

The cost of living and travel expenses were highlighted as barriers that residents want to see reduced.

The need to travel outside St Peter's for activities and services places a financial strain on households and can limit access for those who may find the journey difficult to afford or manage, especially for those with disabilities.



Recommendations for taking Live Well forward from our St Peter's Ward

1 Support and develop inclusive and flexible community led spaces

Physical spaces that bring people together, including parks, community centres, and youth clubs, are highly valued. These multi-purpose spaces support social connections, a sense of community, and access to activities and volunteering opportunities.

There is a need for more inclusive spaces that help people build social connections and a sense of belonging, including spaces for young people, older people, disabled and neurodiverse people, as well as social clubs and places to study or co-work.



2 Invest and recognise the value of trusted people and relationships

Trusted staff, volunteers, and community leaders play an important role in supporting local communities to live well.

Youth workers, outreach staff, and local volunteers are valued by residents as approachable, visible and consistent figures who build relationships, act as positive role models, and help people feel comfortable accessing activities and support and connect people into wider activities and support.

3 Support communities to develop more choice of affordable activities for everyone

There is a need for a wider range of activities that reflect different ages, interests and diverse needs.

This includes activities for young people, women-only groups, families, disabled and neurodiverse people, as well as ESOL provision, creative sessions, walking groups, sports activities and culturally relevant opportunities that strengthen belonging.

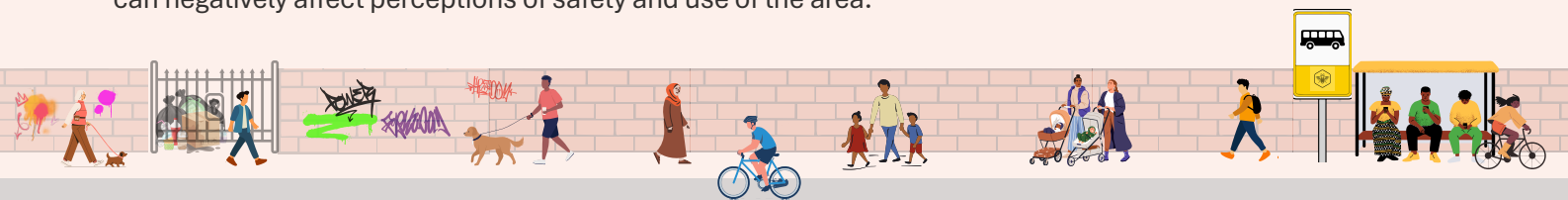
Community events also play an important role in bringing people together. Ensuring activities are free or low-cost, local, and accessible is important to enable more people to take part.



4 Work with communities to help them feel safe

Safety is a concern, with fear of anti-social behaviour, racism and bullying, affecting how people use local spaces. Families not feeling safe using public spaces, and young people want safe places to gather where they feel welcome and not moved on.

There is a need for a more welcoming town centre, as issues such as poor lighting and unsafe street environments can negatively affect perceptions of safety and use of the area.



5 Support more opportunities for physical activity where we live

People value access to parks, green spaces, and community facilities for both informal and organised activity. There is a need for more accessible indoor and outdoor opportunities to be active, including sports clubs, multi-use spaces that can be used year-round and a wider range of activities for different ages and abilities. People also want environments that make it easier to be active, with improvements such as walking and cycling routes, outdoor gyms, and more green space.

These spaces support physical activity, social interaction and mental wellbeing, but their impact depends on them being safe, clean, well-maintained and accessible.

6 Work with residents to create clean and welcoming environments

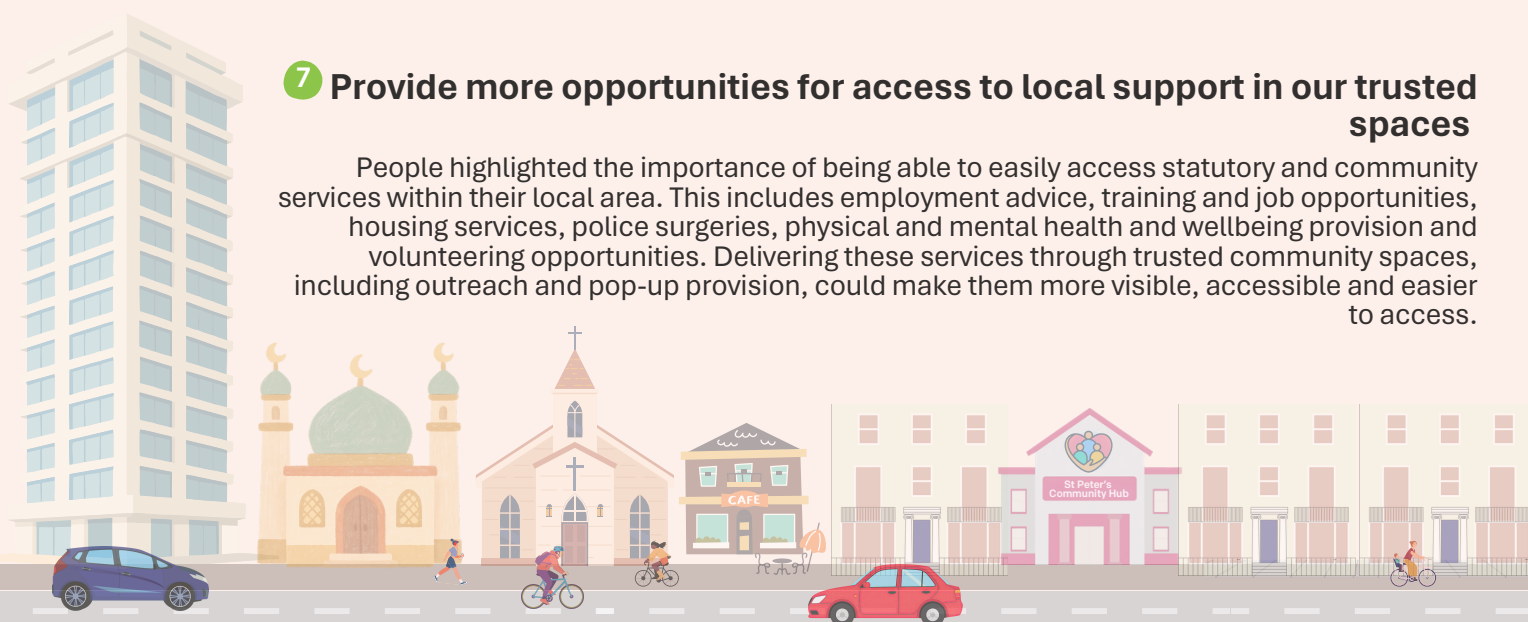
The quality and cleanliness of local spaces matter. Litter, fly-tipping, dog mess and poorly maintained parks reduce pride in the area and discourage use, highlighting the need for cleaner, better maintained community spaces.

In addition to being clean and safe, local spaces should be welcoming, inclusive, and equipped with amenities such as public toilets. Create more opportunities for joint working to address the issues raised.



7 Provide more opportunities for access to local support in our trusted spaces

People highlighted the importance of being able to easily access statutory and community services within their local area. This includes employment advice, training and job opportunities, housing services, police surgeries, physical and mental health and wellbeing provision and volunteering opportunities. Delivering these services through trusted community spaces, including outreach and pop-up provision, could make them more visible, accessible and easier to access.



8 Help residents understand what is available and create ongoing community conversations so people can have more of a say about what they need and want

People want clearer information about what is happening in their area, including local services, activities, spaces and events.

Participants also highlighted the importance of having more opportunities to communicate local needs and influence decisions, ensuring community voices are heard and reflected in local priorities and services.

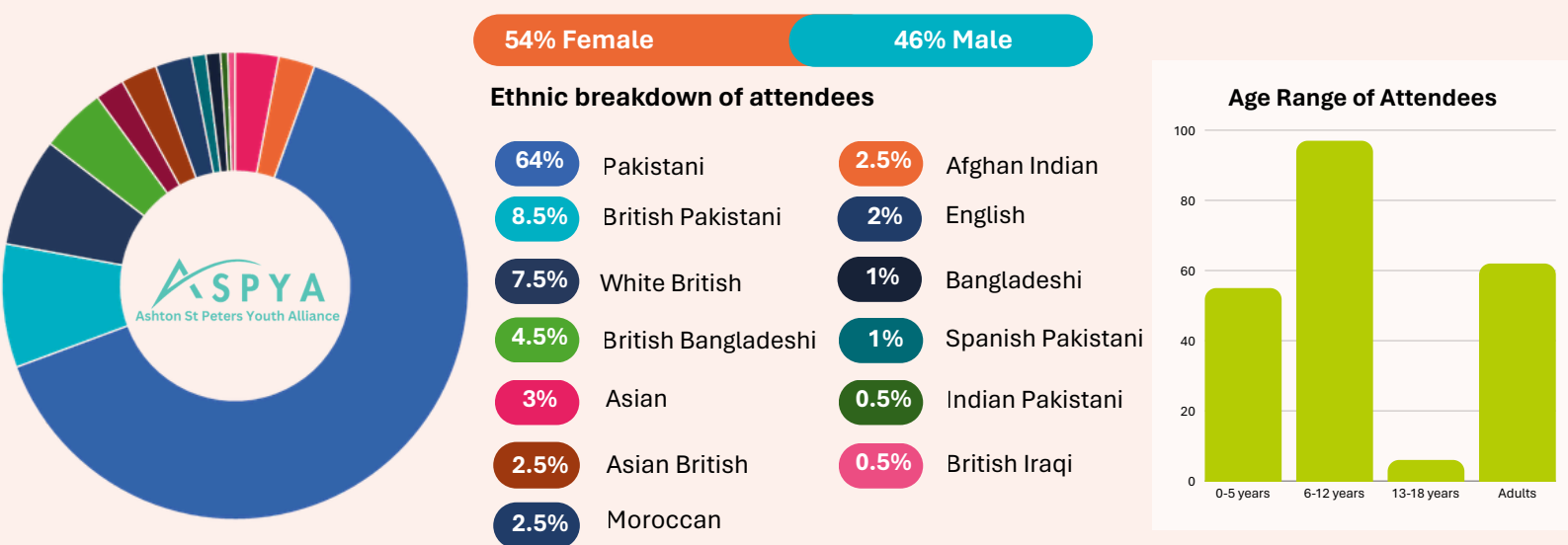


Case Study | ASPYA Engagement Fun Day



On Wednesday 3 June, ASPYA partners held their second community Fun Day of the year, part funded through the Live Well Fund. The event was free to attend and offered a wide range of activities for local families, including a pony patch, virtual reality headsets, a cycle track, arts and crafts, a bouncy castle, as well as free food and ice cream. The ASPYA fun days aim to bring people together, strengthen community cohesion, provide access to free family activities, and raise awareness of local organisations and the support services available to residents.

Throughout the day, project partners engaged with attendees to gather their views on living in St Peter's, exploring both the strengths of the area and what residents feel they need to live well. These conversations provided valuable insight into local priorities and opportunities to further support the community.



"St Peter's Ward have spoken! It's been brilliant meeting so many community minded parents and families who are keen to get more involved in local life".

ASPYA Staff Member