



Working with St James' Surestart Centre young parents group and the Manchester Bangladeshi Women's Organisation, Creative City used its mini-grant to run workshops for communities of normally isolated women and their families in Longsight, and then held an exhibition/celebration at Longsight Library.

Activities included body-scrub making and arts and crafts, the results of which were displayed alongside a sharing event/exhibition. The exhibition also included food & drink, face painting and work from Her Art CIC and St Luke's TLC creative mental health support projects and two emerging independent female artists.

One participant said, "My friend invited me to see her work here. I've found it really inspiring and I'm so encouraged by being at a women's exhibition. I love the piece that says 'art makes women powerful'!"

Hasina, Community Asset Manager at Manchester Bangladeshi Women's Organisation said, "It was really powerful to have that celebration event in somewhere public like the library, because it was saying proudly that the women are valuable in their community. It also showed the participants that there are lots of other women just like them out there making things and joining different groups, but from all different backgrounds."

Spirit of Manchester 2018 Mini-grants Programme

Karen, Surestart Outreach and Engagement Worker said:

"We'd been working on some topics like power and politics previously, and a lot of them got really stuck in and made creative work that expressed how they felt about certain issues like wellbeing, housing and childcare. After this project, we went on to have a meeting with some MPs recorded for radio, and the rise in confidence levels was really noticeable."

