



pro-manchester
Our Year In 2025

“

**Opportunities
don't just
happen. You
create them**

”

Chris Grosser

A message from Co-CEOs Sam & Nicola



Here at pro-manchester, we're never shy about sharing the brilliant things that happen across our network - but we also know that numbers have a special way of bringing the story to life. They give a clear, honest snapshot of who we are, what we do, and the difference our community makes across Greater Manchester.

When we last published an impact report, we were still finding our feet after the pandemic. We were rebuilding habits, reconnecting in person, and adjusting to a world that felt like it had changed overnight. Since then, we've moved forward through more change - and if anything, those years reminded us just how important it is to have a strong business community around you.

Because if recent years have taught us anything, it's that growth doesn't happen in isolation. We all need a place to connect with like-minded people, to share ideas, challenge thinking, build confidence, and uncover new opportunities. That's exactly what pro-manchester exists to do.

Since 1986, we've been creating opportunity in Greater Manchester and working to build and maintain an inclusive, connected and thriving community of ambitious businesses across the region. Through economic cycles and times of change, we've stood alongside our business community - and today, with over 360 member businesses and 20 committees delivering up to 150 events every year, that commitment is stronger than ever.

This report brings that story to life - not just through the headline numbers, but through the voices of the people who matter most: our members. So yes, enjoy the stats, take pride in what we've achieved together but also take a moment to read the comments and testimonials. They're the real reminder of what this is all for, and what being part of our growth network can unlock.

Sam Booth
Co-CEO

Nicola McCormick
Co-CEO



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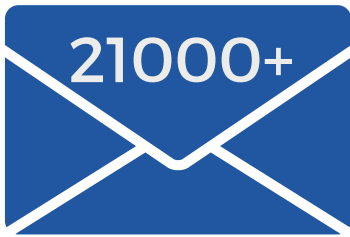
What is pro-manchester?

We're a growth network for ambitious businesses across Greater Manchester. We're member-powered and relentlessly focused on helping you connect, develop and shape what comes next for our region.

Membership is designed to create opportunity, so you can have the right conversations and gain valuable insights through the platforms that matter to increase your visibility with the people who can help you grow.

Our vision is
to build and maintain an inclusive,
connected and thriving community
of ambitious businesses across
Greater Manchester

Our year in numbers...



engaged professionals
on our database



28k+

social media
followers

375

members



87%

retention
rate

Member ratings

88%

Overall Membership
Experience
Rated 4-5 out of 5 for
overall experience

84%

Value for money
Rated 4-5 out of 5 for
value delivered

88%

Event networking
Rated 4-5 out of 5 for
the networking experience

91%

Recommendation

Likely to recommend pro-manchester
to a colleague or client (4-5/5)



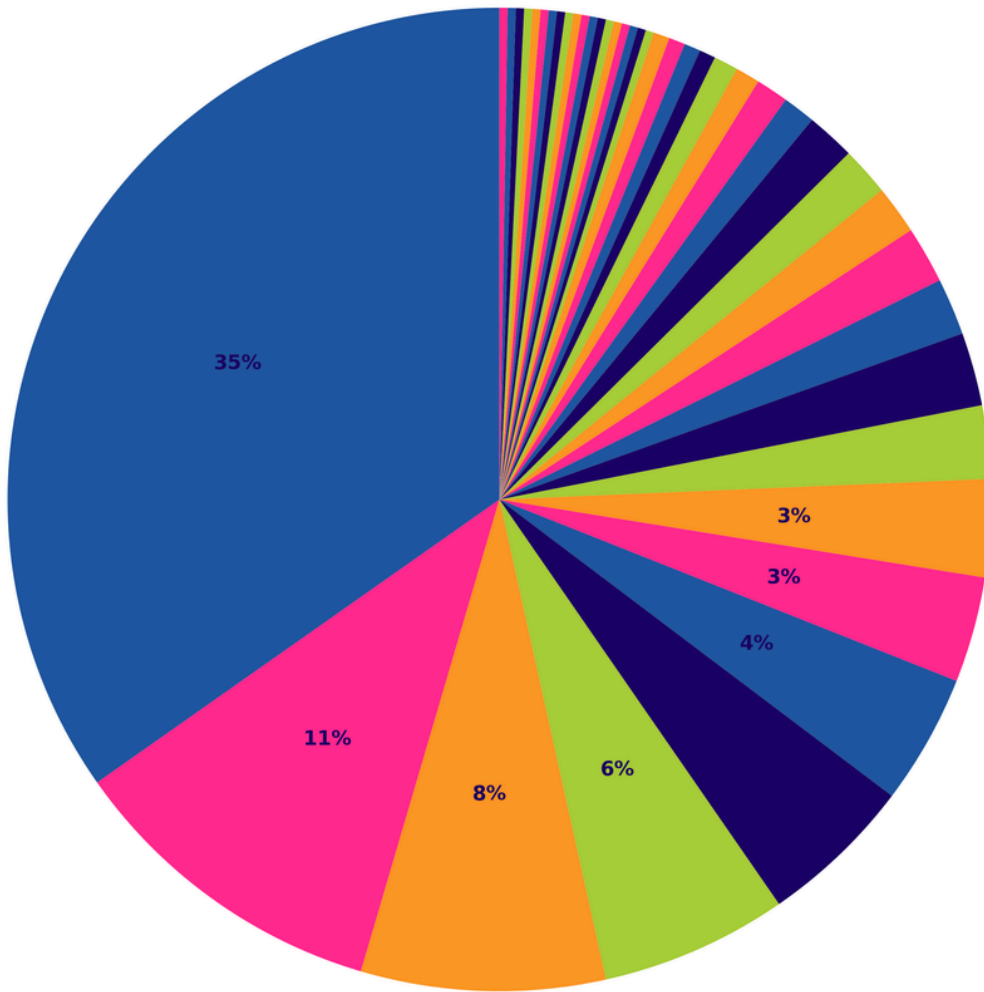
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Registrations

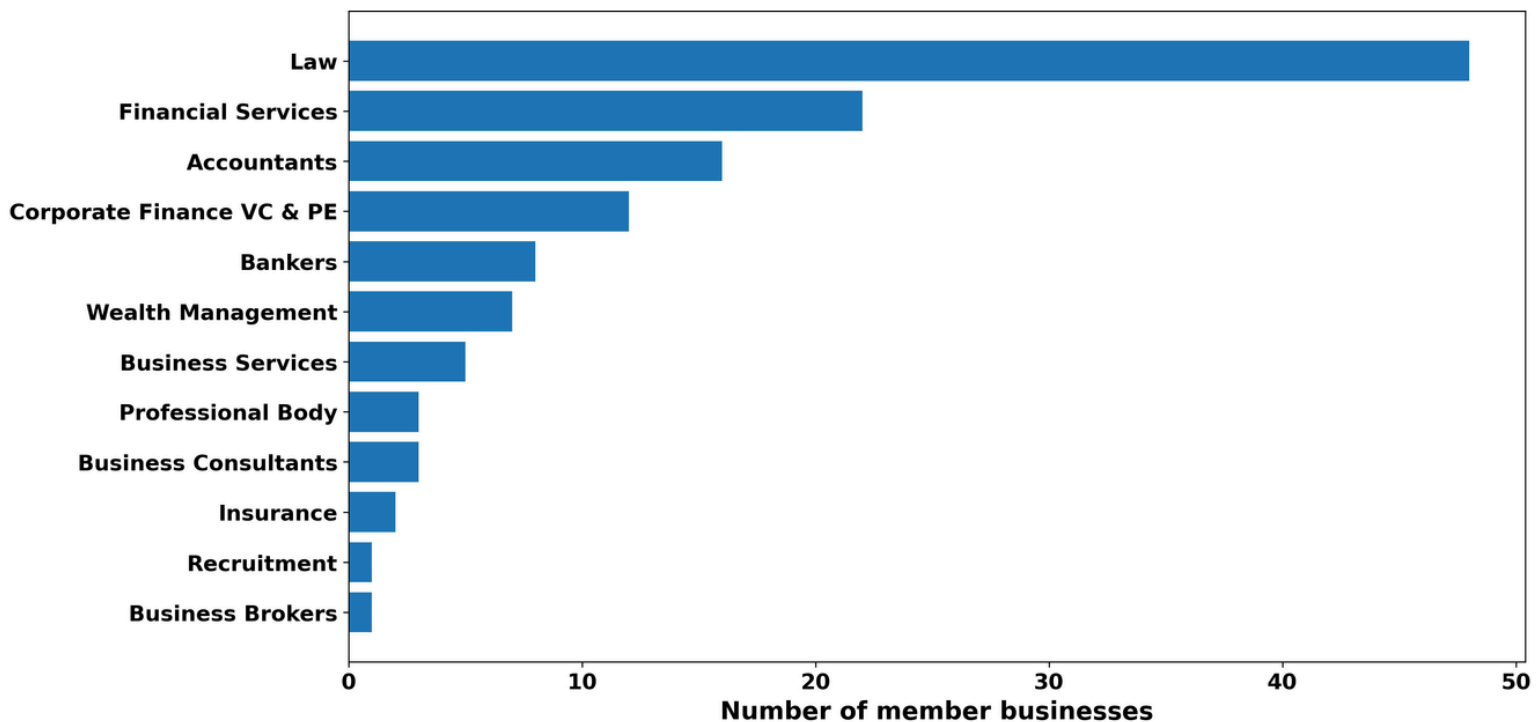
Percentages show members selecting 4-5 on a 5-point scale.

Who's in our network..

Our sector split



F&P sector split





What Our Members Say

“My favourite thing about pro-manchester is how they bring together organisations from across GM & the surrounding areas. They create space for people who wouldn't normally have the chance to connect to come together in the same room. Collaboration is essential and that's why the work that pro-manchester does is so important’

Atif Mahmood, Commercial Director & Founder, Livaty



“Networking with like-minded people across Greater Manchester has been invaluable. The size and scale of the pro-manchester network is unique and I'm proud to be part of something so impactful when I speak to peers across the country.”

Claire Bocking, Regional Manager, Schrodgers Personal Wealth

“Being part of pro-manchester has been a rewarding & inspiring experience. It brings together progressive business leaders, community advocates, & changemakers across Greater Manchester, fostering collaboration, innovation, & purpose.

For me, it's been about more than networking - it's given me a voice, a space to be heard, & a community that values authenticity & difference. I've found real value in the shared insight, supportive environment & commitment to meaningful, inclusive growth across the region.

pro-manchester isn't just an organisation; it's a movement helping people and businesses thrive together and shape a more connected Greater Manchester.



Geraldine Finn, Associate Director & Marketing & Business Development at Menzies



What Our Members Say

“pro-manchester is fantastic & I will bang on about it to anyone who will listen. As an organisation it supercharges the Manchester business community by hosting so many high-quality events & providing a great way for professionals to expand their network. The pro-manchester team is so warm & welcoming & they offer brilliant benefits to support their members”

Sarah Lawless, Founder of Flawless Comms.



"Being a member of pro-manchester, and more recently a committee member has been a great way for me to access and work with a dynamic business community in Manchester.

It's a community that fosters genuine connections and collaborative opportunities, offers thought leadership in key sectors and brings together professionals from all areas of Manchester's business eco-system.

The events held, whether breakfast briefings or flagship events, are always thought provoking and well attended and I've come away from several with fresh ideas and new connections”

Gary Fenemore, Director at S & W

“For me it's in the name , pro-Manchester really is the gateway into all things Manchester. Being new to the city, I love the opportunities it creates to connect, learn and feel part of the business community. It brings people together in a way that's welcoming, collaborative and genuinely proud of Manchester”.

Kuda Mangurenje, Business Engagement Lead at EMERGE





What's your pro....?

We also asked 'What does the pro in 'pro-manchester mean to you?



"When I think of pro-manchester the pro means FOR Manchester - we're all about Manchester getting better. It's such a great thing to have a private sector organisation that is right with us, right by our side when it comes to building up the power of this place. We're 'pro' manchester - I just love that - it's a great name"

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

"For me, the "pro" in pro-manchester stands for progressive. It's about being forward-thinking, inclusive, and unafraid to have the difficult conversations that move us all forward. It reflects a commitment to shaping a Manchester that works for everyone; one that's diverse, dynamic, and full of possibility!"

Ngozi Weller, Founder, Aurora



"For me, the "pro" in pro-manchester stands for pro-community, pro-connection, and pro-gress. It's about creating a dynamic and supportive network where people can collaborate, learn from each other, grow their businesses, and be part of a community that is driving innovation and progress.

I sit on the Racial Equity Group within pro-manchester, so for me it also about the pro-gressive approach to diversity, equity and inclusion, and actively shaping a more inclusive business landscape - one where everyone is welcomed, feels heard and is empowered to thrive."

Catherine Haslam, Partner Telecoms, DWF LLP

"Pro for me in pro-manchester is what I've experienced – a Professional and Proactive team, a Progressive approach to adapt to the issues facing businesses across GM and a Proven organisation who have been in existence for more than 30 years"

Michelle Mullany, Deal Origination - Corporate Finance, MHA



"Pro means professional in my eyes. The network allows you to connect, collaborate and build a community with likeminded individuals. The Pro means you can trust that those individuals you connect and collaborate with are professionals, and skilled in their respective careers".

Callum Duff, Solicitor, Kuits

"To me, the "pro" in pro-manchester means professionalism, progress, and proactive collaboration. It represents a commitment to advancing Manchester's business and innovation landscape by bringing together experts and leaders who are dedicated to driving positive change and growth in the region".

Jamie Goodwin, Business Engagement Officer, The University of Manchester





The pro-manchester board



SAM BOOTH
pro-manchester
Co-CEO



NICOLA MCCORMICK
pro-manchester
Co-CEO



ALISON LOVEDAY
Chair &
Partner LLM



NICK ROSE
Vice-Chair
Sales Director -
Sharp



DANNY SIMPSON
Past Chair 23-24
CEO
MID Communications



AMNA KHAN
Senior Lecturer,
Manchester Metropolitan
University



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



KIMBERLEY WALDRON
Founder & MD
Started PR



NGOZI WELLER
Director, Aurora



MELANIE QUIRK
Director of Corporate
Travel, Manchester Travel
Counsellors for Business



ZOE WALLACE
Director
Agent Marketing



The pro-manchester Team



SAM BOOTH
Co-CEO



NICOLA MCCORMICK
Co-CEO



ISABEL RILEY
Office Manager



RACHEL TETLOW
Senior Membership Manager



MELISSA WONG
Programmes &
Events Manager



TAZ WOLLASTON
Programmes &
Events Manager



JULIE TUNSTALL
Programmes &
Events Manager



NADIA ADOFO
Programmes
& Events Manager



JANET ONYANGO
Marketing and Regional
Programmes Manager



ERICA ROBERTS
Programmes &
Events Manager



ZAFIA MARRIA
Marketing &
Communications Exec.



KIM CHAN
Sales Manager



AMINA SHAH
Finance Manager



AJ EMBUREY
Sales Manager