



# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

## COMMUNITY



## Salford Council

### Women have their say

**“Deeds not words has to be our permanent motto” Emmeline Pankhurst**

In 2022, the Salford Women and Girls’ Commission was established in the aftermath of the appalling murder of Sarah Everard.

Made up of 17 women leaders from across Salford’s public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, its purpose was simple – to generate a conversation, and develop local solutions, to address issues affecting women and girls’ safety and prosperity in Salford.

For twelve months, the commission heard countless stories and reviewed numerous pieces of evidence of very real experiences and challenges faced by women living and working in the city.

These amazing women, from a range of different communities, cultures, and backgrounds, told the commission about the complexity of issues affecting their lives and helped the commission identify three themes to focus on:

- Women in Poverty
- Women’s Safety
- Women’s Voices

After the information gathering phase, the commissioners compiled their findings and formulated recommendations in a final report launched at an event on International

Women's Day (Wednesday 8 March 2023), where partner organisations pledged to help turn ideas into action.



It's only by working together with people with lived experience can we ensure these recommendations are taken forward and help make a real difference to women and girls in Salford.

Councillor Sharmina August, Lead Member for Inclusive Economy, Anti-Poverty and Equalities said 'It was fascinating to hear from women across the city and a huge thanks to everyone who took part,'

*"Good quality, flexible employment is key to tackling poverty and women want more help with skills and training opportunities. Boosting local employment for everyone is already part of our skills and work plan"*

*"Women also want more involvement in local decision making and democracy so we're considering ideas around that and exploring how local partners can better work together to improve women's personal safety, particularly at night and on public transport.*

*"The report contains a series of recommendations. Our hope is that Salford partners and community organisations will now come together to deliver them."*

Other recommendations from the commission include:

- Agree a joint commitment across public agencies, education providers, businesses and the VCSE sector to prioritise the upskilling and retraining of women furthest from the labour market as part of the city's new skills and work programme with a clear plan for roll out.
- Explore the opportunity to provide additional council tax support (or exemptions) for women fleeing domestic abuse, who both currently live in the city and those relocating to Salford
- Map existing women's mentoring, development and coaching opportunities across Salford's public, VCSE and private sectors to identify good practice and create further

low-cost, stigma free, personal and professional development opportunities for Salford based women.

- Develop networking opportunities for women to continue to share their lived experiences in a safe environment and deepen the understanding of the support services landscape within the city to improve.

We're proud that Emmeline Pankhurst, a women's equality campaigner was raised in Salford and through this commission we want to continue her legac

To find the full report and work of the commission visit:

<https://www.partnersinsalford.org/salford-women-and-girls-commission>

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