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GMOPN Newsletter: April 2025

Spirit Of Manchester



Nominations are now open for the Spirit of Manchester Awards!

Our annual awards ceremony celebrates the incredible work of thousands of voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, and social enterprises across the city.

The awards recognise examples of community spirit and all that's best about the voluntary sector. We want to raise the profile of the sector amongst the general public, encourage local giving and active citizenship.

We are asking for nominations of who you feel should be acknowledged, highlighted and thanked for their outstanding work over the last year. It can be absolutely anyone – a friend, neighbour, project or local community group in the city of Manchester!

Nominations close on Tuesday 6th May at 4pm.

[SUBMIT NOMINATIONS HERE](#)

Opportunities, News & Events



Greater Manchester Combine Authority. Consultation survey

Help GMCA Improve Communication About Extreme Heat for Older People in Greater Manchester!

Extreme heat is becoming more common due to climate change, and it's important that everyone, especially older people, knows how to stay safe. With temperatures reaching over 40°C in the UK for the first time in 2022, we need your help!

Take our short survey to share your thoughts on how we can better communicate heat risks and provide vital safety information.

This survey is open to older people in Greater Manchester, as well as any organisations or groups that work with, support, or represent them.

Survey closes 31 May 2025

We want to hear from you about:

- The best ways to share heat risk messages with older people.
- What kind of information is most useful
- How we can promote access to 'cool spaces' to help keep people safe during extreme heat

We know this survey won't reach everyone, so we're also hosting community-focused in-person sessions to hear directly from older people.

If you're working with older people and would like to help host one of these sessions, please get in touch gmu@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Your support will help us make sure we're listening to as many voices as possible.

The survey can be found here:

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY](#)



**OLDER
PEOPLE'S
EQUALITY
PANEL**

**DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

GM Older People's Equality Panel's meeting with Andy Burnham

On 11th April the GM Older People's Equality Panel were pleased to welcome Andy Burnham to our meeting. We took the opportunity to invite the GMOPN steering Group and chairs of GM Mature Minds Matter.

In the course of the meeting we asked a series of question relating to manifesto pledges on the "Our Pass" and the possibility of a GM Commissioner for Older People and Ageing as well as highlighting some of the concerns felt by older people on housing, digital exclusion and transport.

The Mayor was broadly supportive of the views of panel members and asked the panel to work on several aspects of the issues, gather evidence and reconvene in June to agree how best to achieve outcomes.



Greater Manchester Equality Panels Quarterly update April 2025

Older People's Equality Panel update for Jan 25 - Mar 25

In the last three months

The Panel discussed how the Ageing in Place Pathfinder projects can contribute to Live Well, hearing from the Rideghill Together project in Tameside. The Panel was also represented at a range of session on topics including financial hardship, digital switchover, Adult Social Care transformation, digital inclusion, housing, Live Well and the Age Friendly Futures Summit.

Highlights include:

Panel members attended workshops on the recruitment of Vaccinations Champions, delivered in partnership with the Public Health Team. 25 champions have been recruited who will work within their communities and networks to support NHS vaccination campaigns throughout the year.

In the next three months

The Panel will be working with the Older People's Network to explore options for an "Our Pass" style add on to the Older Person's Concessionary Travel Pass. This as an opportunity to promote the Bee Network, share information which benefits older people as well as arranging discounts which will contribute to health and well-being.

To read the updates of all the panels click on the button below.

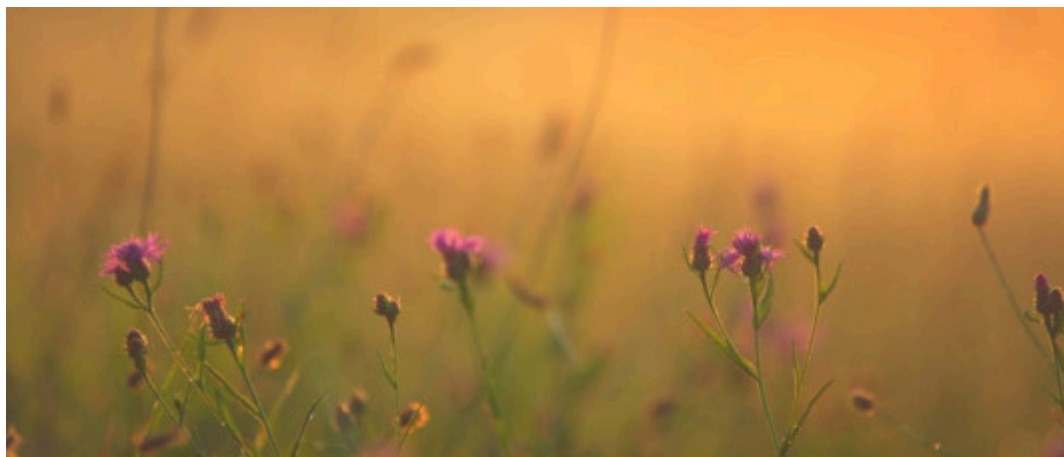
[READ ALL THE UPDATES](#)




Access All Ages Music Event

Be part of history at the Access All Ages (AAA) event, a groundbreaking celebration uniting people across five generations through the universal power of music. Taking place at Manchester's iconic Bridgewater Hall, this event is a unique partnership between Intergenerational England and Intergenerational Music Making.

[READ MORE](#)




GIVING VOICE TO GRIEF



Monday June 9th 2025
10:00 - 16:00
 The Monastery
 Manchester,
 Gorton Lane,
 Manchester,
 M12 5WF



**Exploring grief and loss
through breath, body,
voice and silence.**


Come along to explore grief and loss in a
safe space, learn new skills and have
meaningful conversations!


**Monday September 22nd
2025**
10:00 - 16:00
 The Met,
 Market Street,
 Bury,
 BL9 0BW



These workshops are for people aged 50+
with lunch provided

Each workshop has limited spaces, sign up
to one by scanning a QR code provided or
calling 0161 834 9823


Polly Kaiser
 Semi-retired old age psychologist

Beth Allen
 Music therapist & voice coach

Transport support is offered for attendees
if required




Exploring grief and loss through breath, body, voice and silence.

GM Mature Minds Matter invite you to our upcoming workshops, Giving Voice to Grief.

Come along to explore grief and loss in a safe space, learn new skills and have meaningful conversations!

These workshops are for people aged 50+ and lunch will be provided. Each workshop has limited spaces, sign up to one by scanning the QR codes provided, clicking the links below, or calling 0161 834 9823.

Transport support is offered for attendees if required.

9th June Workshop - Register Here

22nd September Workshop - Register Here



The poster features a large, stylized orange and yellow wavy graphic on the left side. At the top right, the text "GREATER MANCHESTER MATURE MINDS MATTER" is written in a curved, orange font, with a dashed line trailing from the end of the text to a bee illustration. The bee is black and yellow, flying towards the right. Below the title, the text "Do you have experience of accessing, or supporting someone who has accessed, mental health support as an older person (50+)?" is written in green. This is followed by "We are looking for people to join our network to make a difference to mental health support across Greater Manchester." and "We're here to have our voices heard, connect with our peers, reduce stigma and represent older people across Greater Manchester!" in green. At the bottom, it says "If you would like to learn more and join as a network member, please email or call:" in orange. Below this are icons for email and phone, followed by the contact information: "GMOPN@macc.org.uk", "0161 834 9823", and "Freepost: MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRAL". The Greater Manchester Older People's Network logo is in the bottom right corner.

**GREATER MANCHESTER
MATURE MINDS MATTER**

Do you have experience of accessing, or supporting someone who has accessed, mental health support as an older person (50+)?

We are looking for people to join our network to make a difference to mental health support across Greater Manchester.

We're here to have our voices heard, connect with our peers, reduce stigma and represent older people across Greater Manchester!

If you would like to learn more and join as a network member, please email or call:

 **GMOPN@macc.org.uk**

 **0161 834 9823**

Freepost: MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRAL

 **greater manchester older people's network**

Join Greater Manchester Mature Minds Matter!

GM Mature Minds Matter are looking for people who have lived experience of accessing, or supporting someone who has accessed, mental health support in mid to later life (50+), to join our growing network, to make a difference to mental health support across Greater Manchester!

We are here to use our combined knowledge to have our voices heard, connect peers, reduce stigma & represent older people across Greater Manchester, and we welcome individuals and groups who want to be a part of a trailblazing and supportive network!

Members can attend regular meetings and workshops, and we are also happy to discuss flexible involvement. We also support members with their transport needs if necessary.

If you are interested and would like to know more, contact us!

Website: <https://www.gmopn.org.uk/gm-older-peoples-mental-health-network>

Email: GMOPN@macc.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 834 9823

Freepost: MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRAL



New Independent Age Training Course

This 45-minute online course (via Teams) aims to give frontline workers an overview of support for housing costs, including Housing Benefit and Support for Mortgage Interest.

This course is aimed at non-welfare benefits advice roles.

If you are part of an organisation which provides advice for older people this will be valuable training.

To find out more or register click on the button below.

[READ MORE](#)





RESEARCH STUDY

Are you someone who experiences mental illness or a carer of such a person, and have received a prescription from a pharmacist prescriber?

We need your help!

We are carrying out this study with the aim of exploring what people with mental illness and their carers think of pharmacist prescribers, and their experiences of care provided by these professionals. We would like to find ways to improve care given by pharmacist prescribers in future.

How do you know if you were cared for by a pharmacist prescriber?

- If they diagnosed a condition you have (like a mental health problem or something else).
- If they wrote a prescription for medication that you took to be dispensed in the pharmacy.
- If they changed a prescription medication for you without needing a doctor to approve it (for example the dose of medicine, or type of medicine).
- You may have seen a pharmacist prescriber in your general practice, community mental health team, or community pharmacy.

We are looking for people with mental illness and/or their carers who:

- Are aged 18 and over (we invite carers aged 18 or over who provide unpaid support (including with medicines) to a family member, partner, or friend with a mental illness).
- Live in the UK.
- Are fluent in English, and
- Have experience of receiving care for their medicine(s) from a pharmacist prescriber in community-based services, AND/OR
- Who may represent these patients and carers within relevant charities or community organisations.



If interested, please get in touch!
bashayr.alsaeed@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk



Version 3; Date 20/03/2025 Ethical approval's Ref: 2025-21759-40245

Invitation to participate in research study

Understanding and Improving care with medicines provided by pharmacist prescribers for people with mental illness in the community: a sequential multi-method study

Dear Greater Manchester Older Peoples Mental Health Network,

We are a team from the Division of Pharmacy and Optometry at the University of Manchester, and we are looking for people with mental illness and their carers who have experienced care for their medicines provided by **pharmacist prescribers** in the community. We invite these individuals to take part in an interview that would be hosted online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams for online interviews, with a telephone option available as an alternative. Our study aims to explore what people with mental illness and their carers think of pharmacist prescribers and their experiences receiving care from these professionals in the community. We hope to use the results of this project so we can find ways to improve patient care provided by pharmacist prescribers in future.

How would I know if I was cared for by a pharmacist prescriber?

You may know if the pharmacist you saw was a prescriber if they either diagnosed a condition you have (like a mental health problem or something else), wrote a prescription for medication that you took to be dispensed in the pharmacy, and/or changed a prescription medication for you/the person you care for without needing a doctor to approve it (for example the dose of medicine, or type of medicine).

Who are we looking for to take part?

- People with mental illness (of any severity or diagnosis) and/or their carers aged 18 and over. A carer is considered for this study to be anyone aged 18 or over who provides unpaid support (including with medicines) to a family member, partner, or friend with a mental illness.
- People with mental illness and/or their carers who live in the UK.
- People with mental illness and/or their carers who are fluent in English (both written and spoken).
- People who are able to understand the study and provide informed consent to take part.
- People with mental illness and/or their carers with experience of receiving care for their medicine(s) from a pharmacist prescriber in community-based services.
- People with mental illness and/or their carers who have tablet/computer/phone access with a microphone and suitable internet connection.
- People with mental illness or carers who may represent patients and carers within relevant charities or community organisations.

If you could kindly share this email along with the study flyer attached with anyone in your own networks who you think may be interested in learning more about the study, that would be most appreciated. Your support in reaching out to potential participants within your circles is a great way to support this study.

Thank you for your time reading this information. If you are interested in this research study or have any questions or require further information about it, please do not hesitate to contact me at bashayr.alsaeed@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

The GM Older People's Network
Freepost MANCHESTER COMMUNITY
CENTRAL

www.gmopn.org.uk
Email: GMOPN@macc.org.uk
Telephone: 0161 834 9823

