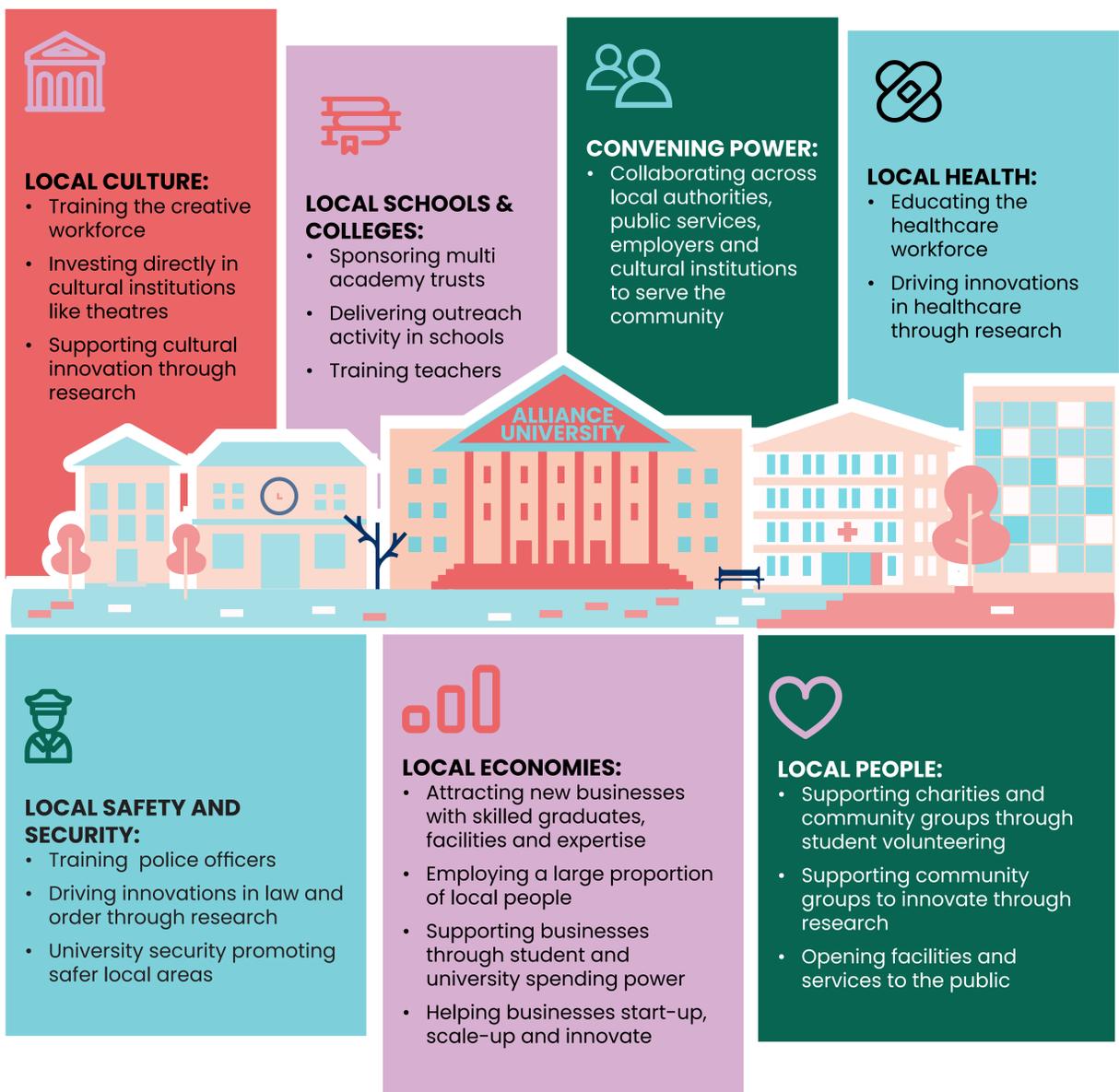


Community & civic impact

What is the civic role of Alliance universities and how do they underpin their local communities?



FREE COMMUNITY SERVICES IN BRISTOL

Students and staff at UWE Bristol use their skills and expertise to support local people for free. At UWE Bristol's Repair Café, students, staff, community volunteers and industry partners work together to repair items brought in by the community for free, saving items from landfill and supporting people with the cost of living, while developing green skills. UWE Bristol's Business and Law Clinic provides pro-bono legal support from staff and students to local people and businesses who don't have access to a lawyer.

SAFER COMMUNITIES IN OXFORD

Researchers at Oxford Brookes University collaborated with NHS Trusts, community organisations, and police to support a pilot Hospital Navigator scheme by the Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership. Navigators in emergency departments identify and support vulnerable patients, building trust and providing flexible follow-up support. This early intervention offers mentorship and links to essential services, breaking cycles of violence and promoting positive outcomes. The Oxford Brookes team evaluated the pilot to create a blueprint to help rollout Hospital Navigators in other regions.



IMPROVING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN WORTHING

The University of Brighton's Ignite programme links students and researchers with community groups on community-university partnership projects. Worthing Ignite! was a partnership between the West Sussex Parent Carers Forum and university researchers to improve children's mental health in Worthing, a town with high levels of teenage self-harm. It brought together GPs, schools and parents to develop sustainable solutions to support young people's mental wellbeing, informed by the latest research. The project led to long-term local solutions, including a multi-stakeholder mental health prevention group.



COMMUNITY COHESION IN BARNET

The Middlesex University Inter Faith Network (IFN) collaborates with local faith leaders to promote interfaith dialogue, reflecting the university's diverse student body and its location in Barnet, home to London's largest Jewish community. Following the outbreak of conflict in the Middle East in 2023, IFN engaged students, staff, and the wider community to support cohesion amid rising antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents in Barnet. Initiatives included a peace vigil, attended by Barnet Multi Faith Forum, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Nisa-Nashim, and local schoolchildren.



University Alliance