



pro-manchester
Our Year In 2023

“

The secret of
change is to
focus all of your
energy, not on
fighting the old,
but on building
the new.”

Socrates

A message from Sam & Nicola



Here at pro-manchester we are not frightened to shout about all the amazing things that we do, but we also know that numbers can really bring those stories to life. Hard facts that really demonstrate who we are, what we do and the impact we have in our community.

The last time we released our impact report we were emerging from the pandemic and our lives were beginning to resemble some kind of normality. It was early days back then though and we are now two years on, I think it is safe (ish) to say we are finally beginning to leave those days behind us.

That is not to say that those turbulent times did not leave a permanent mark, a legacy of lessons and understanding that must be recognised and we are pleased to say we have embraced them with both hands.

If the pandemic taught us anything, it was that we all need a community. A place to go and be with like-minded individuals. A collaborative environment where we can learn, share passions and enthusiasm.

This report demonstrates in numbers and from the mouths of members that this is what we do and what we do best. Over 95% of our events activity is in person and is rated Excellent or Very good by 92% of those who attended.

Over the past few years we hosted over 200 hundred events at various locations across Manchester and we engaged with over 20,000 attendees. In the past year we have welcome 90 new members to our community and we have launched several new programmes and initiatives to continue to provide more and more opportunities for our community.

But whilst the numbers tell part of the story, the real gems come from the members themselves. The real life people who tell you how it is. So, yes, please do digest the numbers but sit back and take note of the personal testimonials that really complete our story and hopefully remind you, just what it's all for and what is in it for you.

S. Booth
SAM BOOTH
Chief Executive

Nicola McCormick
NICOLA MCCORMICK
Chief Operating Officer



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Board

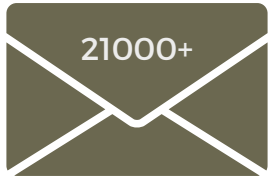
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Our year in numbers...



82%
member retention

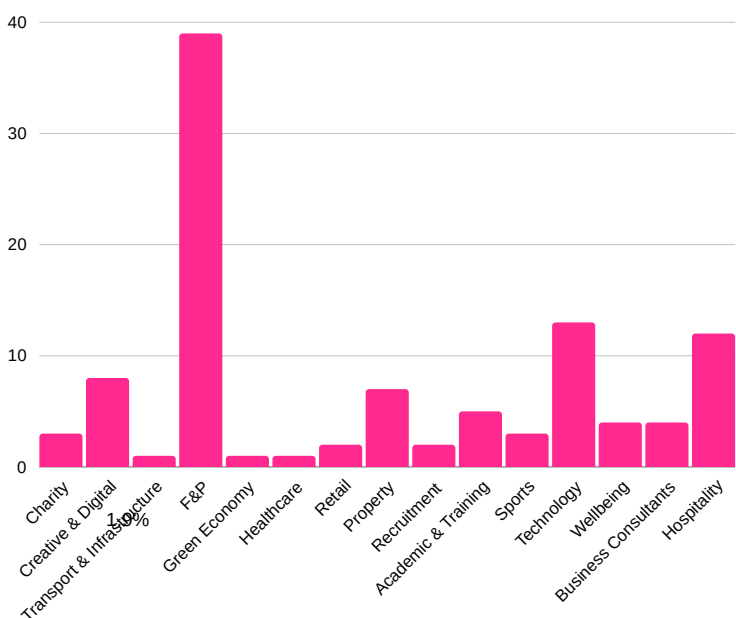
92%
rated our events
good or excellent



21000+
engaged professionals on our
database

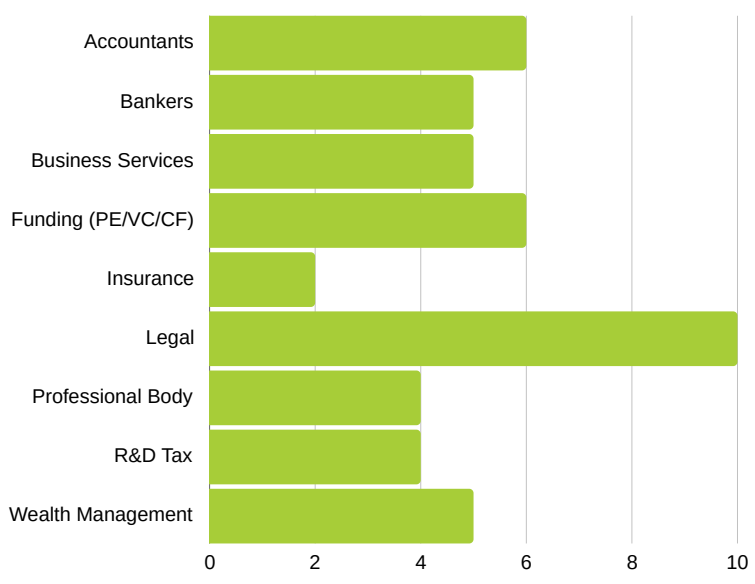
280
members

Our sector split



28k+
social media
followers

F&P sector split



121
EVENTS



8608
Registrations

Tehseen Ali - EY



‘It feels like a family and that it really cares about it’s members. The board and employees who worked tirelessly to pull PM through the pandemic when things looked dire, to what it is now, a really successful business development organisation.’

Tehseen Ali, Partner at EY and pro-manchester board member

Tehseen Ali is a Partner at EY. We chatted to Tehseen about life as a pro-manchester board member.

Why did you decide that you wanted to be part of the pro-manchester board?

Originally I was asked by one of the Partners who was stepping down, I was looking to really get back out there and give something back to the city I love post the pandemic and contribute my skills and perspectives.

What’s the best thing about pro-manchester?

It feels like a family and that it really cares about its members. The board and employees who worked tirelessly to pull PM through the pandemic when things looked dire (before my time) to what it is now, a really successful business development organisation. I love how it supports a dynamic network amongst local businesses of which EY is part of that fabric, so it had a real symbiotic relationship with my role at EY as a Leader of the NW Audit Practice.

What Is your career highlight?

Making Partner at EY in 2022 after 20 years of investment.

What more would you like to see from pro-manchester this year?

Endorse and promote more inclusiveness and equity amongst it’s members.

What do you think are the most important things going on in Manchester at the moment?

The City is just so grown up and yet growing all the time – by that I mean when it has just come such a long way from when I was a student (many, many) years ago. Two areas are the city’s strong focus on technological innovation and a strong movement advocating for public services (proud of bee buses!).

What are your priorities for 2024?

Driving a culture of coaching, feedback and learning, growing our business which allows our people to grow in turn. Really get to grips with the DE&I question across EY and in Manchester....personally – spend more time on my health, trying to get the whole family out walking – we have such great outdoor spaces near us – this is not a New Years Resolution btw!.





What Our Members Say

“pro-manchester is, in my view, one of the best networking providers in Manchester. The quality of events alongside the opportunities to raise your profile are second-to-none, and that’s why Truth has been a proud member for a number of years.”

Jo Scott, Founder of Truth Creative



“We’re so grateful for the support and opportunities received through pro-manchester. This has really enabled our small charity to have a big voice amongst the Greater Manchester Business Community. It’s been invaluable to us, to have been chosen as Charity Partner and spotlighted at events, and we look forward to continuing to work closely, and are really excited for the opportunities ahead.”

Victoria Cronquist, Head of Smart Works Greater Manchester

“pro-manchester has provided a great base for Mediaworks as we have established our presence in the region. From networking events to tailored introductions the team have always been happy to help. The support with running events of our own and work through the committees have also been a great value add to us as a business.”

Joel Bransfield, Mediaworks





The pro-manchester board



SAM BOOTH
pro-manchester
Chief Executive



NICOLA MCCORMICK
pro-manchester
COO



ISABEL RILEY
pro-manchester
Finance Director



DANNY SIMPSON
pro-manchester Chair.
CEO
MID Communications



ALISON LOVEDAY
Vice Chair, Partner
- Kennedys



ALISTAIR CREE
18-19 Chair &
Partner -
Eversheds



RACHEL KENYON
Business Engagement
Manager
The University of
Manchester



JENNIFER SMITH
Partner
Forbes Solicitors



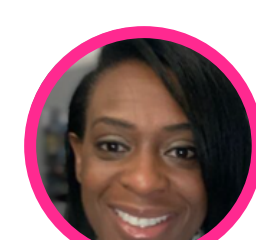
TEHSEEN ALI
Associate
Partner - EY



STEPHEN HUGHES
Director & Co-
founder
Five Wealth



NICK ROSE
Sales Director -
Sharp



NGOZI
WELLER
Director, Aurora



AMNA KHAN
Senior Lecturer,
Manchester Metropolitan
University Business
School



ZOE WALLACE
Director
Agent Marketing



SEAN WILLIAMS
Past Chair 22-23



The pro-manchester Team



SAM BOOTH
Chief Executive



NICOLA MCCORMICK
Chief Operating
Officer



ISABEL RILEY
Finance Director



RACHEL TETLOW
Senior Membership
& Programmes
Manager



JULIE TUNSTALL
Programmes and
Events Manager



ISABEL FISH
Programmes &
Events Manager



ELLIE DAY
Events & Marketing
Manager



SARAH SMITH
Member Events &
Marketing Manager



HUW FLANAGAN-ROBERTS
Sales and Programmes
Development Executive

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