

Greater Manchester Older People's Equality Panel

Greater Manchester Older People's Equality Panel is recruiting to increase its membership. The panel is one of seven equality panels established and funded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The panel is aiming to recruit up to 10 additional members a mix of individuals and organisational representatives.

Role of the panel

The Greater Manchester Equality Panels have been established to advise, support and challenge Greater Manchester's political leaders and policy makers to tackle the discrimination and disadvantage that cause injustice and inequality in society, and champion Greater Manchester as an inclusive city-region. They do this by working together with the GMCA and partners to:

- Provide insight into Greater Manchester's diverse communities, enabling political leaders and public bodies to listen and engage in a more targeted and effective way
- Communicate key messages to our communities as trusted sources
- Codesign policies, programmes and strategies to ensure they work effectively for communities.
- Support an asset-based approach, highlighting new opportunities (and challenges) for positive collaboration that build on the resources and strengths within our communities.

The panel will work closely with officers from the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub at GMCA which works to improve the lives of older people through creating an age-friendly city region.

The Panel acts in an advisory role and reports directly to the Portfolio Lead for Equality, Inclusion and Cohesion.

The Panel escalates concerns and issues to the Portfolio Lead, including in relation to the support of public services and commitment to change.

The Panel does not have any decision-making authority within the constitution of the GMCA.

The Panel prepares and maintains a work programme, and reports progress, issues and key findings annually to the Portfolio Lead and GMCA.

Key priorities for 2023 are: Care Settings, Cost of Living Crisis and Digital Participation.

The Panel will collaborate with other panels where appropriate.

The seven panels are: Disabled People's Panel, Race Equality Panel, Women and Girls' Panel, Youth Combined Authority, LGBTQ+ Panel, Faith and Belief Panel and Older People's Panel.

Support for panel members

John Mulvenna, GM Older People's Equality Panel Development Officer at Macc, will support the panel in all aspects of its work including organising meetings and taking minutes. Training for members will be offered including in digital skills, presentation skills and facilitation skills.

There is no payment offered for membership of the panel but reasonable travel costs and other out of pocket expenses will be covered.

The panel will run alongside the existing Greater Manchester Older People's Network, a campaigning group which has worked with GMCA over the past six years. The Network will continue to focus on

campaigns, research and providing activities/ workshops to maintain a clear picture of the diverse experiences of older people in Greater Manchester. The work of the Network will provide evidence and information to support the work of the panel.

Meetings

The panel meets face to face every two months for two hours. Meetings take place on a weekday between 11.30 am and 4 pm. We intend to offer the opportunity to join the meetings online for those not able to attend in person.

Recruitment

If you are 50+ and live in Greater Manchester or you are part of an organisation working with older people in Greater Manchester the Older People's Equality Panel offers an opportunity to join with others to be a strong voice in influencing decision-making on key issues.

The panel will periodically review representation and expects to continue recruiting members as the membership of the panel changes.

The panel will work closely with the GMOPN or local Older People's Networks. It is hoped that recruitment to these networks can be boosted and individuals who are not selected for the panel will still be able to make a valuable contribution.

Contact information

If you are interested in joining the panel or want to find out more you can contact John Mulvenna:

Phone: 07502 233 182

Email: john.mulvenna@macc.org.uk