

## Estates Partnering delivers new study and social hub in Ellen Wilkinson

The Estates Partnering team recently completed a successful transformative project for the Manchester Institute of Education (MIE), delivering a vibrant new communal space on the ground floor of C Block, Ellen Wilkinson Building.



### Background

The brief from MIE laid out that the project aim was to repurpose the former PGCE labs and surrounding areas into a multi-purpose, inclusive environment for both staff and students. The vision was to create a welcoming, flexible space that supports study, collaboration, social activities, and wellbeing.

Student representatives from the Students' Union played a key role in shaping the design, working closely with the Partnering Team to ensure that the final outcome

reflected the needs of the MIE community.



### Works

Work started in February 2025 and was project managed by Mike Hicks and delivered by Warden's Construction. It was completed on time and within budget in early June 2025.

Key elements of the transformation included:

- **Demolition of the old porters' lodge and PGCE labs**, opening up the space and creating a new entrance to C Block.
- **Six bookable meeting/study rooms** equipped with hybrid meeting capabilities.
- A dedicated **wellbeing room** for quiet reflection and relaxation.
- A **cosy campus kitchen** and **vending machines** offering Fairtrade products.
- **Six seating zones** featuring social and collaborative furniture.



- **Two private meeting pods** for focused work or small group discussions.

A standout feature of the new space is “**Ellen’s Corner**”, a quiet library area with soft seating and study booths, which houses a collection of education-related books and general reading materials.

This project demonstrates the Estates Partnering team’s commitment to creating spaces that foster community, support wellbeing, and enhance the student and staff experience. The new C Block hub is already proving to be a valued addition to the Ellen Wilkinson Building – a space designed by its users, for its users.

