

MAXLIFE

MAGAZINE OF CITY CARE PARTNERSHIP



INTERNATIONAL FEST 2025!



**A DAY TO REMEMBER:
10 YEAR VOW/RENEWAL**



**DIDSBURY FESTIVAL:
COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER**



**RECRUITMENT DAYS:
EXCELLENT RESULTS**



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to this festival edition of MaxLife!

This issue is full of joy, celebration and community spirit. We open with Lisa and Matthew's heartfelt vow renewal, a beautiful day that showed the power of love, friendship and support.

The Didsbury Festival reminded us why community matters. From creative artwork and plant displays to reconnecting with old friends, it was a true celebration of belonging. We were also proud to raise £500 for the Tree of Life Foundation.

InternationalFest 2025 lit up the summer with vibrant stalls, delicious food, music and a colourful parade. The day celebrated cultures from across the globe, filling the air with energy, laughter and connection.

Alongside these events, we mark new journeys. Estefania has stepped into her new role at Yew Tree, bringing creativity and passion, while Tyler has settled happily into his new home. We're also delighted to share Katie's move, an exciting new chapter for her that reflects the spirit of growth and opportunity across City Care.

On the recruitment front, our inclusive hiring events have had excellent results. Six roles were offered on the same day as they were interviewed, helping more people start rewarding careers in care. We also supported veterans moving into social care, recognising the unique skills and values they bring.

With milestone birthdays, summer trips, upcoming seasonal events and our Christmas party on the horizon, this edition is a true celebration of life at City Care Partnership.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your stories, photos and memories make MaxLife what it is; a reflection of the people and community that make City Care so special. Enjoy.

Phillip

3 A DECADE OF LOVE:
LISA & MATT

4 DIDSBURY FESTIVAL

6 KATIE'S BIG MOVE

7 ESTEFANIA'S NEW ROLE &
WELCOME TYLER

8 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

12 RECRUITMENT EVENTS

13 RACE TO ZERO, THE V&A
GROUP & AUTISM AWARD

14 HOLIDAYS & TRIPS

16 CHRISTMAS PARTY INVITE

A DECADE OF LOVE

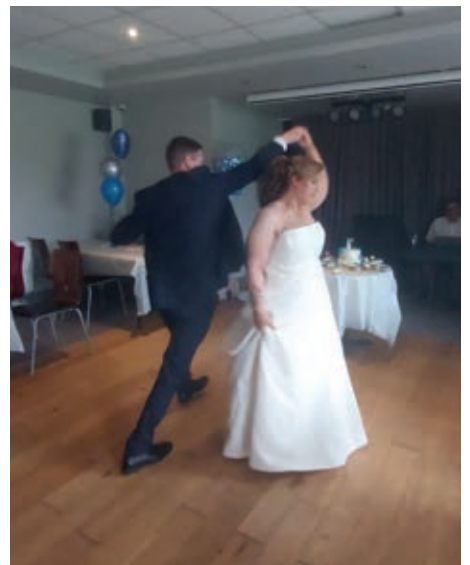
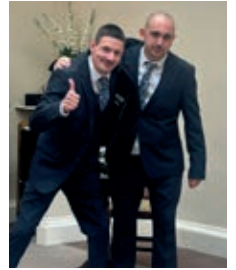
A DAY TO REMEMBER: LISA AND MATTHEW'S HEARTFELT VOW RENEWAL CELEBRATIONS

Lisa and Matthew marked a special chapter in their journey together with a heartfelt 10 year vow renewal surrounded by friends.

The day began with Matthew and Lee enjoying a relaxed boys' breakfast. Meanwhile Lisa got ready with Bernie over a few glasses of Buck's Fizz as they had their hair and makeup done. Bernie later walked Lisa down the aisle in a touching moment before the couple renewed their vows in front of friends and staff.

With perfect weather on their side the celebration moved to the local cricket club, where guests enjoyed a delicious buffet and a stunning cake. Lisa and Matthew shared a romantic first dance, before DJ Tony C kept the party going into the evening. As always, the night ended on a high with a lively open mic session featuring Alan, Matthew, Lisa, Bernie and Will – each one adding their own flair and fun to the evening.

It was a day filled with love, laughter and unforgettable memories. It was a true celebration of Lisa and Matthew's journey together and the people who've supported them along the way.



FAMILY / STAFF SURVEY

Annual Feedback Time!

Your voice matters—help us grow and improve.



If you're family or friends, please complete the Family Feedback Survey.

If you're a staff member, we'd love your input via the Employee Satisfaction Survey.



Feedback helps us shape a better experience for everyone. Please scan and share your thoughts—thank you for helping us learn and develop!



Kwokman & Khinn
having a great time!

DIDSBURY FESTIVAL

44th Annual Didsbury Festival – A Celebration of Community, Creativity and Connection

Didsbury Festival 2025 was a day to remember. Despite a few scattered showers, our community came together with warmth and energy to celebrate creativity, inclusion and shared purpose. Now in its 44th year, the festival continues to reflect the values that shape our work and relationships.

A standout this year was the vibrant plant display and artwork created by the people we support. Each piece drew admiration and showed not just skill, but pride, identity and imagination. It was a powerful reminder of what happens when people are given the space to express themselves and be seen.

We raised £500 on the day with all proceeds going to the Tree of Life Foundation, which provides vital support to families in need.

One particularly joyful moment came when Derrion spotted and spoke with his old teacher. His excitement captured the real spirit of the day; connection, recognition and joy in being part of something meaningful. The festival was a positive, inclusive celebration of everything we stand for. The rain did little to dampen the atmosphere, and we are already looking forward to next year.

Sheila O'Neill, Managing Director, reflected on the wider purpose: "What stood out this year was the creativity and pride behind the plant displays and artwork. These weren't just contributions to the festival, they were powerful expressions of identity and belonging. That's what parity means in practice – everyone having a voice, a space and a chance to be seen for who they are. Didsbury festival gives us that opportunity, not just to celebrate, but to connect on equal ground."



Will
You smashed it!



Derrion spoke with his old
teacher and the Mayor.



▲ Angela, Alan, Bernie & Bradley ▲
Time for a break!



▲ Deborah & Kieran just
spotted you!



▲ The flowers are
blooming.



▲ Estefania,
Mervyn &
John setting
up.



Sam H.
showing
one of his
prints.



Radha &
husband enjoy
the day.



◀ Katie's
amazing soap.

The artwork
looked
fantastic. ▼



Michael & Nico enjoying a stroll.



Katie B & Sam C
having a fist
bumping time!



A massive £500 was raised for
the Tree of Life Foundation.

KATIE'S BIG MOVE

Katie tells us what it's like moving into her own flat and what she is looking forward to in the future.

How did you feel when you knew you were moving into your own flat?

I felt a bit scared because I didn't know the place. I didn't know how the flat would look or who else might be living there.

What were you looking forward to the most?

I was looking forward to not sharing my flat with anyone. I don't have to cook for lots of people or clean a whole house. I was excited to watch TV when I want and to have more independence.

You chose lovely colours, great wallpaper and even a fish tank. How did you pick everything?

I went to B&Q and Dunelm with staff to look at paint colours. Staff also helped me search online for Stitch wallpaper.

For the fish tank, I spoke with Mike Case who gave me the idea. I thought about it and decided to get one because fish are nice and calm. I like watching them swim.

What part of your flat do you like the most?

My bedroom, because it has the Stitch wallpaper which I really like.

Do you miss anything from Polefield Road?

Yes, I miss the staff, Muna and Laura, and I miss my rabbits. I miss chatting at the dining table, having a brew with Laura, and sitting in the garden watching my rabbits play. I also miss going to Asda and seeing my friends at the café in the park.



Is living on your own the way you thought it would be, or different?

It's a bit different because it can be quiet. Sometimes I feel odd because I was used to living with two other girls.

What helps you if things feel hard?

I talk to staff, listen to music, chat with my family or read books like Horrid Henry. I also like playing darts, doing word searches, ludo and colouring. Watching funny shows and films helps too.

Who has helped you since you moved?

The Mayfield staff.

What new things have you learned about yourself?

I've learned to be more independent. I cook for myself, clean my flat and take care of my fish. I have a bath every evening without needing a reminder, I change my clothes every day and I can tell staff how I feel.

What is something you are proud of?

I'm proud of living on my own and having my own space.

I enjoy the privacy and having my own space. I love that it was decorated how I wanted.

What are you excited about in the future?

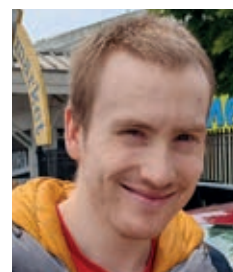
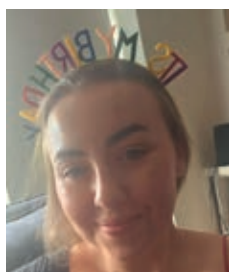
I'm looking forward to going out into the community on my own.

What advice would you give to someone else moving into their own home?

Find out a bit about the place before you move in. Be ready to spend a little money to make it feel like your own. You will make new friends and enjoy having your own space.

2025 MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Parties, cakes and celebrations for milestone birthdays that City Seun, Jack, Niamh, Conor, Alex and Leah all thriving at 30



WELCOME TYLER



We're delighted to welcome Tyler to Heaton Vale North, City Care!

Tyler moved into his flat in June 2025; Nelia (Reg Manager) and Chrisann (TL) share their thoughts and observations on his move.

What is Tyler enjoying?

Tyler enjoys going on bus rides, swimming and taking long walks. He enjoys running around the garden, relaxing outside in the warm weather and playing games in the park. He especially loves watching Mr. Tumble on his devices.

How is Tyler settling in?

Tyler is settling in well. He appreciates having his own flat and spending time with his dad and sister when they come to visit. He's getting to know everyone.

What is Tyler like as a person?

Tyler is very friendly with a beautiful smile and likes giving high fives.



ESTEFANIA TAKING ON NEW ROLE

Estefania discusses her new role as Creative Programmes & Events Coordinator at Yew Tree.

How does Yew Tree compare to your last role at Heaton Vale?

Both roles are busy, just in different ways. At Heaton Vale North there was a constant buzz with people and activity all around, while at Yew Tree the pace feels steadier. Here, I get moments of quiet between people attending, which gives me valuable time to plan and prepare. It's still full-on, but in a way that allows space to think more creatively.

What inspires you?

The people we support. The interactions I have here are so rewarding and keep me motivated to try new things. I find myself constantly sketching out ideas—it's like my imagination is always switched on.

What do you enjoy most about your role at Yew Tree?

Those planning moments really fuel my creativity. I've been able to design new activities, come up with arts and crafts sessions and think about fresh ways to engage people. With my background in Art Therapy, I feel lucky to turn those ideas into inclusive programmes that our guys can really enjoy.



And how is it stepping into Sheila's shoes?

It's definitely a challenge, but also a privilege. Sheila did an incredible job, and I'm honoured to carry that forward. I see this as the start of an exciting journey with plenty more to come.

Care are celebrating this year!

Matthew will be fantastic at 40

Mike, Rita and Andre looking fabulous at 50

Mike and Jono 60 years young



INTERNATIONAL FEST 2025



▲▼► Tony, Paris & Adele, themed and glam in outfits from around the world.



► Festival fun - Seun and his brother enjoy the day.

▼ Sweet success - Saul wins the bake-off with his culturally themed entry.





A Day of Global Celebration at InternationalFest 2025
From vibrant stalls and delicious food to music, games, and a colourful parade, we joined together to celebrate the beauty of cultures from across the world. An unforgettable day of fun, learning and connection.





▲ Selina shows Tyler the festival ropes.



▼ Jackie manning the Yew Tree Bungalow stall.



▲ A well earned moment to pause for Estefania.

◀ Chris chases his runaway egg.



4 Broom Lane shine bright



▲ Katie and Mike catch up.

► Alex poses with a smile and a wave.



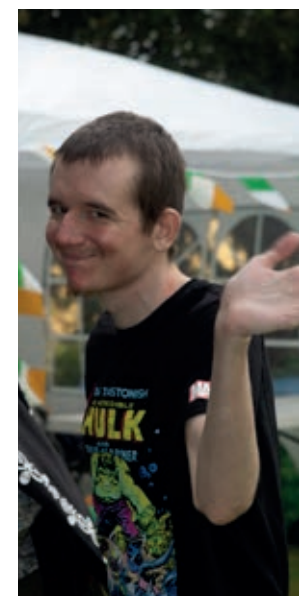
Augustine, Rita and Alan lead the international parade.



▲ Bill takes a moment to relax.



► Matthew's family travelled the world with us.



RECRUITMENT DAY WITH SOCIAL IMPACT



“Interactive and a great way to recruit, giving a realistic insight into the role. Really pleased that 6 were recruited on the day – that’s an excellent result!”

Dionne Taylor

Work & Skills Officer | Manchester City Council

A Fresh Take on Recruitment: City Care’s Inclusive Hiring Day

On 17 July 2025, City Care Partnership held a recruitment event in Wythenshawe to hire support workers through an inclusive, values-based approach. The day was run with Manchester City Council, the Department for Work and Pensions, and The Growth Company.

City Care removed barriers by welcoming applicants with no need for previous care experience or qualifications.

“The day was well structured and welcoming with interesting activities and great outcomes,” said Fiona Hewitt, Employment and Skills Lead at Manchester City Council. “Offering roles on the day is a unique approach that many employers don’t use.”

Highlights included teamwork exercises, role plays, and a simulation called ‘Pete’s house’, which gave candidates a real insight into the role.

Of the 15 people who attended, eight progressed to final assessment and six were offered jobs on the day. Five of those successful candidates are from Manchester communities that benefit most from inclusive recruitment, helping deliver on City Care’s social value commitment.

“I was really pleased with the results. It will be great to deliver more events like this and connect more Manchester



“It was a great day, a fantastic way to get to know people and the job” *Successful Candidate feedback*



Jonathan, William and Faigah on induction training

residents with good, rewarding jobs,” Fiona added.

The next recruitment event will take place in East Manchester. For more information, contact our recruitment team on 0161 905 3100.

VETERAN’S DAY SALUTE



Supporting Veterans into Social Care Careers

We were proud to attend Manchester City Council’s Veterans Recruitment Day on 10th July at Manchester Central. The event brought together employers and former service personnel, highlighting the valuable skills veterans bring to the workforce.

Representing City Care Partnership was Pete McDonald, a veteran himself, who shared his journey into social care and spoke with attendees about the rewards of working in this field. Pete’s experience shows just how transferable military values like resilience, teamwork and commitment are to roles supporting others.

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with veterans considering a new path and to showcase the difference they can make in people’s lives. We’re proud to support this initiative and look forward to welcoming more veterans into meaningful roles within our sector.





This Is Everyone's Job

We've made a start. New recycling bins are in. Single use plastics are being phased out. But that's just the beginning. Are we switching off lights? Reusing where we can? Thinking twice before we waste?

Every one of us has a role in this. It is not about perfection. It is about effort and momentum. Our carbon reduction target is 4 to 5 percent a year. We do not get there by doing nothing.

Look around. What more could you be doing right now? This planet is ours to care for.



Atif recycling the paper at the Care Management Office

BROOM LANE CELEBRATIONS

We're proud to have received the
Autism Specialist Award from
the National Autistic Society!



National
Autistic
Society

Autism Specialist
Award



Radha Mongia-Aucott, CST Manager, thanks everyone for their success in gaining the Autism Specialist Award.

I'm really pleased to share that Broom Lane has received excellent feedback in our recent Autism Accreditation Assessment. The report reflects the

commitment and care you bring to your roles every day.

"They don't just talk at me. They wait. That helps." – person supported

Inspectors saw consistent, person-centred support. Communication tools



THE V&A GROUP FINDING OUR WAY BACK

We've heard a wide range of views about the V&A group. Some people have found it helpful and engaging, while others haven't felt as connected to it. We've taken time to listen, reflect and think about what the group is for, how it works and what might make it better.

It's clear people want the group to feel welcoming and inclusive. We also know there's a feeling that some points raised haven't always been fully addressed. While we've worked on this, we recognise it hasn't always been communicated well enough.

The group was created to give people across CCP a space to share ideas, help

shape how we do things and celebrate what's going well. It has already made a real difference and we want to bring the focus back to that purpose.

We're now reviewing the group's terms of reference, including its role and how it should run. We're looking at how topics are chosen, how the group is facilitated and how to make it easier for more people to join in and feel heard.

If you'd like to contribute ideas or get involved, the group would love to hear from you. You don't need to be an expert, just open to listening and joining the conversation.

Get in touch at:
VandaGroup@citycarepartnership.co.uk

like Makaton, Social Stories, visuals and iPads were used in ways tailored to individual needs. Relationships were warm and inclusive, with people supported to take part in routines and decisions.

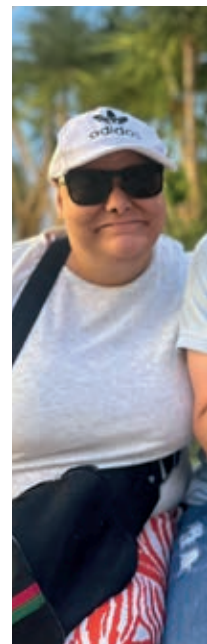
"I like having my picture book with me when I go out." – person supported

There are always areas to improve; ours included making sure support plans reflect the good work already happening, writing clearer outcomes and using consistently positive language. However, progress has clearly been made. We've seen positive developments in areas like independence, confidence and community access. Additionally, sensory needs were well supported through flexible routines and calming spaces.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS



▲ Andrew and Andre hike the Wemyss Bay coastline.



► Cassie and Harry basking in Benidorm.



◀ Josh is living that beach life.



► Steven and Jonathan soak up the holiday vibes.



Bernie & Abbey having a great time watching Ed Sheeran in Belgium.

▼ Laura enjoying the sun while deciding which way to go!





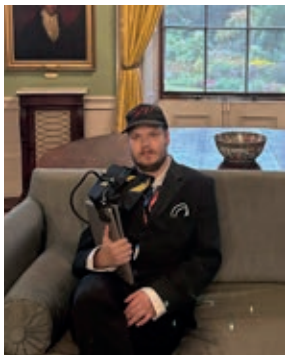
Matthew & Joe at Forest live.



▼ Derrion dressed to impress at Dunham Massey.



Paris taking a break at Center Parks.



▼ Jack, King of the castle.



▲ Chris ready for his outdoor pursuit.



▼ Caelan with Steven and Ash, monkeying around at the zoo.



CITY CARE
PRESENTS

XMAS PARTY



**FEATURING
HOT FOOD & LIVE MUSIC**

**THE VENUE
15 WESTBOURNE ROAD,
URMSTON, M41 0XQ**

**FRI. 12TH DECEMBER
7:30pm - 11pm
FRIENDS AND
FAMILY WELCOME**