




**DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER**


THE SQUARE MILE PROGRAMME

SQUARE MILE CONCEPT

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The Square Mile programme aims to support and sustain the development of the Square Mile community through targeted projects.
- This is achieved by responding to identified resident need, and by designing projects in partnership with the community.
- To ensure projects are sustainable through:
 - Student volunteering opportunities.
 - Project integration into specific course modules.
 - Residents leading and promoting projects.

The area spans three neighbourhoods (Fosse, Newfoundpool and Woodgate) which is home to around 8,000 people.



A diverse community, with over 50 different languages spoken. Its nature is also transient, with only 50% of residents expected to stay in the area longer than 5 years.


The Square Mile's programme of work is designed to respond to residents' needs.

Our 2011 doorstep survey identified four key areas people wanted to see:

- More skills and learning opportunities
- Activities for youths in the area
- Proactive health services
- A greater sense of community spirit

This consultation has helped Square Mile shape and develop its projects over the past 18 months.

The Projects




Skills



Residents have the chance to enhance their skills and employability by attaining qualifications in Computing, English Language and Social media.

Health



Projects aimed at improving the health and well-being of the community. Includes:
-Hearing screenings
-Diabetes advice and support
-Projects targeted at tackling smoking and obesity

Community



Projects that aim to promote stronger community cohesion. These include a resident-led sewing club, gardening initiatives and a community cafe

Youth Activities



Projects that aim to raise aspirations as well as increase the variety of activities available to Square Mile youth. Projects include accredited dance courses and a robotics club

Over 2,400 people have taken part in 30 Square Mile projects and events this year alone. With over 100 of these achieving qualifications in computing and English language.



Youth activities projects have improved Maths scores of over 800 children, two schools have been supported out of special measures, and over 200 12-17 year olds have received qualifications in dance and electronics.



Square Mile projects have helped over 100 people with their hearing difficulties through the free hearing screenings project. A further 400 people in the area have taken part in our diabetes projects, as our researchers search for alternative complimentary medicines.



IT TRAINING

- Designed to tackle low computer literacy rates in the Square Mile area.
- Long term objective of creating a free and sustainable bank of IT trainers for Leicester.
- Students and residents are professionally trained in various topics including:
 - European computing driving license
 - Social Media
 - Online safety
- Students have so far trained over 100 members of the community, local businesses and schools through the IT training programme.

"Doing this course has been incredibly beneficial to me because it has given me new skills. What was really impressive was how patient the De Montfort University students were with us." Sherda Parmar, Square Mile resident

HOMEWORK CLUB

- Designed in partnership between schools and departments at De Montfort. Homework club responds to school needs across a range of areas including, Subject mentoring, speech therapy support, free sports clubs, free translation services, IT sessions for parents etc
- Both students and academics come together to run activities through a mixture of work and voluntary placements.
- Activities are designed to bring maximum benefit for the schools whilst remaining accessible for students.

87% of the 150+ children receiving mentoring through the Homework Club have seen a dramatic increase in their Maths and English scores. The project has also saved schools thousands of pounds in sports clubs and translation services.

FILM FESTIVAL

- Created and delivered in partnership between Square Mile and the Fosse Forum. Brings together over 400 people from the community around a love of film.
- Completely free to members of the community, includes free food, drink and children's activities.
- As an event, the Film festival is managed by student and community volunteers.
- This year an inflatable cinema has been hired to increase capacity to 600 people
- This year, fringe events will be taking place in community centres and on De Montfort Campus



"Bringing people together is one of the fundamental aims of Square Mile, the film festival does this in highly visible way. I'm proud to be a part of something that the community genuinely gets excited about" Steve Tolton, Fosse Forum



570 Children have taken part in the Play Dough Project since it began 18 Months ago. As a result of the project, Math scores have risen in the 11 schools that have taken part.



In just 4 months of operation, the IT training project has seen 40 residents complete their basic ECCL.



The "shoot to the future project" delivered in partnership with the Leicester Riders and Leicestershire police, has seen reported ASB drop on the days in which the project operates.



We now offer advice, support to 400 people suffering with Diabetes in the Square Mile. Further to this, we also offer heavily subsidised gym membership in some cases, with the guarantee that sufferers will feel better in just 4 weeks.



Grants from external companies and the community ward budget have allowed Square Mile to coordinate students and community volunteers to revamp the parks and green spaces. Further to this, a hanging basket scheme has been offered to the majority of homes in the Woodgate area.



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