Barrow Hill Memorial Hall

Barrow Hill Memorial Hall is a community-led hub in the heart of Barrow Hill in Chesterfield, which has reopened after a ten-year journey to save and refurbish the building.

- Designed as a multifunctional space bringing together health, wellbeing, community and social support services
- Includes a Family Hub, NHS consultation rooms, youth facilities, physical activity spaces, community food support, skills and employment opportunities, and social spaces
- Provides a safe, welcoming place where residents can meet, access support and build connections

How resident voice shaped the development

- The project has been built on extensive community engagement, starting in 2017
- Trustees, volunteers and partners listened to residents about their lives, challenges and aspirations to inform what services to provide
- Services have been co-designed with local people
- Resident priorities directly influenced the offer, including:
  - Family-focused services
  - Affordable food provision through a community supermarket
  - Bereavement and counselling support
  - Drug and alcohol support
  - Early years and family services
  - Youth activities and physical activity opportunities
  - Young people have helped shape the sports and activity spaces and the programmes delivered there.

How the hall supports the Building Blocks of Health

Partners recognise that health is influenced by much more than healthcare alone, and the Memorial Hall has been described as a metaphor for the Building Blocks of Health, bringing together support for many wider determinants of health,

including:

  - Good food and nutrition
  - Physical activity
  - Employment and skills
  - Family support and childcare
  - Social connection and community belonging
  - Access to health services
- **Tackles social isolation by providing a place for people to gather, something that had largely disappeared from the village.**
- **Creates opportunities for people to become active, improve wellbeing and build confidence.**
- **Helps remove barriers that prevent people from engaging with health and wellbeing services.**

"Getting involved in Barrow Hill has really opened my eyes to the things that really affect people's lives and ultimately lead to them becoming ill sooner than they might have been or even to passing away earlier than they should have done."

Key successes and learning

- The hall is already bringing together statutory services, voluntary organisations and residents in one accessible place
- Residents are using the space for social activities, family events, support services and physical activity
- Partners report growing trust in local health services through informal, community-based access
- A key lesson is that improving health starts with addressing basic needs, social connection and confidence before expecting people to engage in traditional health interventions
- The project demonstrates how neighbourhood health can work in practice: listening first, co-designing services and building on community strengths

"You've got to go backwards to go forwards. So in order to allow people to be in a space where they are physically active, you need to help support the other things and the tools to get them there. If you support the person, they're then capable of doing so many things."





