

**The Trafford and Stockport College Group**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**BELONG | BELIEVE | ACHIEVE**

## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

### **As Chair of Governors, I am delighted to introduce the College Group's Annual Report.**

It's twelve months since we launched our ambitious Strategic Plan, and this Annual Report reflects the work which has been done since then to bring it to life.

The vision expressed in the Plan around '**Leading the way for a City Region where everyone has the education and skills to succeed in life and work**' is a bold statement. All visions and plans need detailed and consistent action to bring them to fruition and provide impetus.

Consequently, the Strategic Plan's first Annual Report details the way in which we have tackled the first twelve months and demonstrates our success to date.

Overall, the achievements of the last year have been highly significant and a strong first step in fulfilling our six-year Strategic Plan.

On behalf of all governors I would like to thank James Scott, our CEO and his excellent staff team who achieved so much in a relatively short time.

I commend the report to all our stake holders, our colleagues, customers and communities in the two boroughs. Enjoy a very positive read.



**Graham Luccock**  
Chairperson of the Corporation



## CEO'S FOREWORD

**Over the past year since launching our Strategic Plan 2024-30, we have made significant strides in delivering our ambitions and fulfilling our purpose to unlock the potential for the successful futures of our students, colleagues, local businesses and communities.**

Our Vision is to lead the way for a city region where everyone has the education and skills to succeed in life and work. It is a vision aligned to the Greater Manchester Strategy and the government's ambitions as recently articulated in the Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper.

In the first year of our new strategy, we have achieved much against our “Big Six” Strategic Priorities. We have seen further improvements in the outcomes for students, developed new employer partnerships, consolidated our role as a community anchor institution, grown income to over £60m and continued to invest in our colleagues and our facilities.

Together with many of our partners, we remain committed to driving forward a sustainable future and responding to the evolving opportunities across our local, regional, and national landscapes. By supporting countless young people and adult learners, we've created a place to belong, where individuals are empowered and lives are transformed.

Thank you for being part of this journey. **Together, we are making a difference.**



**James Scott**

CEO of the Trafford & Stockport College Group



# DELIVERING THE VISION

The **TSCG Strategic Plan 2024–30 Annual Report (Year 1, FY25)** outlines the first year's progress against six strategic priorities for the College Group. The plan is designed to be flexible and responsive to a changing sector, with a vision to lead in education and skills for the city region.

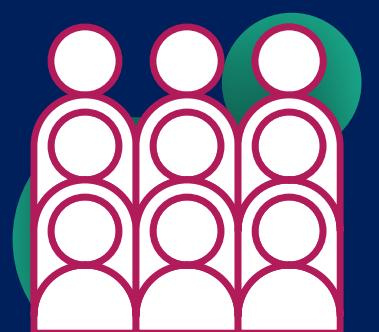
## ABOUT US



OVER  
**6000**  
YOUNG PEOPLE



OVER  
**6000**  
ADULTS



OVER  
**900**  
COLLEAGUES



**1500**  
APPRENTICES



OVER  
**400**  
UNIVERSITY CENTRE STUDENTS



ANNUAL INCOME OVER  
**£60m**

# OUR BIG 6 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

**1** Providing a curriculum that delivers the skills and our economy needs – locally, regionally and nationally.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

**2** Positioning TSCG as the employer of choice for the further education workforce.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

**3** Delivering an exceptional student experience.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

**4** Ensuring financial stability and sustainability.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

**5** Driving innovation in technology, facilities and skills delivery.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

**6** Champion Environmental and Social Principles to Foster a Purposeful College Community.

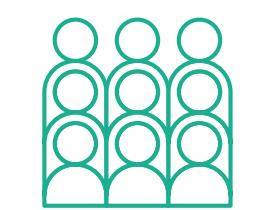


# YEAR 1 HEADLINE ACHIEVEMENTS

## STAFF SATISFACTION

**88.5%**

(up from previous year).



## HE STUDENT SATISFACTION

**93%**

(significant increase on previous year).



## 16-19 ACHIEVEMENT RATES

**87%**

(from 79% in FY22),  
above national average.



## INCOME

**£60m**

(from £52m in FY24).



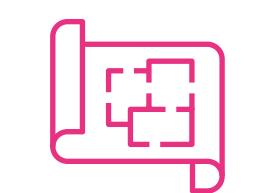
## BELONG PROJECT

Launched, with **significant reductions** in suspensions and exclusions.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

**Cheadle Redevelopment completed;**  
new innovation spaces launched.



## POLITICAL LITERACY

**1000+**

students registered to vote. UK FE first for automatic voter registration.



## FE STUDENT SATISFACTION

**91%**

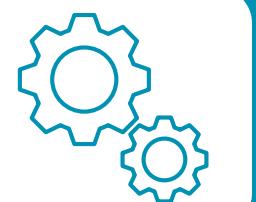
(up from previous year).



## APPRENTICESHIP ACHIEVEMENT RATES

**62%**

(from 47% in FY22),  
now in line with national rates.



## GCSE OUTCOMES

Maintained just **above national rates** despite increased entries.



## FINANCIAL HEALTH

**GOOD**

rating.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**25%**

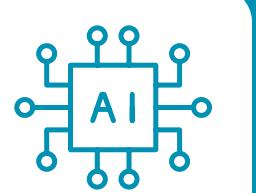
increase in community learning activity and over 70 organisations supported the **Community Partnership**.



## EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

**150+**

SMEs supported with digital, cyber and AI training.



## WORLDSKILLS UK

**Most student registrations** for the fourth year running.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PROGRESS



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

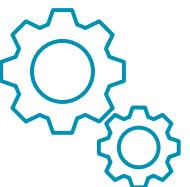
## Providing a curriculum that delivers the skills our economy needs – locally, regionally and nationally.

In Year 1, TSCG made strong progress toward aligning its curriculum with regional economic priorities. While some targets were impacted by national factors, the College Group saw growth in key areas including apprenticeships, adult education, and employer engagement, supported by new initiatives like the Airport Skills Hub and strategic partnerships.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



**GROWTH IN T LEVEL LEARNERS.**



**APPRENTICESHIP RECRUITMENT ABOVE PREVIOUS YEAR.**



**ADULT LEVEL 3 RECRUITMENT SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE TARGET.**



**NEW AIRPORT SKILLS HUB AND ADVISORY BOARD LAUNCHED.**



**FE INNOVATION PROGRAMME: 150 SMES ENGAGED.**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – PROGRESS IN ACTION

## FEIF STATISTICS



**LAUNCH OF...**  **thehive** | **SHARP**  
Developed in partnership with

## CASE STUDY VIDEOS (click to view)



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

## **Positioning TSCG as the employer of choice for the further education workforce.**

TSCG is committed to creating a supportive, rewarding workplace. In Year 1, we completed a major leadership transformation, improved staff wellbeing and satisfaction, and launched the new TSCG Deal for Colleagues. With reduced turnover and stronger professional development, we've met all staff-related targets, laying the foundation for a thriving organisational culture.

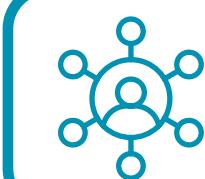
### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE**



**NEW TSCG DEAL FOR COLLEAGUES LAUNCHED.**



**STAFF SATISFACTION AND WELLBEING IMPROVED;  
COMPETITIVE SALARIES.**



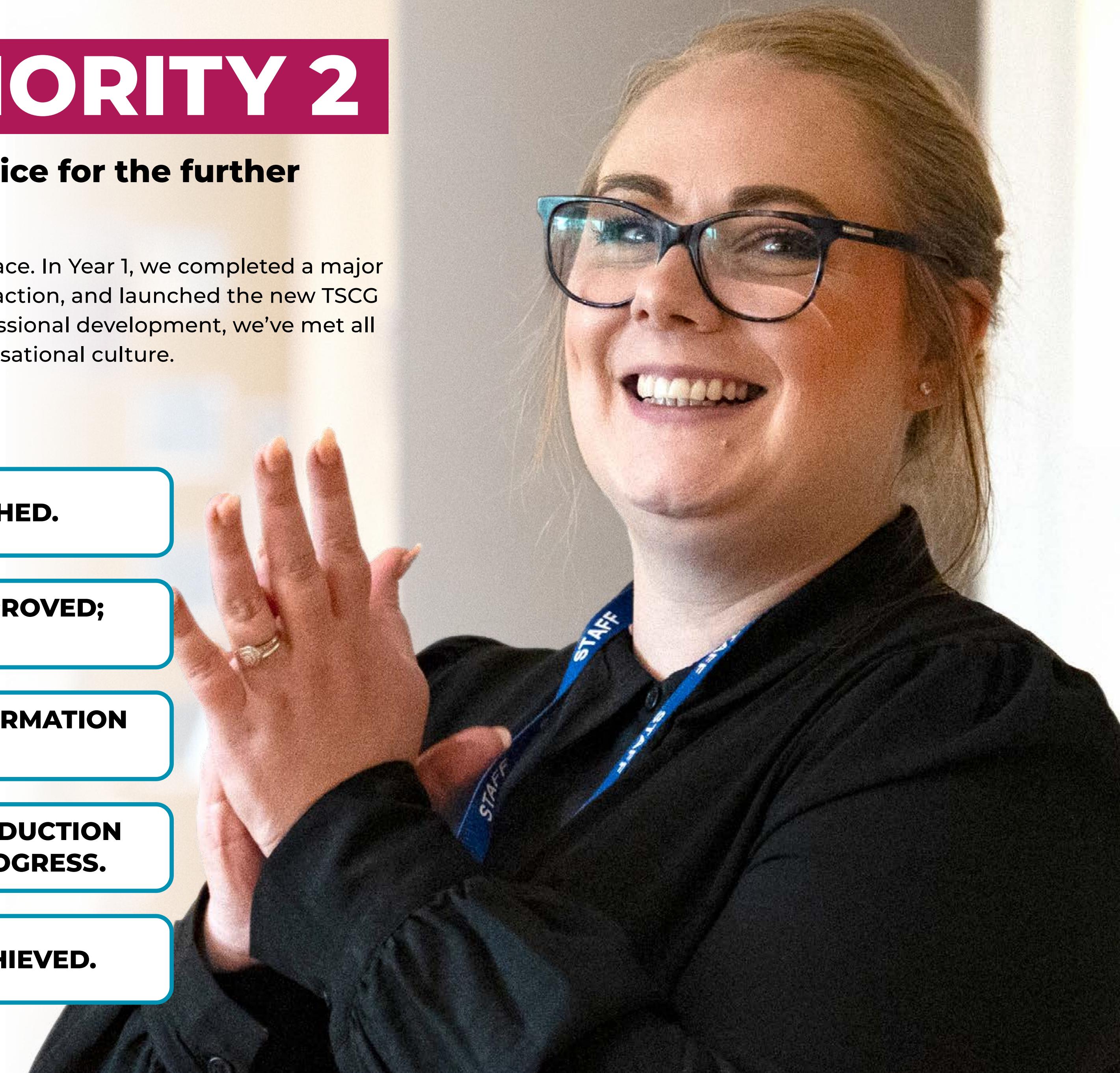
**LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT TRANSFORMATION  
COMPLETED.**



**STAFF TURNOVER REDUCED; IMPROVED INDUCTION  
AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PROGRESS.**



**IMPACT: ALL STAFF-RELATED TARGETS ACHIEVED.**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – PROGRESS IN ACTION

## CASE STUDY: FROM INDUSTRY TO EDUCATION

James Hollingworth made the transition from working hands-on in industry to shaping future talent in the classroom at Stockport College. Starting as a technician, he was supported through professional development and training to become a Lecturer in Construction and Sustainability, demonstrating TSCG's commitment to nurturing internal talent and bridging industry expertise with education.

***“ I found it very easy to transition from site, into teaching, due to the support that the college put in place for me. I came through the doors working here as a Technician and undertook a 0.5 role where I was teaching whilst I was studying for my Level 5 Diploma. The college fully supported me and helped me progress on my journey into teaching. ”***



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

## Delivering an exceptional student experience.

Year 1 saw meaningful gains in student outcomes across TSCG. Key performance indicators for 16–19 learners, apprenticeships, and destinations improved, student attendance continued to rise in comparison to recent years. The Belong Project helped reduce exclusions, and new strategies for SEND and vulnerable learners enhanced support. Enrichment and political literacy initiatives expanded, contributing to a more inclusive and engaging student experience.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



**IMPROVED KPIS FOR 16–19, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND POSITIVE DESTINATIONS.**



**BELONG PROJECT REDUCED SUSPENSIONS/EXCLUSIONS.**



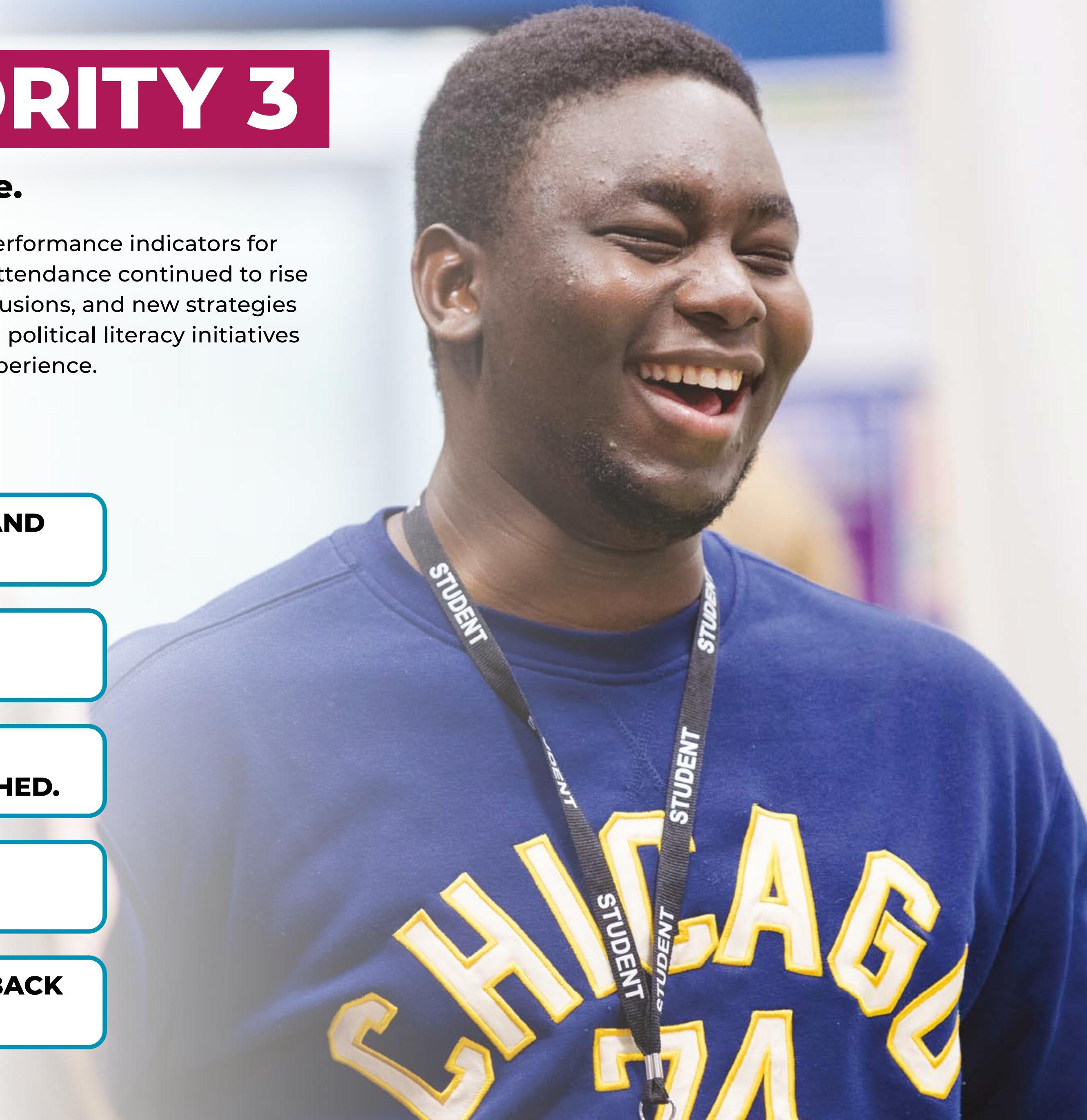
**SEND AND VULNERABLE LEARNERS STRATEGY LAUNCHED; ALTERNATIVE PROVISION ESTABLISHED.**



**POLITICAL LITERACY AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDED.**



**IMPACT: MOST STUDENT OUTCOMES AND FEEDBACK MEASURES ACHIEVED.**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – PROGRESS IN ACTION

## DEVELOPING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE



**OVER 55%**  
of eligible students are already  
registered to vote.



## MOODBOX MONDAY

empowers students to vote weekly on  
local and national issues.



**REGULAR MP CLINICS**  
give students face-to-face access to  
their **Parliamentary representative**.

**POLITICAL LITERACY**  
embedded in the  
curriculum.

Empowering  
students for the  
**2029**  
voting age change.

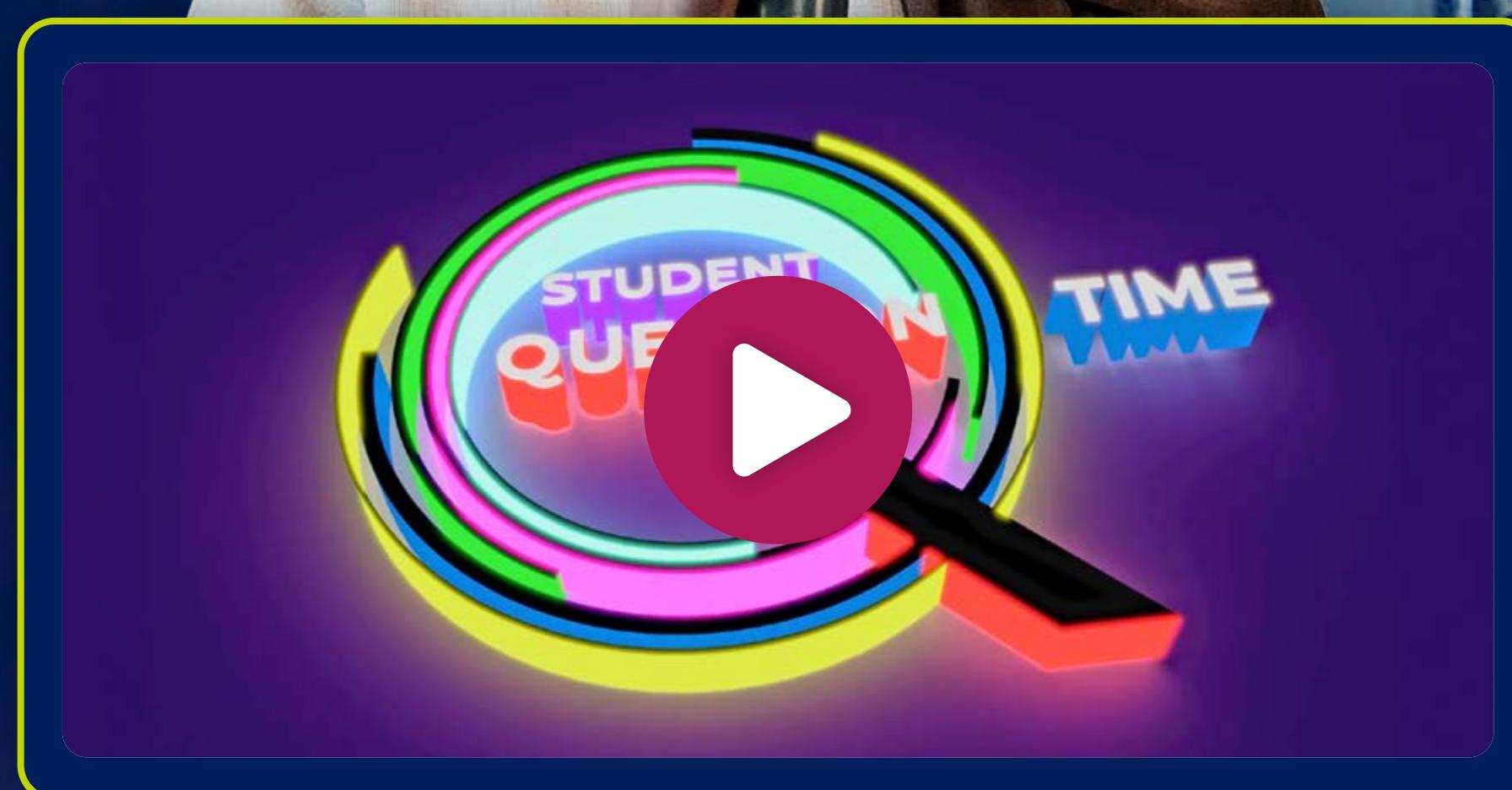


**3000+**

of our students are engaged in  
enrichment activities. Including  
**workshops, community projects**  
& **industry experience**.



**STUDENT QUESTION TIME** (click to view)



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

## Ensuring financial stability and sustainability.

TSCG delivered a strong financial performance in Year 1, meeting all key targets for income, EBITDA, and financial health. With a refreshed marketing strategy, a robust capital investment plan, and improved procurement practices, the College Group remains well-positioned for sustainable growth and long-term resilience.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



**INCOME, EBITDA, AND FINANCIAL HEALTH TARGETS ACHIEVED.**



**NEW MARKETING STRATEGY AND IMPROVED EVENTS CALENDAR.**



**STAFF AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLANS IN PLACE.**



**PROCUREMENT STRATEGY UPDATED FOR COMPLIANCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY.**



**IMPACT: ALL FINANCIAL TARGETS ACHIEVED.**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – PROGRESS IN ACTION

## FUNDING SNAPSHOT



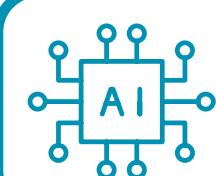
	<b>£41.7m</b>
	<b>£7.5m</b>
	<b>£3.2m</b>
	<b>£3m</b>
	<b>£2.6m</b>
	<b>£2m</b>

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

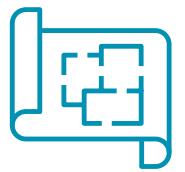
## Driving innovation in technology, facilities and skills delivery.

TSCG made solid progress in modernising its digital and physical infrastructure. A digital entitlement is now in place, with AI integration underway and a new Chief Technology Officer leading the development of a group-wide DDaT strategy. Estates improvements, including the Cheadle redevelopment, are advancing, and satisfaction with resources has risen among staff and students, marking a strong foundation for future innovation.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



**DIGITAL ENTITLEMENT IN PLACE, AI PLAN IN DEVELOPMENT; AI TOOLS IN PLACE FOR TEACHING STAFF.**



**ESTATES STRATEGY LAUNCHED;  
CHEADLE REDEVELOPMENT ON  
TRACK.**



**STAFF AND STUDENT  
SATISFACTION WITH  
RESOURCES IMPROVED.**



**NEW CHIEF TECHNOLOGY  
OFFICER APPOINTED; DDAT  
STRATEGY IN DEVELOPMENT.**



**IMPACT: MOST TARGETS  
ACHIEVED; SOME ESTATE  
IMPROVEMENTS PENDING.**



**INVESTMENT IN IMMERSIVE  
TECHNOLOGY SPACES.**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 – PROGRESS IN ACTION

## CASE STUDY: INNOVATION HUB EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

Employers across the region are increasingly using TSCG's Innovation Hub to host events, deliver training, and collaborate in immersive, tech-enabled spaces. These facilities offer a dynamic environment for community engagement, strengthening local partnerships and supporting workforce development.

**“ We used the *incredible immersive space* at TSCG, near our wonderful Art Gallery. What a *superb addition* to our creative and driven town. ”**

- Stockport Library



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

## Providing civic leadership to positively influence our communities.

TSCG continues to strengthen its role as a civic leader in the region. In Year 1, the College Group deepened partnerships with over 70 organisations, expanded community learning, and advanced its sustainability agenda, achieving ISO 14001 certification and signing the “Race to Zero” pledge. With EDI embedded in its culture and inclusive governance in place, TSCG is driving meaningful social value and long-term impact across its communities.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



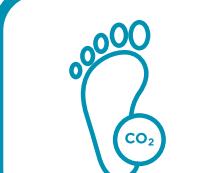
**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MODEL STRENGTHENED (70+ PARTNERS).**



**COMMUNITY LEARNING ACTIVITY INCREASED; £1M FUNDING VALUE.**



**ISO 14001 CERTIFICATION ACHIEVED ACROSS ALL SITES.**



**CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCED; “RACE TO ZERO” INITIATIVE SIGNED.**



**EDI EMBEDDED IN CULTURE; 94% STAFF AGREEMENT.**



**SOCIAL VALUE CALCULATED AT £1.1M.**



**GOVERNANCE SELF-ASSESSED AS GOOD; BOARD DIVERSITY SUPPORTS INCLUSION.**



**IMPACT: MOST EDIB AND SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS ACHIEVED.**

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6 – PROGRESS IN ACTION

## CASE STUDY: AGE UK STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP

Every month, our campuses open their doors to Age UK Stockport members for **Welcome Wednesdays**. Our students offer hair and beauty treatments, digital literacy support, plumbing demonstrations, and energy-saving advice.

During **Digital Drop-In sessions**, student volunteers support Age UK Stockport members to use digital devices safely and effectively.

Beyond just partnering with the College, Age UK Stockport met The Light Cinema at a Community Partnerships event and are now working together to put on **dementia screenings** and even **dementia discos** for the local community.

This was one of the first Community Partnerships projects – running since 2018 – and is a brilliant example of communities getting together to share learning, advice and skills. It's also just really good fun!

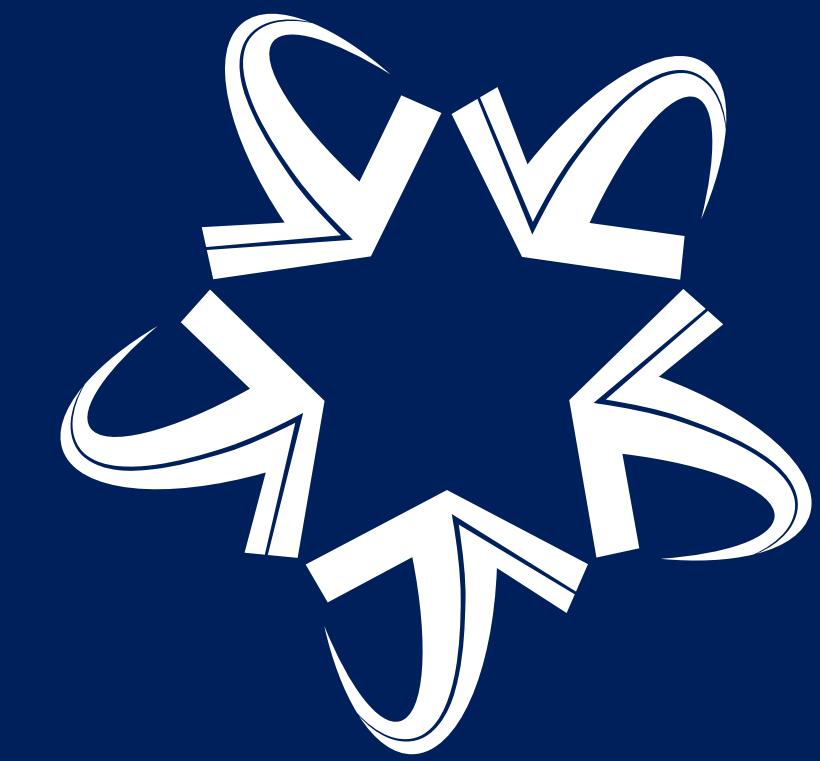
**“** *From a meeting back in 2018, I had a conversation about older and younger generations working together to form a wonderful partnership of intergenerational work. Over the years this has evolved and numbers have grown, and this has been such an inspirational project, older and younger ages working well together and sharing experiences.*

*We are so proud to be involved in working with the Trafford college group and the great relationship we have with them, and we look forward to further ideas/ projects for the future. **”***

**Hazel Batty**

Senior Lead for Communities and Hospital discharge services  
Age UK Stockport





**TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

